
REPORT 1: PRESIDENT OF LUTHERAN CHURCH—CANADA

Part 1

Statutory Bylaw 10.08 f. of the *2017 Handbook* of Lutheran Church--Canada requires the Synod President to “report on his activities to each meeting of the Board (of Directors) and to each Convention.” I shall attempt to do that in the following. In addition, I will provide a second part of my report during the convention in Edmonton, which will be printed later in the *Convention Proceedings*.

Our Convention Theme: ‘Stand Firm In The Faith’ ‘Christ Alone, Christ Forever’ was the theme of our 2017 Convention that was held just a few weeks prior to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Building upon the many celebrations and observances of that event, I chose the theme ‘Stand Firm In The Faith’ for our scheduled 2021 Convention in recognition of Luther’s famous ‘Here I Stand’ speech at the Diet of Worms in April of 1521. Although the Covid-19 pandemic necessitated postponing the Convention for one year, I decided to keep this theme for our Convention as standing firm in the faith, it seems to me, is even more imperative and necessary than ever.

Two guest essayists will impart their words of wisdom and knowledge to us at the convention. Rev. Dr. John Maxfield, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Concordia University College of Alberta, will take us through the events at the Diet of Worms back in 1521 and of the significance of Luther’s ‘Here I Stand’ speech for us today. Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger, President of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines and author of the Concordia Commentary series on Ephesians, will lead us in a study from the section of this epistle of St. Paul which contains our convention theme.

In addition, as a result of survey responses following the 2017 Convention, more formal worship services during the course of the Convention have been added. This is indeed good, right and salutary since our *2017 Handbook* states that one of the primary functions of the Convention is to “afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration” (Synodical Bylaw 2.01). I hope and pray that the contributions from our guest essayists, preachers and worship leaders during our Convention will encourage and strengthen all of us to ‘Stand Firm In The Faith.’

Restructuring of Our Synod

Matters pertaining to our new synod structure approved at the 2017 Convention has occupied much of my time,

as well as the BOD, PMC, and those in our synod office here in Winnipeg. In 2018 the BOD appointed two individuals from each of the former districts to an *ad hoc* Restructuring Committee to address items that were formerly being done by the three district administrations and which are now handled on a synod level. For example: reviewing and approving amended constitutions of congregations now falls under the duties of the president and BOD; preparing yearly Compensation Guidelines for church workers is now being done by the Personnel Committee of the BOD; new forms for submission of yearly Mission Goals by congregations and also for requests by congregations for financial support have been developed; the registration of pastors for legally solemnizing marriages in the various provinces is now being done through our synod office.

In polling done throughout LCC which led to our restructuring, ‘Providing Ecclesiastical Supervision’ was considered to be of primary importance. This is not something new but has been one of the primary objectives of our synod that goes back, not only to 1988 when LCC was founded, not only to 1848 and the formation of the Missouri Synod, not only to 1528 and the visitation of pastors and churches in Saxony which became the catalyst for Luther’s writing of the Small and Large Catechisms, but to the New Testament church. In an effort to be more proactive and intentional about the supervisory role of the synod, standard forms for visits of Regional Pastors and Circuit Counsellors to pastors and congregations have been prepared, along with an introductory devotion on the biblical and confessional basis for such visitations. These are included in the new Circuit Counsellors Manual. Brief as possible and workable are the two words or concepts that we are trying to keep in mind in this task of updating and revising both the Circuit Counsellors Manual and the new President’s Ministry Council Manual.

‘Building Community and Caring for Members’ were also identified as important reasons for our synod restructuring, coupled with developing more frequent and a variety of communication resources. In an effort to be more transparent, summaries of our BOD meetings are now posted on our synod’s website. Information about the missions of our synod – both at home and abroad – that are being supported by the offerings of members of our congregations is being regularly updated.

Our synod's website also now includes a variety of resources for pastors and congregations; such as, a treasurer's manual, a sample marriage policy, funeral policy, abuse policy, and policy for receiving bequests and special gifts. Bulletin communion announcements based in large part on the various seasons of the church year, as well as witness and outreach blurbs based on the appointed Scripture readings of the day are also available. In addition, two documents were revised by the President's Ministry Council (PMC), upon consultation with the CTCR, and are posted on our website – 'Guidelines for Congregational and Pastoral Practice' and 'Guidelines for Congregation Constitutions and Bylaws.'

The *InfoDigest* is LCC's official weekly e-newsletter and contains the latest news and information from around our synod – announcements, upcoming events, calls, special prayers, and the like. These may be copied and pasted in congregation bulletins. At present time, however, a number of pastors and congregations do not receive this weekly e-newsletter. While improving communications from the synod to our pastors and congregations is an ongoing concern and task, this is also a two-way street. I would, as such, encourage all of our pastors, deacons, congregations, and even individual members of our congregations to sign up to receive the *InfoDigest*. A link is provided on the Home Page of our website to do so.

Since the reorganization of our Synod was changed at the 'eleventh hour' prior to the 2017 Convention due to a number of concerns raised across the Synod about the initial proposed structure, and since time constraints did not allow for a more thorough examination and discussion of the various parts of the newly adopted 2017 Handbook; there are a number of proposed amendments to the Statutory and Synodical Bylaws that will come before our convention.

Matters pertaining to the restructuring of our synod is a work in progress and will no doubt continue to be so over the next few years. In his opening address at the founding convention of the Missouri Synod in 1848, C. F. W. Walther stated that there is no one divinely instituted way for a congregation or a church body to govern itself and warns against making our chief battle and concern "about the execution of manufactured, external human ordinances and institutions that would swallow up the true blessed battle for the real treasure of the church, for the purity and unity of doctrine." We need, as such, to continue to work together in these matters in a spirit of patient understanding and seek God's blessing and guidance in our efforts to make our synodical structure function in the best possible way to

the glory of His name and for the strengthening and extension of His kingdom.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's)

With the adoption of a new synodical structure, there also arose the need for a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with our affiliated seminaries, auxiliaries, and listed service organizations (LSO's). Rev. Nolan Astley, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kitchener, ON and former First Vice-President of the Synod, was contracted by the Board of Directors to be LCC's 'point-person' in this rather onerous task. I would personally thank him for his service in this matter. To date new MOU's have been completed with our two seminaries and four auxiliaries. In accordance with Synodical Bylaw 2.19 a, the *Convention Workbook Supplement* contains a brief report on "all Memoranda of Understanding adopted since the previous Convention."

Covid-19 Pandemic

When the pandemic began and in-person worship services were suspended by provincial government authorities, the initial challenge facing our pastors and congregations was providing various ways for our people to continue to receive the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation which Christ offers and bestows upon us through His Word. To assist our pastors and congregations in this matter, our LCC staff immediately began to gather resources that were then posted on our synod's website. These included those developed by LCC such as printed sermons, video services and devotions led by myself and our Missions Executive, Rev. Mark Smith, along with links to resources available from the LCMS, LLL-C, and CPH.

In an effort to gain a better understanding and clearer picture as to how the Covid-19 pandemic was affecting the pastors and congregations of our Synod; a Congregation Covid-19 Survey was sent out in the summer of 2020. A couple positive results from the survey were the various ways in which pastors were striving to serve the members of their congregation, and that a majority of our congregations were experiencing little, if any, negative financial ramifications as a result of the pandemic. For this we are truly thankful. At the same time, however, more and more congregations are now experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the on-going pandemic.

A number of statements or letters were issued by myself, as well as the PMC, to our pastors, deacons and congregations throughout the past two years concerning a variety of covid-related issues; such as: the application of the Ten Commandments to government health orders surrounding the pandemic; the necessity of our people to

continue to receive Christ's gifts through the hearing of His Word; to not celebrate Holy Communion via video or digital means; the importance for pastors to fraternally discuss with one another on matters pertaining to pastoral practice during the pandemic, to not act unilaterally, and to abide by the Eighth Commandment injunction of 'putting the best construction on everything'; and matters concerning the covid vaccine and vaccination passports.

Various articles related to the pandemic were also written for *The Canadian Lutheran* magazine by myself, our three regional pastors, and others. In addition, in December 2020 the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) issued a statement, 'A Lutheran Response to Contemporary Issues,' which deals with the relationship of church and state in light of Covid-19 related government restrictions on in-person worship services, as well as two bills that were before the House of Commons on assisted suicide and gender conversion matters. A study guide was also included with this document.

With the gradual re-opening of our congregations for in-person worship services in June of 2020, and with many of our pastors and congregations having made the transition to an on-line Service of the Word in one form or another; video recordings of Sunday services by Pastor Smith and myself ended. Written sermons for each Sunday of the church year, however, continues as this project was in the works even before the pandemic in an effort to especially assist our small, vacant and isolated congregations who often have only lay-led services. These have been especially appreciated, not only by those within our LCC family but also by many throughout the world. I would personally thank all of our pastors who provided these sermons at my request. At the same time, video devotions for the minor festivals of the church year and the various commemorations listed in the *Lutheran Service Book* continue to be recorded from the chapel at our synod office and posted on our website as a supplement to what our pastors are providing for their congregations.

One result of the pandemic was the inability for myself – as well as our International Missions Executive and the Regional Pastors – to personally visit pastors and congregations and attend various conferences, events, special services, and the like; let alone our international missions or church partners. Such, however, did allow Rev. Smith and myself to preach regularly and preside at the Divine Service in a couple vacant congregations here in the Winnipeg area. What a joy and privilege that has been!

Even more of a concern are the negative effects of the pandemic on the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health and well-being of our pastors and people. Quite frankly, diverse opinions among our pastors and within some of our congregations concerning covid-related matters has caused a fracturing in our synodical family and our 'walking together.' At the same time, the pandemic has been a blessing in that it has served as a catalyst to reorient and direct us to the "one thing necessary" (Luke 10:42); that is, the Lord's people gathered together in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day to receive the Lord's gifts through the hearing of the Lord's Word and the partaking of the Lord's Supper and to respond by praying the Lord's Prayer and singing the Lord's praises.

Special Convention

In light of the uncertainty of holding our Regular Convention in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors discussed the possibility of moving the Convention to 2022. Upon numerous discussions with our Synod's lawyer and the Commission on Constitution Matters and Structure (CCMS), a Special Convention was held on-line on October 17, 2020 for the purpose of changing a Statutory Bylaw that would then enable the Board to legally postpone the Convention to 2022 and to also extend the terms of office for all elected positions one year. Both of these resolutions were adopted by a near unanimous vote. At its subsequent meeting in November, the Board did postpone the Convention to June of 2022, with the added provision of having an on-line Convention in October of 2022 if restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic were still in vogue.

Military Chaplaincy

Shortly after assuming this office, I was approached by two of our pastors currently serving as chaplains in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) with a couple proposals – to revise and update the Military Chaplain Guidelines of LCC and to establish a Dean of Military Chaplains who would serve as a kind of Circuit Counsellor to and for all our military chaplains. Upon further discussion of these matters with the PMC and some of our military chaplains, the Board of Directors approved both items.

The new Military Chaplain Guidelines, as well as documents related to the Dean of Military Chaplains, are posted on our synod's website. Subsequently, in June 2019 the Board, on behalf of our LCC congregations, called Rev. Rod Buck, former chaplain in the CAF and current pastor of St. Matthew in Stony Plain AB, to the position of Dean of Military Chaplains which he accepted. In brief, the DMC interviews potential chaplains, provides oversight and support of currently-serving chaplains, meets regularly with our chaplains,

reports on chaplaincy matters to the Synod President and the Board, and is the liaison to the Lutheran Council In Canada (LCIC) representative on the Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy (ICCMC).

I would personally thank Pastor Buck for his service in this area. I have received only positive feedback from our chaplains for the establishment of a Dean of Military Chaplains and especially for Pastor Buck's work. His more detailed report can be found elsewhere in the *Convention Workbook*.

For many years the Lutheran Council In Canada's (LCIC) representative on the Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy (ICCMC) was a member on the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). Instead, however, of supporting our LCC chaplains in matters pertaining to pastoral care, communion practices, or their non-participation in joint worship services; the opposite was often the case. In 2019 the opportunity arose for LCC to put forward one of our own who had the qualifications to serve in this capacity – Rev. Dr. Harold Ristau, former chaplain in the CAF and current professor at our seminary in St. Catharines. No sooner, however was this agreed do when I was informed by the bishop of the ELCIC that their pastors would instead be placed under the representative of the Anglican Church of Canada. This action, along with other issues before the ICCMC, raised the question as to whether the LCIC should even have a representative anymore. After an exchange of emails and letters from Rev. Ristau and myself, as the current chair of the LCIC, to various individuals within and outside the military chaplaincy; he was granted a seat at the table. The situation, however, remains rather uncertain. In addition, due to personal reasons Rev. Ristau recently informed me that he is unable to continue in this role.

Church Relations

One of the duties of the Synod President is to “represent Lutheran Church-Canada at national and international meetings and gatherings of Lutherans and other multi-denominational gatherings” (Constitution, Article X 4.d). The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) is tasked to assist the president in this and other matters pertaining to theology and church relations (Synodical Bylaw 2.108).

In anticipation that much of my time would be devoted to issues pertaining to our new synodical structure and to the support of the three new regional pastors, I appointed various individuals as my representatives in this matter of church relations. Past President Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee and CTCR member, Rev. Michael Keith, have served as our LCC reps for the on-going dialogues

between LCC, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). Rev. Joel Kuhl, chair of the CTCR, Rev. Dr. John Stephenson, also a member of the CTCR, and Past President Bugbee have been our reps for dialogues between the LCMS, LCC, and the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). A report on these dialogues can be found in the CTCR report elsewhere in the *Convention Workbook*.

Currently, LCC has official partnership or altar and pulpit fellowship status with ten church bodies: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), Igreja Evangelica Luterana do Brasil (IELB), Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA), The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (ELCE), Selbetandige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (SELK) in Germany, The Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF), The Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod (LCHK), Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua (ILSN), Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC), and Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church (TCLC). I will mention briefly items of interest and significance for LCC pertaining to some of them, as well as other church relations matters.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)

The relationship with our ‘mother Synod’ continues for the most part to be cordial and cooperative and an encouragement and joy. Prior to the pandemic I met personally a few times with President Matthew Harrison and other LCMS staff people to discuss mutual matters of concern and also attended their Synod Convention in Tampa, Florida in 2019. In addition, our International Missions Executive, Rev. Mark Smith, has been in regular contact with some of the LCMS folks in their various missions departments to discuss cooperative work in such areas as Central America, Southeast Asia, and eastern Europe. As a result of the LCMS’ closer ties with the large Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), there has been an increasing number of contacts between the various Oromo communities here in Canada and LCC.

Igreja Evangelica Luterana do Brasil (IELB)

Similar to LCC, our partner church in Brazil was for many years a district of the Missouri Synod and became self-governing around 1980. We have been especially blessed over the years by our relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil with a number of Brazilian pastors who are currently serving in all three of our regions.

Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA)

In past years our relationship with the LCA consisted of short and long-term pastoral exchanges between our two

church bodies, an exchange of visiting professors at our seminaries, representatives from both churches presenting topics at national conventions and other gatherings, and the calling of pastors from one church body by congregations in the other church. Over the past few years, however, this fraternal exchange of pastors, professors and the like has diminished due in part to the matter of the ordination of women to the pastoral office which continues to be a front and centre issue within the LCA.

Iglesia Luterana—Sínodo de Nicaragua (ILSN)
(See the International Missions Executive's report concerning our work in Nicaragua.)

Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church (TCLC)
(See the International Missions Executive's report concerning our work in Thailand.)

Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC)
(See the International Missions Executive's report concerning our work in Cambodia.)

International Lutheran Council (ILC)
LCC also maintains relationships with other confessional Lutheran church bodies around the world through the International Lutheran Council. I am currently serving as ILC Vice-Chairman, as well as being the area representative for North America. Past President Robert Bugbee also serves on the Board of Directors of the ILC as a member-at-large, and Mathew Block serves as the ILC's communications manager. In addition to participating in numerous virtual meetings of the Board of Directors of the ILC over the past four years, I attended the ILC's World Conference in September 2018 in Antwerp, Belgium and, along with Past President Bugbee and our two seminary presidents, the ILC's World Seminaries Conference in October 2019 in Baguio City, Philippines. With the departure of Rev. Dr. Al Collver from the position of assistant to the president of the LCMS, the ILC BOD appointed Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill, retired professor from the LCMS' seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to replace him as General Secretary. There are three specific items that I would bring to your attention relative to the ILC.

First, Rev. Dr. Juhana Pohjola, newly consecrated Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF) and former guest instructor at our seminary in St. Catharines, was, along with Dr. Räsänen, a Finnish member of parliament, criminally charged with incitement against a group of people for the publication of a 2004 booklet which defends the traditional Christian understanding of human sexuality. The ILC issued a public letter signed by the presidents and bishops of dozens of Lutheran church bodies around

the world condemning this action of the Finnish government. Copies of the letter were sent to the Office of the Prosecutor General of Finland, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and other entities.

Second, in order to assist confessional Lutheran theological education and training of pastors worldwide, the ILC established the International Lutheran Council Accreditation Agency (ILCAA) . . . a key component being the development of a recommended core curriculum. Spearheading this new endeavour is Rev. Dr. Steven Schumacher who has served in the past as missionary with the LCMS, academic dean at the Lutheran seminary in Ghana, and as an adjunct professor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Third, the five-year informal dialogue between the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) and the International Lutheran Council (which included Rev. Dr. John Stephenson and President Thomas Winger from our St. Catharines seminary) concluded in 2019. The final report is included in Volume 33 – 2021 of our seminaries' periodical *Lutheran Theological Review*. The report contains a preamble, which treats the "normative structure" for church doctrine and life. The second part discusses "The Mass as Eucharistic Sacrificial Banquet" and the third part treats "Justification by Faith." The report concludes by formulating "Ecumenical Tasks" that apply to both sides of the discussion. The ILC will discuss the results of the informal dialogue at its next World Conference, after which next steps will be considered in coordination with the PCPCU.

Lutheran Council in Canada (LCIC)
The LCIC meets annually in Winnipeg to monitor a limited number of common areas where the major Lutheran bodies in Canada – ELCIC and LCC – work together, in addition to our joint membership and work within the Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR): military chaplaincy in the Canadian Armed Forces, federal prison chaplaincy, and the Scouts Canada Program. The latter two, however, have become rather negligible areas of activity and involvement over the past few years. Moreover, as I mentioned above, even having a Lutheran voice when it comes to military chaplaincy has become uncertain. Representatives of Lutheran Church—Canada on the LCIC are myself as president, Dwayne Cleave as treasurer, and Rev. Cameron Schnarr of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Winnipeg MB.

Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC)

The EFC is the national association of evangelical Christians in Canada, conducting research on religious and social trends and being a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society. EFC affiliates include denominations (including Lutheran Church—Canada), ministry organizations, post-secondary educational institutions and individual congregations, who uphold a common statement of

faith and organizational goals. Their five major areas of concern and works are: Church and Mission, Care for the Vulnerable, Sanctity of Life, Family & Community, and Religious Freedom. Their website (<https://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca>) contains timely articles and information on many issues confronting the church in our nation; such as, euthanasia, abortion, homosexuality, and freedom of religion.

Summary of 2020 statistics:

Congregations	284	Children Baptized	375
Baptized Members	51,061	Adults Baptized/Confirmed	193
Communicant Members	37,483		
Pastors	394		
*222 Parish Pastors, 142 Emeritus, 16 Candidates, 30 Other (Synod Officers, Military Chaplains, Regional Pastors, LSO-Ex., Seminary Professors, Missionaries-at-Large, etc.)			
Deacons	61		
*27 Active (Teachers, Parish Workers, etc.), 19 Candidates, 15 Emeritus			

Needless to say, the average worship attendance for 2020 was under-reported due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I would request congregations and pastors to submit their statistical reports regularly and promptly. The statistics contained therein do assist us with some planning and financial functions; such as assessments of congregations for convention expenses and church workers conferences. Assessments, I would point out, are based on the communicant membership of congregations from their latest report. Last year 110 congregations did not submit an updated statistical report, some having not done so for many years.

Closing Thoughts and Prayers

Having now served in this office for these past four years, I am grateful for the goodwill, kindness, support, and words of encouragement that I have received from so many throughout our Synod . . . and, of course, for your prayers. For what I may have said and done that should not have been said and done, and for what I failed to say and do that should have been said and done; I ask for your forgiveness, even as I am assured of God's forgiveness for the sake of the bitter sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our congregations, pastors, deacons, seminaries, regional pastors, office staff personnel, and members of our Synod's board, commissions, and committees are also in need of our constant prayers that we might 'Stand Firm In The Faith' in these last days. The prayer from the *Lutheran Service Book* (p. 309) – 'For pardon, growth in grace, and divine protection' – is most fitting and proper for all of us to pray often in view of these challenging and uncertain times and in light of our upcoming convention:

“O Lord, our God, we acknowledge Your great goodness toward us and praise You for the mercy and grace that our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, and our hearts have known. We sincerely repent of the sins of this day and those in the past. Pardon our offenses, correct and reform what is lacking in us, and help us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Inscribe Your law upon our hearts, and equip us to serve You with holy and blameless lives. May each day remind us of the coming of the night when no one can work. In the emptiness of this present age keep us united by a living faith through the power of Your Holy Spirit with Him who is the resurrection and the life, that we may escape the eternal bitter pains of condemnation.

By Your Holy Spirit bless the preaching of Your Word and the administration of Your Sacraments. Preserve these gifts to us and to all Christians. Guard and protect us from all dangers to body and soul. Grant that we may with faithful perseverance receive from You our sorrows as well as our joys, knowing that health and sickness, riches and poverty, and all things come by permission of Your fatherly hand. Keep us this day under Your protective care and preserve us, securely trusting in Your everlasting goodness and love, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Timothy Teuscher, President
Lutheran Church—Canada

REPORT 2: PRESIDENT'S MINISTRY COUNCIL (PMC)

The President's Ministry Council (PMC), formerly called the Council of Presidents, consists of myself as Synod President, Vice-President Rev. Thomas Kruesel, and the three Regional Pastors – Rev. Robert Mohns (West Region), Rev. David Haberstock (Central Region), and Rev. Marvin Bublitz (East Region). This, quite frankly, has been a learning curve since four of us were new to these positions, let alone trying to navigate our way through some of the 'nuts and bolts' and unforeseen issues of our new synodical structure.

The PMC is tasked in part with 'advising the president and giving him counsel, counseling with one another on matters regarding the doctrine and administration of LCC and its regions, edifying and supporting one another in the ministry they share, and serving as the Board of Assignments for the first calls to candidates for the pastoral and diaconal office' (Synodical Bylaw 2.301). Needless to say, matters pertaining to the restructuring of our Synod and the Covid-19 pandemic occupied much of our time over the past couple of years and with seemingly endless virtual meetings.

Members of the PMC also serve in other capacities. For example, Vice-President Kruesel is the BOD's representative on the Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton and also the chair of the Colloquy Committees of the Synod. Central Regional Pastor Haberstock is the chair of the Pastors with Alternate Training (PAT) Committee. West Regional Pastor Mohns serves on the Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton. Along with myself, East Regional Pastor Bublitz is a member of the Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines.

2017 Resolutions Assigned to the PMC

There were six resolutions from the 2017 Synod Convention assigned to the Council of Presidents (now the President's Ministry Council).

RESOLUTION 17.2.02 (To Address The Need For More Ordained Pastors): "that the Council of Presidents be encouraged to work with the seminaries to either further develop and expand who can enroll in the Pastors with Alternate Training program and that congregations be encouraged to identify candidates to serve as pastors."

With the retirement of many pastors over the past few years, the large number of vacant and isolated congregations, and the increasing number of congregations unable to financially support their own pastor; the PMC has been working on developing

various models for congregations to adopt in order that the gifts of Christ might be offered and given on a regular basis through the preaching and teaching of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments by called servants of the Word. These will be shared by the Regional Pastors in one of the 'Break-Out Sessions' at the convention. One proposal from the PMC, in particular, is an addition to the current PAT program that would target dedicated and qualified laymen in remote congregations for instruction and training that would lead to ordination and a call for the work of Word and Sacrament ministry in those congregations. The seminaries would be tasked with providing the course of instruction. This proposal was shared with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and was deemed doctrinally acceptable and in accord with Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession – "Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call." At the same time, recruitment of young men for the pastoral ministry remains a high priority. So Christ exhorts all of us in this regard, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

RESOLUTION 17.2.03 (To Ensure The Continuation Of A Diaconal Training Program): "that the Council of Presidents coordinate plans with Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, and Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines to establish a diaconal training program, and work with the seminaries to recommend a funding plan for the diaconal training program."

At a meeting in 2018 of the two seminary presidents, the chairmen of the Board of Regents from our two seminaries, and myself an agreement was reached that CLS, Edmonton would be responsible for overseeing the diaconal program and CLTS, St. Catharines would take on the PAT program. This does not preclude professors from either seminary teaching courses in either program. Funding for the diaconal program, however, still needs to be worked out.

RESOLUTION 17.2.04 (To Establish A Policy Concerning Retired Pastors): "that the Council of Presidents be directed to formulate a policy concerning retired pastors; and that such policy be brought before the next convention of the Synod for approval."

The PMC Manual now contains a Guidelines for Emeritus Status policy, as well as an Application for

Emeritus Status form, a suggested Call Document for Calling an Emeritus Pastor, and a Rite of Installation for an Emeritus Pastor. In light of this resolution, the policy is included in the Convention Workbook as an overture from the PMC.

RESOLUTION 17.2.05a (To Establish Unified Procedures For Calling Pastors): “that the Council of Presidents establish a procedure for the calling of a pastor to a congregation, seeking God’s blessings, and unifying all congregations and pastors in the act of issuing a solemn call to a shepherd in service to them and to the Lord.”

The new PMC and Circuit Counsellors’ Manuals now contain a number of items related to this matter; such as: Guidelines: Calling Procedures For Lutheran Church—Canada Congregations, Checklist For Leaders Of Congregations Without A Pastor, a revised Congregational Profile form, Information For A Preliminary Call Meeting, a Sample Call Meeting Agenda, a Nomination Of Pastor For Consideration form, and the like. These forms are used by the Regional Pastor and/or Circuit Counsellor to assist congregations in the process of calling a pastor. It is important that congregations abide by their constitutions in the calling process, communicate regularly with the Regional Pastor, and not act unilaterally in this solemn matter as has been the case from time to time.

RESOLUTION 17.2.06 (To Request The Council Of Presidents To Provide Standard Forms And Practices): “that the Council of Presidents conduct an ongoing review of these two manuals (COP Manual and Circuit Counselor’s Manual); and that all districts (now regions), pastors, and congregations be encouraged to use such forms and suggested practices.”

With the restructuring of our Synod, a complete revision of the old COP and Circuit Counsellors Manuals was necessary. Included are such items as a revised Sample Congregation Constitutions and Bylaws, a revised Guidelines for Congregational and Pastoral Practice, a simplified Personal Information Form (PIF) and Self Evaluation Form (SEF), a Guidelines for Vacancy

Pastoral Services form, forms for reporting visits by the Regional Pastor or Circuit Counsellor to pastors and congregations, a devotion on the biblical and confessional basis for such visits, and the like. While much of this has been done by the PMC in conjunction with our synodical office staff personnel, there still remains some outstanding matters.

RESOLUTION 17.2.07 (To Restate Expectations Regarding Continuing Education For All Church Workers): “that the Council of Presidents be asked to restate its expectations in the matter of the continuing education of pastors and other church workers and to give appropriate guidance and counsel to the congregations, pastors, deacons, and seminaries of Synod; and that the Council of Presidents present these expectations and recommendations to the next synodical convention for adoption and implementation.”

Due to all the other pressing issues before the PMC over the past quadrennium, we were not able to address this matter.

Much time at our PMC meetings is spent discussing reports from the Regional Pastors pertaining to difficult matters and serious issues that have arisen in the various regions. Conflicts between pastors and members of their congregation as well as between pastors, due in part to covid matters and the numerical and financial decline of some congregations, have increased over the past few years and need to be addressed proactively and biblically. Providing ecclesiastical supervision of congregations and pastors is often a difficult and thankless task. The Regional Pastors, especially, need our prayers and support as they seek to deal with these matters. The collegiality and fraternal bond that has developed among the members of the PMC and the unity of our purpose is a great blessing. How true indeed are the words of the psalmist: “How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity” (Psalm 133:1)!

President’s Ministry Council (PMC)
Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Chair
Rev. Thomas Kruesel, Secretary

REPORT 2.1 THE PASTORAL AND DIACONAL COLLOQUY COMMITTEES

The pastoral and the diaconal colloquy committees of Lutheran Church-Canada are entrusted with the task of evaluating the credentials, experience, an aptitude of professional church workers seeking to join our Ministerium (as pastors) or Diaconate (as teachers, DPSs or other full-time workers) from other denominations.

Since our last convention the members of the committees have been: Rev. Dr. Jim Gimbel, Rev. Tom Kruesel and Rev. Dr. Tom Winger. Rev. Kruesel has served as chairman of the committee and Rev. Dr. Winger has served as Secretary.

In our work of receiving applications, evaluating educational and life experiences, developing a course of study, and monitoring the progress toward completion of these requirements, the two committees have met numerous times since the last convention. All of these meetings have been conducted via video conferencing. There have been no direct costs of running this committee to the Synod.

In evaluating applications for the colloquy programs of Synod, the committee takes seriously the responsibility delegated to them by the Synod to ensure that those entering our Ministerium or Diaconate are in agreement with the Scriptural and Confessional stance of our Synod, and with the practices of our church. At the same time we do not want to unduly burden individuals who seek to join our fellowship. Those who are accepted and complete the program do so because they want to serve in a church body with which they have doctrinal agreement.

The following individuals have completed the colloquy process since our last convention:

- Rev. Jakob Valsson (2018)
- Rev. Insub (Isaac) Paik (2018)

- Rev. Ndriana Rakotoarimah (2018)
- Rev. Walta Clercius (2020)
- Rev. Timothy Graff (2021)
- Rev. Samuel Kim (2021)
- Rev. Sam Thompson (2021)

Colloquy steps have begun but are dormant for Lemi Eba.

Wendel Ritz, who was not ordained, was deferred to CLS Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies toward the Theological Diploma. (2020)

Colloquy is in process for Rev. Ephrem Gemta.

I would like to thank the presidents of our seminaries for the tremendous effort they have put into their work in service to the church. It should be noted that the work they do is cheerfully done. They truly are a blessing to our church.

Rev. Tom Kruesel
Vice President, LCC
Chairman, Pastoral and Diaconal Colloquy Committee

REPORT 2.2 PASTORS WITH ALTERNATE TRAINING (PAT) PROGRAM

Approved by LCC at the 2002 convention, the “Pastors with Alternate Training” (PAT) program is a way in which pastors are trained to serve congregations of a different culture, language or which are geographically remote. The PMC is responsible for the program and provides oversight through Rev. David Haberstock and administration through the tireless work of PAT Coordinator Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger, aided by members of the PAT Committee: Rev. Dr. Richard Beinert, Rev. Dr. James Gimbel, Rev. David Haberstock, Rev. Dr. James Keller, and Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger.

Since the 2017 Synodical Convention report, two students graduated from the PAT program and were

placed by the former COP and current PMC: Terrance Goerz and Oboya Ochalla. There are currently 6 approved students in the program from various ethnic and language groups.

The PAT committee is currently undergoing a review of the curricula of PAT courses, seeking to regularize expectations for PAT mentor pastors and instructors.

Submitted by
Rev. David Haberstock
Liaison

REPORT 3: CENTRAL REGION PASTOR REPORT

A - Analysis

of congregations: 82
of dual or multipoint parishes: 10
of congregations vacant & calling: 13 (9 parishes)
of congregations vacant & non-calling: 18
of pastors serving congregations: 39

of pastor emeritus: 16
of pastors serving in other positions: 8 (2 Missionaries,
3 Military Chaplains, SP, RP, Missions Exec)
of pastor candidates: 3
of deacons actively serving: 1
of retired deacons: 3
of deacon candidates: 1

C – Challenges

Christ our Lord said, “The harvest is plentiful, the workers are few. Pray for workers in the harvest.”

LCC has about 215 FT pastors within the “Synodical Family”. In the next 10 years over 100 of them will have reached age 65. We do not have enough pastors to meet the needs of our current congregations. Nor do we have the financial wherewithal to place pastors in small rural spots which once had pastors. This is a big challenge for all of us. Lord have mercy!

In Central Region small towns have been de-populated and de-churched. Our congregations are tenaciously hanging on across the Canadian prairies, and in many towns they are one of the last churches left. This is an opportunity! However, how do we meet that opportunity, let alone the needs of these little groups of Christians in far flung towns? Even if a congregation closes, what about the last 5, 10, or 15 believers who were part that congregation in that place? They still need to receive Christ Jesus’ Word and His Sacraments for the strengthening and preservation of saving faith in Him unto life everlasting.

