

OVERTURE 1.01 TO REQUEST A CHANGE IN THE MAKE UP OF THE REGIONAL MISSION AND MINISTRY COUNCIL

WHEREAS Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort McMurray, AB, as well as the congregations in the Elk Island Circuit of the West Region have attempted to find a layperson to allow their name to stand for nomination to the RMMC working alongside the Circuit Counselor; and

WHEREAS Trinity Lutheran congregation, along with the other congregations of the Circuit, cannot secure the name of a layperson for this role; and

WHEREAS Trinity Lutheran congregation, believes that two persons would better assist in the overview of any circuit on the RMMC, rather than simply leaving the laypersons position unfilled,

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Handbook of Lutheran Church Canada (pg. 25) which presently reads:

3.05 Regional Mission and Ministry Council

a. Authority and Make-up

1. The Regional Mission and Ministry Council of a region shall consist of the circuit counsellors of that region and one layperson elected from each circuit of the region.

2. The qualification for lay membership on a Regional Mission and Ministry Council is that he or she be an active member in good standing of a Member Congregation.

Be amended to read:

a. Authority and Make-up

1. The Regional Mission and Ministry Council of a region shall consist of the circuit counsellors of that region and one layperson, (if possible) or a rostered church worker, other than the circuit counsellor elected from each circuit of the region.

2. The qualification for lay or rostered church worker membership on a Regional Mission and Ministry Council is that he or she be an active member in good standing of a Member Congregation, or a church worker on the roster in good standing of a Member Congregation, or actively serving a congregation of the circuit.

Trinity Lutheran Church
Fort McMurray, AB

OVERTURE 1.02 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAWS 3.05 and 4.15

WHEREAS the Bylaws of LCC have established the Regional Mission and Ministry Council (RMMC) and identified Circuit Councillors as members of the RMMC, and

WHEREAS Circuit Counsellors in some cases carry a heavy load of responsibility both in their congregation and with the additional duties of Circuit Counsellor, and

WHEREAS a Circuit Counsellor may not be able to fulfill his responsibility on the RMMC, and

WHEREAS there may be other pastors within the Circuit who could be available to fulfill the responsibilities of pastoral representative to the RMMC;

Therefore be it

1 RESOLVED that LCC allow for the possibility of a rostered member of the clergy to be appointed by the
2 Circuit Counsellor as the pastoral representative to the RMMC, and be it finally
3 RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaws 3.05 and 4.15 be amended as follows:
4

5 Synodical Bylaws

6 **3.05 Regional Mission and Ministry Council**

7 a. Authority and Make-up

8 1. The Regional Mission and Ministry Council of a region shall *ordinarily* consist of the circuit counsellors
9 of that region and one layperson elected from each circuit of the region. *A Circuit Counsellor in*
10 *consultation with the Regional Pastor may appoint a member of the clergy roster located within his*
11 *circuit to represent him on the RMMC.*
12

13 **4.15 Relation to Regional Pastor**

14 b. The circuit counsellor shall regularly report on his activities to the regional pastor and *ordinarily* serve on the
15 Regional Mission and Ministry Council. *A Circuit Counsellor in consultation with the Regional Pastor may*
16 *appoint a member of the clergy roster located within his circuit to represent him on the RMMC.*
17

18 West Region RMMC

19 Rev. Rob Mohns, Regional Pastor

20 Rev. Michael Schutz, Secretary
21
22

23 **OVERTURE 1.03 TO CHANGE NOMENCLATURE OF ‘ADMINISTRATOR’ TO**
24 **‘CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’**
25

26 WHEREAS the nomenclature of the position or office of Treasurer was changed to Administrator at the
27 2017 LCC convention; and
28

29 WHEREAS the position of Administrator is defined in the 2017 LCC Handbook “an individual appointed by
30 the Board to assist it in managing the non-ecclesiastical activities and affairs of LCC” (Statutory
31 Bylaw 1.01); and
32

33 WHEREAS the title of Administrator is rather vague and confusing as the word is used to also refer to the
34 administrator of the Worker Benefits Plan of LCC, to the synod office personnel (administrative
35 staff), and even to pastors who are called to administer the Sacraments; and
36

37 WHEREAS in other church bodies the comparable position or office of Administrator is called Chief Financial
38 Officer (CFO), Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), or Chief Operating Officer (COO);
39

40 Therefore be it
41

42 RESOLVED that the title or name of Administrator be changed to *Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)*; and be it
43 further
44

45 RESOLVED that the appropriate sections in the LCC Handbook be amended to reflect this
46 change in nomenclature (e.g., Statutory Bylaw 1.01; 10.03; 14.04; 14.06; 17.01;
47 Synodical Bylaw 3.05 b. 1.).
48

49 LCC Board of Directors

50 Arnold Drung, Chair

51 Grace Henderson, Secretary
52
53
54

OVERTURE 1.04 TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MISSION AND SOCIAL MINISTRY SERVICES (CMSMS)

- 1
2
3
4 WHEREAS the Committee for Mission and Social Ministry Services is tasked with matters
5 involving the international mission regions of LCC whether it be seminary
6 training, continuing education, financial support of pastors and deacons, or
7 various works of mercy; and
8
9 WHEREAS each Regional Mission and Ministry Council is tasked with matters pertaining to
10 outreach endeavours and ministry support within their respective region; and
11
12 WHEREAS all the standing committees of the Board of Directors of LCC, except the CMSMS,
13 are simply referred to as the Finance Committee, Governance Committee,
14 Personnel Committee, or Reconciliation Committee; and
15
16 WHEREAS the acronym for the Committee for Mission and Social Ministry Services
17 (CMSMS) is cumbersome and has been confused at times with the CCMS
18 (Commission on Constitution Matters and Structure); and
19
20 WHEREAS the current members of the Committee for Mission and Social Ministry Services
21 have requested that the name of this committee be changed to International
22 Missions Committee in order to better reflect their area of responsibility;
23 therefore be it
24
25 RESOLVED that Statutory Bylaw 14.02 be amended as follows: “The Board shall establish the
26 following Standing Committees: a Finance Committee, a Governance Committee,
27 a Personnel Committee and ~~a Committee for Mission and Social Ministry~~
28 ~~Services~~ *an International Missions Committee*”; and be it further
29
30 RESOLVED that the following be added to Article XIV of the Statutory Bylaws: *“The*
31 *International Missions Committee shall oversee and monitor the work and*
32 *activities of seminary training, continuing education, financial support of pastors*
33 *and deacons, or various works of mercy in the international mission areas of the*
34 *Synod.”*
35

36 LCC Board of Directors
37 Arnold Drung, Chair
38 Grace Henderson, Secretary
39
40

OVERTURE 1.05 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 1.15 CONSTITUTIONS OF CONGREGATIONS

- 41
42
43
44 WHEREAS in our former structure each district was tasked with the appointment of a standing committee to
45 examine and review constitutions of congregations applying for membership in the Synod and also
46 any revisions or amendments to constitutions of member congregations, and to then report their
47 recommendation to the district’s Board of Directors for approval, with such action being ratified at
48 a subsequent district convention; and
49
50 WHEREAS this task now falls under the responsibility of the Synod President and the Board of Directors of
51 LCC as per Synodical Bylaw 1.15; and
52
53 WHEREAS according to Synodical Bylaw 1.15 a., the entire Board is tasked with examining a constitution
54 of a community of believers applying for membership in LCC, prior to such approval; and

1 WHEREAS according to Synodical Bylaw 1.15 b., the President is tasked with reviewing revisions or
2 amendments to constitutions of member congregations through ‘existing channels’ prior to
3 approval by the Board, although such ‘existing channels’ are not defined in the 2017 Handbook;
4 and
5

6 WHEREAS it would be beneficial for the Regional Pastor, who is tasked with providing ecclesiastical
7 supervision and care for members, to be familiar with the constitutions of congregations in the
8 region he serves; and
9

10 WHEREAS this process of reviewing and approving congregation constitutions should be done as timely and
11 efficiently as possible;
12

13 Therefore be it
14

15 RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 1.15 be amended as follows:
16

17 **1.15 Constitutions of Congregations**

18 a. A community of believers which applies to become a member congregation in Lutheran Church-Canada shall
19 submit its constitution to the president, who shall ~~refer it to the Board. The Board shall~~ examine the constitution
20 to ascertain whether its provisions are in harmony with Scripture, the confessional position of LCC as set forth in
21 the Synodical Constitution Article II, the Statutory Bylaws, the Synodical Constitution and these Synodical Bylaws
22 in order that any necessary changes may be made by the community. *The constitution shall then be submitted by*
23 *the president to the Board for approval.* A community shall not be received as a Member Congregation until it
24 has made such changes as ~~the Board~~ may have *been* deemed necessary ~~and has so notified the President.~~
25

26 b. A Member Congregation which translates, revises, or amends its constitution or adopts a new constitution shall
27 submit such translation, revision, amendment, or new constitution to the president, who shall direct it through
28 ~~existing channels~~ *the appropriate Regional Pastor* for review, *and then submit it to the Board for approval.* Upon
29 favourable action by the Board, the congregation shall be notified that the changes are valid and approved and that
30 the congregation is empowered to function under the new or changed constitution. Such actions shall be submitted
31 to the next Convention for ratification.
32

33 LCC Board of Directors
34 Arnold Drung, Chair; Grace Henderson, Secretary
35
36

37 **OVERTURE 1.06 TO ADD A COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**
38 **TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**
39

40 WHEREAS a Committee on Communications and Technology is currently functioning in
41 accordance with Statutory Bylaw 14.07 (“The Board may from time to time
42 appoint such other committees as it may deem advisable”); and
43

44 WHEREAS such ad hoc committees established by the Board cease to exist at the end of
45 every four years; and
46

47 WHEREAS communications both within Lutheran Church—Canada and from LCC to the
48 wider public has been identified as a high priority; and
49

50 WHEREAS there is no mention of communications in the 2017 Handbook;
51

52 Therefore be it
53

53 RESOLVED that Statutory Bylaw 14.02 be amended to also include a Communications and
54 Technology Committee as a standing committee of the Board; and be it further
55

1 RESOLVED that the following be added to Article XIV of the Statutory Bylaws: *“The*
2 *Communications and Technology Committee shall provide advice, direction and*
3 *resources to congregations, church workers, and other synodical entities in the*
4 *areas of communications and technology. It shall also be tasked with the*
5 *development of various means of communicating information both within and*
6 *outside the Synod.”*

7
8 LCC Board of Directors
9 Arnold Drung, Chair
10 Grace Henderson, Secretary
11

12
13 **OVERTURE 1.07 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 5.43**

14
15 WHEREAS the placement and retention of pastors and deacons on the roster of the Synod
16 is the responsibility of the President’s Ministry Council; and

17
18 WHEREAS this section of the bylaws pertains to the various statuses of pastors and deacons
19 on the roster of LCC as defined in Statutory Bylaw 1.01; and

20
21 WHEREAS no provisions are set forth in the current Synodical Bylaws pertaining to
22 retention on the roster of pastors or deacons serving in positions such as
23 missionaries of a Listed Service Organization, on the faculty of an educational
24 institution not affiliated with LCC, and the like;

25
26 Therefore be it

27
28 RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 5.43 be amended as follows:

29
30 **5.43 ~~Continuing Eligibility~~ Active Status**

31 To be retained on the ~~active~~ roster, a pastor or deacon must be performing the duties of one of the following offices:

- 32 a. a pastor called to serve a parish;
33 b. a deacon called to serve a parish;
34 c. an officer elected by a Convention;
35 d. an executive or professional staff member *called or* appointed by Lutheran Church-Canada
36 or by an organization with whom Lutheran Church-Canada has entered into a Memorandum
37 of Understanding;
38 e. a missionary called or appointed by Lutheran Church-Canada or ~~by a region~~ *by an*
39 *organization with whom Lutheran Church-Canada has entered into a Memorandum of*
40 *Understanding;*
41 f. an instructor, administrator, or other staff member on the faculty of an educational
42 institution with whom Lutheran Church-Canada has entered into a Memorandum of
43 Understanding or of an educational institution ~~recognized by LCC~~ *whose service therein*
44 *promotes the purposes of the Synod, as determined by the President’s Ministry Council;*
45 g. a military or institutional chaplain called by Lutheran Church-Canada;
46 h. an executive or professional staff member called or appointed by an organization approved
47 by the Board.