Otherwise, the challenges Central faces are those that all of Western society and the Christian churches within her face: low birth rate, secularization, the constant temptation to turn away from the Lord and His Word, and the great falling away and scattering of the sheep that we have all seen in our own congregations and families. The Lord has preserved His Church through many times of decline in the past. And we have His promise that the gates of hell shall not prevail against Her. But what will the broader church look like in the days ahead? Not like what it did just ten years ago, let alone 50 years ago. Only the Lord knows. But now is a time of transition and faithfully trying to meet these challenges.

The last two years have added to all this the challenge of loving one another. COVID seems to have caused the love of many—on all sides of all issues—to grow cold. For the Church to move forward we must repent, listen to one another, seek to understand where an individual’s conscience feels bound on the myriad of complex issues before us, and bear with one another in love that Jesus has given to us.

Otherwise, Satan will divide us on issues where Scripture has not clearly spoken, and a house divided can not stand.

T – Thanksgiving

I have been so heartened to see the faith and tenacity that the Lord has placed in the hearts and lives of His people. It was a blessing to visit so many of our congregations and her pastors in the year before the pandemic. It warmed my heart and encouraged me to see how faithful to the Lord and to their congregations our members and pastors have been these last 2 years of pandemic. I have been surprised at how pastors and parishioners have gone above and beyond the call of duty to keep the life of the Church in Word and Sacrament going in all the trials of the last years.

I am thankful that though there are differences in practice from place to place, that the broad confession of Jesus Christ as contained and expressed in the Book of Concord still finds root amongst us and is our foundation.

I am thankful for not only the confession of faith we have, and the liturgy and hymnody we have which continues to nourish and sustain it, but also for the Catechism. In the Catechism is a distillation of the primary truths of the Christian faith. For those of us who grew up in the Lutheran Church we have no idea how beautiful and rare it is to have this degree of unity of confession, let alone such a clear and gospel centred expression of the Christian faith. It is the best “evangelism pamphlet” ever!

I am also thankful for the farming roots of much of our Region which still keep so much of my Region rooted in natural law, reality, and godly tradition. We are a Region where people had to work together in order to survive. That legacy still lives on the prairies and shapes the culture of our communities and our churches. Central Region folk like to get along with each other, just as you need to do within your extended family, and it is a living embodiment of how “love covers a multitude of sins”.

S – Sundry (Other) and Regional Mission and Ministry Council

Our rural circuits are having difficulties finding Circuit Counsellors willing to serve as well as Lay representatives for the Regional Mission and Ministry Councils (RMMC). They are having trouble finding pastors to fill the pulpits. A number of people have suggested to me that we reorient our circuits around the population centres of our Region. A challenge for Circuit Counsellors is that they are so busy in their own congregations that they have little time to give to other congregations. Such a scheme could make it worse.

Our Regions are very large. The 2017 restructuring originally suggested 8 Regions. It would make sense in Central to have fewer circuits that might be organized around population centres the way dioceses of old, or the Landeskirchen of the old country were. In Central this might leave 5 “circuits” centred around the population centres of Saskatoon, Regina, Yorkton, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay.

This would still provide enough voices to have grass roots feedback and representation on the RMMC. However, for most of those circuits, we would likely need a willing emeritus pastor, or a pastor serving a parish part-time, to take up the task of Circuit Counsellor, or an “Assistant” to the Regional Pastor in these sub-regions/circuits/dioceses. If this proved

beneficial, we might need to consider funding these part-time positions to some degree.

It has been a pleasure to work with the good folks of the RMMC. However, especially due to the disruptions of COVID, the RMMC is very much a work in progress. Our work has not yet consisted of much more than approving annual subsidy and mission funding. This will require some work in order make better use of the RMMC and her members.

Submitted by Rev. David Haberstock
Central Regional Pastor

REPORT 4: EAST REGION PASTOR REPORT

A - Analysis

of congregations: 88
of dual or multipoint parishes: 26
of congregations vacant & calling: 5
of congregations vacant & non-calling: 10
of pastors serving congregations: 62
of pastor emeritus: 46
of pastors serving in other positions: 11
of pastor candidates: 7
of deacons actively serving: 7
of retired deacons: 3
of deacon candidates: 9

C – Challenges

As we read in Ecclesiastes: There is nothing new under the sun. The challenges that we face in 2022 are the same which the people of God have faced since the fall in the Garden. The devil, the world, and our sinful flesh are constantly seeking to attack and lead us to great shame and vice. In our day we see this expressing itself by making us short tempered with each other. During the trials of covid this has been exceedingly true. Satan has used everything at his disposal to divide the people of God. He seeks to drive a wedge between believers and between believers and the Lord.

Specific challenges faced in our time are reduced resources of finances, lay leadership, and Pastors. Covid has not only intensified animosity between the children of God but it has also hastened the results of those reduced resources. As such, we are experiencing congregational closures and decline in a more rapid manner.

The challenge for us will be to trust only in the Lord of the Church. He has promised to shepherd His people feeding and sustaining us through Word and Sacraments. Covid has given us the opportunity to see what is truly important and the one thing needful. While we do not know what our congregations will look like coming out of this time of trial, we are confident our Good Shepherd knows. The challenge will be to let Him guide and direct His Church and not think we know better ways to accomplish it.

T – Thanksgiving

The greatest reasons for thanksgiving are that our Heavenly Father created and sustains us in this life, our Saviour gave His life for our forgiveness and salvation, and the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, and enlightens us in faith unto life everlasting. What more could the people of God want? We rejoice that our names are written in the Book of Life.

We rejoice that though times, trials, and seasons may change, His Word and Sacraments do not change. The promises and blessings bestowed therein do not change. His Holy Absolution for the repentant does not change. The certainty of everlasting life in our Father’s Kingdom for all who believe does not change. The Spirit ever lifts our eyes from the turmoil around us in this temporary earthly realm to the joys of heaven. So we see that Jesus does not change.

In this time we rejoice that the Lord of the Church has raised up under-shepherds to care for His flock and that He has raised up strong lay leaders in our congregations,

Regions, and Synod. We praise Him for giving a generous heart to His people to return from the bountiful blessing He has bestowed upon them for the good of the whole body.

S – Sundry (Other) and Regional Mission and Ministry Council

If it were not enough to deal with restructuring, we have also had to deal with covid. This has meant some of the positive benefits of restructuring have not been able to be realized. Pray that the Lord guide us into the future and give us wisdom to listen to Him. Most of all pray that the Heart of Christ be bestowed upon all His people that we may work and live and love as His blood-bought people as we pass through the things temporal awaiting the things eternal.

2018-2022 LCC East Region Mission & Ministry Committee Report Prepared for the LCC 2022 Convention

This is the first report of the LCC East Region Mission & Ministry Committee. The last convention of the Synod held October 13-16, 2017 in Kitchener, ON, saw our church body reorganize itself under a new structure. The domestic mission and ecclesiastical service mandates once handled by the former three LCC Districts, including the LCC East District, are now the responsibility of our national Synod. The local (regional) administration of the Synod is now managed by a Regional Pastor and by a Regional Mission & Ministry Committee (RMMC).

The East RMMC consists of our Regional Pastor, the nine circuit counsellors and a lay representative from each circuit which, in our case, totals 19 people.

The East RMMC has had to deal with two major challenges in this term: 1) organizing its work within the new synodical structure, and 2) negotiating the limitations placed upon our functioning during a global pandemic. As then President Bugbee said in his 2017 convention report, *“To be sure, even if restructuring is adopted, it will take some time for us to settle into a new way of working.”* How prophetic our former president has proven to be!

Our East RMMC has specific subcommittees: Congregational Services, Social Ministry, Communications & Technology, Convocation, Assistance Review, and Budgeting. We have met four times in person -- two before Covid invaded our world and two with masks and distancing in accordance with local COVID-19 health guidelines at the time.

The most significant item of business our East RMMC faced was sifting through financial requests for assistance, evaluating them, and making recommendations. The Synod endeavours to project the sum of financial contributions it will be receiving in the coming year. Congregations and missions needing support submit their financial requests. Each region is apportioned an amount by the Synod to be delegated to fulfill the congregational requests for assistance in their region. Sadly, the amount available each year has been less than the sum of congregational requests. The RMMC has the responsibility to determine the amount each requesting congregations will receive. Even so, the amount indicated is contingent on monies remitted from LCC congregations and other sources as the year unfolds. The RMMC-approved amounts are then submitted to the Synod for final approval.

Note: The amounts for French ministry and Maritime mission are already preset by the LCC administration and alternative funding. For example, the French ministry in Quebec is receiving a \$50,000 boost for three years from Lutheran Laymen’s League-Canada which began February 2021.

The **RMMC Assistance Review Subcommittee** reviews the requests and, in conjunction with the **RMMC Budgeting Subcommittee**, gives guidance to the whole RMMC for their discussion and decision-making.

The Lord Jesus has commissioned His Church to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. When dealing with congregational assistance, all individuals and groups involved must be taken into consideration. On one hand we have congregations, pastors, and missionaries/missions who need support, we have the LCC congregations that provide the monies required for support, and we have the hierarchy of first the Regional Pastor and the Regional Mission & Ministry Committee followed by the Synodical leaders and staff which make the final decisions. Taken all together we realize there are many who, under the Lordship of Christ, make this all work. As St. Paul has written, *“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”* (1 Corinthians 12:27 ESV)

Reviewing congregational assistance requests has proved to be a humbling responsibility. It would be fair to say that all parties involved, both those on the asking end and those on the giving side, have all been trying their best with good hearts by the work of the Holy Spirit to do the Lord’s bidding through this process. It is imperfect work executed by imperfect people. We pray for the Lord’s wisdom and guidance in our discussions and our decision making. We pray also for the Lord’s

blessing upon our humble efforts that the Word of the Lord might grow much as it did among the Apostles as recorded in the Book of Acts.

The next general area of emphasis we dealt with was how to provide programming and services to congregations and members realizing that boards and committees of the former East District no longer exist.

Under the leadership of the **RMMC Convocation Subcommittee**, a Spring 2019 Open Forum was scheduled for every circuit of the East Region. Together with the Regional Pastor and members of the RMMC, its purpose was to allow open sharing among members regarding their needs, challenges, and questions as we move ahead in our new structure.

The **RMMC Congregational Services Subcommittee** exists to deal with the challenges of Christian Education, Youth, Young Adults, Seniors, Evangelism, Stewardship, etc. under the new structure. These areas need to be addressed in an innovative way since we no longer have our fully-funded District boards/committees and supporting District staff. The efforts of our fledging subcommittee were greatly stifled by the pandemic.

The **RMMC Social Ministry Subcommittee** supports various opportunities of service in communities where Lutheran congregations are located. Social Ministry can involve displaying faith through good works. It definitely calls each of us to live out our vocation as a neighbour to those around us and to those in other

communities or countries. The efforts of this fledging subcommittee were also greatly stifled by the pandemic. Communication has been a frequent topic of discussion for the East RMMC. Communication is essential between Synod and its congregations and between the congregational and pastoral members in our three Regions. It was felt that the loss of district structure left a void in this regard. With diminishing congregational numbers coupled with covid restrictions reducing opportunities for interactions among people, what remained was a heightened sense of isolation while we grope our way forward in unfamiliar ways.

The **RMMC Communications & Technology Subcommittee** knows there is great potential in the digital tools available to our synod and want to work towards a means of better connection.

How shall a “Region” within Lutheran Church-Canada function? The entities of Regional Pastor and Regional RMMC serve as a bridge between the national Synod and the local congregation and circuit. May the Lord grant that at every level we may function as St. Paul writes, “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 ESV)

To God be the glory!
Respectfully Submitted
Pastor Kevin C. Walrath
Secretary for LCC - East Region Mission and Ministry
Committee

REPORT 5: WEST REGION PASTOR REPORT

A - Analysis

of congregations 116
of dual or multipoint parishes 12
of congregations vacant & calling 10
of congregations vacant & non-calling 16
of pastors serving congregations 88
of pastor emeritus 81
of pastors serving in other positions 10
of pastor candidates 7
of deacons actively serving 16
of retired deacons 9
of deacon candidates 9

C – Challenges

The Lord of the Church himself identifies the challenge His church faces, Luke 10:2 And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore

pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

The Lord bids His church to turn to Him trusting that He will provide all that His Church needs for the end time harvest. Filled with Spirit wrought faith in our Lord’s Word of promise our regions prayerfully look to respond to the ongoing challenges both internally and externally. The challenges include the need to form workers (both lay and rostered workers) to support Word and Sacrament ministry and outreach. Members and workers report high levels of anger, misunderstandings and impatience with one another and towards the world. They report high levels of negativity and hopelessness, complacency and passivity, tiredness, and burnout. The church is challenged to support congregational health and worker health.

We are challenged to provide material resources, educational resources, and financial resources to support mission and ministry.

Contextually we recognize the growing number of congregations who for a variety of reasons find

themselves without a pastor. Other challenges include the support of numerous isolated congregations scattered across a large geographic area and who are experiencing isolation from the LCC family. We also have an aging demographic among our church membership. We are experiencing numbers of members leaving their congregation, declining membership and churches being disbanded.

We are challenged to nurture growth in faith and service among young families, children, youth, young adults and provide for the care, support and protection of our elderly.

The Lord has also increased the harvest fields in our region. We are being challenged to respond to the needs of immigrant communities coming into our country and their request for catechesis and training of workers. As a largely immigrant church, we know what it means to be immigrants and displaced people. We know the needs and we know the importance of supplying Word and Sacrament ministry.

The Canadian social context has changed significantly over the last four years. We will need to address the challenges of the church living in a growing hostile environment. The challenge is to be ready and equipped for the ongoing spiritual battle against the forces of evil in the world.

For the last two years, the world, Canadians and members of our congregations have suffered under the impact of the COVID pandemic. Word and Sacrament ministry has been hindered and has brought its own challenges. Congregations face the challenge of encouraging the return of members to in person worship, reconnect their bonds of fellowship, renew their missional work and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a changed context. Learn to mourn their losses in healthy ways (including loss of members, pastors, lay leaders, church buildings, etc).

We are challenged to keep the eyes of faith on the Lord's purpose, call, mission field and work entrusting to Him the outcomes of His work in and through us (Philippians 1:6).

The West region in specific but all regions of LCC were impacted with the departure of Concordia University of Alberta from the LCC family. In addition, the collapse of the ABC District CEF severely impacted the lives of members and congregations and created a high level of distrust. We are challenged to restore trust, work at reconciliation leading to a restoration of unity. We are challenged to refocus on our working together to fulfill our common vision and mission.

T – Thanksgiving

Our congregations are resilient. By the grace of God they continue to identify threats and challenges and opportunities and to respond trusting in God, and all

the more so considering the times we are living in. We give thanks to God for the common confession of the faith, our commitment to walk together to support the ministry of Word and Sacrament and our common witness to the Gospel.

The ministry of Word and Sacrament continues with Pastors and workers and lay leaders working together searching for means, channels and resources to adapt the work to their context. Worship services continue to be conducted; the celebration of the Sacrament is taking place. Adults and children have been baptized, people have been brought to faith in Christ and joined the church.

More than ever congregations, pastors, and lay leaders are coming together to help provide encouragement for one another. There is a growing understanding of our dependence upon one another and with that a growing desire to share the riches of God's gifts which the Lord has given to His people and congregations to serve each others needs and share each others' burdens. We give thanks to God for His providing of resources, including financial and material resources to His church through the generosity of His people. God's people are stepping up to meet the challenges and respond to the opportunities God has provided!

We give thanks to God for the workers in our region who continue to labour faithfully under the cross. We give thanks to God for raising up and sustaining lay leaders who have been called upon to provide leadership both to their congregation and within the larger church. God has blessed His people with a diversity of gifts and enabled them to serve for the good of His people and for the witness to the Gospel. God has blessed His Church and our region with retired pastors and workers who continue to serve His church even to their earthly life's end. I am particularly thankful for the members of the RMMC whom the church has provided to work alongside me.

We give thanks to God for the continued expansion of technology which has provided new possibilities to support mission and ministry. We are still working to understand how it might best be used.

In the last four years, there has been a rapid expansion of immigration in all areas of Canada and this is especially true of the West Region. We are thankful for the ever-increasing numbers of Christians, who have come into Canada, bringing along with them, curiosity about the Christian faith, a passion to witness to the Gospel and have found a home in Lutheran Church Canada.

S – Sundry (Other) and Regional Mission and Ministry Council Report

Since the last Synodical Convention a new structure was introduced to our Synod. This structure is called the

Regional Mission and Ministry Council (RMMC). The council consists of the Circuit Counsellors and a lay representative from each circuit. Our West Region RMMC held its inaugural meeting January 18/19, 2019 at Foothills Lutheran Church, Calgary Alberta. Working groups were established and populated to address the various mission and ministry needs arising in the region. Covid restrictions over the last two years have hindered the council's opportunities to meet and to do its work. Most meetings are now conducted using an on-line meeting platform and supported by the development of a web network called Servant Leader Network, developed and maintained by Pr Michael Schutz.

Annually, the RMMC receives applications for mission requests from congregations and work to set priorities and levels of funding. In addition, the Council also reviews and approves various ministry requests for funding from congregations and circuits.

The RMMC has approved mission and ministry funding for Concordia Penticton Church and School to subsidize tuition costs for families. It has provided funding to the BC Mission Boat Society to support outreach among coastal first nations communities. It has provided funding for intercultural ministry work at Faith Surrey

and Trinity, Richmond. It has provided financial support for deaf ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Vancouver. It has supported Redeemer Lutheran Church Kitimat and Terrace congregation. It has provided funding for outreach work to the Chinese community in Vancouver through Living Waters Church. It has provided funding to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bruce, AB whose members were impacted by an agricultural state of emergency and resulting economic downturn. It has provided funding for technology upgrades at Hope Lutheran Church and School, Port Coquitlam, Walnut Grove Lutheran Church, Concordia Lutheran Church and School, Penticton and St. Paul's Chilliwack. It has provided financial assistance for a pastor to be trained as an Intentional Interim Pastor. It has provided support for the Ministry Wives retreats and provided financial support for the Edmonton Circuit Pastors Retreat.

The development of the RMMC is still very much a work in progress.

Rev. Robert Mohns
LCC West Region Pastor

REPORT 6: CHANGE IN ROSTER

October 2018* - March 1, 2022

PASTORS

1. ENTERED THE SYNOD

a. Ordinations & Installations

1.	CHANDLER, Adam	(CLS, Edmonton), Foothills, Calgary, AB, 2020-07-19 by Rev. Robert Mohns
2.	FENN, Matthew	(CLTS, St. Catharines), St. Peter's, Stratford, ON, Sunday, 2019-07-14 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
3.	HEIDE, Travis	(CLS, Edmonton), Mount Calvary, Swift Current, SK, 2020-07-19 by Rev. David Haberstock
4.	KNELSON, Peter	(CLS, Edmonton), St. John's, Warman, SK, 2020-08-02 by Rev. David Haberstock
5.	KURTENBACH, Joshua	(CLS, Edmonton), Our Saviour, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK, 2020 07 26 by Rev. David Haberstock
6.	MAURICIO, Shiekh	(CLS, Edmonton), Good Shepherd, Valeyview, AB, 2019-07-28 by Rev. Robert Mohns
7.	MAYER, Michael	(CLS, Edmonton), Redeemer / First, Monkton/Logan, ON, 2019-08-04 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
8.	MCLEAN, Chris	(CLS, Edmonton), St. Paul's, Dawson Creek BC, 2019-07-14 by Rev. Robert Mohns
9.	OCHALLA, Oboya	(PAT), St. James, Winnipeg, MB, 2019-06-22 by Rev. David Haberstock

E.16

10.	PAUL, Vishal	(CLTS, St. Catharines), Risen Christ, Mississauga, ON, 2020-08-09, by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
11.	REKKEN, Mark	(CLS, Edmonton), Prince of Peace, Calgary, AB, 2020-08-02 by Rev. Robert Mohns
12.	RITZ, Wendle	(CLS, Edmonton), Trinity, Pincher Creek, AB, 2020-08-09 by Rev. Robert Mohns
13.	STADNICK, Kenneth	(CLS, Edmonton), Cross of Christ, Edmonton, AB, 2020-09-20 by Rev. Robert Mohns
14.	TIMM, Alexander	(CLS, Edmonton), Our Saviour / St. Mark, Dryden / Vermillion Bay, ON, 2019-08-25 by Rev. David Haberstock
15.	ZAKEL, David	(CLTS, St. Catharines), Prince of Peace, Burlington, ON, 2021-07-04 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz

b. Received by Colloquy

1.	GRAFF, Timothy	(Colloquy), Redeemer, Didsbury, AB, 2020-10-04 by Rev. Robert Mohns
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c. Received by Transfer

1.	BRUM, Paulo	(IELB-Lutheran Church in Brazil), New Beginnings, Regina, SK, 2019-05-12 by Rev. David Haberstock
2.	JACOBSEN, Marco	(IELB-Lutheran Church in Brazil), Assistant Missionary at Large, Ste Foy, QC, 2021-10-03 by Rev. Mark Smith
3.	JOHNSTON, Geoff	(Lutheran Church of Australia), Trinity, Churchbridge, SK, 2019-02-03 by Rev. David Haberstock
4.	KORCOK, Thomas	Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL (LCMS), Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, ON, 2021-09-12 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
5.	KRAMER, Adrian	(Lutheran Church of Australia), St. John / St. Peter, Frobisher / Oxbow, SK, 2021-12-11 by Rev. David Haberstock
6.	MAFFAT, David	(Eglise Evangelique Luthérienne St. Pierre de Chatenay), Candidate, Waterford, ON, 2019-10-30 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz

2. CHANGES WITHIN THE SYNOD

1.	AREDO, Assefa	Missionary - Other, to Missionary at Large, Lutheran Church-Canada, Winnipeg, ON, 2019-01-18 by
2.	BARR, Daniel	St. Luke / Zion, Eganville, ON, to Faith, Atikokan, ON, 2019-03-10 by Rev. Brian Falkenholt
3.	BARR, Daniel	Faith, Atikokan, ON, to Redeemer, Kakabeka Falls, ON, 2022-01-08 by Rev. Brian Falkenholt
4.	BUBLITZ, Marvin	First/Redeemer, Logan/Monkton, ON, to East Regional Pastor, Lutheran Church-Canada, 2019-01-01 by Rev. Timothy Teuscher
5.	CHAMBERS, Stephen	Grace, Edmonton, AB, to Our Saviour, Parksville, BC, 2021-09-12 by Rev. Robert Mohns
6.	CHAMBERS, Stephen	Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton AB, to Grace, Edmonton, AB, 2020-01-20 by Rev. Robert Mohns
7.	CHUOL, William	Hope, Kitchener, ON, to Holy Cross, Kitchener, ON, 2018-11-18 by Rev. Paul Zabel
8.	COOPER, Cody	La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship, La Ronge, SK, to Christ, Mellowdale, AB, 2020-03-01 by Rev. Robert Mohns
9.	COTTRILL, Andrew	Zion, Yorkton, SK, to Trinity, Fisherville, ON, 2021-09-12 by Rev. Kevin Walrath

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10.	FIEGE, Randy	Northeast Saskatchewan Parish, SK, to Faith, Sundre, AB, 2020-12-31
11.	GATLUAK, Peter	East District Missionary, to Pilgram, Hamilton, ON, 2020-09-20 by Rev. Kevin Walrath
12.	GROUT, Robert	Candidate, to Holy Trinity, Luseland, SK, 2021-07-25 by Rev. David Haberstock
13.	GUGGENMOS, Todd	Our Saviour, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK, to Christ/Immanuel/Christ, Langenburg/Landestreu/MacNutt, SK, 2019-07-14 by Rev. David Haberstock
14.	GUST, Arron	Christ/Immanuel/Christ, Langenburg/Landestreu/MacNutt, SK, to Grace, Regina, SK, 2019-02-24 by Rev. David Haberstock
15.	HABERSTOCK, David	Grace, Regina, SK, to Central Regional Pastor, Lutheran Church–Canada, 2019-01-22 by Rev. Timothy Teuscher
16.	HEIDE, Randy	St. John's/St. Paul's, Warman/Bergheim, SK, to Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, 2019-11-03 by Rev. David Haberstock
17.	HOEFFS, Todd	Redeemer, Winnipeg, MB, to Christ, St. Catharines, ON, 2020-09-27 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
18.	JULIEN, Bradley	Redeemer/Lutheran Community Care Centre, Kakabeka Falls/Thunder Bay, ON, to Emmanuel/St. Paul, Southey/Cupar, SK, 2020-11-01 by Rev. David Haberstock
19.	JUST, Mark	Candidate, to Immanuel, Winnipeg, MB, 2018-12-09 by Rev. Thomas Pracher
20.	KIM, Dong Joo	Central District Missionary, Regina SK, to Missionary at Large, Lutheran Church–Canada, Winnipeg, ON, 2019-01-18 by
21.	KJOS, Gregory	Candidate, to Candidate vacancy St. John/Immanuel, Vegreville/Bruce, AB, 2021-07-08 by Rev. Vince Moore
22.	KUHN, Michael	Candidate, to Missionary - Lutheran Bible Translators, Kitchener, ON, 2021-03-19
23.	LYONS, Scott	Hope, Victoria, BC, to Bethlehem, Edmonton, AB, 2019-01-03 by Rev. Robert Mohns
24.	MOHNS, Robert	Candidate, to West Regional Pastor, Lutheran Church–Canada, 2019-01-15 by Rev. Timothy Teuscher
25.	MOHR, Ron	LCC East District Mission Executive, to Lutheran Bible Translators, Kitchener, ON, 2018-11-17 by Rev. Paul Zabel
26.	NIEMINEN, Johannes	Zion/Trinity, Melville/Neudorf, SK, to St. Andrew's, Halifax, NS, 2019-09-07 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
27.	OTKE, Neil	Lappe/Trinity, Gorham/Thunder Bay, ON, to Lappe, Gorham, ON, 2021-02-01
28.	SCHULTZ, Jason	St. Peter/St. John , Oxbow/Frobisher, SK, to Emmanuel, Moose Jaw, SK, 2020-10-04 by Rev. David Haberstock
29.	TORGERSON, Wilhelm,	Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, ON, to First, Windsor, ON, 2018-12-16 by Rev. Paul Zabel
30.	VOSPER, James	Zion/Christ/St. Paul, Plumas/Neepawa/McCreary, MB, to Zion, Plumas, MB, 2019-06-09 by Rev. Timothy Teuscher

3. TRANSFER TO OTHER CHURCH BODIES

1.	BARONE, Tim	Nebraska District, LCMS, 2019-08-21
2.	GRAHAM, Mel	English District, LCMS, 2021-04-27
3.	JOHNSTON, Geoff	Queensland District, Lutheran Church of Australia, 2019-12-28
4.	MOELLER, Daniel	North Wisconsin District, LCMS, 2021-09-01
5.	RICHERT, Jeremy	South Dakota District, LCMS, 2019-02-11
6.	ROSE, William	Texas District, LCMS, 2021-02-05
7.	SCHAEFFER, Glenn	Michigan District, LCMS, 2019-02-05

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8.	SMITH, Mark D.	Northwest District, LCMS, 2020-06-22
9.	STRESMAN, Glenn	English District, LCMS, 2021-11-08
10.	WHITE, V. Roy	Northwest District, LCMS, 2019-02-20
11.	YUNKER, Ward	Southeastern District, LCMS, 2020-02-25

4. CANDIDATE OR EMERITUS

a. Candidate

1.	BARONE, Tim	2019-08-21	7.	SCHAEFFER, Glenn	2019-02-05
2.	GRAHAM, Mel	2021-04-27	8.	SMITH, Mark D.	2020-06-22
3.	JOHNSTON, Geoff	2019-12-28	9.	STRESMAN, Glenn	2021-11-08
4.	MOELLER, Daniel	2021-09-01	10.	WHITE, V. Roy	2019-02-20
5.	RICHERT, Jeremy	2019-02-11	11.	YUNKER, Ward	2020-02-25
6.	ROSE, William	2021-02-05			

b. Emeritus

1.	COLBECK, Michael	2019-06-30	11.	PAKRUL, Peter	2020-01-01
2.	DANIELSON, Mark	2018-10-31	12.	PRACHAR, Thomas	2018-12-14
3.	DITTEMER, Reinhard	2021-05-12	13.	RICHHOLT, Timothy	2020-08-01
4.	FREY, Richard	2021-11-01	14.	RUMSCH, Timothy	2020-09-03
5.	KLEEMOLA, Randall	2021-02-01	15.	SCHOLZ, James	2021-09-02
6.	MAFFETT, David	2021-02-17	16.	SMITH, Mark D	2020-06-22
7.	MELLECKE, David	2021-05-01	17.	STEFANIK, Darryl	2021-12-01
8.	MILLER, Norman	2017-09-01	18.	SYENS, Roland	2020-07-01
9.	MOELLER, Daniel	2021-06-30	19.	VAN KATWYK, Peter	2019-07-01
10.	MORTON, David	2021-10-04	20.	WOOD, James	2019-08-25

5. RESIGNED OR REMOVED FROM ROSTER

1.	HOLDNER, Jay	2018-11-01	5.	NILSSON, Jeffry	2018-11-01
2.	KITSCH, Daniel	2021-03-15	6.	SALUMAE, Mart	2021-06-24
3.	MANWEILLER, Lorne	2018-09-20	7.	STAHLKE, Lester	2019-10-03
4.	MOK, Thompson	2018-11-01			

6. CALLED TO GLORY

1.	ALFAZEMA, Joseph	2019-05-11	12.	LENTZ, Larry	2019-01-25
2.	BORCHARDT, Paul	2020-03-22	13.	MOHR, Dale	2019-04-26
3.	BORCHARDT, Carl	2020-03-28	14.	OBEDA, John	2018-11-09
4.	BURT, Brian	2021-06-23	15.	POLLARD, Darwin	2019-02-08
5.	DREWIN, Ferdinand	2021-12-09	16.	SCHMIDT, John	2021-02-27
6.	EICHENLAUB, Ken	2019-11-18	17.	SILVER, Frank	2017-04-30
7.	FRENCH, Richard	2019-06-03	18.	TABBERT, Ronald	2020-08-19
8.	GRAY, Denis	2021-11-06	19.	UNTERSCHULTZ, Don	2018-11-06
9.	HABERSTOCK, Clifford	2022-01-14	20.	WINGER, Roger	2021-04-29
10.	KENTEL, Murvyn	2019-12-12	21.	WITTE, Harold	2022-01-08
11.	KNOLL, Melvin	2022-02-11			

DEACONS

1. ENTERED THE SYNOD

- a. Ordinations & Installations
None
- b. Received by Colloquy
None
- c. Received by Transfer
None

2. CHANGES WITHIN THE SYNOD

1.	FRIM, Jennifer	Candidate, to Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, AB, 2019-03-10 by Rev. Robert Mohns
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3. TRANSFER TO OTHER CHURCH BODIES

None

4. CANDIDATE OR EMERITUS

a. Candidate

1.	OLDING, Lisa	2020-06-08
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b. Emeritus

1.	GROH, Olga	2021-03-31
2.	ROBAK, Siegrid	2021-05-03

5. REMOVED FROM ROSTER

1.	ARNDT, Ralph	2018-11-01	8.	KRUSE, Keith	2018-11-01
2.	BERNHARDT, Susan	2018-11-01	9.	QUINLAN, Alyx	2018-11-01
3.	CHAPMAN, Chelsea	2018-11-01	10.	SCHMITZ, Kaitlin	2020-04-16
4.	CLASPER, Shelaine	2018-11-01	11.	TESKE, Bradley	2020-04-16
5.	COLBAN, Nicole	2018-11-01	12.	WEIST, Deloyce	2019-02-15
6.	GEHRING, Michelle	2018-11-01	13.	WEITZEL, Cynthia	2018-11-01
7.	GOERZ, Laura	2018-11-01	14.	ZIMMER, Leanne	2018-11-01

6. CALLED TO GLORY

1.	ZIPRICK, Harold	2018-01-10
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CONGREGATIONS

A. TO BE RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

None

B. DISBANDED, MERGED OR RESIGNED

1.	Fernie, BC	Trinity	2018-04-01
2.	Elkford, BC	Immanuel	2018-04-01
3.	Kimberley, BC	Holy Cross	2018-04-01
4.	Cranbrook, BC	Mount Zion	2018-04-01
5.	Port Rowan, ON	Christ the King	2018-04-01
6.	Frankslake, SK	Immanuel	2018-12-23
7.	Nelson	St. John's	2019-03-01
8.	Saskatoon, SK	Holy Cross	2019-07-07
9.	Windthorst, SK	Zion	2019-07-07
10.	Sexsmith, AB	Emmaus	2019-09-14
11.	Kincardine	Grace	2020-12-31
12.	Whitecourt, AB	St. James	2021-05-23
13.	Orangeville, ON	Living Faith	2021-06-13
14.	Toronto, ON	St. Peter's Estonian	2021-06-25
15.	Thunder Bay, ON	Bethel	2021-07-04
16.	Hines Creek, AB	St. Paul	2021-07-05
17.	Lipton, SK	Living Christ	2022-01-21

*roster changes begin with those that occurred after the 2018 District conventions and include those not reported by the District in 2018.