48
49 President’s Ministry Council
50 Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Chair
51 Rev. Thomas Kruesel, Secretary
52
53
54
55

OVERTURE 1.08 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 5.45

WHEREAS the placement and retention of pastors and deacons on the roster of the Synod is the responsibility of the President's Ministry Council; and

WHEREAS no provisions are set forth in the current Synodical Bylaws pertaining to the process whereby retired pastors and deacons are retained on the roster as emeritus;
Therefore be it

RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 5.45 be amended as follows:

5.45 Emeritus Status

A pastor or deacon who has retired after reaching the age of 55 or for reasons of total and permanent disability shall be eligible for retention on the roster as emeritus *upon application for such status to the regional pastor*. Any unusual case shall be decided by the President's Ministry Council.

President's Ministry Council
Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Chair
Rev. Thomas Kruesel, Secretary

OVERTURE 1.09 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 5.47

WHEREAS the placement and retention of pastors and deacons on the roster of the Synod is the responsibility of the President's Ministry Council; and

WHEREAS current provisions in Synodical Bylaw 5.47 do not adequately reflect the varied scenarios under which a pastor or deacon may be retained on the roster as a candidate; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 5.47 be amended as follows:

5.47 Candidate Status

a. A pastor or deacon who is eligible to perform the duties of the offices of ministry specified in bylaw 5.43 but who is not currently performing those duties and who is not retired may be ~~continued~~ *retained* on the roster *upon application for such status to the regional pastor* for a period ~~not to exceed~~ *of* two consecutive years. ~~subject to annual review by regional pastor of the region of which the candidate is a Member.~~ For the extension of the candidate status beyond two consecutive years, ~~the President's Ministry Council shall require an annual~~ *a bi-annual* application from the candidate as well as an evaluation by ~~his~~ *the regional pastor of the region of which the candidate is a Member shall be required*. The President's Ministry Council shall determine ~~by written ballot~~ whether or not ~~the~~ requests for *candidate status* shall be ~~honoured~~ *granted, extended, or discontinued*, ~~in each instance, for an additional year.~~

b. Among criteria for determining whether candidate status should be granted or ~~continued~~ *extended* are: the health of the applicant; *family considerations*; the extent of his/her current involvement on a part-time and assisting basis in the ministry of Word and Sacrament; a demonstrated history and current ability of being able to perform the duties of an active pastor or deacon serving a Member Congregation or other position recognized by LCC; a demonstrated willingness to consider a call or appointment to a position recognized by LCC.

President's Ministry Council
Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Chair
Rev. Thomas Kruesel, Secretary

OVERTURE 1.10 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 4.63 AND 4.65

WHEREAS Synodical Bylaws 4.63 and 4.65 are not only incorrectly numbered, but should probably be combined into one bylaw as they deal with the same issue;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 4.63 and 4.65 be amended as follows:

4.63 4.53 Dividing Congregations

a. Member Congregations which have grown so large that their members cannot receive proper pastoral care, or whose members have spread over so much territory that members living at a distance find it difficult to use the means of grace with necessary frequency, shall not oppose a division of the parish; nor shall they oppose the organization of new congregations in neighbourhoods which would be thereby better served. All other interests are subordinate to those which seek to promote the glory of God and the extension of His kingdom.

4.65 Principles of Division

b. The dividing of one congregation into two or more and the establishing of a new mission or congregation adjacent to an existing parish or parishes shall be regulated and effected in accordance with due Christian regard for the spiritual welfare of all concerned. This requires:

a. 1. That any such separation or division be brought about--as much as possible--by a voluntary agreement, prompted by the conviction of all concerned;

b. 2. That church property be divided in accordance with justice and equity, so that one party will not be slighted while the other party is given undue advantages;

c. That Christian forbearance rather than the strict letter of the law decide any difficult questions;

d. That lesser evils be borne in order to prevent greater evils;

e. 3. That the dividing of a parish for the purpose of organizing new congregations be not insisted on if thereby a whole congregation would be seriously disturbed.

President's Ministry Council
Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Chair
Rev. Thomas Kruesel, Secretary

OVERTURE 1.11 TO ADD SYNODICAL BYLAW 4.55

WHEREAS Synodical Bylaws 4.63 and 4.65 deal with the division of a parish into separate congregations when it has grown so large that the members cannot receive adequate pastoral care and the like; and

WHEREAS while such may have been an issue in years past, the current state of the church is the opposite; namely, many congregations have grown so small that they cannot support their own pastor in order to receive adequate pastoral care;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 4.55 be added to the Handbook of LCC as follows:

4.55 Merging Congregations

a. Member Congregations which have grown so small that they cannot financially support their own pastor shall seek to establish a merger with neighbouring congregations whether it be a formation of a dual or tri-parish, a multi-point parish agreement, and the like so that the means of grace may be regularly administered in their midst.