REPORT 7: DEAN OF MILITARY CHAPLAINS

This has been a challenging year for our Military Chaplains as they seek to serve our troops in the name of our risen Lord and Saviour during a time of pandemic. Our Chaplains face a difficult task in serving as ordained ministers of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) who have been placed under a command structure of the Department of National Defence and the Government of Canada. As many of our ordained clergy, they have been faced with a task of being faithful to their calling as Pastors while working with changing rules and a very uncertain future. Deployments, Military exercises and taskings have been complicated by Covid protocols and shutdowns.

Within the Deanery we continue to hold (as schedules allow) regular video conferences along the lines of regular Circuit meetings. At the time of the writing of this report, we have a number of clergy in process for endorsement to serve as Military Chaplains within the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve. As a group, we have been working on establishing standard procedures for the identification, interview process, and endorsement of potential Military Chaplains.

We have had losses this year due to some of our Chaplains leaving Military Service. We owe a debt of

gratitude to Capt. the Rev. Dr. Thomas Korcok who continues to serve on the Seminary faculty at CLTS, St. Catharines and Capt. the Rev. Paul Williams who continues to serve as Pastor of Grace (Locksley) Lutheran Church, Pembroke ON. We were blessed with their hard work and faithful service to our Lord and Saviour and to His Church. Our Military Deanery would also like to thank Rev. Dr. Harold Ristau (Maj. Ret) for his outstanding leadership as our representative on the Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy (ICCMC). In addition to his duties as a Seminary Professor, Dr. Ristau provided a clear and articulate voice for Lutheran Chaplains on this interfaith committee. His leadership allowed many other denominations to find support and encouragement among Lutheran (LCC) Chaplains as they sought to navigate difficult issues. As Dr. Ristau explores new areas by which he might continue to serve our Lord, he intends to stepdown from this position as our representative this June. We would like to publicly recognize and thank all three of these men for their diligent work and to express our sadness at the loss of their wise counsel among our Military Chaplains.

The following is a brief synopsis of the work of our individual Chaplains:

**Capt. the Rev. S. Van Maanen,
Acting Brigade Chaplain 41 CBG.
Chaplain, 20th Fd Regt. RCA.
Canadian Armed Forces
Edmonton, AB**

The chaplains of 41 CBG have been dealing with this pandemic and helping the soldiers and their families, as they are able. Some of that care came in dealing with families in distress from mental health issues during lockdowns and some of it came from Chaplains dealing with relationships breaking under the same. Our chaplains also had to deal with the religious exemptions that were requested by the soldiers of their units. Initially they were torn between not saying anything by request of the Chaplain CoC, but when the requests were finally released the chaplains were inundated with requests for help and counseling. The bulk of their ministry was taken up this year by dealing with ongoing pandemic problems and being able to parade and meet in person. 41 CBG chaplains were admirable in their pursuits of service to the troops in the face of the challenge that this pandemic has produced.

**Captain / capitaine Chad Miller
Canadian Armed Forces
Concordia Theological Seminary
St. Catharines, ON**

Over the last year I have been continuing with seminary in the SEELM program (Feb - Aug 2021, Vicarage; Sept 2021 - present, final year of MDiv).

**Capt. the Rev. Sean Smallwood,
Chaplain, 2 PPCLI (2nd Battalion, Princess
Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry)
Canadian Armed Forces
CFB Shilo, MB**

Capt. Smallwood spent sixty-five days in the field on exercises MAPLE RESOLVE, AGILE RAM I & II, KAPYONG SPADE AND FRIGID KAPYONG with troops this year. During that time, he had opportunity to hold forty-two voluntary church parades, as well as pray several times with the battalion and various subunits after operational orders and before missions. In garrison he was able to provide nearly thirty weekly voluntary church parade services to troops as well as commemorative services in the base chapel like the Battle of Britain and Remembrance Sunday. During the final ISAF pullout this past August from Afghanistan, Chaplain Smallwood was part of a team that held a decompression event with veterans to assist with this emotional transition. He was also able to visit troops in the field during domestic operations, such as the fire-fighting support in Manitoba and support to remote communities during the pandemic. He continues to

embrace the infantry, logging several rucks with the rifle companies he serves, as well as thirteen combat force marches with all companies this past year.

**Capt. the Rev. Phillip Washeim
Chaplain, 5Fd (BC) Rgt Artillery
Canadian Armed Forces
Victoria, BC**

In addition to serving as Unit chaplain, this past year, I completed all my Level one training by completing two courses. I also went on an artillery live fire exercise with the unit to CFB Shiloh, MB in October for 3 days.

**Maj. the Rev. Gerson Flor
Sr Chaplain, Canadian Armed Forces Formation
Europe (FE)
NATO Allied Command Operations
Mons, Belgium**

In July 2021 I was posted from Naples, Italy to Mons, Belgium, where I will stay, God willing, until August 2024. I am currently the Sr Chaplain for the Canadian Armed Forces Formation Europe (FE), leading a team of three chaplains who together cover 17 different countries. I am the chaplain advisor of the FE Commanding Officer, BGen Gervais Carpentier, who is also the National Military Representative at NATO Allied Command Operations. I am in Belgium with my wife Guislei and, due to Covid restrictions to university classes in presence, our daughter Julia (19). Our oldest daughter, Gabriela (21), lives in Quebec City. We attend Divine Services, when possible, in Brussels or Antwerp with our partner church in Belgium.

**Lt(N). the Rev. David N Jackson, CD
Chaplain, 3rd Canadian Division Headquarters
Canadian Armed Forces
CFB Edmonton, AB**

Served as the 3rd Canadian Division Headquarters Chaplain, Edmonton. In this role served as the Staff Officer to the 3rd Canadian Division Chaplain and completed composite reports and returns for the Division Chaplain. Said prayers at a dedication of a new Afghanistan War plaque at the Strathcona County War Memorial in June. Organized the 3rd Canadian Division Chaplain Annual Regional Exercise, Exercise FAITHFUL WARRIOR 2021 at the Edmonton Garrison in November. In attendance were over 30 chaplains, including 3x LCC Chaplains. Also, served as the Regional Army Chaplain Recruiter for Western Canada overseeing recruitment of chaplains from BC to Western Ontario.

**Capt. the Rev. Gregory R. Lutz
Base Chaplain
17 Wing Detachment Dundurn
CFB Dundurn, SK**

January – June 2021 I served as the Administrative Chaplain and 2ic at CFB Borden before being posted to 17 Wing Dundurn as the Base Chaplain in July where I currently serve.

In June we sold our house in Barrie and moved to Saskatoon.

In the past year, I served on 2 Board of Inquires which took up 5 months of my ministry. I was made an Honorary Fire Fighter after leaving the Fire School in June. After arriving in Dundurn, I undertook the task of creating a new Chapel after the old one was torn down. Organized the Christmas Hamper for the Detachment. In addition to my duties as Base Chaplain, I currently serve as vacancy Pastor for Hudson Bay, Mistatim, and Nipawin, Saskatchewan since August 2021.

Capt. the Rev Paul R. Williams
Chaplain, Unit: 42 Field Regiment
Canadian Armed Forces
Pembroke, ON

As a reserve chaplain, there was not much going on with my unit, which was on lockdown for a good portion of the year and when the unit was active, I was involved with routine parades once a week.

Having turned 60 last month, I was officially retired and released for the military chaplaincy on Friday, 21 Jan, and I will be given a Depart with Dignity observance sometime in the future.

Capt. the Rev David Gallas
Chaplain, 427 Special Operations Aviation Squadron
& Canadian Special Operations Training Centre
CANSOFCOM
Canadian Armed Forces
CFB Petawawa, Ontario

Padre Gallas serves two Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM) units in Garrison Petawawa. He regularly provides pastoral care to military and family members, as well as advice to the Chain of Command. In addition, he reaches out regularly to spouses of deployed members to ensure their overall well-being. Recently, he was able to deliver briefings on "Pivoting Towards Character" and "Conscience and Moral Injury."

Capt. the Rev. Min Kim
Chaplain, 1 Service Battalion
Canadian Armed Forces
CFB Edmonton, AB

The year of 2021 was not particularly different other than the Canadian Army (CA)'s operation strategic plan change and its impact on our soldiers (not just the soldiers of my unit but those in 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (1 CMBG)). I continued serving at 1 Service Battalion (the largest CA unit with 900 mbrs plus 100 civilians) that takes a vital role of providing

mechanical and logistic support for the operations of 1 CMBG, as well as of the 3 Canadian Division Support Group (3CDSG).

What has been changed? The CA has recently changed its operation cycle which used to be called: Road to High Readiness (Exs & Trgs prior to deployment), High Readiness (deployments), and Reconstitution (pause before the next cycle). Having noticed the cycles compromised the battle rhythms due to continuation of deployments and extension, the CA cut the line of the cycle and pressed the reset button to start it anew. With a new strategic plan, it is now called 3 phases—Build (Exs & Trgs), Contingency (Pause), and Committed (Deployment). So, the order of the phase/cycle is changed, and the implication is that one of the 3 Divisions in the CA will repeat one phase (i.e., Build phase of Exs and Trgs) again, and as you may guess, it fell on our division. In other words, instead of the year of Reconstitution, 1 CMBG soldiers took the year of Build phase for trgs and Exs immediately after deployments. A high level of stress among soldiers obviously came to the attention of Chaplains and the CoC across the Brigade, and it was one of the challenging years. Conducting the Exs in the middle of COVID increased the level of stress and frustration of both members and their families. In addition, natural disasters such as wildfires and floods added up the load of the heavy duty operations.

In brief, it's just another year in a Brigade unit, but quite a different year, as you see. No particular activities were there other than what was expected.

The current situation in the border of Ukraine increases tension and requires the CA troops' presence. Since I already deployed to Ukraine 4 years ago, and there are Chaplains who need to deploy, I will stay behind. That's where we are at.

Maj. the Rev. Vic Morris
Chaplain, CANSOFCOM
Canadian Armed Forces
DND, Ottawa, ON

Padre Morris continues to serve in Ottawa, as part of a holistic leadership team for the care and welfare of military members and their families. As the Spiritual Domain Lead, he works at the strategic level to ensure spiritual support is provided and spiritual resilience and wellness training is developed and delivered. Many of these concepts at new and emerging, and there is a heavy emphasis on research and content creation. In addition to these duties, Padre Morris provides tactical level spiritual support to the members of the command who work at the headquarters; pastoral care and counsel, spiritual support, official acts (weddings, baptisms,

funerals, etc.) and facilitating spiritual care for those of another confession. Padre Morris is active in the Protestant Chapel and is part of the rotation to lead services. This last year he was promoted to his current rank of Major.

We continue to keep our Military Chaplains in our prayers as they seek to be faithful to the task to which they have been appointed. Dear Lord grant them wisdom for the duties for which they have been tasked. Make them considerate of those to whose care You have

entrusted to them. Let their uniform remind them daily of the traditions of their Service. Grant them your Grace that acting in accord with the Holy Spirit they may lead many to trust in You. Guide them ever by the example of Him whom you have sent to redeem them by His death and resurrection and in whose Holy Name we pray. Amen.

Rev. Rod Buck CD +
Dean of Military Chaplains,
Lutheran Church–Canada

REPORT 8: ADMINISTRATOR OF LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA (LCC)

The Statutory Bylaws of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) state that the Administrator shall discharge the non-ecclesiastical responsibilities of LCC, as assigned by the Board of Directors, and shall supervise the activities of all LCC employees other than the President and the Regional Pastors. The Bylaws further say that the Administrator is responsible for preparing annual budgets to be presented to the Board and is also to prepare a four-year work program forecast for presentation at each quadrennial convention. (*Bylaw 10:13 LCC Handbook 2017 pg. 7*)

This report is a representation of how I together with the other administrative and accounting staff, have carried out these assigned responsibilities over the past four years, and includes commentary on LCC's financial results over the same period. At the convention, I will be providing an in-person report that will illustrate our financial forecast for the upcoming quadrennial work program (2023-2026) and explain how the resource allocations within the work program reflect LCC's purpose and priority planning process.

Walking Together as a Synod

Committed to a common confession in mission, congregations of LCC join with one another as a synod to share an ecclesiastical bond and to support and work with one another. In this way, we seek to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, the members of his body, and the world which stands in need of the word and the impact of His redeeming love.

Our work together as a Synod can only be accomplished with the generous financial support of our members. Through your tithes and offerings, a portion of all the gifts laid upon the altar of local congregations are remitted to LCC. In total, these gifts make up almost 65% of LCC's overall revenue and are critical for funding the vital work we do together. Work such as:

Domestic Missions

The strength of our synod begins with the strength of our local congregations. Together we support and nurture word and sacrament ministries across our country, and especially in regions of greatest need. We also identify, develop and support mission efforts throughout the country; by assisting congregations to explore new opportunities for outreach and by providing works of mercy and relief to those less fortunate.

International Missions

Together we support mission work in Central America, Southeast Asia, and Ukraine. Our primary objectives involve gospel proclamation and theological training. In addition to these primary objectives, we are also privileged to share the love of Jesus our Saviour through several social ministry programs, which includes children's Christian education and feeding programs.

Ecclesiastical Services

Caring for our pastors and members by providing ecclesiastical leadership and pastoral care through the work of the President, Regional Pastors, President's Ministry Council and Circuit counselors. Our pastoral leaders focus their attention, building community and helping shape the spiritual growth within our church family.

Higher Education

Our seminaries continue to train and form men for the service of pastoral office in our congregations. Our seminaries also continue to provide support to the training and forming of pastors in our overseas mission fields. LCC 's higher education support accounts for 11% of it's expenditures and covers approximately 15% of the seminaries total operating costs.

Communications

Communication services remain a very important component of our work in Synod and the publication of *The Canadian Lutheran* and other media continues to be

valued by our membership. Communications helps enhance mission awareness, foster spiritual growth and build community.

Congregational Services

In partnership with Lutheran Foundation Canada, promote stewardship among members to financially support the work of the Church.

Pension & Benefit Program

LCC manages the delivery of the pension and benefit program to our pastors and other church workers. Your offerings help support the body of Christ by providing for the well being of our workers and their families.

LCC Quadrennial Financial Results (2017-2021)

The fiscal year for Lutheran Church Canada starts on February 1 and ends January 31 each year. The financial results that are illustrated in **Table A** cover the four-year period starting Feb 1, 2017 and ending on Jan 31, 2021.

The actual results shown for each fiscal period (columns B-E) are figures derived from annual audited financial statements. The budget figures indicated in (column G) are the aggregate totals for each category over the time period. The LCC Board of Directors approve the annual spending budget. The work program included in (column H) is the quadrennial forecast that was presented to delegates at the 2017 LCC Convention. The work program serves as a guide to the Board, for the allocation of resources in the annual budget.

Readers will notice in the table that over the quadrennial actual expenses totalled \$10,463,621 and LCC had an operating surplus of \$562,870. The actual results compare favorably to the budgeted expenditures of \$10,673,960 and expected surplus of \$4,734. The work program estimated that expenses would be much higher at \$12,221,500, but at that time we assumed LCC would be taking over the domestic mission program and employing Regional Pastors, by 2018, when in fact that transition did not occur until 2019.

The primary reasons for actual results being so much better than budget include,

- LCC's eligibility to receive \$306,905 from the government wage subsidy program in respect of the negative impact the pandemic had on LCC revenues for the May-Oct time period in 2020. Thankfully, congregations have remained very generous throughout the

challenges of the pandemic and were able to make up most of the shortfall LCC was experiencing, by the end of the 2020 fiscal year. Congregations 2020 mission remittances to LCC ended up only \$80,000 less than 2019.

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able and even beyond their ability, entirely on their own (2 Corinthians 8:3)

- LCC received a \$150,000 gift from a congregation in the Central Region, who had sold their worship building, and had made the difficult decision to disband after nearly 50 years as a congregation. As sad as it was to see the congregation close, we are grateful the congregation leaders used it as an opportunity for faithful stewardship, by making a large legacy gift to LCC to help support mission work within the Central region
- LCC's travel and meeting expenditures were \$136,327 less than budget. The public health orders that were implemented to try and contain the pandemic's spread also restricted our ability to conduct business travel and conduct in-person meetings. The restrictions impacted business travel in several department's that included the President, Regional Pastors, Mission Executive, Board of Directors, and the Regional Mission and Ministry Councils.

Despite the recent positive results our Synod is still facing financial challenges, primarily because of shrinking church membership. Declining membership is certainly not unique to our church body, but collectively we need to be responsible stewards and try and take action to address the issue.

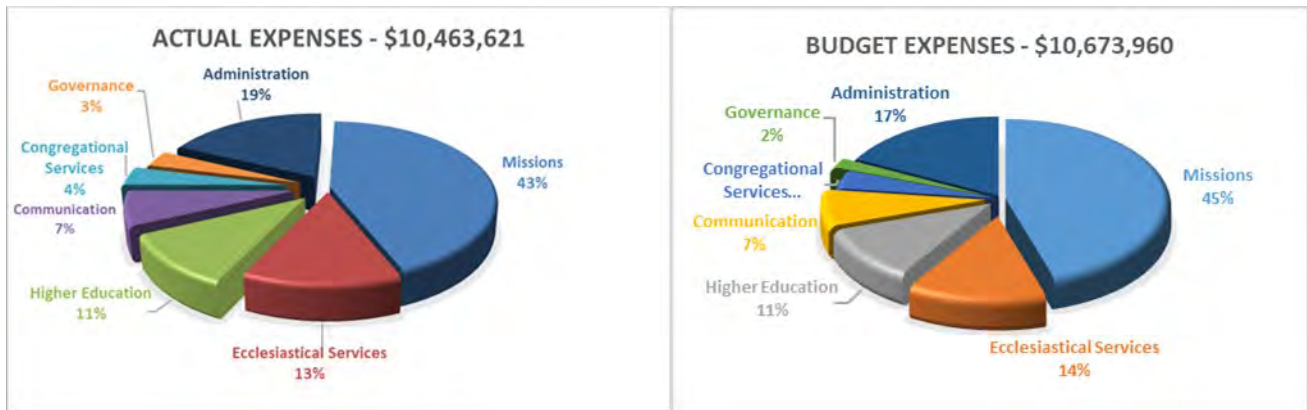
Amidst this challenge, LCC has retained the firm of Alan Zacharias Associates LLC to facilitate a purpose and priority planning process, for the purpose of developing a strategic ministry plan. Alan Zacharias, specializes in this type of facilitation, having done similar work for many organizations within LCMS. The planning process will include input from a number of our pastoral and lay leaders across the country, to help identify the ministry priorities most important to our congregations, pastors, and lay leaders. The strategic ministry plan will be presented to delegates at the convention, and will influence the spending priorities of the LCC four-year work program (2023-2026).

**LUTHERAN CHURCH CANADA
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FEB 1, 2017- JAN 31,2021**

TABLE A

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	2021	2020	2019	2018	Total	Total	Total
REVENUE	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Quadrennial	Quadrennial	Quadrennial
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Workprogram
Congregation Contributions	2,151,139	2,231,240	1,219,676	1,101,256	6,703,311	6,850,000	9,555,000
Specified Purposes	1,113,126	1,401,977	507,067	487,878	3,510,048	3,389,367	2,170,000
Rental & Other Revenue	11,959	48,004	76,063	72,275	208,301	91,900	150,000
Communication Services	29,176	28,893	51,461	51,406	160,936	168,237	205,000
Investment Income Gain (Loss)	-26,846	110,496	40,494	12,846	136,990	71,000	200,000
Government Wage Subsidy (CEWS)	306,905				306,905	108,190	0
Total Revenues	3,585,459	3,820,610	1,894,761	1,725,661	11,026,491	10,678,694	12,280,000
EXPENSES							
<i>Missions</i>							
International Missions	621,189	718,408	547,504	643,913	2,531,014	2,777,487	2,485,000
Domestic Missions	810,593	1,082,650	84,189		1,977,432	1,970,547	2,590,000
Regional Mission & Ministry Councils	9,827	5,590	5,767		21,184	82,500	135,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>1,441,609</i>	<i>1,806,648</i>	<i>637,460</i>	<i>643,913</i>	<i>4,529,630</i>	<i>4,830,534</i>	<i>5,210,000</i>
<i>Ecclesiastical Services</i>							
President's office	104,598	123,374	118,188	145,245	491,405	517,466	498,000
Regional Pastors	376,137	428,803	46,355	0	851,295	857,792	1,140,000
President's Ministry Council	414	6,484	7,512	9,214	23,624	58,500	60,000
Circuit Counsellors	6,611	13,312	0	0	19,923	27,500	38,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>487,760</i>	<i>571,973</i>	<i>172,055</i>	<i>154,459</i>	<i>1,386,247</i>	<i>1,461,258</i>	<i>1,736,000</i>
<i>Higher Education</i>							
Concordia Lutheran Seminary	136,000	136,000	136,050	136,000	544,050	544,300	541,250
Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary	136,000	136,000	136,050	136,000	544,050	544,300	541,250
Student Aid	20,150	20,200			40,350	40,000	60,000
AIC Scholarships		7,500			7,500	30,000	60,000
Diaconate Program					0	0	300,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>292,150</i>	<i>299,700</i>	<i>272,100</i>	<i>272,000</i>	<i>1,135,950</i>	<i>1,158,600</i>	<i>1,502,500</i>
<i>Communication Services</i>	<i>202,296</i>	<i>196,747</i>	<i>165,996</i>	<i>179,379</i>	<i>744,418</i>	<i>771,069</i>	<i>775,000</i>
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>202,296</i>	<i>196,747</i>	<i>165,996</i>	<i>179,379</i>	<i>744,418</i>	<i>771,069</i>	<i>775,000</i>
<i>Congregational Services</i>	<i>130,000</i>	<i>180,000</i>	<i>42,500</i>	<i>45,000</i>	<i>397,500</i>	<i>385,000</i>	<i>645,000</i>
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>130,000</i>	<i>180,000</i>	<i>42,500</i>	<i>45,000</i>	<i>397,500</i>	<i>385,000</i>	<i>645,000</i>
Total Program Expenses	2,553,815	3,055,068	1,290,111	1,294,751	8,193,745	8,606,461	9,868,500
Boards/Commissions							
Commissions	404	8,056	18,246	167,754	194,460	78,400	115,000
Board Of Directors	2,217	42,071	13,068	29,879	87,235	87,000	100,000
International Lutheran Council Membership	8,258	4,186	2,117	5,253	19,814	9,000	16,000
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada Membership	8,800	8,800	8,800	0	26,400		0
Lutheran Historical Institute /Archives Support	0	935		15,309	16,244	34,000	60,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>19,679</i>	<i>64,048</i>	<i>42,231</i>	<i>218,195</i>	<i>344,153</i>	<i>208,400</i>	<i>291,000</i>
Administration							
Salaries & Benefits	248,126	351,901	275,324	156,348	1,031,699	1,007,230	1,192,500
Office Suppl/ Equip/Professional Services	168,116	148,447	139,664	130,670	586,897	560,253	519,500
Property Operations	63,497	58,277	62,785	48,742	233,301	214,216	280,000
Amortization	18,884	18,884	18,444	17,614	73,826	77,400	70,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>498,623</i>	<i>577,509</i>	<i>496,217</i>	<i>353,374</i>	<i>1,925,723</i>	<i>1,859,099</i>	<i>2,062,000</i>
Total Support Expenses	518,302	641,557	538,448	571,569	2,269,876	2,067,499	2,353,000
Total Expenses	3,072,117	3,696,625	1,828,559	1,866,320	10,463,621	10,673,960	12,221,500
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	513,342	123,985	66,202	-140,659	562,870	4,734	58,500

Synodical Events- Financial Results	2020	2018	Total	Total
	Actual	Actual	Quadrennial	
Revenue	Audited	Audited	Actual	Quadrennial
Synod Convention			357,885	345,000
Church Worker Conferences	85,416		85,416	0
National Youth Gathering	201,696		201,696	200,000
	287,112		357,885	545,000
Expenses				
Synod Convention			300,527	345,000
Church Worker Conferences	63,229		63,229	
National Youth Gathering	199,402	5,132	204,534	200,000
	262,631	305,659	568,290	545,000
Surplus (Shortfall) Synod Events	24,481	52,226	76,707	0



Pandemic

The global pandemic initially declared on March 11, 2020, created unprecedented challenges to our member congregations, pastors, deacons, the Synod, and to the lives of every Canadian. At the time of this writing there are several protests taking place to end vaccination mandates and health measure restrictions, which demonstrates that significant pandemic distresses remain. We therefore must humbly keep placing our trust in the Lord's care; and pray that He will bless our government leaders with the solutions they need to lift our nation beyond this very unsettling situation.

We are also most thankful to God for the dedicated work of our pastors and lay leaders in caring for their congregations during an incredibly challenging and prolonged period.

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand, do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:4-7

Throughout the duration of the pandemic Lutheran Church-Canada's staff have tried to support our congregations, members, and pastors by:

- Preparing weekly written sermons posted to LCC's website
- Identifying and posting home worship and devotional materials (ongoing)
- Providing tutoring by our Communication Director for pastors and congregational

leaders on properly recording and uploading virtual worship services.

- Maintaining a donation portal through LCC's website so that members can financially support their home congregation when public worship services are disrupted or suspended. (ongoing)
- Communicating with congregations on the availability/criteria for applying for government support programs such as the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). The subsidy's purpose is to provide businesses (including registered charities) with funds toward their salary costs at a time when revenues (donations) have decreased due to the pandemic

At the onset of the pandemic, President Teuscher and Pastor Mark Smith worked tirelessly, to prepare and record weekly sermons for use by congregations who did not have any other means to divine worship services, due to public health order lockdowns and/or technology constraints.

We must also give thanks to our communication director, Alex Steinke, who has provided exceptional technical assistance to many of our congregations on how to properly live stream, record, and upload virtual worship services.

My personal appreciation to Christine Bradley, LCC's accounting manager, and David Friesen LCC's Director of advancement, for their ongoing oversight of LCC's on-line donation portal. Which has turned out to be a valuable and practical platform for use by our members for financially supporting their home congregations. Particularly in the early days of the

pandemic when many of our congregations were unable to conduct public worship services. Over the past 24 months, more than \$712,000 in home congregation donations have been received and subsequently disbursed. It is a real testimony to the efficiency of Christine and her accounting team, that congregations routinely received their monies within a two- week period of LCC receiving the donation.

In the early months of the pandemic, congregations were kept informed on the eligibility criteria and application process for obtaining financial assistance through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program (CEWS). This information was circulated through letters to congregations, publications in Canadian Lutheran (print and online), and in some circumstances through virtual meetings- when congregations requested additional support with the application process.

Abuse Prevention

In recent years, we have become increasingly aware of our mutual responsibility, as a community of faith, to provide a safe environment for the vulnerable sector, ministry staff, and volunteers. In consultation with the personnel committee and myself, Iris Barta, has been working with the **Plan to Protect** organization- to create an updated abuse prevention policy for use in the synod office. Together we have also drafted three template abuse prevention policies (i.e. large congregation, small congregation, school) that your congregation may choose to use as a resource for creating its own policy. To further assist congregations with the development and implementation of a policy, plan to protect will be conducting an informative workshop at the convention, and LCC will be providing all congregations with a Plan to Protect resource manual.

Our Board of Directors

Our Synod has been extremely blessed to have such a committed group of individuals serving them on the LCC Board of Directors. Particularly given the numerous challenges COVID has presented to normal operations.

The Board was unable to physically meet in over two years, which resulted in them having to meet more frequently through a virtual platform to stay on top of Synodical business. Please take the time to read the board of director report that is included in your workbook as it does provide some context on the volume of work the Board has done in service to our church, since we last met together in convention.

LCC Office Staff

It is an honour to have the opportunity to work with such a dedicated and professional staff team. Each of the staff bring their own specific business skills and technical strengths to the workplace. As you would expect the technical strengths of one staff member are often distinct from the strengths of another, and this diversity results in a very efficient office team. There is also a real congeniality amongst the staff which creates a very positive work environment.

In addition to President Teuscher and myself, other Synodical office staff include,

Rev. Mark Smith is Director of Missions and currently has executive oversight responsibility for both our international and domestic mission portfolios. Prior to being called to the Director of Missions, Pastor Smith served as a missionary at large in Atlantic Canada.

David Friesen was recently appointed as LCC's Director of Advancement. Many of our delegates from the Central Region will already know of David because he served that region for over decade as a planned giving officer with Lutheran Foundation Canada. Since his appointment David has spent a considerable amount of time traveling across the country getting to know the Pastors and lay leaders in the other regions of our Synod.

Iris Barta serves as our human resource and office manager and continues to oversee a variety of administrative tasks. **Angela Honey**, **Shegitu Aredo**, and **Ingrid Willey** also work in administration. Angela will be a name familiar to many of our congregations out West, because she worked as an executive assistant at the ABC District office in the early 2000's. We are truly blessed to have someone with Angela's administrative experience join our team in advance of the national convention. Shegitu serves as an administrative assistant to the Synod Executive and performs many other administrative duties. Ingrid works part-time and is assisting with administrative tasks related to the convention.

Christine Bradley, CPA is our accounting manager with the primary responsibility of financial reporting and managing the day-to-day activities of the accounting department. **Nikunj Patel**, **Cheryl Maron**, and **Deb Kitlar** also work in accounting and admirably perform the numerous daily functions and tasks required within the department. LCC experienced clean audit results throughout the Quadrennial period which is a strong indication of the professional competence of Christine and her team.

Alex Steinke started with LCC in 2019 and serves as our communication director. Alex provides executive oversight and technical expertise to the communications department and manages the layout and publication of the Canadian Lutheran magazine and other LCC media. **Matthew Block** continues to serve as the editor of the Canadian Lutheran, and we are most fortunate to have such a gifted lay theologian to write and petition insightful theological content for publication. **Michelle Heumann** is our regional news editor who researches, edits, and compiles local stories for publication.

God willing on May 1, I will have completed my 20th year of employment service with Lutheran Church-Canada. Over that time there have certainly been a lot more joys than challenges, and it continues to be a privilege to serve you in the capacity of Administrator.

May the Lord continue to Bless our work together as a Synod.
In His Service,

Dwayne Cleave, Administrator
Lutheran Church-Canada

REPORT 9: MISSIONS

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

As has been the case around the world, the pandemic deeply impacted the everyday life of the Church in each of our mission fields. Although I was able to spend quality time in each mission field prior to the pandemic, I haven't been able to visit any of our international fields since travel restrictions were implemented in the spring of 2020. I am grateful for the technology that enables us to be in regular contact with our missionaries and fellow church workers, but not having the ability to visit them in person to provide encouragement, instruction and pastoral care has made my role all the more challenging and has prevented the mission department from offering the onsite attention and assistance our mission fields have become accustomed to and need.

Yet, throughout all the restrictions and mandates that disrupted the life of the Church in our mission fields, the work of the Church continues. While following sensible safety protocols, our missionaries and supported church workers were able to *Stand Firm in the Faith*, finding innovative ways to proclaim the Word of God and provide spiritual care to people. By providing works of mercy to individuals and communities in need, new opportunities to share the Gospel presented themselves. And as a result of their faithful service of proclaiming the Life-giving Word of God, the Holy Spirit continues to call and gather people into Christ's Church.

UKRAINE

LCC Missionary, Rev. Olexsiy Navrotsky continues to serve the active ministry in Nikolaev, serving two congregations and providing pastoral care to a local rehab centre and hospital. For the past two years, he has also been instrumental in developing a new mission in the city of Lviv, visiting the community gathered there once a month to provide pastoral care and catechesis. To further develop this mission congregation, Rev. Oleg

Shevchenko is assisting Rev. Navrotsky by traveling periodically to Lviv. LCC continues to support several ministries in the country: prison ministry in Nikolaev, ministry to two orphanages in Nova Kakhovka, and the mission stations in Zoria and Bashtanka. LCC is also committed to providing continuing theological education to the pastors and church workers of SELCU, as well as supervising Concordia Seminary in Kamenka.

COSTA RICA

LCC Missionary, Rev. Edmundo Retana continues to serve the mission congregation in Cartago. In 2020, the mission was registered with the government, officially being recognized as a church body, with the members choosing the name *Iglesia Luterana Confesional de Costa Rica*. Thanks to the faithful service of Rev. Retana, his wife, Deaconess Betty and the devoted members of the mission, the congregation in Cartago has experienced modest growth over the past three years. A recently established music program has not only enriched the Divine Services but has also attracted several youth and young adults interested in sacred music. Since moving the mission from San Jose to Cartago, the mission has rented facilities. Due to unaffordable rent increases and buildings being sold off or repurposed, the mission has had to move several times in the past decade, preventing the mission from setting deep roots and establishing a visible presence in a community. To address this concern, LCC, in coordination with the members of the mission, have been searching for a suitable property to purchase in order to erect the first confessional Lutheran Church building in the country.

THAILAND

In coordination with our sister Church, Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church (TCLC), LCC has

primarily focused our mission support on the southern peninsula over the years, particularly the areas of Takuapa and Kokkloi. Missionary, Rev. Chujit Suchart and Rev. Yongthanayos (Yo) Mahustanagpol currently serve two parishes in the region, consisting of several congregations and mission stations. To assist them with this heavy workload, three gifted young deacons from the parishes are working alongside the pastors and are currently receiving formal training/instruction from LCC and TCLC for the pastoral ministry. LCC has also been asked to expand our mission support and work to the northern part of the country to assist TCLC in their outreach to the various Hill Tribes in the region. Dr. Leonard Harms continues to be instrumental in assisting us with our work, planning and coordination with our TCLC brethren.

HONDURAS

In October 2018, LCC, LCMS, the Lutheran Church in Guatemala, ILSN and the members of the mission in Honduras officially formed a FORO (Forum), a partnership between the church bodies to assist and support the ministry and outreach in Honduras. Representatives from these bodies have agreed to meet twice a year to discuss how we can use our financial and human resources to best serve this emerging mission field. This relationship has been extremely fruitful, leading to the mission receiving registered status with the government as an official Church Body in 2019, formally now known as the Confessional Lutheran Church in Honduras. Thanks to the generous financial support from four LCMS congregations, property was purchased in La Paz to construct a new Church building and a parsonage to meet the needs of this growing congregation. In 2021, major renovations were also done in Comayagua to improve and expand the sanctuary to accommodate the growing number of members at this parish.

NICARAGUA

As our largest mission field, LCC continues to serve our sister synod, the Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua (ILSN) through our Asociacion Mision Cristiana. Providing continuing theological education and training to the pastors and deaconesses serving in the country, as well as in Costa Rica and Honduras, continues to be our primary focus. Our largest and most active program is the Children's Education Program, which is offered at nearly all the congregations across the country, providing catechesis and tutoring in various subjects to nearly 1,000 children. LCC's largest work of mercy is our Feeding Program, offering nutritious meals throughout the week to over 300 disadvantaged children living in

impoverished communities. The Mission department is currently working on a plan to expand the Feeding Program to other locations in order to provide both daily bread and the Bread of Life to other children in need. Other ongoing projects and programs, such as the Computer and Music programs, continue to give the Church the opportunity to engage with several youth and young adults across the country.

In 2021, Deaconess Olga Groh retired as LCC's Diaconal Coordinator for Central America. Thanks in large part to her faithful service, mentorship and guidance, the deaconesses in Nicaragua are often referred to by our sister churches around the world as the "gold standard." In consultation with the deaconesses and leadership of ILSN, it was decided that Deaconess Odily Neyra would become the new diaconal coordinator.

Over the past three years, LCC has also been active in assisting ILSN with repairing and upgrading many of their church buildings and facilities that are in need of maintenance. With the majority of the congregations offering the Children's Education Program, repairing and building suitable washroom facilities also became a priority. Thanks to the generous donations from several members and congregations across Synod, and the devoted coordination and supervision provided by Reg Zotzman and our Mission Centre staff, we were able to build several facilities in the past two years and are working on several more.

CAMBODIA

For several years, LCC has taken an active role in guiding and supporting the mission and ministry of Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC). LCC has assisted this young sister church body with forming a new constitution and administration, and continues to provide continuing theological education to the pastors and deaconesses currently serving the Church. LCC has also been instrumental in providing works of mercy throughout the country by supporting the devoted work of the deaconesses who provide care to disadvantaged individuals and communities. In partnership with the LCMS and Lutheran Church of Australia, LCC also provided CLC with food aid and hygiene supplies to administer to more than 350 vulnerable families during the pandemic. God's Word of love and hope in Christ Jesus was proclaimed as these material gifts were being distributed, allowing the Church to shine the Light of Christ on several communities.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS

In the Spring of 2019, Synod's Board of Directors appointed me to serve as the interim Director of Domestic Missions as they prayerfully considered candidates for this position. Due to the pandemic and other factors, I have now served in this position for over three years. During this time, I have been primarily working with our various ethnic missions and ministries across the country, meeting with and supporting our missionaries, and connecting individuals and communities to our established congregations.

OROMO OUTREACH

For the past three years, our most extensive domestic outreach has been to Oromo communities across the country. Thanks in large part to Rev. Assefa and Rev. Gizaw, we have developed close relationships with communities in Winnipeg, Calgary, Regina, Edmonton, Ft. McMurray, Vancouver and the GTA. Our aim has been to connect these communities with a neighboring LCC congregation and to offer and provide catechesis, pastoral care, guidance, and joint activities and events that we pray will lead to fellowship. In the past three years, we have had individual members from these communities baptized and/or catechized in one of our established congregations, with some becoming members of the congregations. The new mission congregation in Winnipeg is in the process of becoming a rostered congregation of LCC, and several other communities are prayerfully considering or in the process of joining LCC. Currently, we have two ordained colloquy applicants from these communities.

To assist with this outreach, we have been working with the leadership of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, who are committed to encouraging their members living or moving to Canada to connect with LCC.

FRENCH MINISTRY

For Lutheran Church-Canada's French Ministry, God's gracious hand has been ever present to open our hearts and minds and lead us to new, powerful and unimagined ways to live out the Gospel in Word and Sacrament ministry to the glory of His Holy Name. Over the last few years, our French Ministry in Quebec has been blessed with several pastors providing pastoral care to our various mission communities. In October 2021, Rev. Marco Antonio Jacobsen was installed as an Assistant Missionary-at-Large. Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Frank Morgret has been instrumental in providing pastoral care and guidance to Sainte-Trinite in Quebec City. And Rev Walta Clercius of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, finished the colloquy process and has been serving the mission while working on his doctorate in Quebec City.

New covid-wrought online formats have allowed us, for the first time ever, to avail ourselves of theological education in French, through course offerings by the Église Évangélique luthérienne - Synode de France. Four Canadians are now enrolled in the Formation Théologique à Distance. Another online development is that of monthly youth meetings involving members from across Quebec. The intensified partnership with Lutheran Hour Ministries has allowed our French ministries to reach out to francophones through a Facebook page that has brought about unprecedented outreach to thousands of francophones in New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, using daily meditations from the ÉÉL-SF and a new series of Christian video clips in French.

An additional new aspect is weekly zoom vespers organized by Pastor David Milette in NB and Dr. David Somers in Qc - an added service during confinement that regularly involves worshippers from 5 provinces and constitutes the first ongoing French-language outreach in New Brunswick. The major ongoing undertaking of developing French-language Lutheran materials has seen the adaptation of education materials and teachers' guides from the Australian Come and See Jesus program (funded by an LWML-C grant) and weekly lectionary-based children's activity pages (funded by the KW Foundation for Lutheran Education grant). LCC communications continues to support and encourage the French ministries through local congregational websites and a church-year-based resources page.

Finally, the establishment of the Institut liturgique francophone (again, with an LCC-housed website) offers liturgical resources. A significant French Ministries project in 2021-2022 is the development of an African edition of LCC's Liturgies et cantiques luthériens - a project initiated by LCMS that will be printed by Lutheran Heritage Foundation in the coming year. An international liturgy workshop highlighting African elements is slated for the coming year.

Attendance, general participation, membership and contributions have increased overall throughout the pandemic despite uncertainty and frequent church closures and sanitary measures. The Word prevails and the people of God are richly blessed.

-submitted by the Rev Dr. David Somers, MAL - French ministries

WINDSOR/ESSEX COUNTY LUTHERAN OUTREACH (WECLO)

Javed Khan and his wife, working with several volunteers from First, Windsor and other local congregations, continue to provide a multi-cultural outreach, particularly reaching out to newly arrived immigrants in Essex County, Ontario, in order to help them adjust to a new life in Canada, offering Bible Studies, ESL courses, fellowship meals, sports events and other activities, while introducing them to nearby Lutheran congregations. This important outreach has been very fruitful over the years, leading several individuals into LCC and LCMS congregations in the Windsor area.

KINGSTON/TRENTON

Rev. Al Maleske has faithfully served the mission sites of Kingston and Trenton since 2010. Despite having to rent several facilities over the years or gather in each other's homes for Services, the core membership of this mission has remained strong, reaching out to family, friends and neighbors to join them for Divine Services, Bible Studies and other activities.

STREET REACH, REGINA

LCC Missionary-at-Large, Rev. Dongjoo (DJ) Kim continues to carry out his ministry to at-risk youth and young adults living on the streets of Regina or imprisoned, many of whom have been caught up in gang activity.

Rev. Kim also provides pastoral care to local police and first responders, particularly those struggling with trauma, grief and stress. Through this vital outreach, Rev. Kim brings Christ to the people, wherever they may be, and his ministry of confession and absolution often extends to the family and friends of frontline workers.

LIVING WATER - CHINESE MINISTRY, VANCOUVER

Rev. David Leung, his wife April and several volunteers continue to reach out to the growing number

of Mandarin and Cantonese speaking immigrants in the greater Vancouver area. Mission communities have been established for regular Services, catechesis and fellowship in New Westminster, White Rock and Delta.

CONCLUSION

“Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all peoples.” – Psalm 96:3

As we strive, by the Spirit's guidance, to declare the glory of God among the nations by faithfully proclaiming the Life-giving Gospel of our Lord Jesus, we face many challenges and there's a great deal of work to do. We pray for and take comfort in the guidance of our Lord who inspires and leads us to do the work He calls us to do here in Canada and in our mission fields around the world. And we rejoice in the support God provides through the generous members of LCC. Thanks to the gracious outpouring of contributions from donors, particularly the support we receive from Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, LMWL, LLL and all our other partners in the Gospel, we are able to support several ministries around the world. I am also grateful that LCC has been blessed with a gifted servant of the Church, David Friesen to serve as LCC's Director of Advancement. And I am prayerful that we will be able to Call another pastor to serve in the Mission Department in the near future. Looking ahead, there is a great deal of work to do and new opportunities for ministry and outreach that we are currently working on and exploring. May God strengthen us all and help us, in the power of Christ's love, to Stand Firm in the Faith and proclaim His Life-giving Word to the world.

In Christ our Life,

Rev. M.L. Smith
Director of Missions

REPORT 10: LCC COMMUNICATIONS - THE PAST QUADRENNIUM (PLUS!)

Prepared by Alex Steinke, LCC Communications Director
communications@lutheranchurch.ca | 1-877-770-7842

BRIEF OVERVIEW

STAFF TRANSITIONS + INCREASED CCT INVOLVEMENT

In 2017 Mathew Block began the transition out of his role as LCC Communications Manager. Block has since remained a vital part of LCC's communication efforts, most notably as Editor of *The Canadian Lutheran*. He also served as an editor for the following special publications of LCC: *Together, One* (2021) and *Missouri North: The History of Lutheran Church-Canada* (coming soon in 2022). Additional staff transitions include Christopher Pelletier who served as Communications Manager from May 2018-May 2019; and Alex Steinke who is currently serving as Communications Director since January 2020. Michelle Heumann began serving as Regional News Editor for *The Canadian Lutheran* in May of 2019 and continues to serve in this capacity. Through these transitions and vacancies, LCC's Committee for Communications and Technology (CCT) members stepped in on a volunteer basis to handle some needed tasks, in addition to a few short-term contracts.

A PANDEMIC + INCREASED NEED FOR RESOURCES

Pandemic-related restrictions, prolonged isolation, and increased mental health problems are just some of the issues that characterized the "new normal" of the COVID-19 pandemic. LCC Communications worked closely with the President's Ministry Council (PMC) to get a sense of the kinds of resources and support that could be provided to members across the country. Mathew Block structured the March/April 2020 issue of *The Canadian Lutheran* around devotional resources that can be used at home. Alex Steinke corresponded with LCC congregations and individuals to provide guidance and training in various areas of online communications, including website development/maintenance, as well as video and audio production. Alex Steinke, and Rev. Michael Schutz, CCT chairman, joined forces to host a webinar entitled "Both/And" to facilitate discussion, and offer guidance for congregations looking to maintain some level of online ministry even into the eventual "Re-opening" of church doors. About 60 attendees tuned in live, and the video remains available for members to watch on LCC's YouTube Channel. A more comprehensive list of resources developed since the last convention will be provided to the right.

COMMUNICATIONS INTERNSHIP

LCC Communications and Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada joined forces to offer a paid, part-time internship for summer of 2021. The internship offered a space to learn and explore what it means to communicate in a confessional Lutheran context. A main goal of the internship was to engage and equip young LCC members, and to work alongside 'our successors' and future church leaders. Internship Supervisors, Alex Steinke and Lisa Jackson, were so blown away by the applications received from passionate, faith-driven individuals

across the country that they ended up hiring two interns: Julia Flor and Anna Kraemer.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

FOR CONGREGATIONS

- Congregational Resources
- Devotional Resources
 - A BRIEF GUIDE TO HOME DEVOTIONS
 - PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER IN A PANDEMIC
- Commemorations Cards
- Written Sermons
- Pastoral Letters
- Videos & Recorded Services
 - CONFSSIONAL CHATS SERIES
 - FEASTS, FESTIVALS & COMMEMORATIONS
 - LCC MISSIONS INTRODUCTORY VIDEO
 - PRIÈRES DE TABLE & PRIÈRES DU SOIR
 - DEAF MINISTRIES - VIDEOS IN SIGN LANGUAGE
 - LCC MUSIC & HYMNS
- Communications Resources
 - SERVANT LEADER NETWORK
 - LCC BRANDING GUIDELINES
 - LCC VISUAL IDENTITY
 - VIDEO PRODUCTION HACKS FOR CONGREGATIONS
 - LCC COMMUNICATIONS QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE
 - CONGREGATIONAL SITE TOOLKIT
 - LCC STOCK PHOTOS

CARE RESOURCES

- Sanctity of Life
- Suicide Safety & The Church
- Church Worker Wellness
- Pastors' Wives Resources (West, Central, East)

EN FRANÇAIS

- L'institut liturgique luthérien francophone
- Communautés luthériennes francophones

IN THE WORKS

LCC Missions webpages are expanding! More information on both LCC's International and Domestic Missions is being added to the website on an ongoing basis, in an effort to enhance awareness of the work we do together as a synod across the country and around the world, as well as to make these details more accessible to our members and to the public.

NEW TO LUTHERANISM

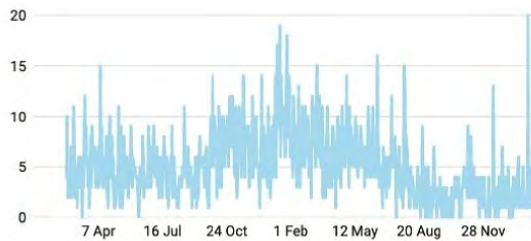
- Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine
- Law & Gospel
- The 10 Commandments
- Church Terminology

LCC FACEBOOK PAGE: FEB. 2020 - FEB. 2022

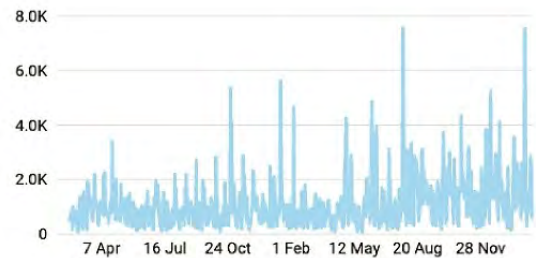
TOTAL LIKES (FEB. 17, 2020): 3,550

TOTAL LIKES (FEB. 17, 2022): 5,588

The graph below shows the number of new likes of LCC's Facebook Page.



The graph below shows the number of people who saw any content from LCC's Page or about LCC's Page, including posts, stories, social information from people who interact with LCC's Page and more.

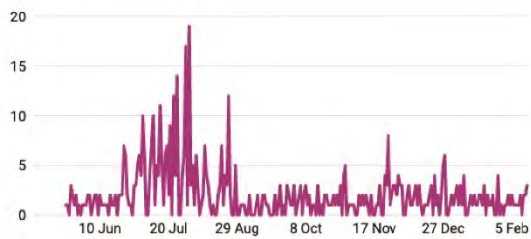


LCC INSTAGRAM: JAN. 2020 - FEB. 2022

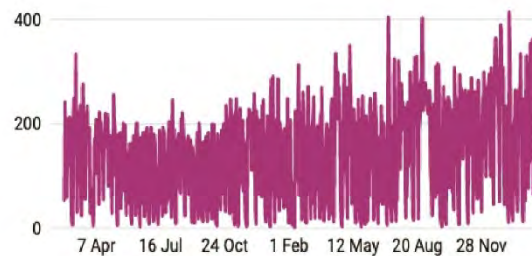
TOTAL FOLLOWS (JAN. 15, 2020): 407

TOTAL FOLLOWS (FEB. 17, 2022): 1,208

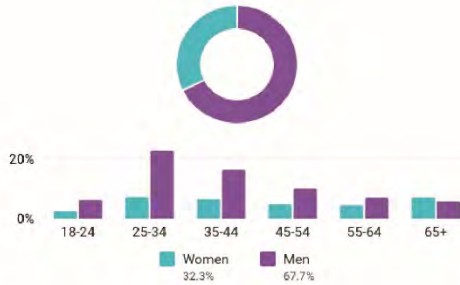
The graph below shows the number of new accounts that started following LCC's Instagram account.



The graph below shows the number of unique accounts that saw any of LCC's posts or stories at least once.



The graphs below show demographic data based on a number of factors, including the age and gender information that users who “Like” LCC on Facebook provide in their Facebook profiles.



The graphs below show demographic data based on a number of factors, including the age and gender information that users who “Follow” LCC on Instagram provide in their online profiles.



THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN FACEBOOK PAGE: FEB. 2020 - FEB. 2022
TOTAL LIKES (FEB. 17, 2020): 905
TOTAL LIKES (FEB. 17, 2022): 1,235

LCC also manages a separate Facebook Page for *The Canadian Lutheran*, which has fewer “Likes” than the main Facebook Page. There is some overlap in the content shared on this second Facebook Page.

LCC TWITTER -
TOTAL FOLLOWERS (APR. 2017): 1,155
TOTAL FOLLOWERS (FEB. 2022): 1,480

INFODIGEST E-NEWSLETTER
TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS (FEB. 17, 2022): 1,269

In relation to LCC’s membership, subscription to InfoDigest is fairly low. As of February 2022, approximately 81% of our subscribers are highly engaged and often open and click emails. 6% of our subscribers sometimes open and click our emails, and are moderately engaged. 13% of our subscribers are not very engaged, rarely opening and clicking our emails. It is worth noting is that 'Email fatigue' is very common in general. InfoDigest's readership is actually pretty good compared to the industry standard. A 2019 GetResponse report found that the average open rate of e-newsletters like LCC’s is just 22.86 percent (the non-profit average is only slightly better at just 36.15 percent). And the industry average click-through rate is just 3.71 percent (for non-profits the average is 4.25 percent).

LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA WEBSITE - MONTHLY STATISTICS OVER THE YEARS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2019					7,114	6,601	6,802	7,095	7,254	6,310	5,174	5,179	
2020	6,337	5,756	9,479	10,136	7,592	6,989	6,822	6,321	6,468	6,960	6,322	6,700	85,882
2021	7,512	6,351	6,967	6,062	6,253	6,140	5,738	5,761	7,181	8,048	8,032	6,523	80,568
2022	8,658	4,851											

The most viewed pages from January 2020 through February 2022 are: 1. LCC Landing Page; 2. Find a Congregation; 3. Written Sermons; 4. Congregational Resources; 5. What We Believe; 6. Videos & Recorded Services; 7. Contact Page; 8. COVID-19: LCC Response & Resources; 9. Devotional Resources; 10. LCC 2022 Synod Convention.

CANADIANLUTHERAN.CA - MONTHLY STATISTICS OVER THE YEARS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2019								7,736	8,498	7,176	7,712	6,340	
2020	6,533	6,990	10,516	7,580	7,575	6,954	6,093	6,073	4,741	5,966	5,887	7,040	81,948
2021	6,564	6,100	5,024	5,475	4,912	6,502	5,365	4,421	4,918	5,137	5,297	4,702	64,417
2022	5,346	2,935											

REPORT 11: LCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Lutheran Church – Canada (LCC) currently includes the following faithful servants:

Lay: Arnold Drung (Chair), Deacon Suzanne Eberhard, Kirsten Guggenmos, Grace Henderson (Secretary), Cam Pelzer, (Vice Chair) and Doug Peterson (who replaced Cindy Sholdice upon her appointment to the Manitoba Bench in 2020)

Clergy: Rev. Timothy Teuscher (President), Rev. Thomas Kruesel (Vice President), Rev. Warren Hamp, Rev. Alex Klages, Rev. Kurt Reinhardt

Administration: Dwayne Cleave (Chief Administrative Officer), Alex Steinke (Director of Communications)

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Synodical Bylaws, the property and business of LCC is managed by the Board of Directors (the Board). During the intervals between Conventions, the Board possesses and may exercise the powers of the Convention. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Board takes its decisions in the best interest of LCC in all cases in which specific direction has not already been given by the Convention. All actions of the Board are reported to the next Convention, and are subject to revision or alteration by the Convention provided that no acts or rights of third parties are affected or invalidated by any such revision or alteration.

During the years since the Eleventh Convention of Lutheran Church Canada in October 2017, the Board of Directors continued to meet to conduct the business of the church. This occurred despite the arrival of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the worship and work lives of virtually all LCC members. Similarly, the pandemic

caused workplans of the Synod to be altered and re-prioritized in the period between Conventions. We are thankful that God has remained faithful to us, leading us through new means of meeting and worshipping electronically while maintaining His church. As but one example, the majority of the Board’s meetings during this period were by electronic means. The following is a report on the decisions taken by the Board of Directors since restructuring was approved at the 2017 Convention. These are organized by calendar year since the Kitchener Convention.

2018

The Board met via conference call three times during 2018 and in-person one time. Implementation of the new LCC structure drove many important decision items at these meetings.

At its first meeting in April 2018, the Board established a process to continue implementation of the new structure with the election of Regional Pastors, Circuit Counsellors and Regional Mission and Ministry Councils (RMMCs). These elections were planned to take place at the final District Convention of each District in 2018. District Presidents and Circuit Counsellors were to remain in place until the end of 2018 and then, beginning in January 2019, Regional Pastors and RMMCs would be installed. Similarly, until the Personnel Committee of LCC established future national Salary and Compensation Guidelines, the existing District mechanisms would be relied upon to recommend pastoral and diaconate remuneration guidelines for 2019.

In its June teleconference meeting, given the new Synod responsibility for domestic missions, the Board approved plans to transition the Missionaries at Large in the former East District to Calls from LCC. This affected 5 pastors who were to remain in an employment relationship with the East District.

During its August meeting, the Board considered a number of items recommended for implementation of the new LCC structure. These included:

- completion of position descriptions for the Regional Pastors and Regional Mission and Ministry Councils
- authorizing the completion of an updated LCC website
- consideration of a moving assistance policy previously used in the East District to assist congregations when calling a pastor
- the transfer of ecclesiastical and financial records and documents from Districts to Synodical management to ensure appropriate privacy protection.

At the only in-person meeting of the Board in Winnipeg in 2018, the Board engaged Pastor Nolan Astley for assistance in updating and renewing memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with our two seminaries, and our four auxiliary organizations and the LCC East District Corporation (the entity set up in the former East District to operate their financial activities as it concluded business).

2019

In April 2019, the Board met in-person in Leduc, Alberta along with representatives of the RMMCs from across the country and engaged in an exercise in strategic planning. The focus of the effort was to shape the actions that would move the church forward.

At that meeting, a decision was taken to hold the next Synodical Convention in Edmonton in June 2021. The Board also approved the members of a Congregation Constitutions Committee to review new, amended or revised constitutions across Synod in the place of the former separate District committees.

The April occasion also served as an opportunity for the Board to meet in an “open house” session, hosted by St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, with members of the West Region. The Board heard various concerns and discussed wide ranging topics including missions and outreach, regions and circuits, communication and transparency, resources, community, care and concern for pastors and church workers and congregations with vacancies.

In their June teleconference meeting, the Board discussed further details of the core values of the new Synod structure and identified critical success targets to work toward. These include:

- Nurture Implementation of the new structure – within two years, the regional structure is

well established; and Regional Pastors are able to effectively provide ecclesiastical support to congregations (including pastors)

- Lutheran Church - Canada financial integrity demonstrated
- Lutheran Church - Canada Communication and Transparency is enhanced
- Memoranda of Understanding are in place with all affiliated organizations
- Lutheran Church - Canada best practices and resources available to all regions and congregations across the country
- Lutheran Church - Canada Governance protocols documented and in place

During the June teleconference meeting, the MOU with Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton was ratified. Also, the Board established the Committee for Communications and Technology to work with Synod staff in developing and maintaining high quality websites and guiding the development of further online content and support to congregations. The Committee is comprised of Rev. Michael Schutz (Chair), Lisa Jackson (Secretary), Stephen Klinck, and Grace Henderson. Iris Barta, LCC Office Manager has served as a liaison to the committee.

The Board met again via teleconference in September and October, 2019. The Board approved the first Synod-wide salary and housing compensation guidelines which were the subject of a focus group meeting in Winnipeg in September.

At what proved to be the last in-person meeting of the Board before the pandemic, in November, 2019 the Board discussed the National Youth Gathering (NYG) in light of competing youth events held across the country and in the USA. The Board affirmed its confidence in the NYG and its organizing committee, encouraging them in their work to raise the profile of the NYG at Synod Conventions and through frequent published items. The Board also directed the Communications and Technology Committee to work with the newly hired Alex Steinke, Director of Communications, to complete a one-time special publication to share a status update regarding Synod—for members of Lutheran Church - Canada to receive in May 2020.

2020

The Board met via electronic means in February 2020. The Board approved changes to the Lutheran Church-Canada Pension Policy to allow for overlapping participation of Worker Benefit Services Inc. (WBS) Board members when one member’s exit from the

Board coincides with a new member's arrival at the same meeting.

At the February meeting, the Board discussed a planning study for Lutheran Church-Canada to identify readiness and resourcing needs, as well as assess community appetite for a Mission Endowment Fund campaign. It approved the use of a designated fund identified as Stewardship Initiative to pay for the cost of the feasibility study.

In March 2020, the Board discussed various aspects of the Synod's response to and continued operations under the health restrictions put in place across the country due to COVID-19. Additional supports provided by Synod office included:

- printed sermons for upcoming Sundays
- recording of services and devotions by President Teuscher and Rev. Mark L. Smith, to provide something for congregations who do not have live-streaming services, and to augment what many congregations are doing locally
- compiling a list of congregations who are streaming their church services
- distribution of printed devotional materials for individuals and families

In addition, for Synod operations in Winnipeg, protocols were established including:

- physical distancing is being maintained in Synod office and carpooling has been arranged so that staff are not required to take public transit
- suspension of unnecessary travel
- arrangements (to work from home) are being made to prepare for the possibility of provincial/municipal legislated office closures
- temporary layoffs of some staff, as necessary
- staff who are laid off not suffer financial hardship due to waiting periods for Employment Insurance (offering interest free loans to be paid back by payroll deduction when they return to work)

The Board also considered the plight of congregations experiencing financial setbacks during the pandemic. The Board passed a motion to endorse the LCC Worker Benefit Services Inc. financial assistance plan that would support some of our congregations and church workers experiencing a financial hardship, particularly due to a decline of congregational donations (due to the suspension of public worship services and/or some of their members being laid off from their jobs). The plan

allowed for a recess in contributions to worker benefit plans as required during the pandemic.

The Board met in April, again via video technology. The Board reviewed and supported the work of staff in Winnipeg to develop resources to support pastors and congregations through the pandemic and efforts to improve and update communications and web-based worship resources.

At its June 2020 meeting, again by video conference, the Board considered the pandemic response conditions that might cause the 2021 Synod Convention to be postponed. An in-person Convention, attended by delegates from across the country, was the preferred course but pandemic restrictions on large gatherings could preclude that beyond the 4-year period prescribed by our Bylaws (Section 9.01). The Board opted to convene a Special Convention for October 17, 2020 (via telephonic, electronic, or other means of communication) to amend the Governing Documents to provide the ability to postpone the 2021 Convention beyond the 4-year period.

In advance of the Special Convention, the Board met via video conference in September. Plans for the Special Convention were reviewed to ensure a proper quorum of delegates in October. The Board also reviewed efforts to support small and vacant congregations during the pandemic. Further, the Board approved 2021 Salary Guidelines for pastors and deacons as well as a new health leave policy for Synod staff. The Board also considered providing resources to equip pastors/laypeople in their communication during the pandemic and improving navigation on the Synod website.

The Board met again in November, via electronic means, to review and adopt the results of the Special Convention. Proceedings of the Convention were posted on the Synod website (<https://www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2020/12/2020-Special-Convention-Proceedings-final.pdf>). One decision following the Special Convention was that the Board approved that the Synod meet in Convention in Edmonton from June 10-14, 2022 with the Convention Theme, "Stand Firm in the Faith" (commemorating the Diet of Worms) with a contingency for a Virtual Convention in Fall 2022. Following a decision made at its February meeting concerning the Mission Endowment Fund, the Board approved engaging Zacharias Advancement Consulting for the purpose of conducting a planning study for assessing the feasibility of LCC running a successful comprehensive capital campaign.

2021

The Board's first meeting of 2021 was by video conference in February. Mr. Doug Peterson was installed as a new Board member following the resignation of Ms. Cindy Sholdice upon her appointment as a Judge in Manitoba. The Board reviewed the 2020 financial results and approved the 2021 operating budget of Synod. It was noted that, despite the pandemic, and with use of government support programs, the Synod fared well through the pandemic thus far.

The Board met again in June by video conference. The Board endorsed a next step in the Capital Campaign effort with a strategic exercise with Alan Zacharias. The Board also approved plans to develop an Abuse Prevention Policy with Plan to Protect®, a company that has expertise in best practices in child and youth protection in organizations serving vulnerable populations. The outcome is intended to provide a policy for Synod operations that can be supported by Synod's insurer. An additional benefit is to develop processes for congregations to take similar steps.

In September, the Board convened by video conference and approved 2022 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Pastoral and Diaconal Personnel. The Board also approved establishing the Director of Advancement position to design and implement programs, as well as recruit and develop a team of people focused on significantly increasing involvement and fundraising outcomes. The advancement function includes responsibility for annual funds; congregational remittances; major gifts and gift planning around those gifts; capital campaigns; church relations efforts; stewardship; and advancement services.

The Board met again electronically in November. The Board approved a 2021-22 Domestic Mission budget of \$858,448 to support the work of congregations. Approval was given to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Concordia Lutheran Mission Society.

2022

The Board's first meeting of 2022 took place in February and was again by electronic means. The board approved the Synod's final 2022 budget along with updated LCC staff salary guidelines. It was decided to proceed fully with plans for the June LCC convention on an in-person basis. Alan Zacharias and David Friesen provided an update on the Purpose and Priorities Planning (PPP) Committee work. The board planned to meet again in conjunction with a PPP Committee retreat planned for April.

Summary

As mentioned at the outset, despite the challenges of the past few years, God has provided manifold blessings to the Synod. The Board is thankful to Him for all he has done and continues to do for His church. We are blessed with faithful Synod staff members who have worked diligently, despite the pandemic issues, and our Board members have been conscientious in their work for the church. We look forward to meeting with the broader church at our LCC convention in June.

Respectfully submitted,
Arnold Drung Chairman
LCC Board of Directors

REPORT 12: COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (CCT)

The Committee for Communications and Technology (CCT) exists to support the work of LCC in both internal and external communications and by being a resource to the Members of LCC when it comes to the use of technology in their work. The past quadrennium (plus!) has been a fruitful one for the CCT in the midst of multiple challenges. As a committee of the Board, the CCT supports the work of LCC Communications staff and provides guidance and some oversight. The committee currently has five volunteer members appointed by the Board: Julia Flor (currently living in Belgium) Grace Henderson (Leduc, AB; Board liaison), Lisa Jackson (Waterloo, ON), Stephen Klinck (Elmira, ON), and Rev. Michael Schutz (Penticton, BC). Glen

Demetrioff (Winnipeg, MB) served until 2017. Each of the members brings significant experience and expertise in the committee's areas as well as being highly involved in LCC congregations.

Since LCC's 2017 Convention, LCC has seen significant changes in communications staffing. In 2017, Mr. Mathew Block transitioned out of the role of Communications Manager, though he has remained part-time editor of the Canadian Lutheran magazine. Mr. Christopher Pelletier served as Communications Manager from May 2018-May 2019. Mrs. Alex Steinke became Communications Director in January 2020 and

serves full-time. Mrs. Michelle Heumann has served part-time as Regional News Editor since May 2019.

CCT members stepped in on a volunteer basis during staff vacancies to handle some needed tasks, in addition to a few short-term contracts during that time. In August 2019 the committee spent two days together in Kitchener, ON to discuss the work and to set out plans for the future. The CCT committed itself to helping advance the work that we do together as Synod and to helping improve our collective work according to the priorities the Board had set out, namely establishing the restructuring, increased transparency, and increased quality in the area of communications. The committee provided analysis and recommendations to the Board which were adopted in late 2019.

Since March 2020 when the world changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the needs of LCC Members have also changed and grown. Most notably, congregations and church workers needed to quickly learn how to better reach people in a time when the ability to be together in-person was (and continues to be) significantly hampered. The CCT and communications staff have worked to support congregations in this, including in areas such as live streaming, audio and video recording, websites, social media, email, and much more.

The CCT wishes to commend especially Alex Steinke for her excellent work in this area which was thrust upon her just a couple of months after beginning her role of Communications Director.