1 *b. Member Congregations which are able to financially support their own pastor are encouraged to join with a*
2 *neighbouring congregation that is unable to support its own pastor so that the means of grace may be regularly*
3 *administered to the members of the smaller congregation.*

4
5 President's Ministry Council
6 Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Chair
7 Rev. Thomas Kruesel, Secretary
8
9

10 **OVERTURE 1.12 TO DELETE SYNODICAL BYLAW 4.57**

11
12 WHEREAS Synodical Bylaw 4.57 ("Pastors shall report the removal of their members to the
13 parish to which such members have removed, in order to prevent a deplorable
14 and unnecessary loss of members. Members shall keep their pastor informed of
15 such removals.") is not only confusing in that it is unclear whether this is
16 referring to members who have moved away from the congregation, or to those
17 who have been removed from membership in the congregation; and
18

19 WHEREAS in either case this is a matter pertaining to pastoral care and practice, and not a
20 synodical bylaw matter; therefore be it
21

22 RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 4.57 be deleted.
23

24 President's Ministry Council
25 Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Chair
26 Rev. Thomas Kruesel, Secretary
27
28

29 **OVERTURE 1.13 TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED 2022 LCC HANDBOOK**

30
31 WHEREAS one of the mandates of the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure (CCMS) of
32 Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) is to continuously update the Handbook to provide all of LCC with
33 proper guidelines; and
34

35 WHEREAS there were a number of updates needed that were carried over from the last Convention in 2017 due
36 to restructuring; and
37

38 WHEREAS the CCMS has completed this task with the proposed 2022 LCC Handbook; and
39

40 WHEREAS it would take too much Convention time to approve each update one at a time; and
41

42 WHEREAS sufficient time on the Convention floor to discuss and approve additional changes to the proposed
43 LCC 2022 Handbook will be allotted at this Convention,
44

45 Therefore be it
46

47 RESOLVED that the Convention approve the entire proposed Handbook as a whole; and be it finally
48

49 RESOLVED that this 2022 Handbook be commended to LCC as the official Handbook.
50

51 Respectfully Submitted,
52 Rev. Paul Schallhorn, Secretary
53 LCC CCMS
54

OVERTURE 2.01 TO REVISIT THE ROLES OF WOMEN IN LCC CONGREGATIONS

WHEREAS “Church government or polity is not divinely prescribed in the New Testament. Church organization is an adiaphoron; that is, a matter that is neither commanded nor forbidden in the Scriptures. The church is thus free to create, adopt, or adapt any form of organization and structure. The determining factor in church organization is what will best serve the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.” (CTCR document “The Role of Women in the Church – Thesis 9);

WHEREAS “Christian women, as well as men, are to serve our Lord according to the gifts and abilities with which He has blessed them and in that station in life in which He has placed them (Prov. 31:10-31; Rom. 12:1-8; 1 Cor. 3:5-9; 7:17; 10:31; 12; Gal. 6:10; Col. 3:17; 1 Peter 4:8-11; AC XVI.5; SC IX; Large Catechism, I.103-178, 199-221).” (Idem. - Thesis 10);

WHEREAS It has been 23 years since CTCR considered the application of these principles to Church life, and there was a minority report by a member of the CTCR at the time, (“The Role of Women in the Church (minority) dissenting from some of the application;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that LCC revisit the roles women have the gifts and abilities to serve in, in the congregations of LCC.

St. John’s Lutheran Church
Vernon, British Columbia
Pastor: Rev. Craig Tufts
President: Barry Schick
Secretary: Sherry Nickel

OVERTURE 2.02 AFFIRMING THE BIBLICAL VIEW ON MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

WHEREAS God created man in His image, male and female (Genesis 1:27); and

WHEREAS God instituted marriage as a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24-25; Mark 10:6-9); and

WHEREAS Sex is a gift from God only within the bounds of marriage (Exodus 20:14; Hebrews 13:4); and

WHEREAS Out of His great love towards homosexuals and all people and for our good and to protect us, God warns us that homosexuality is an abomination (Lev. 18:22; 20:13), dishonourable, contrary to nature, shameful, and debased" (Rom. 1:26-27); and

WHEREAS “Gender reassignment surgery,” “therapy,” and related interventions deny the natural sex given by God at birth and seeks through unnatural ways to change sex, which is not possible; and

WHEREAS Lutheran Church-Canada passed Resolution 93.1.05 affirming the sinfulness of homosexuality, and passed Resolution 96.1.05 reaffirming this position; and

WHEREAS Bill C-4 received Royal Assent and came into force in Canada on January 7, 2022 which purports to address coercive “conversion therapy” but also amends the Criminal Code to prohibit anyone, including pastors, teachers, counsellors, and parents, from teaching the biblical truth about sexuality; and

- 1 WHEREAS The preamble to Bill C-4 calls biblical views on sexuality to be “myths” and therefore reveals a
2 prejudiced and discriminatory stance against Christian doctrine which encourages persecution of
3 Christian practice and seeks to silence Scriptural teaching;
4
5 Therefore be it
6
7 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada reaffirm its position that homosexuality is sinful and contrary to
8 God’s will; and be it further
9
10 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada, while opposing the coercive practise Bill C-4 overtly targets, affirm
11 that any deviation from God’s created order is sinful and contrary to God’s will; and be it further
12
13 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada confess that the Bible is not myth, but the very Word of our Creator
14 who has ordered all creation, including male and female, according to His wisdom; and be it further
15
16 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada encourage all its pastors, teachers, and congregations to continue to
17 teach the truth of God’s Word on sexuality and reach out to those who have fallen into sexual sin
18 with the Word of repentance and the forgiveness of sins; and be it finally
19
20 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada encourage all its pastors, teachers, and congregations to remain
21 steadfast in our confession and faith, and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it.
22