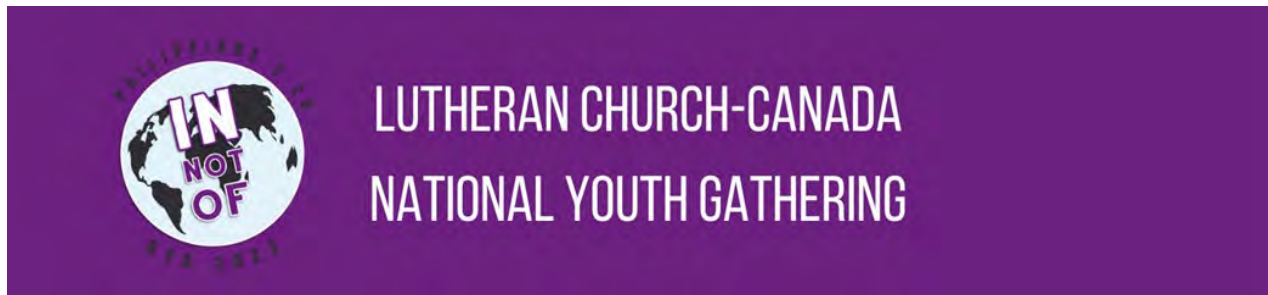
Some highlights of the work of the CCT and LCC Communications Staff from 2017-2022:

- Continued publication of *The Canadian Lutheran* magazine in print and expansion of the online version (canadianlutheran.ca).
- Continual improvements and refinements of the LCC website (lutheranchurchcanada.ca)
- In 2019, began work in offering website templates, hosting, and support for LCC congregations to establish their own websites at no cost. Currently more than 25 congregations from across LCC are using this service.
- Hosted a webinar in July 2020 to assist congregations with challenges relating to reaching people online.
- Created the LCC Servant Leader Network, a website for LCC people to connect with one another in formal and informal ways (servantleader.network).
- Produced *Together, One* in February 2021. Commissioned by the LCC Board, this one-time special publication serves as a “family album” of LCC, highlighting the work that we do together as a Synod in Canada and around the world.
- Offered communications internships in the summer of 2021, in partnership with Lutheran Laymen’s League of Canada. Anna Kraemer and Julia Flor were selected to serve as interns this past summer.

With so many opportunities to communicate the Word of God using older and newer technologies, the CCT looks forward to continuing to be a support and resource to Synod members as we all work together to confess the faith and proclaim the Gospel.

Submitted by Rev. Michael Schutz, CCT Chair

REPORT 13: LCC NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING
Report to the Synodical Convention
February 2022



Greetings in Jesus!

The National Youth Gathering Committee has been hard at work planning and preparing for the 2022 Lutheran Church-Canada National Youth Gathering. We're pleased to report the following:

Our 2022 Gathering Committee consists of the following people: Rev. Glenn Worcester, Deacon Lisa Olding, Michelle Heumann, Rev. Eric Moffett, Madison Bouwman, Bill Wardekker, Deacon Stephanie Mayer, Rev. David Haberstock, Josh Gajdos, Erika Schroth-Gajdos, Rhonda Kelman, Phil Guebert, and Nathan Vaughan.

The National Youth Gathering was originally scheduled for July 2021, but these plans, like many, were postponed a year due to Covid-19. We continue to move forward with plans for an in-person gathering on July 15-19, 2022, at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. The Gathering Committee met in person in November 2019 and February 2022 in Winnipeg at the LCC Synod office. There were also multiple Zoom meetings for the committee and sub-committees.

The theme of the NYG is **"IN NOT OF"**, based on Philippians 3:20, which says, "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." This verse was chosen to remind our young people that we have been made children of God, and that we have been called to live as such, **IN** the world, but not to live **OF** the world.

The main speaker, Rev. Eric Moffett, will be bringing the central message throughout the five main sessions. Peace by Peace, the worship band from Peace Lutheran, Winnipeg, will be leading the music; they previously led music for the 2013 NYG in Winnipeg. Rev. David Haberstock will be the chaplain, and DCE Cassie Moore will be joining the NYG as a guest speaker leading breakout sessions for youth and youth leaders. Cassie

serves at St. Mark Lutheran Church and School in Houston, Texas.

We are planning nine worship services, 5 Bible study times, and over thirty-six breakout sessions. In total, we already have more than fifteen additional volunteers committed to attending and leading in some capacity during the five-day event. **We would like to encourage all congregations of LCC to be involved with the NYG;** please consider bringing a group from your church or coming as an adult volunteer (aka iBod) or donating to support the ministry.

Since our first meeting in Nov 2019, we have been able to bring more focus and direction to the work of the Gathering Committee.

We have refined the NYG mission statement, which is: **"Providing opportunities for Lutheran youth to grow in faith and relationship with others as the body of Christ."** We have also identified these core values: **community/relationships and spiritual growth/formation with a Lutheran identity.** Finally, we put together a statement of direction: **The National Youth Gathering will provide opportunities for youth, leaders, and volunteers to join in corporate worship, study God's Word, be equipped through large and small group sessions, reach out to the community through servant events, and engage in fellowship and fun.**

At the 2019 NYG, there was an opportunity for youth leaders to meet and discuss the current state of youth ministry in our synod. It was communicated by many that leaders would appreciate opportunities for training and support in addition to those received at the NYG. As a service to the youth leaders in our synod, the NYG committee has been planning and hosting free Youth Ministry Round Table meetings on Zoom as a way to support LCC's youth ministry community between gatherings.

Three round table meetings have been held as of February 2022. The first one, held April 10, 2021, provided an opportunity to share about joys and struggles in ministry, connect with one another, and support each other through conversation and prayer. The second round table took place on Saturday, October 16, 2021, with DCE Cassie Moore leading a discussion on the struggles the youth and leaders have faced during the pandemic. The third round table was Saturday, January 15, 2022, with Rev. Robert Mohns, West Regional Pastor, leading a Bible study on mental health and youth ministry. These round tables have had an average of 15 people in attendance. An additional round table is planned for March, and will focus on the topic of gender and identity led by Deacons Michael Gillingham and Miriam Winstanley.

As we seek to plan and develop meaningful events that allow opportunities for spiritual growth and the formation of community for youth and leaders of our church through future round tables and the upcoming 2022 NYG, "IN NOT OF," please keep these events and our committee in your prayers.

The NYG Committee has tried our best to organize an event that offers maximum value for a reasonable price. We have been able to keep the registration fee at \$495 per person since 2007 because of ongoing support from the synod, congregations, and individual donors. The actual cost to attend the NYG is \$700 per person. A fee of \$495 is manageable for most youth and their families, and an increase in fees would make the cost prohibitive for many.

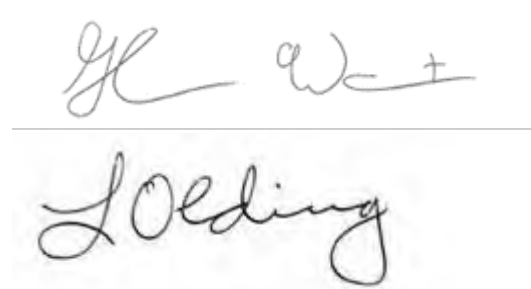
As demonstrated by the Youth Ministry Round Tables, there is a need for coordinated support for the paid and volunteer youth leaders in the synod. In addition, the work of the NYG chairperson is extensive and requires more time than most people can reasonably volunteer. The NYG Committee and many Round Table attendees believe that a synodical youth ministry position would help youth ministry in Canada flourish and grow. There are missed opportunities that we simply cannot develop as volunteers. It is our hope and prayer that a synodical

Youth Ministry Director position could be developed to support this important ministry.

We appreciate the ongoing support of the synod and congregations look forward to gathering together in Winnipeg this July to provide opportunities for Lutheran youth to grow in faith and relationship with others as the body of Christ. It has been a joy to serve the synod as co-chairs of the NYG for the past three years.

For regular updates and detailed event information, please visit our website (www.lccnyg.ca) or follow us on Facebook (@LCCNationalYouthGathering) or Instagram (lcc_nyg).

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Glenn Worcester and Deacon Lisa Olding
Co-Chairs of the 2022 Lutheran Church-Canada
National Youth Gathering

REPORT 14: COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS (2017-2022)

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.” (I Corinthians 16:13-14 ESV). The theme of the 2022 Convention certainly speaks to the work of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations as we work in our Synod to hold firmly to the Faith that has been handed down to us, offering guidance on how we

can uphold our theological truth, all the while doing so in an attitude of love toward one another.

Members of the Commission

Since the last Synod Convention in 2017, the CTCR has been comprised of the following members: parish pastors Rev. Joel Kuhl (Waterloo, ON), Rev. Michael Keith (Stony Plain, Alberta), and Rev. Paul Williams

(Pembroke, ON); lay members Mr. Clifford Pyle (Saskatoon, ON), and Mr. Paul Walrath, (Kitchener, ON); and seminary representatives Rev. Dr. James Gimbel (CLS Edmonton); Rev. Dr. John Stephenson (CLTS St Catharines). Rev. Timothy Teuscher was a member *ex officio* and brought much aid and help from the Synodical Office, which was always greatly appreciated. Each member has worked tirelessly for the good of the Synod, and they deserve our thanks!

It is to be noted that Mr. Clifford Pyle finished his term in June 2021 and did not desire to extend his term for the extra year our synod voted upon in the special online Convention to delay our regular convention until June 2022. Also, Rev. Dr. John Stephenson tendered his resignation from the Commission in February 2022 in anticipation of his retirement later in the year.

Number of Meetings

An initial conference call meeting was called on 22 March 2018 to hold elections for Chairman and Secretary, since the past Chairman, Rev. Warren Hamp, was no longer with the Commission. Rev. Teuscher chaired that meeting and Rev. Joel Kuhl was elected Chairman with Mr. Paul Walrath elected as Secretary.

We held two meetings in person, the first in London, ON on 17-18 October 2018, and the second in Winnipeg on 30-31 May 2019. Once the pandemic limited both travel and physical gatherings, we held three subsequent meetings online: 11 November 2020, 28 November 2021, and 2 January 2022. Throughout the five years, several email threads emerged as we discussed business along with a number of phone calls between meetings.

Theological Topics Discussed

During these five years many topics have occupied the minds of the CTCR: Deanery model for ministry organization, helping the President's Ministry Council update the Guidelines for Congregational and Pastoral Practice, examining various issues surrounding the Call of a Pastor into the Holy Ministry, and helping the Synod think through issues surrounding the aid of remote congregations to maintain regular Word and Sacrament ministry.

Of course, once the pandemic hit several new items of social impact hit the CTCR's table as well, including the 'Niagara Declaration' document (a paper written by evangelical Christians challenging the governmental restrictions upon church gatherings), and several bills the federal government were wishing to implement that touched on issues that would impact Christian witness to the truth of sins in the lives of people.

While our Commission desired to help out as best we could to address every thorny issue, we simply do not have the manpower to address every social issue that comes along. So, in 2020, a document was written to address the overarching theological points to help

congregations and pastors deal with as many of the social issues that might come before us as Lutheran Christians trying to live in a pluralistic society. And so, "A Lutheran Response to Contemporary Issues," was written and sent out to synod for study and response. This document is included in the appendices to this Workbook. A Bible Study and Question booklet was also produced in 2021 to accompany this document for congregational use.

Of course there were many other issues that the CTCR would entertain, look at, and respond to in casual means. Of note, there were two issues presented to the CTCR in order to garner a brief opinion from the Commission: 1) Whether a woman can serve as a congregational president or vice-president; and, 2) Whether the synod president should preside at national conventions. Below are the opinions of the CTCR adopted in our January 2022 meeting on these two issues:

- 1) It is the opinion of the CTCR that the role of a congregational president/chairman is of human arrangement and origin. There is no Biblical mandate for how this is to be arranged and therefore should not be limited to males only.
- 2) As the chief ecclesiastical officer, the Synod President is the head pastor of the synod. It is the opinion of the CTCR that it is therefore appropriate that the Synod President be the officiant and preacher at synodical convention services.

Church Relations

Whilst most of our international church relations are handled by our mission executive, Rev. Mark Smith, there are several dialogues and other Church Relations issues that our CTCR is charged with handling.

One of the main groups we have active and on-going theological dialogue with is the Roman Catholic Church. This has been done at local levels, as Rev. Michael Keith and others were doing in Edmonton area, which sadly has now ended. At a national level, there is an on-going group of LCC and RC clergy and theologians who meet in the Niagara area twice a year. Revs. Dr. Tom Winger, Dr. John Stephenson, Nolan Astley, Warren Hamp, and Joel Kuhl are part of the Lutheran side of this dialogue group who meet with RC theologians from Niagara, Toronto, and Montreal. And for a time there was an international dialogue we had involvement with between International Lutheran Council members and a Pontifically assigned delegation of theologians from Rome. Our own Rev. Dr. John Stephenson represented LCC, and their final report of those dialogues can be found in Lutheran Theological Review, volume 33, 2021.

There are two other dialogue groups that LCC has been active with for the past number of years: the Anglican

Church of North America (ACNA), and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). Both of these church bodies are conservative Christian Denominations, which rejected the liberalism that was infecting the mainline church bodies they had been a part of, the Episcopal Church of America or Anglican Church of Canada, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America/in Canada. It has been of great encouragement for both sides to be in this dialogue. Both dialogue groups try to meet twice a year, though that has been hindered during the pandemic restrictions on travel. Our LCC representatives for these dialogue groups have been: with ACNA – Rev. Dr. John Stephenson (now retired from the dialogue), Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, and Rev. Joel Kuhl; and with NALC – Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee and Rev. Michael Keith.

Rev. Teuscher keeps the CTCR up to date with all the latest happenings with our other international mission associations at the International Lutheran Council, in Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Ukraine, Cambodia and the like. Most recently, the Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Norway and Iceland reached out to LCC desiring to initiate Church Fellowship talks. Since the LCNI is already in Church Fellowship with our sister synod, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in many

ways these talks are mostly a formality. However, it is still most encouraging to talk with them to see how it is they are being Church in a very secular society. There is much for us to gain from closer fellowship ties with our Brothers and Sisters around the world. These dialogues need to be encouraged as much as we can.

Whilst there are always many challenges the Church must face in these grey and latter days, it is always amazing to see the mercies of our Lord Jesus upon us, weary and troubled as we might be! The truth of our Lord Jesus always shines most clearly and brightly against a dark world.

May our beloved Lutheran Church—Canada continue to hold firmly onto that singular Truth of a God who so loved the world that He demonstrated that love by sending His only-begotten Son into our midst, so that He might offer Himself as the great sacrifice in order to bring us back to the Father, holy and justified by His gracious action! May this Truth always be our message of hope to a world that truly needs to hear it proclaimed loud and strong!

In Christ's service,
Rev Joel Kuhl, Chairman

REPORT 15: COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS AND STRUCTURE

In 2014 the CCMS was given the task by that Convention of preparing a new structure for Lutheran Church-Canada. Since the beginning of Lutheran Church-Canada concerns had been expressed by many pastors, deacons and laypeople regarding its structure, because the Synod had simply adopted the Missouri Synod Constitution and Bylaws of that day with very few changes, at its founding Convention in 1988. This structure from the LC-MS was designed for a 2 million plus member church body and contained inherent problems and high costs for a much smaller church body. For many years small, piece-meal changes to the Bylaws were made at succeeding Conventions, but in 2014 after the Synod found itself facing significant challenges as a result of problems with the ABC District Church Extension Fund and Concordia University College of Alberta, the Synod in Convention decided to look for an alternative way to structure itself.

By 2017 the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure had carried out a national survey of pastors, deacons and laypeople and had conducted many meetings across the country to which all were invited to come and share their concerns and ideas for a new structure for LCC. The services of a consultant and advisor, the Rev. Dr. Les Stahlke, were contracted and he worked tirelessly with the CCMS for those three

years in preparing a new set of Bylaws that would dramatically change the way that the corporation, Lutheran Church-Canada, would do business, but changed little in the way that the Synod would carry on its mission and ministry in Canada and in the world.

As the 2017 Convention approached, the Board of Directors of the Synod suddenly informed Dr. Stahlke and the CCMS that the document we had spent 3 years in producing was no longer acceptable. There followed then a huge effort to make changes to that document that would be acceptable to the Board, and the help of the Synodical Lawyer was enlisted in order to make that happen.

Dr. Stahlke felt compelled to resign since he found himself unable, in good conscience, to make the required changes to the document we had produced. After a couple of months of meeting with the Synod's lawyer, The CCMS was finally able to complete a new document that contained most of what we had produced but with changes that were acceptable to the Board. One of the major changes the CCMS proposed, based on our cross-Canada meetings, was the dissolution of the three Districts and the implementation of three Regions with three Regional Pastors who were not to be

administrators, but rather pastors to the pastors, deacons, and congregations of the region in which they served.

That document was presented to the delegates at the 2017 Convention and was adopted as the 2017 Synodical Handbook. Because of the haste with which the original document we had developed had to be changed, the 2017 adopted document contained many errors and needed a lot of further revision, renumbering, and extensive formatting changes.

Therefore, the primary work of the Commission over the past 5 years has been to carefully, line by line, comb through the Statutory Bylaws, the Constitution, and the Synodical Bylaws to remove duplications, to move materials that should have been removed previously, and to make changes necessitated by our usage over these 5 years. Thus, many revisions of the Statutory Bylaws with major revisions to the Synodical Bylaws but no changes to the Constitution are being brought to the 2022 Convention.

The delegates to this 2022 Convention have received the full Handbook with suggested changes in the Convention Workbook.

At the Convention there will be time allotted on the Convention Agenda to walk through all the changes being put forward, for discussion of these suggested revisions, and a vote which will follow, once all questions, suggestions and/or amendments have been dealt with in the plenary sessions of the Convention. Later in the Convention, through various Overtures, other suggested changes will be brought forward by other Synodical entities, discussed, and voted on. Any additional changes that are passed by the assembly will then be incorporated by the CCMS into the final 2022 Handbook along with those that had been brought forward by the CCMS and previously adopted by the Convention.

The changes worked on by the CCMS for the past 5 years have come about after countless ZOOM meetings, emails, and phone calls in consultation with many

entities of the Synod and its leadership. As late as February 2022 it was discovered that an overhaul of the numbering of the Synodical Bylaws needed to be made and so that was done also.

During these 5 years between Conventions, we were also asked to rule on many issues that arose from questions about the intent and meaning of various Bylaws and their application in specific situations. Those decisions are all recorded in the CCMS Minutes, not in this report.

Finally, I wish to offer my profound thanks to all the members of the CCMS and to President Teuscher for a tireless commitment to see this project of revising the 2017 Handbook through to its completion. We were counting on having 4 years to do this work and so began working on it immediately after the last Convention. The COVID virus changed all that, but in our case, served to give us an additional year to work on our new 2022 Handbook. This actually turned out to be a big blessing in disguise in that it gave us extra time to go through our revised Handbook with a fine tooth-comb and make sure that the final version would be accurate and complete.

May God continue to bless our Lutheran Church-Canada as He has in the past with an unrelenting faithfulness to Christ Jesus and His Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and to the preservation and upholding of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired, inerrant Word of God and our Lutheran Confessions as a true expression of our Christian faith as drawn from Holy Scripture ... for the Handbook of Synod is nothing more than a guideline of how to work together in the most efficacious, efficient, and agreeable manner in carrying out our mission and ministry in the 21st Century together.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

Rev. William R.A. Ney

Rev. William R.A. Ney, Chairman
Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure

REPORT 16: COMMISSION ON ADJUDICATION (COA)

Due to an oversight as a result of the restructuring of our Synod at the last convention, current provisions in the 2017 Handbook for the number of members on the Commission on Adjudication do not meet the requirements for the COA to do its work.

As a result, the COA was not able to meet or function. The CCMS intends to correct this error at our 2022 convention.

Submitted by
President Timothy Teuscher

**REPORT 17: BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WORKER BENEFIT SERVICES INC.*
2018-2021**

Our Mission: The mission of LCC Worker Benefit Services Inc. (WBS) is to serve members and employers by ensuring the provision of sustainable benefits.

Our Vision: We will develop an efficient, innovative and sustainable benefit plan with shared responsibility among engaged stakeholders.

Highlights 2018-2021

- **A review of the Worker Benefit Plans governance structure culminated in the establishment of the separately incorporated LCC Worker Benefits Services Inc effective January 1, 2018.**
- **A Strategic Planning session was held in January 2019 with employer and member representatives.**
- **A market survey of five insurers in 2019 resulted in Manulife being selected because of their competitive bid.**
- **The flexible benefit plan was wound up at the end of 2019 and was replaced with a more cost efficient traditional group benefits plan effective January 1, 2020.**
- **The Alberta Regulator approved the registration status of the pension plan as a multi-employer pension plan (in June 2020) reflecting how our plan has operated for years.**
- **Two valuations completed over the period (December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2019) showed improvement to both going-concern and solvency funding.**
- **Defined Benefit Pension (DB) Plan has had solid returns with a four year average rate of return of 10% at December 31, 2021 exceeding the benchmark by .4%.**
- **In spring 2021, a second “annuity buy-in” was completed to further de-risk the plan.**
- **Four new members joined the WBS Board, replacing members stepping down or who completed their maximum term.**

Implementing Changes to WBS Governance

As a result of a 2017 review of the Worker Benefit Plans’ Board of Managers and the LCC Board of Directors’ roles in managing the Worker Benefit Plans, the LCC Worker Benefit Services Inc. (WBS) was established effective January 1, 2018. The separately incorporated LCCWBS has its own Board of Directors appointed by the LCC Board of Directors. The WBS Board of Directors has autonomy in the management of the group benefit plans. LCCWBS is also responsible for the strategy, funding, policies, administration and communication of the defined benefit and defined contribution plans. Once the Defined Benefit Plan is fully funded on both a solvency and going concern basis, the WBS Board of Directors will have autonomy managing the plan. Until then the LCC Board of Directors will be involved in major decisions, such as plan design changes.

One of the objectives of the new organization was to strengthen the governance of the plans. To that end, the newly created WBS hosted 16 regional presentations with over 450 church leaders attending in 2018. The presentation explained the new governance structure and introduced the new agreements that had to be signed by participating employers; one covering the group benefits plan between employers and WBS and the other covering the pension plan between the employer and Lutheran Church-Canada. The agreements outline the responsibilities between WBS and employers including the handling of surpluses and deficits. By the end of 2021 98 % of employers had signed and returned their signed agreements.

Overview 2018-2021

Strategic Planning

As a result of feedback from the regional meetings held in 2018, especially the desire expressed by many employers to discuss the issues facing them, the WBS Board decided to hold a Strategic Planning session in January 2019 with employer and member representatives from across the Synod. The session included a review of the WBS Strategic Plan and solicited feedback on a number of issues regarding the Worker Benefit Plans. A number of recommendation came out of the Strategic Planning meetings including eliminating the flex benefits program and going to a

traditional plan since the majority of members only participate in one Flex option, reducing the life insurance from employer paid five times salary to three times annual salary with the provision that members at their own expense, could buy back up to five times salary and conducting a market survey of insurance providers. No changes to the pension plan were agreed upon because participants were concerned with the impact on members.

In considering the design changes that were ultimately implemented effective January 1, 2020, the WSB Board considered the recommendations coming from the Strategic Planning meeting along with balancing the need to ensure the plans were cost efficient and sustainable for employers while trying to minimize the impact to plan member's retirement benefits.

Insurance Provider Review

A market survey of benefit providers was conducted in 2019 with five insurance companies submitting proposals. Manulife was selected because of their competitive bid, a 2 year rate guarantee they provided on most of the plans, and the good service they have provided with few complaints from plan members.

Pension Amended to Multi-Employer Status

During the summer of 2020 the Alberta Regulator approved our registration status of the pension plan as a Non-Collectively Bargained Multi Employer Pension plan (NCBMEPP) which is how our plan has administratively and functionally operated for a number of years. The biggest implication occurs if a participating employer withdraws from the plan and is unable to pay their portion of any funding shortfalls for the members they employed. Members would have their benefits based proportionally on the assets that are available. While we don't want to see members' benefits reduced, we need to ensure that the withdrawing employers obligation is not passed on to the remaining employers in the plan, which over time would make the plan unsustainable and put into jeopardy the retirement benefits of all members of the plan.

De-Risking

With solvency funding at over 90% during the first quarter of 2021 the Board decided it was a good time to consider a further de-risking of the pension plan by testing whether it would be a good time to further annuitize a portion of our liabilities.

Second Annuity Buy - in

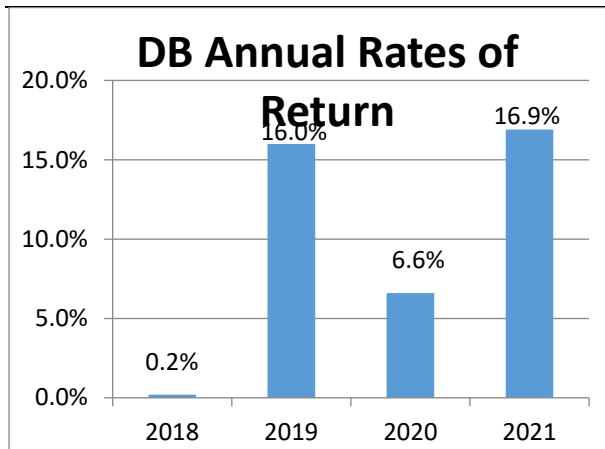
This resulted in another annuity "buy-in" with RBC. An annuity buy-in with Canada Life had previously been completed in 2017 based on 20% of the DB pension liabilities. This second buy-in with RBC means that 50% of the plan liabilities are locked-in and protected from future volatility due to longevity risk

(members living longer than expected), interest rate risk (pension liabilities can increase as a result of small movements in interest rates, which in turn can impact contribution requirements) and asset risk (markets suddenly dropping). Transferring risk to an insurer can help stabilize cash flow and contribution requirements. The process involved going to market for the best quote. Essentially an annuity buy-in involves providing the insurer with some of the pension assets in exchange for a single annuity contract issued to the pension fund. The value of the annuity contract is held on the balance sheet as an asset and plan members continue to receive pension payments from the pension fund. In exchange the insurer takes on the longevity, interest rate and asset volatility risk.

Pension DB Investments

Despite some extreme periods of volatility the DB plan Investment returns have been solid for the period from 2018 to the end of 2021 (see the accompanying chart for details). The plan barely squeaked out a positive return in 2018 but bounced back in the first part of 2019 which turned out to be a strong year with a return of 16%. The beginning of the pandemic with subsequent lock downs sent markets spiralling downwards during the first several months of 2020 with much of the losses regained by early June. We were prepared to ride out the volatility focusing on long-term objectives confident that our portfolio is appropriately diversified across asset classes and geographies to generate the best possible returns without undue risk. As well, the portion of the portfolio that is annuitized is not impacted by stock market gains and losses.

Investment returns are an important component of the plan's funding, accounting for 70%-75% of pension funding while employer and employee contributions account for 25%-30% of the plan's funding. For this reason, the WBS Board periodically conducts a review of the fund's asset allocation to ensure the asset allocation is the most appropriate one for meeting the obligations of the DB plan and the long-term growth of the fund. Asset allocation is the most important determiner of fund return. As a result of this and a review of the asset mix in the latter half of 2018 a decision was made to reduce the fund's exposure to Canadian equities to 20% and increase the real estate component from 5% to 10% and the private debt allocation from 10% to 15% as both of these asset classes have had high returns over the past several years.



DB Plan Funded Status

During the period under consideration two valuations of the pension plan were undertaken. The first one based on December 31, 2017 was a regularly scheduled valuation, while the second one based on December 31, 2019 was done in consideration of our application for NCBMEPP registration, as well as, the uncertainty created by the pandemic in the first quarter of 2020. This allowed us to lock-in the contributions that employers would have to make over the subsequent three year period.

Solvency Valuation

The solvency valuation is an assessment of the funding and liabilities of the Plan assuming it is wound up on the date of valuation. The December 31, 2017 valuation showed the plan is 80% funded on a solvency basis with a deficit of \$19.7 million. This was up from 73% at the December 31, 2014 valuation. The results of the December 31, 2019 valuations showed a further improvement with the plan having a funded ratio of 84% and a deficit of \$15.8 million. It should be noted that at the time of purchase for the second annuity buy-in, the solvency ratio was 93% with the solvency deficit of 6.9 million.

Going Concern

A Going-concern valuation assumes the plan is on-going and uses long-term assumptions. The December 31, 2017 valuation showed the plan is 100% funded on a going concern basis, despite the valuation being done at a lower discount (interest) rate and was up from the 92% funded ratio of the December 31, 2014 valuation. The results of the December 31, 2019 valuations showed further improvements on a going-concern basis with the plan being funded at 103%.

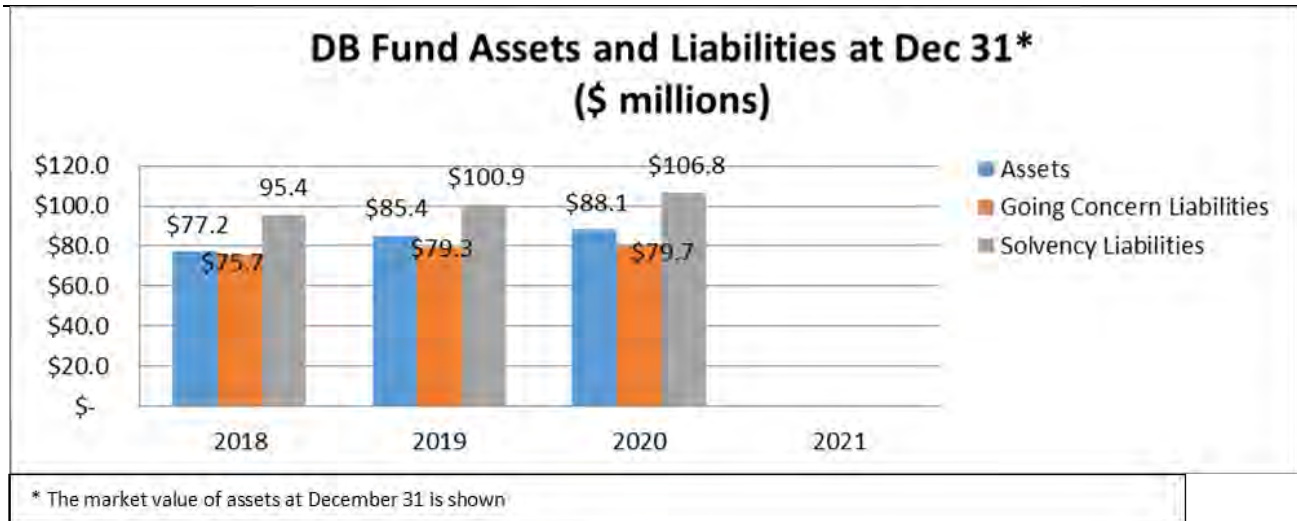
Pension Deficits

When we talk about existing pension deficits, it should be noted:

That all employers own a pro-rata share of the deficit in the defined benefit plan. All employers make supplemental contributions (currently 10% of Payroll of the total 16% contribution rate) to pay for current and past employees who have defined benefit service. This legacy DB obligation continues to exist even if an employer decides that they will no longer have a full-time pastor. That is the reason employers in vacancy are also asked to continue making this supplemental contribution.

- With the cooperation of all employers, this approach will help ensure that all of those employees who have served the participating employer and contributed to the mission of Synod, receive their retirement benefit (Pension).
- Employers are also making contributions to pay for post-retirement benefits for those employees that retired when these benefits were available. We have, however, been requiring retirees to pay more of the premium for these plans over the past few years. This still provides good coverage at far less cost, than that available in the market place for individuals to purchase.

“...all employers own a pro-rata share of the deficit in the defined benefit plan. All employers make supplemental contributions (currently 10% of Payroll) to pay for current and past employees who have defined benefit service.... With the cooperation of all employers, this approach will help ensure that all of those employees who have served the participating employer and contributed to the mission of Synod, receive their retirement benefit (Pension).”



DC Plan Investments

The WBS Board* monitors the performance of the DC Investment Option on a regular basis. No changes were made to the Investment Managers for the period under review.

Group Benefit Plans

Move to Traditional Group Plan

As noted earlier, the flexible benefit plan was wound up at the end of 2019 and was replaced with a traditional group benefits plan effective January 1, 2020. For health, dental and long-term disability the vast majority of members were enrolled in flex Option 2 and the new traditional plan replicated this option. Premiums for the new plan were established based on the rates charged by the insurer and as a result Flex dollars and price tags were eliminated. No potential for excess Flex dollars meant the Health Spending Account was no longer offered along with the cash option in lieu of benefits and the ability to channel excess Flex dollars into the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan. As well, annual plan re-enrollments were no longer needed. These changes simplified the plan considerably. The Flex Plan once served a need when we had a larger membership including Concordia University. Over the years our membership base has become much smaller and more homogeneous with 75% of members selecting one option. The traditional plan design is cost efficient while being more aligned with the organization's needs, changing structure and smaller membership base.