23 Christ Lutheran Church
24 Timmins ON
25 Rev. Milton Lam
26
27

28 **OVERTURE 2.03 TO AFFIRM THE CHURCH’S STANCE ON THE IMPORTANCE AND**
29 **PRIMACY OF GATHERING IN PERSON**
30

- 31 WHEREAS We are to hold God’s Word sacred and gladly hear and learn it (SC I.3); and
32
33 WHEREAS Jesus has promised us, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matt.
34 18:20); and
35
36 WHEREAS The Holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night
37 when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the
38 disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of
39 Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to
40 them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for
41 you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me” (Matthew
42 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-25); and
43
44 WHEREAS We are to address one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody
45 to the Lord with our hearts (Eph. 5:19); and
46
47 WHEREAS we are to come together physically to devote ourselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship,
48 to the breaking of the bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42; I Cor. 11:33); and
49
50 WHEREAS The writer to the Hebrews exhorts us saying, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without
51 wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and
52 good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,
53 and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Heb. 10:23-25); and
54

- 1 WHEREAS The signs of the Day drawing near include pestilence, persecution, and war (Luke 21:11); and
2
3 WHEREAS The Divine Service is the most important gathering that takes place in the world and is a foretaste of
4 the eternal feast in heaven where pestilence and persecution are no more; and
5
6 WHEREAS Christ our Lord knows germ theory better than we and did not institute the Sacrament of the Altar for
7 our harm; and
8
9 WHEREAS The death of a Christian is victory and the portal to heaven (I Cor. 15); and
10
11 WHEREAS We are to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29); and
12
13 WHEREAS We are not to fear those who kill the body, after which they have nothing to do, but to fear Him who,
14 after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell (Luke 12:4-5); and
15
16 WHEREAS Many congregations of Lutheran Church—Canada ceased to meet together, removing the opportunity
17 to gather for worship;
18
19 Therefore be it
20
21 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada pray for boldness and courage to hold fast the confession of our hope
22 without wavering; and be it further
23
24 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada affirms the primacy of gathering in person for Divine Service; and be
25 it further
26
27 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada encourage all congregations not neglect to meet together especially as
28 we see signs of the end drawing near, including pestilence, persecution, and war; and be it further
29
30 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada encourage all members of all congregations to address one another in
31 Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with our hearts, all the
32 more as we see the Day drawing near; and be it further
33
34 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada encourage all congregations to come together physically to devote
35 themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers,
36 all the more as we see the Day drawing near; and be it further
37
38 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada encourage all congregations to not fear man or pestilence but God;
39 and be it further
40
41 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada encourage all congregations to obey God rather than men, and
42 continue to meet together regardless of pestilence or government mandates.
43

44 Christ Lutheran Church
45 Timmins ON
46 Rev. Milton Lam
47
48

49 **OVERTURE 2.04 TO REAFFIRM THE POSITION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH—CANADA**
50 **ON VACCINES AND ABORTED FETAL TISSUE**

51
52 **PREAMBLE**
53

54 The following overture is based on a resolution passed by the board of directors of Lutherans for Life
55 (lutheransforlife.org) and has been adapted for use in our synodical context. Given the polarization in Canadian

1 society regarding vaccine mandates and the media's vilification of those who raise any concerns regarding
 2 vaccination, this preamble includes important clarifications regarding what the overture *does* state and, perhaps more
 3 importantly, what it *does not* state.¹
 4

5 **It does not** discourage vaccinations. It does not advocate against receiving a vaccine for the novel coronavirus. It
 6 does not find vaccinating sinful. It does not insist that Christians must claim religious exemptions to mandatory
 7 vaccinations. It does not determine whether vaccines or their excipients (non-medicinal ingredients) cause injury or
 8 illness. It does not conclude that vaccines contain remnants of deceased children.
 9

10 **It does** oppose experimentation on the bodies of aborted babies. It does disagree with performing elective abortions,
 11 even with the purpose of procuring research materials. It does contest utilizing cell lines derived from elective
 12 abortions in either the recent or the distant past. It does infer that vaccines and their commercialization may be
 13 incentivizing elective abortion. It does raise awareness about vaccine origins. It does share information about ethical
 14 alternative vaccine formulations. It does support allowing religious or conscientious objections to required
 15 immunizations. It does leave the decision about vaccinating to each individual Christian conscience (1 Corinthians
 16 8). And it does celebrate and respect every human life as a precious treasure created, redeemed, and called by God
 17 Himself, even before birth.
 18
 19

20 OVERTURE 2.04

21
 22 WHEREAS Many vaccines are developed and/or produced using cell lines derived from the bodies of aborted
 23 children; and
 24

25 WHEREAS These cell lines require refinement involving not just one but multiple abortions; and
 26

27 WHEREAS Some of these abortions happened for the express objective of obtaining tissue for such
 28 experimentation; and
 29

30 WHEREAS Researchers and manufacturers continue to procure the bodies of aborted children for developing
 31 additional cell lines and vaccine formulations; and
 32

33 WHEREAS The purchase and use of such vaccines gives incentive for the further production of vaccines using
 34 cell lines derived from the bodies of aborted children, and gives the possibility of indirect
 35 participation in the previous violence against unborn lives; and
 36

37 WHEREAS Desirable ends, no matter how good in themselves, can never justify an evil means (Romans 3:8);
 38 and
 39

40 WHEREAS Many jurisdictions have denied religious and philosophical exemptions when mandating vaccines
 41 to those such as children, healthcare workers, teachers, all federal employees, police, and military
 42 personnel; and
 43

44 WHEREAS This information is not readily available for patients to make an objectively informed decision at
 45 the time of immunization; and
 46

47 WHEREAS Almighty God our Heavenly Father has created every human life in His own image (Genesis 1:26-
 48 27) from the moment of conception (Psalm 139:13); and
 49

50 WHEREAS Our Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed every human life by becoming incarnate as an embryo in His
 51 mother's womb (John 1:14; Luke 1:43-44; Hebrews 2:15) and by dying by crucifixion in the place
 52 of all people; and
 53

¹ Adapted from: <https://lutheransforlife.org/article/vaccines-using-aborted-fetal-tissue/>

- 1 WHEREAS His Holy Spirit calls every human life to His kingdom and family (1 Timothy 2:4) so that His
2 fellowship may dwell in their bodies as holy temples (1 Corinthians 6:19); and
3 WHEREAS He has given the human community the responsibility and privilege to receive every human life as
4 a special blessing and treat each one as a precious treasure no matter what age, appearance, or
5 ability (Matthew 25:40); and
6
7 WHEREAS Lutheran Church-Canada, in resolution 02.1.02 adopted at her 2002 Synod Convention, stated:
8 “God’s sacred gift of human life continues to be cheapened, ignored, and destroyed on a variety of
9 fronts such as: deteriorating sexual and family-life values, medical-surgical abortions, euthanasia-
10 assisted suicide, eugenics, *fetal tissue embryonic stem cell research*, human cloning, in vitro
11 fertilization, populations control”, and “there is an urgent need for a constant, clear Scriptural voice
12 to be heard and distributed on these ethical and moral issues”, and “there is a need to educate
13 Canadian Lutherans on life issues so that they can clearly communicate a Scriptural perspective on
14 these moral and ethical issues in their respective communities”;² and
15
16 WHEREAS The present circumstances call for a clear contextualization of our previously stated confession on
17 these issues; and
18
19 WHEREAS Christians are bound to act in accordance with their conscience as informed by the Word of God (I
20 Cor. 8:4-7, 10:19-21; 1 Tim 1:19; Martin Luther *AE* 32:112);
21
22 Therefore be it
23
24 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada affirms the immorality of all complicity with elective abortion; and
25 be it further
26
27 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada opposes both the producing of vaccines from aborted fetal tissue and
28 the procuring of aborted fetal tissue for any similar experimentation; and be it further
29
30 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada encourages honest and accurate discussion of vaccine ingredients,
31 especially among parents and medical professionals; and be it further
32
33 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada opposes the denial of religious or conscience exemptions for
34 compulsory vaccination with vaccines developed using aborted fetal tissue and supports the
35 parental right to decline such vaccines, and supports the development of ethical versions of
36 vaccines that do not come from the bodies of aborted children; and be it finally
37
38 RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada reach out with Christ’s forgiveness for the sin of abortion to create
39 vaccines.
40
41 Christ Lutheran Church
42 Timmins, ON
43 Rev. Milton Lam
44
45 *Identical resolution submitted by*
46 St. Luke Lutheran Church
47 Eganville, ON
48 Rev. Paul R. Williams
49
50 Redeemer Lutheran Church
51 Sudbury, ON
52 Rev. David Smilek
53

² See: <https://www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2020/11/Resolution-02.1.02.pdf>

1 **OVERTURE 2.05 TO AFFIRM THE CHURCH'S ESSENTIAL NATURE AND FREEDOM**
 2 **TO OFFER THE DIVINE SERVICE**

3 NOTE: The following overture is based on a resolution recently passed by the Southern Illinois District of the
 4 LCMS.³ According to convention proceedings 94.81% of delegates voted in favour of the
 5 resolution.⁴ What follow below has been lightly adapted for our Canadian context.
 6

7 **OVERVIEW**

8 During the course of the pandemic some provincial governments issued orders that shut down all religious services
 9 by including them among “non-essential activities.” Other provinces restricted religious services to ten people or
 10 less, imposed other restrictions such as the wearing of mask, and some even issued dictates concerning the Lord’s
 11 Supper. All these actions placed restrictions on the Church’s ability to offer the Divine Service, and on God’s people
 12 who wish to attend and receive the Means of Grace. This has raised questions that need to be addressed about the
 13 Government’s right to dictate restrictions to the Church regarding the offering of the Divine Service.
 14

15 **OVERTURE 2.05**

16 WHEREAS to obtain saving faith God has given the Word and Sacraments and instituted the Office of the
 17 Ministry to administer these gifts (Matthew 28;18-20; John 20:21-23; AC V.1-3; AC 14 XIV), and
 18

19 WHEREAS the Church is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is purely preached and the holy
 20 sacraments are administered according the Gospel (AC VII.1), and God has commanded his people
 21 to gather to hear his Word and receive His Sacraments (Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:25;
 22 1 Corinthians 11:24-25), just as the Lutheran Church confesses that the Sacrament of the Altar is
 23 celebrated every Lord’s day (Ap. XXIV.1), and
 24

25 WHEREAS this is the essential function which only the Church fulfills as God brings salvation to the whole
 26 person, body and soul (Romans 5:1; Philippians 1:23; John 11:25-26; Philippians 3:21), and
 27

28 WHEREAS God has designed His creation with three estates – the Family, the Church, and the Government,
 29 and
 30

31 WHEREAS these Three Estates remain (and continue their defining functions) until the end of time, even during
 32 pandemic, famine, war, etc., and

33 WHEREAS the authority of the Government in relation to the Fourth Commandment is derived from the estate
 34 of the Family, “For all other authority is derived and developed out of the authority of parents” (LC
 35 I.141), and
 36

37 WHEREAS the government is given by God to reward good and punish evil and maintain order as defined by
 38 God’s holy will (Romans 13; AC XVI.1-2), and deals with bodies and goods, not spiritual matters
 39 (AC XXVIII.11), and
 40

41 WHEREAS the Church rightfully operates in God’s right hand rule through the Gospel as she seeks to bring
 42 forgiveness and salvation through Christ’s Means of Grace, and
 43

44 WHEREAS the Government rightfully operates in God’s left hand rule, as it works through the Law to maintain
 45 order and restrain sin, and
 46

47 WHEREAS the Church is not entirely independent of the Government’s left hand rule as she deals with non-
 48 spiritual matters of operation (zoning laws, building permits, occupancy permits, etc.), and
 49

50 WHEREAS the Government has no God given authority over the spiritual matters of the Church’s
 51 administration of the Means of Grace as they take place in the Divine Service;

³ See p.42 - https://www.sidlcms.org/files/ugd/6827d3_986ff81aca604af18585602d3f6e9bcb.pdf