Change in Basic Life Coverage

Also effective January 1, 2020 Basic Life insurance for all members was changed to be based on three times annual salary. Members hired prior to 2008 had received Basic Life based on five times salary and members hires after 2007 had their Basic Life based on

three times. Members who had coverage based on four or five times salary were able to buy back their lost

coverage under the Optional Life Plan (maximum coverage was increased to \$ 750,000 from \$250,000) without providing evidence of insurability. The change meant that members receive the same amount of employer paid life coverage regardless of when they were hired.

Considering Member and Employer Requirements

In considering the design changes the WBS Board was mindful of balancing the need to ensure the plans were cost efficient and sustainable for employers while trying to minimize, where possible, the impact on members. While the decision to make these changes were not easy, the WBS Board believes they are fair and balanced and continue to meet our mission "to care for and serve the members and employers by ensuring the provision of sustainable benefits".

Assistance for Employers during the Pandemic

Recognizing the potential financial difficulties that employers might face because of the pandemic, we offered employers in financial difficulties due to the pandemic a deferral of their pension and benefits premiums in May and June, 2020 and those in serious financial difficulty waiver of their health, dental and EAP programs' premiums for those months. With dental offices largely shut down in the first part of the pandemic, we were successful in getting Manulife to waive premiums for June, 2020.

Getting Mental Health Help to Members

With the Board's concern for the health and well-being of members during the pandemic, the psychological benefit under the Extended Health Plan was increased from \$500 to \$1000 per person, per calendar year.

Coverage was also expanded to include psychotherapists so members can choose using either a psychologist or psychotherapist. Recognizing that some workers, may still require help after using their benefits through the EAP program and the Manulife Plan, the WBS Board established a contingency fund to provide additional support to church workers in extraordinary circumstances. The fund is accessed through the Regional Pastor. While final approval of accessing the fund rest with the WBS Board, its decision will be based on the general description of the need, with identity of the worker remaining confidential.

Administration

Administration rates have held steady for the past decade as WBS has done its upmost to streamline administration and keep cost down.

Future Changes in 2022 and Beyond

Government mandated solvency funding exposes the plan to significant volatility over short periods of time. While a couple of provinces have passed changes to legislation to temper this impact it is a major driver of pension plan funding that is not within our control.

Exploring a Plan Merger

Reducing and eliminating risk in the pension plan is a priority of the WBS Board in order to permanently secure member's benefits. One de-risking strategy that is currently being explored (coming from the strategic Planning meeting) is merging with another plan that is not subject to solvency funding (Public service plans and certain types of multi-employer plans are not subject to solvency funding; they can be funded on a going-concern basis). Partnerships with other plans will also allow us to leverage expertise and economies of scale. An advantage of this type of plan to members is that they would earn a Defined Benefit and not be exposed to market risk or have the burden of understanding and managing investments under a Defined Contribution Plan.

Discussions with CAAT Pension Plan

We are currently in preliminary discussions with the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT) pension plan on the possibility of joining their plan. Originally created in 1967 to support the Ontario college system, the CAAT Plan now has more than 200 participating employers in 11 industries including the for-profit, non-profit, and broader public sectors. It currently has more than 75,000 active and retired members with assets of \$ 15.8 billion. The CAAT Plan is a profit-for-members trust that deliver s secure lifetime pensions. It is well-funded and is respected for

its pension and investment management expertise focused on stability and benefit security. At January 1, 2021, the Plan was 119% funded on a going-concern basis. Further information on this will be communicated should an arrangement with CAAT prove beneficial and feasible for members and employers.

Pension and Benefit Challenges

Investment Volatility

While the future course of the pandemic is not known, and could present further challenges, we invest for long-term growth and try to ride out short term hiccups, which can be difficult at times. Nevertheless, we remain vigilant in monitoring the Plan's portfolio along with the other programs we offer and their funding.

Balancing the needs of Stakeholders

We continue to focus on providing competitive and valued programs to employers and members and delivering them cost-effectively. No further changes to the program are planned at his time, however, as noted above, we have commenced discussions with the CAAT plan to see if that plan would meet the needs of our organization by providing secure retirement benefits that are sustainable for employers and members.

The Worker Benefit Plans have been, since inception a series of comprehensive programs designed to protect active and retired members and their families from financial loss as a result of health issues and to provide a source of income in retirement. As a result of financial challenges in recent years we have had to make some changes to the programs provided to members.

These changes have been necessary in order to ensure costs for employers are manageable. We understand the pressures employers are under to reduce costs and we in turn are doing the utmost to manage our administrative costs and deliver programs competently in the best manner possible.

We believe over the last 4 years we have worked hard at fulfilling our mission of providing sustainable benefits to church workers; we have listened to employers and employees enhancing their understanding of the challenges we face as well as listening to their input; we have ensured strong returns while at the same time working hard to reduce risk in our plans to members and employers through our annuity strategy buy- in; and we continue to enhance our governance practices to ensure that our plans are well managed.

We thank you for your understanding and support and assure you we will continue in our role prayerfully and conscientiously, asking for God's wisdom and blessing on all our efforts.

RESPECTFULLY submitted,

Dwayne Cleave, Executive Director LCC Worker Benefit Services Inc.	Dr. Dieter Kays, Chair, LCC Worker Benefits Services Inc.
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Current WBS Board Membership*

The WBS Board is made up of the following individuals:

- Dr. Dieter Kays.
- Dwayne Cleave
- Ellen Nygaard
- Ron Walter
- John Kreutzwieser
- Paul Hambrock

REPORT 18: LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA FINANCIAL MINISTRIES (LUTHERAN FOUNDATION CANADA)

Introduction

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report on the activities of Lutheran Church-Canada Financial Ministries, established as a public, charitable foundation working on behalf of all organizations and congregations which comprise the synodical family of Lutheran Church-Canada. Working under the trademark name *Lutheran Foundation Canada*, our primary task is to encourage and assist in the development of *planned gifts* from within LCC's membership, all in support of the on-going mission and ministry of the church.

Gift Planning Services

Planned giving is using a portion of the lifetime accumulation of worldly resources within our estate to meet the needs and expectations of family, while also including a gift for mission and ministry. For many, there is great satisfaction in knowing their gift will continue to support ministries important to them for years after they are gone.

The Foundation's Gift Coordinators provide informative seminars and webinars on Christian estate and end-of-life planning. Although the Foundation's primary purpose is to speak to individuals on estate stewardship, other topics often discussed, include wills, estate taxation, healthcare directives, powers of attorney, funeral planning, and various other end-of-life concerns. Gift Coordinators assist in structuring a gift to the donor's best advantage, providing needed information to the donor's professional advisors, and ensuring the gift is directed to the appropriate organization(s) per the donor's desired use of the funds.

Over the past five years beginning in 2017, approximately **\$29 million** has been reported in current and future gifts, of which just over **\$7.4 million** has already been received and disbursed according to the donor's wishes (in shares, land, oil leases, and cash).

Additionally, over the last five years, using the earnings from our endowment funds, the Foundation has made disbursements totaling **\$1,041,106** to the congregations and organizations as listed within each of our donors' endowment fund agreements, with annual disbursements as follows:

2017 - \$199,151	2018 - \$196,560
2019 - \$202,992	2020 - \$179,956
2021 - \$262,447	

Gift Timing and Structure

For those in a marital relationship, planned gifts are usually designated from the estate assets of the second-to-die, so as not to impact the financial requirements of the surviving spouse as they advance in years. Gifts can include: insurance policies, RRSP/RRIF/TFSA investments, securities, real estate, other *in-kind* assets, and of course, cash. If using the Foundation's *Gift Allocation Agreement*, donors can make a single gift to the Foundation, and we will disburse it to the organizations as outlined in the Agreement. Donors also have the option of adding their gift to an existing endowment, or can create one of their own, whereby the gift is invested into perpetuity, and on an annual basis, only the earnings are disbursed as outlined in the Agreement. Working with a Gift Coordinator, the donor can discover many ways to structure a gift.

Operational Funding

The Foundation's operations are primarily funded by LCC, but we also receive annual amounts from Lutheran Laymen's League - Canada, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and our two seminaries. Additionally, the Foundation generates operating income from fees charged for administration of the assets held within the Foundation's investment portfolios, with endowments contributing a 1% fee and custodial funds contributing a 0.5% fee.

Asset Under Management

At present, approximately \$9 million is invested in endowments and \$9 million in custodial accounts, for a total of \$18 million AUM. The Foundation uses the same investment consultant (Ellement Consulting) and some of the same investment managers (TD Asset Management, Romspen Commercial Mortgages, and Mawer Investment Management) as that used by LCC's pension funds. Investment reports are regularly reviewed by the Foundation's Finance Committee comprised of individuals with significant knowledge in the areas of finance and accounting. The Finance Committee's primary responsibility is to ensure the investment managers have invested our funds in keeping with our approved "Investment Policy Statement", a document defining the level of risk, investment diversification, and asset allocation restrictions between equity and fixed income investments.

Custodial Fund Investments

As a service to the member congregations and organizations of Lutheran Church – Canada's synodical family only, the Foundation also accepts funds (\$25K min.) for investment purposes. These funds remain the property of the investing organization and may be withdrawn at any time. Invested funds are pooled with other similar funds and placed in the Foundation's *Custodial Fund Investment Accounts*. This approach not only creates substantial economies of scale, enabling LCC synodical family members to enjoy significant savings in investment management fees while also providing access to investment opportunities unavailable for smaller investment amounts. Over the last 13 years, returns for Custodial Funds have averaged 6.17% in the Balanced Mandate, and 4.34% in the Conservative Mandate, NET of investment fees of 0.5% and administration fees of 0.5% (Note: Past performance is no guarantee of future returns).

Future Blessings

The table below shows the future, total gift amount to be received by each LCC organization, given as the combined total of donor-estimated, future estate gifts, plus lifetime or estate gifts already received. (Received gifts are shown as a subtotal.) With the likelihood of congregations potentially receiving significant estate gifts in the future, having a *gift acceptance and use policy* in place would lessen the opportunity for congregational discord caused by an expected, large monetary gift. Too often there are unyielding and differing opinions on how these types of gifts should be used.

For this reason, the Foundation has developed a "Gift Acceptance and Use Policy" that congregations are encouraged to adapt for their own use, in anticipation of receiving such gifts in the future. These extraordinary gifts, gifts beyond the congregation's regular Sunday offering, can and should be used to transfer the blessings that God has bestowed upon them. These gifts allow congregations to develop community-based, mission driven programs, or to support ministries well beyond their own doors. Congregations are encouraged to adapt and adopt the sample policy for their own use. The Foundation provides additional help and guidance throughout this process. With a clear vision of how gifted funds will be used, congregational members will be more inclined to consider such gifts to their congregation.

Summary

For further information on Lutheran Foundation Canada, congregational resources, or reference material related to estate planning, visit our website at www.lutheranfoundation.ca.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Lutheran Foundation Canada,



Allen Schellenberg
Executive Director

Lutheran Foundation Canada 13-Year Gift Summary (2009 – 2021)

The following table shows how the membership of Lutheran Church - Canada has responded to giving opportunities, either in their estate or as a current gift. (Allocations are based upon the expressed wishes of the donors.) May God be praised!
(Due to restructuring, previous District amounts have now been added to the Region/Congregation amounts.)

Beneficiary	2009 -2016 Gift Total	2017 Gift Total	2018 Gift Total	2019 Gift Total	2020 Gift Total	2021 Gift Total	13 Year Gift Total	% of Total Gifts
West Region/Cong.	\$8,951,736	\$643,285	\$342,800	\$363,215	\$321,440	\$155,610	\$10,778,086	13.50%
Central Region/Cong.	\$3,412,920	\$166,225	\$728,154	\$923,345	\$1,215,280	\$910,680	\$7,356,604	9.22%
East Region/Cong.	\$8,823,083	\$1,090,800	\$428,925	\$100,220	\$1,482,765	\$181,080	\$12,106,873	15.17%
LCC	\$3,533,534	\$151,380	\$1,455,183	\$405,175	\$95,155	\$2,184,055	\$7,824,482	9.80%
CLS	\$7,060,014	\$353,950	\$1,821,833	\$572,525	\$1,048,450	\$289,385	\$11,146,157	13.96%
CLTS	\$2,690,116	\$104,200	\$100,740	\$0	\$24,000	\$654,150	\$3,573,206	4.48%
LLL-C	\$3,545,255	\$308,000	\$452,465	\$298,300	\$281,750	\$30,230	\$4,916,000	6.16%
LWML-C	\$782,285	\$61,600	\$85,000	\$3,750	\$4,000	\$0	\$936,635	1.17%
CLMS	\$1,684,787	\$476,925	\$85,200	\$59,590	\$1,152,165	\$163,200	\$3,621,867	4.54%
LSO's	\$2,428,495	\$81,950	\$814,560	\$219,440	\$485,200	\$132,590	\$4,162,235	5.21%
CLWR	\$2,545,473	\$712,375	\$789,000	\$194,685	\$26,850	\$114,200	\$4,382,583	5.49%
LCCFM	\$3,907,773	\$486,260	\$303,640	\$80,230	\$224,785	\$138,735	\$5,141,423	6.44%
Unspecified	\$1,457,300	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$2,091,770	\$51,015	\$119,810	\$3,869,895	4.85%
Total Gifts	\$50,822,771	\$4,686,950	\$7,507,500	\$5,312,245	\$6,412,855	\$5,073,725	\$79,816,046	100.00%
Total Amount Already Received	\$8,331,165	\$1,716,250	\$934,500	\$1,522,245	\$1,064,855	\$2,197,325	\$15,766,340	19.75%

REPORT 19: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SEMINARY, EDMONTON

First, it is so important to say a huge thank you to everyone in LCC who is a partner in support of our mission to “form servants for Jesus’ sake.” Many things have occurred for us in the past 50 months since the 2017 report was written. But the most wonderful news is how God is at work in and through our mission to fulfill God’s desire for servants in ministry.

Board of Regents (BoR) Matters

The BoR provides fiduciary and policy governance for the operation of the seminary. One of the first tasks after the 2017 convention was ironing out the MOU with the restructured LCC.

Proceeding from that, the regents have spent significant time converting most of the relevant content from the old LCC Handbook Chapter 6 to create our own bylaws and policies. The work is ongoing, and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), our accreditation agency, is nudging us to continue this important work with haste. We are discussing common policies with CLTS regents.

The elected Board of Regents (BoR) current membership includes three pastors and three laymen, representing each of the three regions, and a representative from the President’s Ministry Council and one representative from the synod Board of Directors. We are thankful for the past term’s service by outgoing members Rev. Daryl Solie, Central Region (*Chairman and Executive Comm.*); Rev. Aaron Astley, East Region (*Secretary and Policies Comm.*), and Corinne Nowaczin, West Region (*Personnel Committee*). Continuing service comes from Rev. Scott Lyons, West Region (*Vice-Chairman and Finance Comm.*); James Dietrich, Central Region (*Finance Comm.*); and Miriam Winstanley, West Region (*Personnel Comm.*). Significant leadership has also come from PMC appointee Regional Pastor Rob Mohns (*West Region*) and LCC Board of Directors appointee Vice-president Rev. Tom Kruesel, West Region. We have also deeply valued the service for part of the past term from Ian Lande, West Region, and former ABC District President Glenn Schaeffer.

We will be selecting three new regents from among those approved by the convention, following our board makeup priorities, and will also receive the appointed PMC representative and LCC BoD representative. We thank God for all who serve and lead in this labour of love.

Fiscal Picture

The financial picture of CLS is stable, thanks to God’s providence through synodical support, Endowment income from both the CLS and the LFC

endowments, and *significant* congregational and individual donation support.

Our seminary depends upon the broad support across LCC, in all regions across Canada where congregations and individual choose to partner with us. Our extremely lean budget respectfully applies all resources toward our singular mission of forming servants for Jesus’ sake.

Accreditation 2021-28

CLS is one of more than 250 seminaries and theological schools in North America accredited with the premiere Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in Pittsburgh. Our accreditation report and virtual visit resulted in an extension for seven years, but included focused work on a Recruitment Plan, Staffing, Strategic Planning in relation to our commitments to finishing and reviewing policies and handbooks.

All of these areas need to be addressed in the next two years to satisfactorily meet the ATS expectations. We do not perceive this to be problematic, but important follow-up work.

Graduate and Placement

CLS has been pleased to return the following twenty graduates to service in the church since the last LCC convention. 2018: Rev. Scott Brayall, Rev. Kai Buck, and Rev. Andrew McDonald (all MDiv.), and DPS Deacon Lenora Wallden. 2019: Rev. Shiekh Leif Mauricio, Rev. Chris McLean, Rev. Michael Mayer, Rev. Alex Timm. 2020: Rev. Adam Chandler, Rev. Travis Heide, Rev. Peter Knelson, Rev. Joshua Kurtenbach, Rev. Mark Rekken, Rev. Wendel Ritz (Theol Diploma only), Rev. Ken Stadnick. 2021: Rev. Darcy Albers (MDiv., NALC), and Rev. Tim Graff, Rev. Samuel Kim, and Rev. Dr. Sam Thompson by colloquy. Anticipated for 2022: Rev. Kyle Eddy. We also anticipate two (or possibly three) vicars to be placed for 2022-23 academic year.

Enrollment

Enrollment hit a high of 17 full time students in 2017-18, but has dipped since then, partly due to Covid restrictions. Total headcount is often higher than the Full Time number because of 5-8 Open Studies students who may join in our classes above the full-time student number; we calculate a full-time equivalent that combines for number of credit hours earned (generally 25). Our FTE for the current year is 7.15.

Recruitment

With CUE no longer being a feeder school, fewer students enrolled in confirmation classes, challenges to those involved in youth ministry and the

youth gathering, and more limited recruitment travel, along with workplace shortages for other career paths, recruitment has become extremely difficult. We have a limited part-time Director of Admissions who follows up with leads we receive from congregations or pastors, or inquiries.

We also produced three parallel recruitment brochures, and have an easier “request for information” link on our website. The Admissions form is also done completely electronically.

However, we still have, across LCC, a significant need for fully qualified students to train as “servants for Jesus’ sake.” We ask the Church-at-Large and all members to actively encourage and support our recruitment efforts in action and prayer.

We anticipate four new students this Fall, and have room for more, both in first or mid-careers.

Our goal is to provide a steady stream of pastors and deacons for service in the Church. Our projections indicate that we should be able to provide between three and five new pastors each year.

DPS Training

CLS has developed a Graduate Diploma in Parish Services program that, largely, works concurrently with many of our core MDiv courses (though with fewer expectations – like biblical languages -- and a few additional courses unique to GDPS. Dr. Jenn Frim has been called to be coordinator of that program, as well as teaching within the program. The GDPS program functions as an *after degree* (beyond BA), but including field education and internship. We are glad to have three DPS students as part of our seminary family.

Faculty

The faculty stable is full now, including historian Rev. John Hellwege, Ph.D., Deacon Jennifer Frim, Ph.D. (part time), systematician Rev. Sam Thompson, Ph.D., joining us from our sister synod in India, and exegete Rev. Alexandre Teixeira Veira, Ph.D., joining us from our sister synod in Brazil. We have received continued blessings from the role of numerous adjunct professors each semester for a course or two, and our shared partnership with CLTS in St.

Catharines. Rev. Stephen Chambers, Ph.D. returned to a parish call.

QUEST

Our faculty and selected guest instructors have continued to offer a variety of “taste of the seminary” courses geared toward the laity and the church at large. A number of congregations gather to view the course at a common time and discuss the content. We hope to have the courses taught once again in person (with a live webstream) by Fall 2022.

BEYOND OUR CAMPUS

Seminary faculty continue to serve on roles within the broader church: Constitutional Matters (Frim), CTCR (Gimbel), and with contributions to our journal, the Lutheran Theological Review, as well as opinions, consultations, and presentations at numerous conferences and events.

PARTNERSHIP

We are thankful for the partnership between the LCC and CLS, and pray that it continues. We hope that LCC will continue to entrust students to our formation process, and graciously partner alongside with field education, Take Wing, and placement across LCC. We are also thankful for times that you ask for our input and support, so that we feel engaged with the realities of Lutheran ministry across Canada. We are committed to serve as you choose, and hope to hear more about your thoughts, wishes, and expectations of the seminary, our faculty and staff, and students.

THANK YOU

Finally, thank you again for all of the ways you uphold us with the four P’s: seeing us as a valid *Partner* in mission and ministry, sending *Prospective* students our way; your *Pledges* and gifts to underwrite our costs for the educational and formational venture; and your *Prayers* that uphold us all in a unified faith and commitment to be servants for Jesus’ sake.

Respectfully submitted on Second Sunday after Epiphany, 2022

Rev. James R. Gimbel, Ph.D., President

REPORT 20: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, ST. CATHARINES (CLTS)

History and Purpose

Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, was established in 1976 by the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod as a Canadian extension of its Ft. Wayne seminary. From its beginnings in the

basement of Resurrection Lutheran Church, CLTS moved in 1984 into a new facility built on the campus of Brock University. Subsequently, all seminary degrees have been issued by Brock University. In 1989,

the LCMS gave the seminary to Lutheran Church–Canada.

The purpose of establishing a seminary in Canada was twofold: (1) to encourage more Canadian students to enter the ministry and to keep those graduates in Canada; and (2) to contextualise their pastoral formation to the unique setting of Canadian Lutheranism. We believe that CLTS, with its intimate facilities, small student body, and highly qualified faculty, offers a uniquely student-oriented focus, with an emphasis on practical experiences in classroom, chapel, and local congregations. CLTS serves LCC by forming men for the pastoral ministry and by educating laypeople in the Christian confession. These two purposes are carried out respectively in the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degrees. The President’s Ministry Council has also asked CLTS to take administrative responsibility for the Pastors by Alternate Training programme (PAT), whose curriculum is delivered with the help of local mentor pastors and instructors. CLTS also serves the broader Christian community through conferences, lay courses, library facilities, and outreach to the community of Brock University.

Throughout her history, CLTS has been particularly international and mission-oriented. The current student body and recent graduates include men capable of serving a variety of multilingual or multi-ethnic ministries. The faculties of both LCC seminaries provide the backbone of teaching staff for LCC’s mission work abroad (Ukraine, Thailand, Nicaragua). The seminary’s functions thus extend far beyond preparing pastors. This includes lay education courses, faculty serving on the CTCR, lecturing to pastors’ conferences and circuit events, teaching at workshops, preaching and serving vacancies, advising church leaders, and writing theological books and articles. In co-operation with CLS, Edmonton, the seminary publishes an annual journal, *Lutheran Theological Review*, which is provided to all pastors in LCC at no cost and sent to libraries and subscribers around the world. The seminary also regularly hosts church, university, and community events, lifting the church’s profile in the world.

Graduates and Students

In her 46-year history CLTS has produced 232 graduates. Of these, 23 are men and women (mostly lay) who have attained to the MTS degree. 210 graduates have entered the pastoral ministry. Our graduates serve mainly in Canada, but a significant portion serve in the Missouri Synod or abroad. Many are now retired or deceased.

Active Pastoral Graduates	
<i>West Region</i>	13
<i>Central Region</i>	9
<i>East Region</i>	52
LCC total	74
LCMS in Canada	4
LCMS in USA	46
Other Lutheran in NA	6
World Lutheranism	4
Other confessions	2
Inactive Pastoral Graduates	
CRM	13
Retired	29
Resigned	15
Deceased	13
Whereabouts unknown	4
Total	210

The present student enrolment is significantly lower than it reached in the peak years of the 1980s and early ’90s, when it averaged more than 30. In the past decade the overall enrolment has stabilised around 20. Within this student body there are more MTS students and fewer pastoral students than historically. This is a positive trend for the edification of the laity of our church, but the smaller number of pastoral students is worrisome. Our faculty are in regular contact with dozens of potential students, and promote the seminary through public speaking, writing, and broadcasting. We maintain active communication through multiple media (Facebook, WordPress, etc.), and engage with young people at church gatherings whenever possible. The most significant support that members of LCC can offer to the seminary is to encourage young men to enter the ministry, by word and prayer.

Faculty and Staff

Since the last LCC convention (2017) there have been some changes in the faculty and staff at CLTS. Rev. Dr Maj. Harold Ristau, a CAF chaplain, was called to the faculty in 2017, with primary responsibilities in practical and dogmatic theology; he also serves as Director of Placement, Recruitment, and Assessment. Rev. Esko Murto of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, was contracted as a visiting professor (2015-17) and then called to the faculty in 2017. In 2019 he accepted a call back to Finland. We covered the vacant position in 2020 with two visiting professors, Dr Werner Klän of our sister church in Germany (SELK) and Dr Thomas Korcok, a Canadian serving at Concordia University Chicago. Dr Korcok was then called to the faculty, beginning in January 2021, and now also serves as Director of Development. The remaining full-time faculty members are: Dr Thomas Winger, who teaches exegetical and liturgical

theology in addition to administrative work as President, Academic Dean, and Dean of Chapel; and Dr John Stephenson, who teaches historical theology and serves as Registrar and Director of the Library. The faculty has been supplemented by adjunct professors Rev. David Duke (OT), Dr James Keller (systematics), Rev. Duane Peters (dogmatics), and a host of guest instructors. With an impending retirement on the faculty, a call process is underway in spring 2022.

Long-time business manager Mike Bauer retired in 2017, but has graciously continued to help train his replacements. In November 2019 the seminary community was saddened by the death of Linda Lantz, who had served as Administrative Assistant for a decade. The seminary's work is now supported by five part-time staff members (totalling 2.8 FTE): Sarah Cavanagh (librarian), Susan Hamp (development assistant), Maria Munoz (Administrative Assistant), Ashu Paul (business manager), and Bonnie Stephenson (registrar's assistant). We co-ordinate development work with CLS, Edmonton, with whom, for example, we hold a joint "Seminaries Sunday" with common materials used across synod. We rely on the staff of the LCC Financial Ministries (particularly James Krestick in the East Region), who conduct workshops and visits on our behalf to encourage and aid members in planning gifts and bequests for seminary work. We are also grateful for volunteers who work in the library, archives, and help with mailings and events.

Major Events since the Last Convention (2017-22)

CLTS celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by preparing a Rare Book Room in the library to showcase some 300 volumes dating back as far as the 1550s. The room had its festive opening at a Reformation conference in September 2017, which featured speakers from Sweden and Germany in addition to the home team. CLTS faculty continue to participate in ecumenical dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church in Canada; as a result, Roman Catholic scholars contributed to the conference as responders, and the local bishop brought greetings. Lectures from this conference were made available to the wider church through publication in our journal and recordings available on the CLTS website and YouTube channel.

Plans for a conference observing the 125th anniversary of Hermann Sasse's birth (2020) were scuttled by pandemic restrictions. However, two faculty members (Stephenson, Winger) contributed essays to a festive book published in Germany, and participated in a number of online events in celebration.

CLTS will host the ecumenical dialogue meeting between LCC, the LCMS, and the Anglican Church of North America (a federation of conservative Anglicans) at the end of May. In connection with the regular discussions, there will be an open one-day conference titled, "Being Church in a Cancel Culture".

Governance and Accreditation

Serving on the CLTS Board of Directors (Regents) in the past synodical interval were (expiry date in brackets): Rev. Robert Krestick, chairman (2024); Rev. Nolan Astley, vice-chairman (2021) / Rev. Timothy Teuscher (2022); Rev. Cameron Schnarr, vice-chairman (2022); Rev. Dan Abraham, secretary (2022); Mr Ivan Boles (2024); Mr Bruno Korst (2022); Rev. Paul Zabel (2018) / Rev. Marvin Bublitz (2022); and Rev. Dr Thomas Winger (ex officio).

Concordia's two degrees, MDiv and MTS, are granted by Brock University, of which CLTS is an affiliate graduate college. The Brock Academic Review Committee is currently examining the degree programmes through their Institutional Quality Assurance Programme. CLTS is an accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools in the US and Canada. This accreditation was renewed in June 2019 for seven years.

At the 2011 LCC convention, CLTS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, which over the past decade has guided our joint efforts towards sustainable, efficient theological education in LCC. In 2019 the seminary signed an MOU with the synod's Board of Directors, which sets down the respective rights and responsibilities of the seminary and synod. We remain committed to close co-operation with our sister seminary and the leadership of LCC, for whose service the seminaries exist.

Finances

In the five years since the last convention, the seminary's finances have remained stable, with annual budget surpluses, thanks be to God. A number of factors have combined to make this possible:

1. The seminary has been blessed with receipt of generous bequests. While maintaining reasonable budget surpluses, the Board has deposited excess amounts into the seminary's Foundation to increase annual support in the future.
2. The Foundation has been well-managed and is contributing in a significant way to the seminary's operating fund and student aid.
3. Student enrolment has increased slightly and stabilised, which has led to more healthy tuition fee

income. Student aid is generous enough to assist students with the majority of these costs.

4. LCC has continued to provide an annual subsidy of \$132,000, for which we are thankful.
5. Individual donors in LCC and the LCMS continue to offer generous support in response to regular appeal letters.
6. The seminary administration have kept expenses as low as possible, abiding by the expense cap agreed to in the MOU (2011).

Thanks to a special gift, we have been able to complete necessary maintenance and improvements to the seminary's building, now nearly 40 years old. In 2020 Resurrection Lutheran Church sold its building and began holding services in the seminary chapel. The seminary community is enriched by the congregation's presence, and the rental income contributes to financial stability. In 2021 we added a small secondary parking lot, which makes up for spaces no longer available from Brock.

Looking Ahead

Although overall enrolment at CLTS is strong, the small number of pastoral candidates (at both seminaries) is a major challenge to LCC. This report has noted a number of ways in which the seminary faculty approach this challenge. But while the seminaries seem to occupy the front-line position, very few students choose to enter the ministry because a seminary persuaded them. The true front line lies in the congregation and the home where pastors, parents, Sunday School teachers, and youth workers have the opportunity to expose young men to the joys of the pastoral office and encourage them to consider it as their lifelong vocation. We look forward to working

with these influential people as we develop strategies for what we inadequately call "recruitment". Pray the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest.

There are many other ways in which we are committed to working with our sister seminary in Edmonton and the synodical leadership in Winnipeg to become more efficient in our use of churchly resources. We continue to investigate joint efforts in fund-raising, recruitment, information and educational technology, and joint teaching.

We rejoice that the Lord has sent us new faculty members. At the same time, we recognise a weakness in LCC's ability to provide faculty members for the future. This is evidenced partly by our need to look abroad in calling. It is vital that we identify men suited to be the next generation of theologians and teachers at our seminaries and provide them with the encouragement and opportunity to pursue higher degrees.

We are immensely thankful to the members of LCC for their ongoing support in prayers, good will, labour, and gifts. We pray that we might continue to work together as partners in Christ's mission. In the midst of our hard work and occasional anxiety, we must not forget that the primary mandate of preparing men for Christ's office in His Church continues unabated at CLTS. The Word of God is taught and proclaimed. And as it is likewise taught and proclaimed in LCC, we believe that your support for our work will also continue unabated as the Lord gives us all strength for our labour.

Thomas M. Winger, President.

REPORT 21: LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE - CANADA

Grow in God's Word, serve God's people, share God's Son



The members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League continue to work toward our mission to

EQUIP, MOTIVATE AND ENCOURAGE WOMEN to

- GROW in God's Word
- SERVE God's people and
- SHARE GOD'S SON

Through the established Memorandum of Understanding that we have with Lutheran Church-Canada, we are now fully and formally recognized as part of the Synodical Family. This has now formalized our relationship with the synod, and reminds us of our Unity to Serve the Lord with Gladness.

Our Board of Directors led us to consider ways to embrace technology and to make use of the many media platforms that we have. It helped us to stay in touch in a way that we were not able to with more traditional communication tools.

Our members faithfully offered their Mites to allow us to support the Mission Grants that were possible, given the situation with the pandemic. Some of the recipients of our Mission Grants, were not able to move forward with the missions. Thankfully, most of the Mission work continued and we give thanks for the work of the Christian Mission Committee. Over the course of the triennium from 2018 – 2021, \$100,600 were paid in support of several missions in Canada and around the world.

Our Christian Growth Committee initiated a new encouraging message that was distributed via the media communications – ALLI (A Little Loving Idea) and they continued to offer us monthly Prayer Calendars and Devotions. This committee took on the role of supporting members who requested these resources by a new DOD service. Download on Demand (DOD) made it quick and easy for our members to access resources for meetings and retreats.

Our Member Development Committee supported the relocation of our Resource Centre and, as a result of a retirement in the role, was moved to Kitchener, Ontario. It now resides in the space provided by the Lutheran

Laymen's League – Canada. This very active committee continues to support our members with encouragement through a blog – Serving in His Strength. This offers both encouragement for members in societies and ways to serve our Lord. A recent initiative Acts of Faith, has really focused on the many ways that our Societies have reached out to people and organizations in the community to help address the needs.

Total Bylaws review and redevelopment was approved at our, first ever, Virtual Convention. The result will streamline the organization while ensuring that, under our designated Charitable Status we are fully accounting for all of the actions and funds that are required.