⁴ See p.19 - https://www.sidlcms.org/files/ugd/366272_a954793d914f4a058861efde2ed0825f.pdf

- 1 Therefore be it
2
3 RESOLVED that we affirm the Church’s essential nature, purpose, and ongoing function in this world until
4 Christ comes again in His glory, and be it further
5
6 RESOLVED that we affirm the Church’s and Family’s status as having their God-given role in caring for both
7 body and soul, and be it further
8
9 RESOLVED that we confess that the Government has no God given authority to place restrictions on the
10 Church’s ability to offer the Divine Service, and on God’s people who wish to attend and receive
11 the Means of Grace, and be it further
12
13 RESOLVED that we affirm that in time of pandemic or public crisis the Church in Christian freedom should seek
14 to implement measures that serve the public good while continuing to carry out her essential role of
15 offering the Word and the Sacraments in the Divine Service, and be it further
16
17 RESOLVED that we exhort and encourage one another to confess boldly the essential nature and function of the
18 Church, especially in the event of future government mandated shut downs or restrictions to the
19 offering of the Divine Service, and be it further
20
21 RESOLVED that we confess to the world that only the Gospel of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus
22 Christ can provide final victory over sin, sickness, and death; and finally, be it
23
24 RESOLVED that the congregations of the Lutheran Church—Canada will take notice of all government actions
25 regarding public health and while "seeking to live at peace with all men" the Church will
26 implement those actions that in her own judgment do not interfere with her God-given functions,
27 while respectfully disregarding any government decree, mandate, executive action, law, or court
28 order which does so interfere.

29
30 St. Luke Lutheran Church
31 Eganville, ON
32 Rev. Paul Williams
33
34 *Identical Resolution submitted by*
35 Redeemer Lutheran Church
36 Sudbury, ON
37 Rev. David Smilek
38

39
40 **OVERTURE 2.06 TO APPROVE THE PMC POLICY CONCERNING RETIRED PASTORS**

- 41
42 WHEREAS the 2017 Synod Convention adopted Resolution 17.2.04 directing the Council of Presidents to
43 establish a policy concerning retired pastors; and
44
45 WHEREAS the President’s Ministry Council (the successor of the COP under our new structure) has formulated a
46 policy regarding retired pastors, along with an application form for such status, as well as a call
47 document for Calling an Emeritus Pastor and a Rite of Installation for a retired pastor; and
48
49 WHEREAS Resolution 17.2.04 required that such a policy be brought before the next convention of the Synod for
50 approval;
51
52 Therefore be it
53 RESOLVED that the Synod in convention approve the following contained in the PMC’s ‘Guidelines For Emeritus
54 Status’ policy document:
55

- 1 “An Emeritus Pastor:
 2 • shall hold membership in and be under the pastoral care of a congregation of Lutheran Church–Canada;
 3 • shall remain under the supervision of the Regional Pastor in the region in which he resides;
 4 • may transfer to another region should his residence change by making application through his Regional Pastor;
 5 • may preach and administer the Sacraments at the invitation of a called pastor or a congregation while the pastor is
 6 sick or on holiday – being understood that in such cases he is acting on behalf of the called pastor and is authorized
 7 to exercise the office of the keys in that particular place only in those situations;
 8 • may serve as vacancy pastor after having received and accepted a formal notice of a call from a congregation to
 9 serve in that capacity;
 10 • is not authorized to preach and carry out the functions of the office of the ministry wherever and whenever he
 11 pleases;
 12 • may be officially called as “Pastor Emeritus” by a local congregation (this should not merely be an honorary title,
 13 but, depending upon such factors as the health of the retired pastor, a written call document should spell out certain
 14 duties like assisting the pastor with sick and shut-in calls, preaching and presiding at the Divine Service
 15 occasionally, teaching a Bible class, etc.);
 16 • may serve on the Board of Directors of the synod, on synodical commissions and committees, or as circuit
 17 counsellor;
 18 • may attend synodical conventions as an advisor;
 19 • may be appointed as one of the Member Congregation’s delegates to a synodical convention if he is serving as the
 20 congregation’s vacancy pastor.

21
 22 Retired pastors who are unable to perform such pastoral duties due to health reasons and the like may be retained on
 23 the clergy roster of the Synod. Retired pastors who do not want to have the responsibilities of a minister, as
 24 referenced above, will not be retained on the clergy roster of the Synod. This would have no ramifications for their
 25 pension. They are urged to contact their Regional Pastor to discuss this matter before the President’s Ministry
 26 Council makes a decision on their roster status.”

27
 28 President’s Ministry Council
 29 Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Chair
 30 Rev. Thomas Kruesel, Secretary

31
 32 **OVERTURE 2.07 TO COMMEND THE CTCR DOCUMENT “A LUTHERAN RESPONSE**
 33 **TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES” FOR STUDY AND RESPONSE**

- 34
 35 WHEREAS the Church is called to faithfulness in word and action; and
 36
 37 WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic, and authorities' actions in response to the threat, have caused sharp
 38 disagreements in congregations and amongst clergy; and
 39 WHEREAS the conscientious Christian may ask how we as Christians should respond when laws are proposed
 40 and presented, deliberated, and then eventually passed by the secular government which impact the
 41 Church’s teaching and freedom of religion; and
 42
 43 WHEREAS non-Lutheran Christian organizations produce material that speak to these contemporary matters,
 44 and invite other Christians to sign-on to their efforts; and
 45
 46 WHEREAS such non-Lutheran resources may also miss important truths that Lutheran theology brings when
 47 discussing matters in the public square;
 48
 49 Therefore be it
 50
 51 RESOLVED that the CTCR document “A Lutheran Response to Contemporary Issues”(page G.1) be
 52 commended to the pastors and congregations of the Synod for study and response.

53
 54 Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR)

OVERTURE 3.01 AMALGAMATION PLAN FOR STRUGGLING CONGREGATIONS

WHEREAS attendance in LCC congregations has been declining in the past number of years and that trend is continuing; and

WHEREAS that trend impacts the manner in which congregations are able to conduct ministry; and

WHEREAS as a result some congregations are finding it increasingly difficult to meet yearly expenses and are in danger of closing and disbanding; and

WHEREAS LCC may not be in a position to subsidize all congregations that are in need of assistance; and

WHEREAS some struggling congregations have joined together to create one parish to keep ministry within their area ongoing; and

WHEREAS some of these amalgamated parishes have been able to continue ministry with success;

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED that LCC establish a Task Force to investigate and report where dual parishes, tri-parishes, deaneries, or some other setup may be established where demographics are favorable; and be it further

RESOLVED that a report of their findings be submitted to Synod within 2 years; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the LCC Board of Directors prepare and submit a church amalgamation plan for struggling congregations by the next Synod Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peace Lutheran Church, Tillsonburg

OVERTURE 3.02 TO MERGE THE QU'APPELLE CIRCUITS AND THE WASCANA CIRCUITS

WHEREAS a "circuit" in Lutheran Church-Canada is "an association of congregations established by a convention of a district" (LCC Statutory Bylaws); and

WHEREAS Synodical bylaws state: "Each circuit shall consist of 7 to 20 congregations involving an aggregate communicant membership from 1,500 to 10,000. Exceptions to these requirements and limitations can be made only by the president upon request of a district board of directors;" and

WHEREAS the Qu'Appelle circuit [6 parishes & 3 pastors], has grown smaller in recent years; and

WHEREAS the Qu'Appelle circuit has been without a Circuit Councillor for over two years; and

WHEREAS a circuit councillor could be appointed again, yet due to frequent vacancies within the Qu'Appelle circuit that Circuit Councillor could just as easily be transferred out of the circuit; and

WHEREAS Circuit Councillors provide an important role in gaging concerns of Pastors within the circuit; and

WHEREAS joint meetings were held with the Wascana circuit, Qu'Appelle Circuit, and other circuits in the past;

Therefore be it

1 RESOLVED that the Qu'Appelle Circuit and Wascana Circuit merge to establish consistency within the area for
2 not only having a Circuit Councillor on a consistent basis, but also so that pastors have more of an
3 opportunity to gather together for winks, for mutual consolation and admonition, and brotherly
4 support.
5

6 Peace Lutheran Church, Grenfell SK
7 Ron Kraushaar, Chairman
8

9 **OVERTURE 3.03 TO SUPPORT YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT, AND FAMILY MINISTRY IN**
10 **THE SYNOD**

11
12 WHEREAS youth leaders in LCC are in need of resources, training, and support; and

13
14 WHEREAS young adult ministry in LCC needs to be cultivated where it does not exist, and be supported and
15 encouraged where it already exists; and

16
17 WHEREAS children and family ministries need to be supported, with opportunities for Sunday school staff to be
18 encouraged and trained, and to help churches provide Vacation Bible Schools for their communities;
19 and

20
21 WHEREAS workers and volunteers who support the parents of the children, youth, and young adults of the
22 Synod are also in need of resources, training, and support for equipping parents to encourage their
23 children to grow in faith and to respond to the issues that they experience in the world with love and
24 faithfulness; and

25 WHEREAS providing the necessary resources, training, and support for youth, young adult, and family ministry
26 in LCC would include creating Bible study resources, visiting congregations, hosting training
27 sessions and networking events, having a leadership role on the National Youth Gathering
28 committee, encouraging Regional youth gatherings and young adult events, and supporting the
29 spiritual and emotional needs of the workers and volunteers involved in these ministries would be a
30 full-time job for a rostered church worker;

31
32 Therefore be it

33
34 RESOLVED that LCC engage a full-time church worker to provide and create resources, training, and support to
35 all youth, young adult, and family ministry workers and volunteers in LCC.
36

37 West Region RMMC
38 Michelle Heumann, Youth & Young Adult Ministry Working Group
39 Rev. Rob Mohns, Regional Pastor
40 Rev. Michael Schutz, Secretary
41
42

43 **OVERTURE 3.04 TO ENSURE THE PROPER CARE OF THOSE CALLED TO SERVE AS**
44 **SYNOD PRESIDENT, REGIONAL PASTORS, AND MISSIONS**
45 **EXECUTIVE(S)**

46
47 WHEREAS We have restructured Synod in such a way as to change the offices formally known as Synod President
48 and 'District President' to be ecclesiastical (pastoral) and not administrative in nature; and

49
50 WHEREAS Those serving in these offices are Called and Ordained Clergy on the Roster of Synod; and

51
52 WHEREAS Called and Ordained Clergy also serve as Mission Executive(s) of Synod; and
53

1 WHEREAS Synod Board of Directors approves the Compensation Guidelines which covers salary and housing for
2 Pastors and Deacons;

3
4 Therefore, be it
5

6 RESOLVED that Synod in convention direct the Board of Directors and the Personnel Committee to compensate
7 these Called and Ordained men in accord with the Compensation Guidelines in such a way that they
8 are at the high end of any salary range for their years in ministry plus any additional amount for years
9 in service (currently \$400 for every year after 20 years); and be it further

10 RESOLVED that in addition, recognizing their Office and responsibilities the following is added: 10% for the Synod
11 President; 8% for the Regional Pastors; and 5 % for the Mission Executive(s); and be it further

12
13 RESOLVED that an amount equal to the current rent for a 3 bedroom home plus utilities in their community be
14 added to their compensation: and be it further
15

16 RESOLVED that these compensation amounts begin with January 2022 and are adjusted annually in accord with the
17 Compensation Guidelines and housing increases; and be it finally
18

19 RESOLVED that LCC in convention thank the Lord of the Church for those who serve in these offices and pray He
20 bless them with courage, strength, wisdom, patience, and the heart of Christ.

21
22 Submitted by:
23 East Region RMMC