As we focus on the current triennium, there is much work that continues as we finalize our Procedures Manual to reflect the changes. Throughout all of the detailed work, our members focus on 'Christ Lives in Me' based on Galatians 2:20. As a truly unified organization, we are humbly serve our Lord.

Linda Long, President
Lutheran Women's Missionary League

REPORT 22: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY Synodical Report to Lutheran Church-Canada Convention

Some 25 years ago eight individuals from across Canada met together at the Lutheran Church-Canada LCC Synodical Office in Winnipeg, February 21-23, 1997 to discuss the feasibility of a Mission Society within Lutheran Church-Canada: Terry Goerz, Doreen Haberstock, Anne Taylor, Rod Haberstock, and Rev.'s Ed Lehman, Don Schiemann, and David Somers. In 2022 Concordia Lutheran Mission Society CLMS is busy doing the work that those eight dedicated people of God envisioned.

From 1997 onward and since the last LCC Convention CLMS has continued to raise heartfelt contributions from our generous donors to support our mission work in Thailand, Cambodia, Ukraine, Nicaragua and Costa Rica AND proclaiming the Good News in Jesus in Canada. CLMS has also enabled several "Donor Initiated Projects" over the years, ideas for mission projects generated by some of our CLMS members.

At this 25th Anniversary of CLMS we pause to thank all our donors over the years and those who have

served as Officers and Board Members of CLMS since 1997. Their dedicated volunteer work and generosity has been much appreciated.

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society continues as a totally volunteer mission auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada. Contributions directed to a specific mission project are channeled 100% to that project. Gifts to pay for administrative cost (mailings, brochures, board meetings) are welcomed and received.

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society has put forward an ambitious project goal list for 2022 and is trusting that God's people will respond, as they have in the past. CLMS looks forward to continued service in the Lord's Kingdom as we work hand in hand with Lutheran Church-Canada and its mission work.

The CLMS Website is concordiamissions.org. Also contact Pastor Mark Lobitz, CLMS President, at mclobitz@gmail.com for more information and the CLMS 2022 Project Poster.

REPORT 23: INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE (Lutheran Hour Ministries)



Introduction:
The International Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries

serves as a grassroots auxiliary of Lutheran Church—Canada and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is proud to extend the mission and ministry of these two church bodies by focusing our energies on a mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*. The International Lutheran Laymen's League (Int'l LLL) is the corporate name under which the organization does business; Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is the public identity under which we conduct worldwide Gospel outreach.

LHM is a trusted resource in Gospel proclamation with a global network of partners. We work in areas where other Christian organizations are often not present and use local staff and volunteers who know the language and culture to create culturally relevant programs that most effectively share the Good News with individuals living in these regions. Working in conjunction with the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada, LHM proclaims the Gospel throughout Canada by creating, distributing, and promoting resources through various media while also equipping Christians for outreach.

God's Blessings upon Lutheran Hour Ministries' Outreach in the Past Triennium:

- In 2018, LHM embarked in a partnership with Barna Group—an industry leader for research-based insights about faith and culture, leadership and vocation, and generational groups—for a critical study of faith in America. The resulting research findings helped form an outreach philosophy to guide our initiatives and produce thoughtful products, programs, services, and curriculum that LHM provides to our constituents at low or no cost.
- Evangelism has changed in the past 25 years. Technology and rapid cultural shifts, including the impact of social media, have redefined the ways we communicate. *Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age* focuses on this shifting definition of evangelism and the perceptions of faith sharing from both sides of the conversation: the sharer and the hearer. *Outreach Magazine* named our *Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age* monograph produced in partnership with Barna as a Resource of the Year for Evangelism in 2018. The acknowledgement of our research by a widely respected Christian publication like *Outreach* is a testimony to the timeliness of the research as well as its relevance to a wider Christian audience.
- Barna studies have revealed much about the state of religion and how faith is perceived and discussed in public. But what about how faith is being nurtured in private—with the spouses, children, parents, roommates, and even frequent visitors who spend time under our roofs? *Households of Faith* presents a vivid portrait of the domestic lives of practicing Christians.
- *Better Together* helped us learn more about the types of people who are taking initiative in their communities—those who gather, donate, serve, create, teach, mobilize, and innovate, alongside other passionate neighbors, to meet needs around them. Drawing from insights learned from this research, LHM established **The Hopeful Neighborhood Project** in 2021 as a collaborative network committed to improving neighborhood well-being around the world. The resources and online network equip and encourage neighbors to work together, using their gifts and the gifts of their community, to pursue the common good of their neighborhood.
- Encouraging people to explore, strengthen, and share their gifts is a deeply spiritual endeavor—one that churches and faith leaders are primed to support. Yet Barna research suggests that pastors and the congregations they lead often have a narrow understanding of what gifts look like, how they grow, and where they can be used. *Gifted for More* provides crucial research to help today's church flourish and grow and help Christians understand and use their gifts well—inside and outside of church walls.
- An ongoing pandemic like COVID-19 that stretches worldwide has the potential of causing a significant negative impact on organizations like ours that provide global resources and services. However, it has not stopped (or even slowed) the Gospel outreach activities taking place through LHM. Most staff working at our headquarters in St. Louis quickly transitioned to working from home and many ministry center operations around the world modified their outreach efforts to emphasize radio/television broadcasts and digital approaches instead of traditional in-person activities. These changes were made to not only conform to government regulations concerning quarantine and social distancing within each

country or region, but to keep staff members, volunteers, and individuals reached through ministry safe. Individuals around the world, both Christian and non-Christian, need to hear Christ's messages of hope and comfort now more than ever—and LHM's global ministry model has allowed us to continue sharing the Gospel without interruption.

- **The Lutheran Hour** continues to expand its reach – it currently airs each week on more than 1,800 radio stations throughout North America (including 84 in Canada) as well as the American Forces Network. The program is also now available on numerous new media platforms like Amazon Alexa, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Google Home, and SiriusXM Satellite Radio. The addition of Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler as our new Speaker allows us to further utilize the expanding possibilities for sharing the Gospel that are offered through innovative technologies.
- Podcasts are an easy way for individuals to listen to their favorite LHM programs and resources whenever they want free of charge. Nine LHM podcasts are currently available, including our newest one, *The (Im)Partial Church*, which debuted in 2021 with hopeful content about race, culture, diversity, and the Christian faith. Over the span of 10 episodes, deaconess and professor Janine Bolling and her brother, Rev. Dr. Gerard Bolling, gave listeners powerful insights on cross-cultural friendships, prejudice, the power of language, forgiveness, being an outsider, what a good neighbor is, and how we are all members of a multi-ethnic family. Their spirited conversations were full of colorful details drawn from family life—both past and present.
- In collaboration with Trans World Radio Asia, LHM started a radio broadcast titled “From Despair to Hope” for listeners in **Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore**. The 15-minute program airs from four stations in Indonesia and is then made available online and through a podcast to bring hope, encouragement, and practical help to people suffering from job loss, ill-health, financial issues, and isolation from family and friends. Listeners who want to learn more about God can then respond to receive LHM resources such as audio Bible radios, booklets, and Bible Correspondence Courses.
- LHM continues our partnership with SAT-7, the first and largest Middle East and North African Christian satellite TV network, to share Christ's love throughout the region through satellite television programming. Broadcasting in this region potentially reaches millions of viewers in 20 countries spanning from as far west as Morocco

to as far east as Iraq and the Persian Gulf. In addition to the *New Light* talk show that discusses pertinent issues related to youth and young adults on SAT-7's Arabic channel, LHM expanded its program support on the SAT-7 PARS channel over the past few years to reach more Persian-speaking individuals in Central and South Asia.

- *Golpand* is a live program that focuses on children ages 5-13 and teaches morals and values through games, educational videos, and drama.
- *Hashtag* is a weekly program focused on older children and youth where the host tells a Bible story and helps viewers apply lessons to their lives.
- The weekly *Signal* program addresses current issues for adults, with guest speakers, positive news stories, Bible study, worship, music, and viewer testimonies included on each episode.
- LHM also initiated a partnership with the PAK7 media ministry to help develop new children's video programming in **Pakistan** called *Bedtime Stories* based on a successful SAT-7 Arabic channel program. The goal is to share Bible stories and Pakistani cultural stories to engage children with Bible truths.
- In today's digital age, people increasingly go online to learn, connect, and even build relationships. The online community of **THRED** continues to deepen relationships with non-Christians through digital means by offering open and honest conversations with people of different backgrounds about life, faith, and Jesus. The platform provides multiple opportunities for important conversations to happen online — from articles to videos and from forums to social media—and THRED staff is always looking for ways to start better conversations in more places. The message of Jesus is core to the content, but THRED also allows different perspectives to be shared. By fostering open and honest dialogue between people from different backgrounds, LHM believes the Holy Spirit will work in these types of interactions. This model has proven to be effective in other places around the world as well, leading to similar platforms in Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa.
- Based on a concept similar to THRED, the **Vivenciar.net** platform works out of **Latin America** to reach a potential population of 400 million Spanish and 250 million Portuguese-speaking people around the world. The digital platform offers guidance, support, and direction to individuals seeking help about relevant topical issues through live chats, blog posts, articles, e-

books, and courses. Since young adults are often gravitating to the internet seeking answers, including millions who are curious—or have doubts—about Christianity, Vivenciar.net offers a space where trained volunteers can listen to what people have to say about specific situations in their lives and accompany them in these moments with biblically-based support and guidance. The platform is also now being used to reach Spanish-speaking audiences in the United States with answers addressing spiritual questions and shifting cultural values.

- Our successful Online Mission Trip transitioned to a new program called **Gospel Adventures** beginning in 2019. Following up on our *Passport to Peru, Go Mongolia, and Thailand Trek* adventures, the 2022 program is focused on the African nation of Zambia. This interactive virtual experience includes a five-day curriculum, videos, theme music, maps, colorful graphs and charts, hands-on activities, questions for discussion, and more—all working together to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the work of the Gospel in their own lives and how God is at work in people's lives in another part of the world. More than 30,000 elementary and middle school students typically participate each year, but the experience offers something for people of all ages.
- Sharing our Christian faith is a privilege and a gift. Acutely aware of the need for people to share their faith in a way that is sensitive to others and mindful of circumstances, LHM launched an online learning system of outreach courses called **LHM Learn**. More than three dozen online courses and webinars are packaged under five faith-strengthening categories and use an array of multimedia elements to help registered users gain a hearing for the Gospel message.
- Outreach efforts in **Kenya** and **Cameroon** continue to expand through vocational training programs where LHM educates young women in a practical skill that helps them earn money to provide for their families. Women are also introduced to the Gospel and enrolled in the ministry centers' Bible courses to learn more about Jesus.

The Results of God's Blessings:

- By God's grace, LHM's various outreach programs and resources reach more than 150 million people around the world each week with the Gospel.

- **The Lutheran Hour** radio program reaches more than one million listeners per week.
- Outreach through LHM's global ministry programs has, by the power of the Holy Spirit, netted more than 1.23 million responses and nearly 50,000 individuals referred to churches and Christian communities this past year.
- Nearly 40,000 individuals participated for the first time in **Bible Correspondence Courses** last year to introduce people to Jesus and biblical principles of our faith.
- Nearly 120,000 people completed a ministry activity last year to share their faith more effectively with others.
- Around 70,000 constituents are currently engaged with our global ministry efforts through giving, volunteering, or using our resources.

Vision for the Future:

Today, it is more important than ever to reach out in relevant ways to a broken world with Christ's message of hope. With billions of people still unreached with the Gospel message, our work is not done. LHM has established a bold vision to share the Good News worldwide; therefore, we will not rest until...

- Every person has the opportunity to hear the Gospel in an understandable way.
- Those seeking are connected to a healthy Christian community where they can grow in their faith.
- Every Christian is equipped to share the Gospel in word and deed.
- Engaged Christians advance this common mission as a global community.

We are called to act now! The Lord has given our ministry a unique understanding of how to reach, equip, and minister to individuals. Not only do LHM's media tools and resources help grow and nurture faithful Christians by the power of the Holy Spirit, but they allow the Gospel message to penetrate the expanse of distance, the barriers of prison walls, and the lines of civil unrest or hostile political regimes to reach individuals who have little or no opportunity to hear the Gospel. They bring a message of forgiveness, love, and hope found only in Jesus Christ to a world that is hungry for the one thing that is sorely needed.

On behalf of all of us at LHM, thank you for your service. May God richly bless your work in the name and for the sake of Jesus!

Kurt Bucholz
President & CEO

REPORT 24: LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA



Report from Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada - Also known as Lutheran Hour Ministries Canada Submitted to Pres. Timothy Teuscher for the 2022 LCC Convention Workbook Submitted by Lisa Jackson- Managing Director

The mission of LLL Canada is to assist in the proclamation of the Gospel by creating, distributing, and promoting resources through various media and equipping Christians for outreach. As an auxiliary of Lutheran Church—Canada, we are pleased to provide you with an update on our work.

Over the past four plus years there has been so much to write 'home' about. Some things are pleasant and some troubling, but I am always reminded "God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you'" Hebrews 13:5.

Shortly after the joyous events of the 2017 Synod convention, Stephen Klinck announced his retirement and the LLL Board of Directors began searching for a new Managing Director. In the spring of 2018, the Board determined that I would be that person. For the next 18 months, I got to know the tens of thousands of members, donors, staff, and volunteers in Canada and around the world, who have worked hard to *bring Christ to the nations and the nations to the church*. Those people -some of them living and some already in heaven- have made sure that the message of the Gospel will be shared long after I am gone. My job is made easy, because before they knew me, they established my path, as if -in advance they had written letters of recommendation for me.

"... you are a letter from Christ delivered by us written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts". 2 Corinthians 3:3

Then came 2020, and obstacles no one could have anticipated, but Sharon Mckie and I quickly recognized that we were made for this and embraced the challenges. As everyone was forced on-line for worship, devotion, and even fellowship, we let congregations know that we were there to support them and promoted the many digital resources already available through Lutheran Hour Ministries. Then a

new partnership with Pastor Cody Cooper of Mellowdale Alberta allowed us to launch Kid's Lectionary Learning- the weekly activity pages geared at keeping children connected to the Word and the Church. As isolation continued and youth were taking confirmation instruction remotely, we offered congregations free copies of *The Illuminated Catechism* for their catechumens. Through these, and other efforts, despite shifting to a "new normal" we found ourselves encouraged and even more connected to you which motivated us to get creative and innovative.

Providing outreach materials in other languages is a recurring project for LLL Canada, and working with LCC French Language Missionary Rev. Dr. David Somers has always been a big part of what we do. In November 2020, starting with the Advent Devotions we launched Lutheran Hour Ministries Canada *en français* -on Facebook. The uptake was instant and impactful and has been growing exponentially -reaching French speakers all over the world. With the help of heure lutérienne (former Lutheran Hour Ministries) in France we provide daily devotions for our new followers. We continue to translate and share booklets, devotions, video content and other uniquely Canadian content in many of the languages spoken across Canada.

In the spring of 2021- after over 14 years of service to LLL Canada, Sharon Mckie decided to retire and begin a new position as fulltime grandma. Before starting my hiring search to replace Sharon, I looked at all the adjustments we had made to accommodate the changing world and prayed for someone who wanted to serve and would also be excited by these new opportunities. Over the summer of 2021 I partnered with LCC Communications and was blessed to have Julia Flor and Anna Kraemer work as summer interns which helped us to complete some of our projects during the staffing shortage.

Then, in August 2021 Aleta Abraham joined us as Community Engagement Officer- managing our Lutheran Hour broadcast sponsorships and creating impactful social media posts. Ron Ludke also came on board in August as Development Officer -reaching out to our donors and letting them know how their gifts are

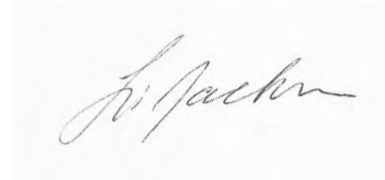
being used to share the Gospel. Courtney Marshall had been working part-time helping with office administration and Barb Fooks was coming in once a month to provide bookkeeping support. At the end of 2021 Courtney was able to take on full-time hours and Barb is now a regular part-time employee. With an engaged Board of Directors providing good governance, and talented staff from different backgrounds, I am confident that we can now support the developing resources our Church needs.

I invite you to find out more about the resources we have available by visiting www.LLL.ca or by reaching out to us.

I pray that God will continue to bless each one of us but especially those of you who are voting delegates at

this convention. May He give you wisdom and discernment as you serve and may the work of Synod be done through you, in a way that will give God glory and be of great benefit to His people.

Yours in Christ's service,



Lisa Jackson
Managing Director
Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries
Canada

REPORT 25: BC MISSION BOAT SOCIETY

Vision Statement: A thriving body of Christ within remote BC coastal First Nations communities.

Mission Statement: Sharing Christ's love and equipping communities to grow in faith.

Contact Information:

Website: www.bcmissionboat.org

Mailing Address: Box 3237 STN MAIN,
Courtenay, BC V9N 5N4

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BCMBS/>

Main Office: Faith Lutheran Church

Phone Number: (250)871-8311

Email: info@bcmissionboat.org

Executive Director: Rhonda Kelman

ED Email: rhonda@bcmissionboat.org

ED Cell: (250)937-8595

Satellite Office: Walnut Grove Lutheran Church

BC Mission Boat Society Overview:

Since the last convention, there have been some changes to our ministry. Here are some highlights:

April 2019: We hired a fulltime Ministry Director for the first time. She stayed with us until the start of the pandemic. Then we looked for someone else and we hired Julie Bellrose who is still currently in this role.

May 2019: We moved our office from Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Parksville which is where the BCMBS was founded, and we moved up to Courtenay, BC. We have our office at Faith Lutheran Church which is closer to the airport, bigger stores (Costco, Superstore, Dollar Stores... etc.), and closer to our communities.

February 2020: The Board decided that the Executive Director would move to the Lower Mainland and have a satellite office out of Walnut Grove Lutheran Church, and Rhonda moved over there at the end of August. This allowed for easier travelling for networking and fundraising. The plan was to network more across the border as well, which has been on hold due to the Co-Vid 19 pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, it has been a blessing to connect with more churches and volunteers that have helped us with projects for kits as we changed our ministry to long distance as we couldn't travel into communities.

Summer of 2020: The plan was to go into three more communities (Bella Bella, Ahousaht, and Mowachat/Muchalat First Nation (MMFN)) that have been inviting us to come since we had more teams and resources. This was cancelled due to not being able to travel in, but we started sending kits into those three communities and were able to increase our ministry and share God's love in a different way.

Summer 2021: We were able to safely travel into two communities, Kyuquot and Klemtu before the Delta wave increased.

Spring 2022: We are going into Kyuquot at the end of March, and we are planning some mission trips for the summer.

Strategic Goals:

We have five overarching goals that guide the Strategic goals and planning of the BC Mission Boat Society.

1. Sustainable and effective staffing to meet the needs of the mission.

2. Increased volunteer participation to sustain the mission.
3. More effective use of the Board of Directors to lead the Mission.
4. Increased engagement with the First Nations communities to serve their needs better.
5. Increased long term revenue streams to ensure long term ministry.

Ministry to Communities:

There are four communities that we are currently serving. Kyuquot, Ehattesaht, Klemtu and Kingcome are four remote First Nations communities. We are reaching a second generation of children through Kid's Club. When we can travel in person, we provide other activities for the whole community, including Women's Craft or Spa night, Family Games night, Men's night, Song night, Bible studies, Community dinners, and we will also visit with people in their homes. The three other communities we will start travelling into once it is safe to do so and when we have more teams are Ahousat, Bella Bella, and MMFN.

During the pandemic we had to find a new way to share God's love and encourage people in their faith from a distance. For the summer of 2020, we sent two rounds of Kid's Club materials. When we were planning to send kits for Christmas, and communities asked if we would send kits for every household and so we did that for both Christmas and Easter. We started a virtual Sunday School for kids where we streamed videos through Facebook and sent materials for twelve weeks of Sunday School. This not only went to all seven communities, but it also went to families who lived off reserve in Vancouver, Nanaimo, Campbell River and Port Hardy. Since we weren't sure if things would open up for the summer of 2021, we sent 9 days of Kid's Club and posted a lesson each week throughout the summer. We continued sending a kit for Christmas, another set of 12 weeks of Sunday School, and a kit for Easter. Once we can safely travel again, we will decide if we will continue sending kits at Christmas and Easter. We are hoping to send one or two sets of virtual Sunday School through the Fall and Winter to support families and children throughout the year. We still remain flexible and adapt quickly to changes throughout the pandemic and as we continue to plan for the rest of this year.

Ministry to Teams:

Throughout the beginning of the pandemic, we took the time to update and change our training for teams to better support and equip them for their mission trips. We changed the model so that we can support teams by providing all of the materials and snacks for their ministry events in the community.

Ministry to Donors/ Supporters:

Our ministry would not be possible without our supporters and donors!! We are trying to increase our monthly supporters to help provide sustainability for our ministry. We also started to do two major fundraisers each year that congregations across Canada can participate in. We are trying to engage and share information with our donors and supporters through a monthly update email at the beginning of each month.

We also have a prayer email that people can sign up for that has various prayer requests.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank you for all your support for our ministry. It has been a huge blessing to be involved in the BC Mission Boat Society in various ways over the past nineteen years. God continues to open doors in the communities where we have been sharing God's love and there are more inviting us to come. It is an honour to be invited and welcomed into these communities, especially because of all the hurt that has happened through Residential Schools. God has opened my heart to the need of sharing His love and making Christ known to His children along the coast.

As we continue to navigate how to continue to support our current communities, and to reach out to the other communities who are inviting us to come, we are asking for more teams to partner with us. Please consider how you or your congregation can get involved through the BC Mission Boat Society through investing in our ministry financially or with time and/or resources. If you have any questions or would like to know how to become involved, please feel free to contact me, by phone (250)937-8595, or by email rhonda@bcmisionboat.org.

Respectfully submitted,



Rhonda Kelman,

Report 28: L.A.M.P. - LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION OF MISSIONARIES AND PILOTS INC.

Dear delegates of the Lutheran Church of Canada Convention,

The organization of L.A.M.P. - Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots Inc. began mission work in northern Alberta in 1970 as a result of pastor-pilot Les Stahlke's vision and faithful support from the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League, churches, and saints of Canada and the USA.

Since its beginning, L.A.M.P. has expanded its mission work across northern Canada and has reached out to Indigenous communities in remote northern British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. Northern Canada's population has grown rapidly. Between 2006 and 2016, the self-identified Indigenous population grew at a rate four times the rest of the population. Nearly one million live in remote areas accessible only by aircraft or seasonal roads and about half of that population is under the age of 14.



Simultaneously, the number of local clergy and missionaries has decreased dramatically. An entire generation of children and youth have not been told of the Holy Scriptures and the hope that is theirs through faith in Jesus. And yet, the greatest asset that L.A.M.P. can offer the Church is the lasting relationships that have allowed us to be invited into communities, to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have become part of the fabric of these communities. And not only do volunteers state that they get more out of serving than those being served in these communities, but it also fosters a desire to then serve in local missions in neighborhoods in proximity to their churches.

The pandemic and the news regarding residential schools has only led to more challenges and grief facing the Indigenous people across Canada. Yet there has never been a more critical time to bring the truth of the Gospel and reconciliation through forgiveness. Hope is in scarce supply in the most remote locations,

but we are able to reach out with the Good News to the very ends of the earth. And while preparations are being made for in-person ministry that can be done safely, even throughout the pandemic we were able to provide backpacks for the children, Christmas packages for families, much-needed winter gear, and of course, the Word of God.

L.A.M.P. is considering its place in the calls to action for Indigenous communities, whether it might be wellness, parenting, addiction recovery, or spiritual care during times of grief in northern communities. L.A.M.P. plans to expand its summer VBS program, which has served five thousand children, to reach many more communities asking for Christian teaching for their children. L.A.M.P. hopes to reach out to pre-teens, teenagers, and young adults through expanded youth outreach, sports camps, and Christian support for youth at risk.



The following churches in Canada send teams of volunteer missionaries to serve with L.A.M.P. and connect with God's people in the North:

Community	LCC Congregations	# of LCC volunteers
Gingolx, BC (Kincolith)	Faith, Surrey, BC	5
	Trinity, Richmond, BC	3
	St. Paul's, Chiliwack, BC	2
Kitamaat Village, BC	Bethel, Sherwood Park, AB	5
Grandmother's Bay, SK	Bethel, Sherwood Park, AB	5
Hall Lake, SK	St. Matthew, Stony Plain, AB	3
	Bethel, Sherwood Park, AB	2
	Concordia, Edmonton, AB	3
Pelican Narrows, SK	St. Peter's, Leduc, AB	1
	Peace, Winnipeg, MB	13
	St. James, Winnipeg, MB	1
Southend, SK	St. John's, Warman, SK	6
Wollaston Lake, SK	Bethel, Sherwood Park, AB	11
	Bethlehem, Bruderheim, AB	1
Little Grand Rapids, MB	Faith, Kitchener, ON	2
Sachigo Lake, ON	Peace, Winnipeg, MB	6*
Weagamow Lake, ON	St. John's, Clifford, ON	1
	Second St. John's, Wartburg, ON	1
	14 churches**	71 volunteers**
	color denotes more than one community served	*not incl. 2 volunteers who also serve in Pelican Narrows

**other denominations in Canada total 19 churches and 38 volunteers

It is exciting times at L.A.M.P. with a new executive director and a renewed commitment by all to continue to share the love of Jesus Christ to this and future generations of the Indigenous people. God has blessed L.A.M.P. with precious resources – donors, volunteers, staff, and prayer partners – and the northern communities welcome our missionaries to pray, encourage, and nurture their children spiritually.

People are weary, stressed, and discouraged. More than ever, people of every nation, race, and culture need to know God loves them. We invite you to pray for L.A.M.P. entering its 52nd year of cross-cultural ministry in northern Canada. We also humbly ask you to pray for the children of the North to know that there is a heavenly Father who loves them and is always there for them.

REPORT 29: LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS OF CANADA



We have a goodly heritage! This year marks 500 years since Luther translated the New Testament into German. As Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada, we follow in his footsteps to bring the good news of salvation through Christ Jesus alone to people in the language they best understand, their mother tongue, their heart language. And I hope you can hear in this report how God is blessing LBTC as we serve in this mission work. He is providing for us financially. He is guiding us through troubling situations with His wisdom. He is bringing us into partnership with other members of the body of Christ in both old and new relationships, reminding us that we aren't in this mission work alone. Praise be to our God and Lord.

Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers

God has richly blessed LBTC with faithful, mission-minded members of our Board of Directors. They are generous with their time and are eager to bring their various abilities and talents to the table. We give thanks to God for each one who has served in these past four years.

2018-2019

Darryll Holland
Pauline Huth
Glenn Kahle
Tim Kuhl – Chair
Tim Kuehn
Gord Martens
Rev Phil Washeim

2020-2021

Rev. Dr. Stephen Chambers
Rev. Larry Gajdos
Darryll Holland
Pauline Huth
Glenn Kahle
Tim Kuhl -- Chair
Tim Kuehn
Daniel Lantz (1 year appointment–non-voting)

2019-2020

Rev. Dr. Stephen Chambers
Rev. Larry Gajdos
Darryll Holland
Pauline Huth – Chair
Glenn Kahle
Tim Kuehn
Gord Martens

2021-2022

Rev. Dr. Stephen Chambers
Rev. Larry Gajdos
Darryll Holland
Pauline Huth
Glenn Kahle
Tim Kuhl -- Chair
Daniel Lantz

For nearly 20 years, LBTC has been blessed with the faithful service of Tara Bradley. She is our office manager and financial supervisor. But more than that, she knows where everything is, how everything should be done, and having “trained” four executive directors, is an indispensable asset for me.

For several years our LBTC office was blessed with the volunteer services of Mr. Harry Drews. His computer skills, his ability to work with data, and his grasp of accounting principles were a godsend to the efficient running of the LBTC office. Harry has not worked in the office since the pandemic began and

has decided to pursue other interests at this point in his life. We give thanks to God for the many hours Harry generously gave to LBTC and for his continued support of LBTC's Bible translation ministry.

Prior to the pandemic LBTC was also blessed with a faithful crew of volunteers who came to help with getting our bi-monthly mailing put together. With restrictions and lockdowns coming and going, it was

Missionaries

Martin and Joan Weber

After serving for nearly 40 years in Cameroon, working primarily with the Kwanja people, Martin and Joan retired at the end of 2020. They are now living in New Hampshire near 2 of their 3 children and 2 of their 6 grandchildren.

During their service with LBTC, they helped develop a written language for two Kwanja dialects and helped develop a literacy program for them. Their translation team submitted the Kwanja New Testament for publication in 2006. They then worked on a three-year lectionary in the Sundani dialect and it was published in 2016.

They topped off their mission work career with two grand events in March of 2019. The second three-year lectionary, this time in the Ndung dialect, was published and dedicated in a grand celebration on March 7th in the village of Yimbere where the Webers lived for most of their ministry in Cameroon. This celebration also gave the Kwanja people an opportunity to give them a joyful and tearful retirement celebration. The other grand event was the dedication of the Bible House in Ngaoundere, the building of which occupied much of Martin's time during the last three years they were in Cameroon. More information about the Bible House will come later in this report.

Martin and Joan have been a tremendous blessing to the Bible translation work in Cameroon, to their many friends and colleagues in the Bible translation community, and to their many friends and supporters across Canada.

Rev. Mike and Kara Kuhn and Family

The first part of the Kuhns' ministry was in Galim, working with the Nizaa translation team and getting to know the Nizaa community centred there. With the Webers retiring, the Kuhns were asked to move to Ngaoundere to take the Webers' place as representative for LBTC and LBT US in Cameroon. Although the transition has been difficult, delayed by COVID and other complications inherent in life in Cameroon, they are beginning to hit their stride and fit in quite well with the additional aspects to their ministry.

determined that our office staff of two would handle the mailings until things got somewhat back to normal again. In November of 2021 we finally felt it was safe enough to call on our volunteers again. It was such a blessing to get that crew of friendly faces and eager workers back together. We give thanks to God for their faithful service and their willingness to return for this task.

Kara is such a blessing. She uses her teaching skills to homeschool their three older children, Tobias, Gideon, and Gloria, and also has the gift of hospitality. She is befriending the folks she meets in Ngaoundere, just as she did in Galim.

During the past three years the Kuhns have been blessed with nannies who have provided great help to the Kuhn family through caring for the youngest Kuhn children, now especially their two year old, Jubilee, and helping out around the house as needed. These have included Jessie Branson, Esther Hofstede, and their current nanny, Michaela Federwitz. And the Lord has provided Kayla Falkenholt for the coming term 2022-2023. Barring any unforeseen issues, Kayla, who will graduate from teacher's college this Spring, will serve as a missionary kids' teacher and provide childcare as needed, relieving Kara of some of the homeschooling responsibilities.

There is also a new missionary/translator in the process of applying to work with LBTC. Matthias Marx of Fort Francis, Ontario, has a great heart for mission work, a desire to study linguistics, and many abilities in work with technology.

Current and Potential Language Projects

We are currently working with three language communities in Cameroon – Kwanja, Nizaa, and Dwayo.

Kwanja: This is the language group we've worked with the longest. The Webers served this language community for their whole ministry with LBTC. LBTC's work with the Kwanja translation team is winding down.

Nizaa: This translation work is moving forward steadily. LBTC has engaged a translation consultant who will check the translation work once it is through the Reviser stage. The Gospel of Luke will be at this stage by the end of 2022, with several epistles and the Gospel of John not far behind.

Dwayo: The Dwayo Scripture Engagement and Literacy teams continue to expand their work to more

remote villages, spreading the verses of the Dwayo New Testament to more and more people. The Dwayo community organization is currently nominating new translators to work on a new New Testament translation and to begin work on an Old Testament Dwayo translation.

The Lord is opening doors for LBTC to engage in new Bible translation in a few areas in Cameroon and around the world.

Cameroon: As the Kwanja project winds down Pastor Kuhn is busy assessing the needs and the level of commitment of various language communities around Cameroon. Samba, Péré, and Jimi language communities are three possibilities for this work.

Nuer (Sudanese): The bishop of the South Sudan Lutheran Church has invited LBTC to investigate with him what language groups would most benefit from a Bible translation program. In the meantime, he asked LBTC to organize an audio recording of the Nuer New Testament for distribution in South Sudan and among the Sudanese people in refugee camps in Ethiopia. LBTC began work on this recording in October with the help of Sudanese LCC and LCMS pastors from across Canada. Many thanks to Corey Habersack for his professional assistance in editing these recordings.

Thailand: LCC's Mission Executive, Pastor Mark Smith, has invited LBTC to investigate with him how Bible translation work can enhance the mission work of Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church, especially in the northern regions of that country.

Special Projects

2019-2020

While the Kuhn family was back in Canada on furlough, Pastor Kuhn spoke of three special projects during his furlough presentations. Each project was fully funded by the end of their furlough.

#1 New laptops for the Nizaa translation team.

Translators need good tools to do their work. Their laptops go with them wherever they go. Travel in Cameroon being as rugged as it is, these computers take a real beating and do not last as long as ours might in North America. Praise God for the generous donors who recognized this need and made possible the purchase of new laptops for the Nizaa team.

#2 Continuing education for Rev. Ousmanou, lead translator for the Nizaa team.

Pastor Ousmanou is the only Nizaa speaking pastor in the EELC, and he is dedicated to Bible translation work. He brings many talents to this work, serving as a literacy teacher, videographer, and pastor, in addition to his translation work. The iDelta program in which he is now enrolled is a 3-year program involving both classroom learning and supervised field work. Pastor Ousmanou is currently in the second year of this program and finding it very rewarding.

#3 Establishing a grain mill enterprise

Often literacy programs are tied to outside funding. When the funding organization moves on to another project the literacy program stops for lack of funds. The Nizaa translation team along with the Nizaa language organization decided to set up a grain mill in one of the central Nizaa villages, Sabongari. The Nizaa community would build the structure, train and employ the workers, and manage the enterprise. They asked LBTC to provide the grain mill equipment. The grain mill is now operational and is making a huge difference in the community, providing a convenient place for milling their grain. It is also making a profit, some of which is funding the Nizaa literacy program.

2021

SP1-Dwayo Literature Centre renovations

Renovations on the Dwayo Literature Centre will begin in 2022. We hope this will coincide with the new translators being fully trained and ready to go to work in the renovated centre.

SP2-Prison Chaplain Resources

Prison Chaplain Resources was the first group to request the funds. These funds are being used to train chaplains for work in prison ministry and to provide French and mother tongue Bibles for inmates.

SP3-Bicycles for Scripture Engagement

Pastor Touka, the director of the EELC's Department for Translation and Literacy, used these funds to purchase nine bicycles to be used by Scripture engagement teams and literacy program teachers to expand the range of villages where they can set up Bible listening groups and literacy classes.

SP4-Inactive Literature Centres

The Inactive Literature Centres project is an exciting one. These funds were used to bring 10 additional language teams to the DTA Spiritual Retreat held in September. These language teams have been inactive

due to funding issues or lack of personnel or.... The retreat was co-led by Pastors Touka and Kuhn. Pastor Kuhn had the opportunity to meet many people from these language teams and talk with them about the status of their translation and Scripture engagement projects. This will help him assess and prioritize groups for future LBT US and LBTC language projects and help him with his DMin program research. In order to encourage these teams to reactivate, LBTC is committing to this same amount for the next five years.

SP5-Mother-Tongue Dictionaries

The Mother-Tongue Dictionaries project is exciting, too. These funds are being used to bring three to four language teams together for lexicography workshops in 2022. This will result in the production of dictionaries for these language groups. The dictionaries will solidify spelling, pronunciation, and definitions in each language and greatly enhance translation work. The Nizaa team is one of the teams involved in these workshops.

2022

Vehicle for the Kuhn family's ministry.

The major project for 2022 is the purchase of a fairly new vehicle for the Kuhn family. This is deemed necessary because Pastor Kuhn is taking on an expanded role in Cameroon, overseeing both LBTC and LBT US language projects and connecting with more language communities in order to investigate opportunities for new LBTC translation work. This involves more travel to farther flung areas of the country and over much rougher terrain.

The Kuhn children are also growing and there is a need for a vehicle that can accommodate them all, plus the ministry partners that often travel with Pastor Kuhn to various locations. We give thanks to God for many

generous donors who in less than two months have already contributed more than \$40,000 toward our goal.

Bible House

By far the biggest project of the past five years has been the building of the Bible House in Ngaoundere.

This project began as a dream of Martin Weber and Pastor Touka. As their dream began to take on more solid plans, then LBTC Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Jim Keller prayerfully and excitedly supported the idea. The funding for the project came from a few large gifts, including funds from the sale of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, New Hamburg, Ontario, and countless smaller donations that all added up to making the Bible a reality.

The Bible House was dedicated on March 1, 2020 in a joy-filled celebration and is being used to the glory of God by Bible translation teams and language groups from across Cameroon. It is a place where Bible translation workers come together, share resources, learn from and encourage one another, and above all, study God's Word and pray together. Pastors Touka and Kuhn both have their offices in the Bible House and are constantly welcoming visitors and ministry partners from all over Cameroon. **Closing** Because "faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ" (Romans 10:17), there is an urgent need to proclaim that Word to more people in their heart languages. LBTC gives thanks to God for the tremendous support of LCC congregations, organizations, and individuals who, through prayers and donations, help more people to hear the Word of Christ and believe.

Respectfully submitted by
Rev. Ron Mohr
LBTC Executive Director

REPORT 30: LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE



congregations in the Thunder Bay area. We provide social, developmental and spiritual services to people in the northern region of Ontario.

Lutheran Community Care is a social ministry organization of the Lutheran

The two spiritual care services we provide are Pastoral Care to Lutherans in the long term care facilities of Thunder Bay and a street chaplaincy known as Street Reach Ministries.

The time from our last report to Lutheran Church-Canada in convention can be described as the pre-COVID era and the COVID pandemic era. For 2018 and 2019, visits by our Pastoral Care Worker would average around 97 per month. We would bring worship opportunities – with the involvement of Lutheran

clergy – to eight care facilities 13 times per month. In 2020 and 2021, pandemic restrictions to protect highly vulnerable residents in care facilities meant visits were by telephone and by video call, devotional material was delivered, and only a few visits were permitted when end of life was near.

For Street Reach Ministries, there were also difficulties. Pastor Neil Otke retired as Street Chaplain in 2018. Pastor Brad Julien arrived as the new Street Chaplain later that year. Our rented facility on Simpson Street in Thunder Bay suffered water damage due to fires at adjacent buildings in 2019. The building's owner was slow to restore the building for safe occupancy so we operated out of another building until the pandemic restrictions put an end to large gatherings of street-involved people, another demographic group very vulnerable to the virus. In 2020, Pastor Julien accepted a call to a Saskatchewan parish. In 2021, we relocated to a new site on Victoria Avenue and opened on a limited basis in September. In January 2022, Pastor Dan Barr arrived as our new Street Chaplain. The work begins anew to restore trusting relationships with street-involved people in our community so the love of God is shared.

The Board of Directors, in consultation with stakeholders, decided to adjust the branding of the organization by dropping the word 'Centre' in everyday use and adopting a new logo and tagline. The organization now has a regional scope with several offices. Our staff go out to meet and support people where they are. The word 'Centre' was misleading as if people came to us at one location. The tagline "Caring services for everyone" communicates a welcoming Lutheran organization for people of diverse backgrounds.

The Ontario provincial government and the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board continue to contract with Lutheran Community Care to provide a range of services.

Several programs focus on adults with an intellectual or developmental disability. We provide case management services, we administer a direct funding program called Passports to 3400 individuals, and we are designated as Developmental Services Ontario for northern Ontario. The DSO confirms eligibility for provincially funded supports, completes assessments and connects people to resources as they become available.

Lutheran Community Care helps youth who have a developmental disability and are in extended care arrangements with children's aid societies. We help them transition to adult life and plan what that life will look like. Where do they want to live and what type of supports do they need to be successful. Last year we were involved with 197 youth between the ages of 14 and 21.

Our Social Services Program works with socially isolated individuals, individuals at risk of homelessness and residents of Luther Court - a supportive housing apartment building. The ages range from young adults to senior citizens. COVID restrictions tended to make worse their social isolation and add to difficulties in accessing health care services. We helped many individuals get their vaccine.

New programs since our last report to LC-C in convention include Tenant Support Services to residents of private non-profit social housing buildings. This service aims to improve an individual's quality of life and reduce their risk of homelessness through preventative measures. We assist many tenants in coping with personal difficulties.

The new Mobile Integrated Team (MIT) is an innovative partnership model that provides direct hands-on support to adults with a developmental disability. MIT's integrated framework is culturally grounded and draws upon best practices from both mental health and developmental service sectors. Cultural Wellness Workers, Life Skills Specialists and Case Managers make up this team.

We added a Housing Navigation function in 2018 to the services offered by DSO for the northern region of Ontario. Traditional residential supports for individuals with developmental disabilities like group living, host families or supportive living provided by an agency is not always the way individuals want to live. The Housing Navigators help people customize where and how they live, often with a focus on greater independence.

Lutheran Community Care is thankful for the grant from Lutheran Church-Canada that supports our Street Reach Ministries. Many congregations and individuals support us with their donations. For this, we are grateful. For more information, visit www.lccare.ca.

Michael Maunula, Executive Director

REPORT 31: LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRY OF NORTHERN ALBERTA

This year the LHMNA celebrates its 21st anniversary and remembers the wondrous things God has done and is still doing among us and through us.

Throughout the last 21 years God has blessed the LHMNA with 20 board members, 4 Pastors and 16 lay members who have served as members of the Board of Directors.

During the last 21 years 28 volunteer visitors have made 24,393 visits to Lutherans who were patients in hospitals in the Edmonton area. We celebrate that as a huge miracle.

In addition to training our hospital visitors, we have conducted six hospital visitation trainings for congregations whose members wanted to be better hospital visitors. Those six congregations now have 74 members who are better equipped to visit their fellow members when they wind up in the hospital.

The Lord has also used us to help equip seminary students for ministry. Five Seminary students so far have elected to take our Stephen Ministry Training while attending Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton. They recognized that doing this, they would be better equipped for making hospital visits in their ministries.

Many of you have blessed us with your financial support for which we are eternally grateful. That support is essential for our ministry. Since Covid19 struck in January of 2020 our receipts have taken a sharp decline. Please keep us in resume

When Covid19 struck the hospitals shut down our visitation of patients. We have six trained volunteers ready to resume visitation when the hospitals lift the

restrictions. With the decline of Covid19 cases that may be very soon. We do need more trained visitors so if you live in the Edmonton area and would like to touch the lives of patients with Jesus' love then contact our chaplain Ken Rodeman. You will be amazed at how the Lord can use you to touch the life of others. If the time is now right for you, then think of someone you know who is very loving and caring and would make a good hospital visitor. Call us and tell us who it is so that we can invite them to join us in this rewarding ministry.

We also need new board members who will care for and support our hospital visitors. Our board members have really grown close to each other and are a loving caring group. You will enjoy working with us. The

Lord has called home two of our valuable board members, our Chairman, Dr. Harold Witte, and Mr. Dick Lutz. So please consider serving the Lord by becoming a board member. Finally we are looking for congregational champions who will make sure that members get our newsletters and who will be our spokesperson in their congregation. If that sounds like you then give me a call.

So celebrate and rejoice with us as we remember the blessings we have received and the blessings God has made us to others these last 21 years. I pray for God's blessings as you serve your Lord and Saviour.

Rev. Ken Rodeman, Chaplain
14 Westridge Place
Spruce Grove, AB T7X 1S1
780-426-3216
Rev3in1@telus.net

REPORT 32: LUTHERANS FOR LIFE-CANADA

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who experienced life from the womb to the tomb, testifying to its sanctity by His incarnation, death and burial! Lutherans For Life – Canada (LFLC) gives thanks to God that we continue to serve as a Listed Service Organization of Lutheran Church Canada. Using the objects of LFLC as decided upon when we organized in 2004, here is what we have done since our last report to a synodical convention.

To provide an organization through which Lutheran Christians can unite to share dialogue and give common witness within the Church and society to their concern for the value and dignity of all human life;

Much of this has taken place through our Facebook group, moderated by Judith Obelnycki and through our website, lutheransforlife-canada.ca looked after by John Krim. Although intended as a pan-Lutheran organization, our membership continues to be

predominately members of Lutheran Church Canada.

To strengthen the existing bond of concern by bringing Lutherans of like mind into contact with one another; This has primarily taken place at our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where most of our time is spent receiving a presentation on a particular life topic followed by questions and discussions. As for many other organizations, the COVID 19 pandemic has pushed us to hold our last two AGMs online, with the hope that in future our AGMs will be hybrids of in-person and online due to the vast spread of our members from BC to the Maritimes. Presentations give since LCC last met in convention included: “Also Created and Redeemed by God: The Blessings and Challenges of a Child with Special Needs” by Tara and Rev. Perry Hart (2017); “The Gospel Is the Message For Life” by Rev. Richard Juritsch (2018); “Misguided Mercy: Canada’s ‘Medical Assistance in Dying’ and How Christians Can Respond” by Dr. Leah Koetting-Block (2019); “With a Hug and a Smile: Sharing the Pro-Life Message with Love and Engagement” by Rev. Michael Saleminck, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, our US counterpart (2020); and “We’re Not Here to Win an Argument,” a Bible study reviewing a video, “7 Reasons,” for its helpful and not so beneficial points, let by Rev. Richard Juritsch (2021).

To gather and share pertinent information with its membership and develop strategies for witness and response;

Three times a year, we publish a newsletter that is sent to our membership, often specifically addressing life issues within Canada, as well as providing information from around the world. This is available in both paper and electronic formats.

To develop and distribute educational materials based on the Word of God;

We are very thankful for our mother organization, Lutherans For Life in the United States for all the support they have provided in the past for us and continue to do so. Although we hope to provide more resources of our own creation, they provide most of our resources, which are of exceptional quality. You can discover these resources at lutheransforlife.org.

To identify resource people who can write and speak on behalf of the organization;

We continue to work on this area. We are thankful to see that Tara and Rev. Perry Hart, as well as Dr. Leah Koetting-Block, have been used as wonderful resources by the church at large.

To monitor public and private action in order to enhance the right to life;

Several members on our Board of Directors regularly monitor various sources of Life News and other media and seek to share this news, particularly through our Facebook group. We are also thankful that our website has recently undergone some improvements and more are on the way to make it a useful resource to Lutherans and anyone interested in pro-life information.

To respond to and cooperate with other groups in society which share similar concerns;

Primarily this has taken place as members of our organization and especially members of our Board have taken part in the National March For Life, which takes place in Ottawa every year on the Thursday nearest the anniversary of the decriminalizing of abortion in Canada. By the time this convention takes place, the 25th National March For Life will have taken place. We are grateful that LCC’s president, Rev. Timothy Teuscher, accepted our invitation to join in the 2020 March For Life and we received word from the organizers of the March that they were hoping he would join other church body leaders at the main podium during the presentations leading up to the March. Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 lockdown in Ontario, the March ended up being virtual. We pray that in future, a leader of LCC will be able to address the March.

To examine and correct popular but misleading stereotypes regarding pro-life advocacy;

We find our greatest opportunity for this is as we provide display tables at different gatherings, such as LWMLC conventions or retreats; Synodical and District conventions; youth gatherings; etc. The members of our Board of Directors (all volunteer), as time allows them, have also spoken at congregations and to groups within congregations.

To operate exclusively for Charitable and educational purposes. It will not participate in political campaign for or against any candidate for public office or devote a substantial part of its activities to influence legislation.

There are many other groups that do an excellent job on informing the public with regard to legislation and candidates at election time. Such groups can readily be found with the help of an internet search engine. We do have auxiliary membership with the National Life Coalition which provides opportunities for us to connect with other pro-life organizations.

Our current Board of Directors consists of: Rev. Richard Juritsch (President), Judith Obelnycki (acting Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Facebook Moderator), Alan Schmitt (Treasurer), Linda Welke and Tracey Juritsch (Life Ministry Coordinators), John Krim (Webmaster) and Directors at Large – Rev David Mellecke, Glenn Kahle and Ian Stewart. Our Pastoral Advisor is Rev. Keith Haberstock.

We thank God for the faithful service of recently retired board members, Adrian Rhodes, Cliff Pyle and Rev. Greg Palmer, as well our most recent pastoral advisor, Rev. Ken Maher.

God's richest blessings to Lutheran Church Canada as it gathers in convention.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Richard Juritsch

REPORT 33: MALABAR MISSION SOCIETY

www.malabarmissionsociety.org

Malabar Mission Society, formed in 1988, has provided financial support for over 30 years to the Pastors and Gospel Workers for their outreach ministry among the people along the Malabar coast in Kerala State, India. The Gospel Workers, pastors and evangelists, are part of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC). The Gospel Workers, along with the churches and mission stations, form the Malabar Mission Circle. In 2011 Dr. Miller wrote, **Two Decades of Service, The Story of the Malabar Mission Society**, a 94 page history of the Malabar Mission Society. In 2020 Rev. Carlton Riemer wrote, **Malabar Mission Projects Progress: The Malabar Mission Society 2011-2016**, a 30 page book that updates the history. "Your Entry to a World of Service," a 32 page booklet, was published to illustrate the work and activity in Malabar and beyond. Both publications are available for distribution. The Malabar Mission Society Newsletter, published 2-3 times a year, highlights the recent activities in Malabar and beyond.

The Malabar Mission Society assists the Gospel Workers in sharing the Good News of Jesus in their communities. They reach out to the Hindu and Muslim people through the congregations and mission stations, Vacation Bible Schools, Bible Correspondence School, Reading Room in Malappuram, and the Christian Welfare Centre and Hospital in Malappuram. Since the IELC has limited funding the Malabar Mission Society provides a small salary subsidy for the Gospel Workers and assists them with outreach activities in their villages. The Gospel Workers of the Malabar Mission Circle formed the Malabar Gospel Mission Society to "undertake evangelistic work in the Malabar area". Due to Covid-19 the annual Family Convention, Leadership Seminars for Sunday School Teachers, Women, Youth and Evangelism were cancelled. These seminars equip the Gospel Workers and lay people to share the Gospel in their community.

The opportunities to share the love of Jesus are great! The Open Door (for men), a student library and reading room in Kannur, was established in 2001. Since

2004 the Vanitha (women) Friendship Centre, including a Chapel, Reading Room, residence for staff, Conference Room, literature storage and kitchen, was established in Kannur. Recently the Saar Bible Correspondence School with online and print courses was located at Vanitha. Daily the Friendship Centre provides an opportunity for many college students to visit this centre and learn about Jesus. Staff assist the students to find materials and share their love of Jesus. An ESL (English as a Spoken Language with accent reduction) was conducted in 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2015.

In 2020 and 2021 Vacation Bible Schools were cancelled due to restrictions from Covid-19. Previously there were 600+ students (Hindus, Muslims and Christians) who attended from the various communities. These children heard the Gospel and experienced God's love.

Anantapur, in Andhra Pradesh State, has seen tremendous growth with many Muslims and Hindus baptized. Annually there are several adults baptized at Christmas. The 5 Leaders, 34 Gospel Workers and others regularly visit several hundred villages showing the "Jesus" film and preaching in public meetings, as well as freely distributing many Gospel portions, tracts and booklets. Support is needed for this powerful work of the Holy Spirit.

The Rev. Dr. Roland Miller, missionary from 1953 to 1976 in Malappuram, Kerala, India, served as Project Officer 1988-2008. Rev. Carlton Riemer, former missionary in India, from Stillwater, Oklahoma served 2008-2016. Currently Lorna Pederson serves as our Project Officer. She communicates regularly with Rev. I. Titus, current India Agent, who supervises the work and distribution of funds. Annual visits are made to the Gospel Workers and churches of the Malabar Mission Circle. We give thanks for the faithful prayer support and financial support for this outreach ministry in India.

Rev. Howard Ulmer, President
malabarmission@sasktel.net

REPORT 34: PHILOXENIA/HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Greetings from the Board of Directors of Philoxenia/Hospitality Ministry!

Philoxenia is the New Testament Greek word for "friendship to strangers." Philoxenia is a listed service organization (LSO) of Lutheran Church-Canada, whose main purpose is the share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with Muslims. As Canada is now mainly growing by immigration, many new Canadians hold the Islamic faith and so are in need of hearing the Good News that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Saviour. As the Canadian birth rate remains very low the number of Muslims will continue to grow as a percentage of the population by natural increase as well as by immigration. We are called by our Lord in the Great Commission to share his kingdom and saving name with all people including our Muslim neighbours. We invite you to join us in this effort.

Philoxenia is awakening from a dormancy period where we are reorganizing ourselves to be a grassroots-led ministry, so that you, the confirmed members of LC-C, can become a member of the ministry and also have a say in directing our work. The work we do falls into many areas including, but not limited to: helping congregational members and pastors to better

understand Islam and so become more effective witnesses for Christ to Muslims, financially supporting and calling lay missionaries, vicars and ordained missionaries-at-large for outreach to Muslims in Canada, and, helping sponsor Christian refugees (often Muslim background believers in Christ) persecuted for their faith in Christ to our LC-C congregations in Canada. It's an exciting list of evangelism opportunities and just a taste of what we can do together. The ministry plans to launch a website in the near future so that you can learn about our work and join us by simply becoming a supporting member of the ministry or actually joining us in the work that we do. The website will be able to take electronic donations (we are funded exclusively by donations from members of LCC and the LC-MS) to fund the ministry's work. But before this happens, if you are reading this and you are interested in learning more about the ministry or becoming a member of Philoxenia/Hospitality Ministry please email me at pastorkorsch@yahoo.com and I will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,
Rev. Robin Korsch
President, Philoxenia/Hospitality Ministry

REPORT 35: THE ROCK LUTHERAN INNER CITY SOCIETY Also known as "The Rock" "The Breakfast Club" "The Rock Outreach"

Looking back 25 years plus-

The Rock Lutheran Inner City Society was incorporated in May of 1996. The First President was Monica Gregory and the First Executive Director was Rev. Neil Otke, Pastor of St. Peter's Church. Pastor Otke was instrumental in establishing the Society when he saw not only a spiritual need, but also a need to provide for the physical needs of people in the neighborhood.

The breakfasts were served in the hall attached to St. Peter's Church. The first breakfast was served in June of 1996 to 3 guests by 12 volunteers. Breakfasts were served 2 times a week and later grew to 3 times a week. The first breakfast served consisted of coffee and toast. We were serving porridge, pancakes, toast, juice and coffee prior to the pandemic. The numbers continued to grow throughout the years to where WE SERVED 438 GUESTS a special Christmas Breakfast in December 2018. Prior to the pandemic, we would have 40 to 50

volunteers prepare and serve the sit down breakfast 3 times a week.

Today, we continue to serve our guests through a partition in the front door of the hall. We serve hot toasted sandwiches, snacks, and a juice box along with some pastries.

We have in the past run a Monday Kids Program for the neighbourhood kids. It was usually held once a month where the kids were served a meal, and games, crafts, and bible study were held. We also, from time to time, would run Mens' Bible studies, usually meeting once a month.

The Rock Lutheran Inner City Society is governed and managed by a volunteer board of 9 elected Directors each serving a 2 year term. A number of Directors serve more than one term. In fact, one of our Directors has been on the board since 2004. A group of volunteers, along with some of the board members, devote their time daily and weekly to prepare and serve

the breakfasts. Other volunteers assist in doing necessary repairs, cleaning and whatever else is required to keep The Rock functioning.

We rely on the financial gifts, as well as gifts in kind, from individuals, churches, groups, and businesses to help us to provide breakfasts to those in need. Without their support, we would not be able to provide breakfasts to our guests. We are blessed to have their support. Edmonton and Strathcona Food Banks provide us with food stuffs. We do purchase items such as juice boxes etc.

God's Blessings to all of our supporters.

We have one paid Office Administrator to handle the paperwork and a part-time janitor to help with cleaning needs.

Dated February 13, 2002

Harold Niebergall, Board Chair

REPORT 36: WAGNER HILLS FARM SOCIETY



Wagner Hills Farm Society has been providing healing, growth, and transformation since 1981.

Throughout the past 40 years, over 5000 people have come to Wagner Hills Farm seeking transformation and support. Wagner Hills started simply with a vision to help people on the road to recovery find a safe and life-giving place to work, breathe and process some of their difficulties. This continuing vision has blossomed into a thriving ministry through which thousands of lives have been transformed.

Wagner Hills consists of two farms fulfilling one God-directed mission. The Men's Campus is a 45-acre farm in the Fort Langley/Aldergrove area and our Women's Campus is a 55-acre farm (property owned by BC Housing) in the heart of the Campbell Valley near Langley, BC.

The one year program includes restorative work on the farms, holistic counselling to process trauma/emotional issues, formative teaching to provide practical life-solutions and biblical studies, personalized recovery plans tailored specifically for each person, and meaningful community interaction with various local groups. In many cases, residents are able to stay on for additional years at Wagner Hills as integrated alumni; to live at the farm, work off-site and assist in providing positive, sustained change and growth in the Wagner Hills community.

In the day-to-day life at Wagner Hills, our focus is to ensure the various needs of spiritual, personal, psychological, physical, nutritional, and social are being addressed for each program participant. As each residents' journey is unique, our program is designed to ensure everyone has room for healing and growth while being part of this incredible community.

Over the past 5 years we have been intentionally working to increase the "living farm" aspect of Wagner Hills. We now raise our own pigs and cows for program use, and we are increasing our herb and vegetable gardens, blueberry fields, chicken coops, and fruit trees, as well as an up-and-coming pumpkin patch. We have also expanded our artisan store "The Market" with increased woodwork production, the pottery studio, and a cut-flower garden for bouquet production.

Our compassionate, highly qualified team of staff, educators, and volunteers work with our residents to help develop their personal growth and skill development. From working the land, tending to the animals, creating in The Market, pottery, and woodshop, to cooking and cleaning, our residents experience various projects in a community living setting.

As we have various practical elements to our program, we know the biggest impact and lasting change is all because of God moving in their lives. As a faith-based program, residents are encouraged when they learn that regardless of their past destructive, addictive lifestyle, God still loves them and wants them as His own. Daily sharing this message of hope and forgiveness with them, while providing the tools and training they need to become socially productive, is transformational. As we partner to help these men and women, we know it is the Lord that does the real work. If you want to join us on

this journey or want to learn more, please check out our website at www.wagnerhills.com

Please keep Wagner Hills in your ongoing prayers and support as we move through the current pandemic

challenges and work towards impacting our community as God leads us.

Thank you!

Chairman, for the Board – Kris Sledding

REPORT 37: CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Greetings, on behalf of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, on the occasion of the 2022 LCC Synod Convention! We are proud to be partners in ministry with Lutheran Church-Canada, as together we respond to God's love in Christ by serving others.

None of us could have predicted the events that have unfolded in these last couple of years, but as a close partner in ministry, we have been witness to how you have “stood firm in the faith.” One bold expression of that faith has been your continued perseverance in supporting our shared mission.

Through all of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic—from restrictions, to sickness, to all the struggles faced by local congregations—the support of LCC members across Canada for CLWR has only grown. This, to me, is an incredible testimony to your faith and to the compassion that it stirs in you.

When COVID-19 began its spread, we were in the midst of planning for CLWR's 75th anniversary, which we celebrated in 2021. There was great uncertainty about what the pandemic would mean for our work, but you quickly showed us that whatever happened, you would not forget those we serve around the world. In the lead-up to our anniversary, and all throughout our 75th year, we saw the same spirit of generosity and sacrifice that birthed this movement and has sustained CLWR for all these decades. In response to a world in crisis, you responded. It's because of that generosity that I am able now to offer a report of hope and to tell you that your partnership has truly made a difference.

Because of your kindness, there are so many *good news* stories happening in our world. They may not make the news, but as this pandemic has put lives and livelihoods at risk, and as communities have continued to face the threats of conflict and disaster, your support has changed lives and shared hope.

Just before the beginning of the pandemic, I was part of a delegation from CLWR and LCC that travelled to Nicaragua to see some of these good news stories in person. There, I met many of the children who are receiving a quality education, only because of LCC's long-standing support of this critical work. Recently, we have developed a new plan for expanded funding from CLWR for the nutritional component of this project, ensuring support for meals for children who might otherwise go without. This is what we mean when we talk about your generosity being *life-changing*.

Many of our ongoing projects were forced to adapt in response to the challenges of COVID-19, but our global partners have shown incredible creativity and resourcefulness in ensuring your support reaches those who need it most. In fact, addition to continuing many of our ongoing projects in the areas of food security, emergency relief, clean water, and more, these last couple years have seen the launch of a number of exciting new initiatives, and your support has reached communities we weren't previously active in..

In El Salvador, we are partnering with Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide vulnerable farmers with access to weather-indexed crop insurance, which has kept farmers from abandoning their farms and allowed them to keep feeding their communities. In Burundi, a new project seeks to bridge the gap between short-term emergency relief and long-term development by giving families the tools to recover from crisis and rebuild their own livelihoods. In Venezuela, your support has restocked the cupboards at a medical clinic fighting to provide compassionate care in one of the poorest districts of Caracas.

Perhaps the most inspirational of all is the way that your congregations have adapted to ensure the continuation of refugee resettlement right here in Canada. Despite travel restrictions, quarantine requirements and more, churches have remained dedicated to this mission of rescue, and arrivals to Canada have continued, as families at great risk have found a new home here in Canada. In fact, we have increased staffing at our refugee resettlement offices, because your congregations remain so committed to this work. Across

the country there are stories of dozens and dozens of families who now have the opportunity to build a new life in safety in Canada because of LCC churches who have put in countless hours and an incredible amount of resources to make these stories of hope possible—and we have heard from so many congregations who are only waiting for their chance to be next.

This is only the smallest glimpse of the impact your partnership has made in these last years. I take such inspiration from the steadfastness of your compassion and your faith, and it is my prayer that this report might offer a little encouragement in return. We are so pleased

to be with you here at this year's convention, and we would be grateful for the chance to speak more while you are here!

On behalf of all of us at CLWR, our international partners, and especially the thousands of lives touched by your generosity, **thank you**. May God richly bless you, your family, and Lutheran Church-Canada.



Karin Achtelstetter

Executive Director – Canadian Lutheran World Relief

REPORT 38: INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL



**INTERNATIONAL
Lutheran Council**

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Report to Lutheran Church of Canada Convention 2022

General Secretary Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill

World Conference in Kenya, September 13-16, 2022 (September 12 & 17 travel days). Archbishop Joseph Ochola Omolo has confirmed the willingness of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya to host the ILC World Conference on September 13-16. Kenya currently permits foreigners to enter the country with a valid passport, visa and proof of full COVID-19 vaccination. If the COVID-19 situation deteriorates and thus prevents holding the conference in Kenya, the Executive Leadership Group (ELG)), recommends that the location be moved to an alternative country which has demonstrated an openness to issuing visas to all the countries of the participating ILC members. Every effort will be made to retain the September 13-16 dates in order to foster planning by the ILC staff, host country, and participating churches.

International Lutheran Accreditation Agency Rev. Dr. S. R. Schumacher, Chief Accreditation Officer

The ILC Accreditation Agency continues to proceed with the formulation and development of the agency's *Manual for Accreditation*. The final draft is scheduled for completion by August 2022. Dr. Schumacher, primary author of the Manual, was Installed as ILC

Chief Accreditation Officer at Zion Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne, IN on Sunday, February 13.

ILC "Event" in Fort Wayne

The ILC Staff took advantage of both LCMS and international guests attending the annual Symposium hosted by Concordia Theological Seminary (January 18-21, 2022) to organize several gatherings/meetings.

Reception and Fireside Chat on January 18 following choral vespers. Invitations went to the newly formed *Friends of the ILC*, pastoral and lay attendees at the Symposia, and international guests. Archbishop Vanags gave the fireside chat and described the journey of the Latvia Lutheran Church through the communist persecution, freedom in the post-Soviet days which involved the rebuilding of the church and holy ministry and relations with both liberal and confessional world Lutheranism, secularism, the decisions of the ELCL to change its bylaws on the ordination of women, withdraw from membership in the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (i.e. Leuenberg Church Fellowship) with 198 votes in favor of leaving, 10 against, 11 abstaining. The reception was part of the initiative of the ILC to increase awareness of the nature and work of the ILC among LCMS and international Lutheran Churches.

Lutheran Leadership Development Program—Wittenberg. Despite the many challenges caused by COVID, the LLDP continues to move forward under the leadership of Dr. Naomichi Masaki. Two courses took place in Wittenberg, February 28 to March 4, 2022: Lord’s Supper with Prof. Masaki, and Liturgy and Lutheran Hymnody with Dr. Quill.

Capacity Building Conference for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania—Lake Tanganyika Diocese. Bishop Ambele Mwaipopo has requested the ILC conduct a capacity building conference for the pastors and members of the ELCT Executive Council. to educate the church about the theology, practice and work of the ILC. Tentative dates May 16-20, 2022.

Trial of Finnish Bishop Juhana Pohjola and Lutheran Dr. Paivi Rasanen. The proceeding of the trial against Pohjola and Rasanen took place on Monday, January 24. It has received extensive news coverage. The *Federalist* has an excellent article by Joy Pullman who is the Executive Editor of the *Federalist*, Mother of six, and active LCMS Lutheran at a local Ft. Wayne congregation. The article is online in the *Federalist*, January 25, 2022 under the title, “Finnish Government Puts Christianity on Trial, Calls the Bible ‘Hate Speech.’”

The Catholic News Agency’s report included the following quote from our ILC website:

“The International Lutheran Council has described the decision to prosecute Räsänen and Pohjola as “egregious...The vast majority of Christians in all nations, including Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, share these convictions. Would the Finnish Prosecutor General condemn us all? Moreover, shall the Finnish state risk governmental sanctions from other states based on the abuse of foundational human rights?”

Closing arguments took place on February 14. The court was scheduled to announce its verdict on March 30. Mathew Block has done an excellent job reporting on the events in a very timely manner as they unfold.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy C. J. Quill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and 'Q'.

Rev. Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill
General Secretary, ILC