



# Today's Business L

## Twelfth Regular Convention

Edmonton, Alberta | June 10-13, 2022

### INDEX

- L. 2 Greetings – Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland
- L. 3 Greetings – The Lutheran Church-Hong Kong Synod
- L. 4 Greetings – Lutheran Church – Australia
- L. 5 Resolutions
- L. 6 Minutes



*“I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain.” (Rev. 4:6)*

How do we stand firm as a Christian Church when we see that global safety nets are broken, societies are torn apart by cultural battles, hostility towards Christians is growing day by day and the faithful remnant struggles against declining numbers?

How do we stand firm when too many church leaders have shied away from giving public witness to biblical truths, when all too often there are divisions in congregations and even faithful members lose courage?

Yes, we are called to stand firm, but church history shows that often the Church Militant has stood back, been quiet and fallen away from fulfilling Her calling. We are thankful for those men and women who have stood firm in the faith and in love and we pray that we would stand among those faithful servants.

Yes, it appears to us that enemies of the Church stand firm while the little flock stumbles. And yet we believe and joyfully confess that although it seems that the Lamb is still lying dead on the ground, He stands as the Resurrected and Living Lord who is leading, gathering and protecting His Church through the Holy Spirit.

Yes, we stand firm because the Lamb who had been slain does not falter. We stand firm because all His words of promise do not fail us. We stand firm because Sunday after Sunday the Blood of the Lamb washes away all our iniquities and infidelities. We stand firm because Christ remains faithful to His Church.

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, I want to encourage you, our brothers and sisters in Canada, to fix your eyes on the Lamb of God who is standing graciously among you. We pray that the Holy Spirit will give you wisdom, guidance and courage to stand firm united on the biblical and confessional foundation and give a clear direction to your Church and testimony to the world as you gather together for the 2022 Convention in Edmonton.

The Lord be with you all!

Juhana Pohjola  
Bishop, The Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland

Rev. Dr. Allan YUNG, LCHKS President  
(hksynod@lutheran.org.hk)

Rev. Timothy TEUSCHER, LCC President  
(convention@lutheranchurch.ca)

**God's Blessings for the 12th Synod Convention of Lutheran Church - Canada (10-13 June 2022)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters from the LCC,

I am pleased to extend our warm and heartfelt greetings to you and to assure you that on the occasion of the LCC Synodical Convention, we are praying for all possible blessings for you. The recent pandemic has presented multiple challenges to people across the world including Lutheran Christians.

We believe that through the hardships, which we face, the LORD teaches us humility and reminds us to rely on Him and on His grace alone. Although different places have been taking different public health measures, the pandemic has a world-wide impact on the lives of church members and temporarily, it also affected the way of conducting public worship. Our Synod appreciates the anti-pandemic work undertaken by our local and central Governments and is grateful that some weeks ago, face to face (onsite) worship could resume smoothly in Hong Kong after some break. This is of paramount importance as far as sacramental service is concerned.

In response to the pandemic challenges, our Synod intensified and expanded its ministries to serve the church members and the community in the current context. Special times call for a special sense of commitment in our service to the neighbour. Let me just mention to you a few recent examples.

In October 2021, our Synod organised "Now and Then: The Summit of Lutheran Churchmen, Educators and Diakonoi" which was attended by more than one hundred LCHKS co-workers at the middle and senior management levels. Dr. the Honourable LEUNG Chun-ying, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, delivered a speech during that event.

In December 2021, our Synod coordinated the Christmas carols video project engaging the Lutheran Churches of the Asia Pacific region.<sup>1</sup> This was a precious opportunity for all of us to glorify Christ and to console fellow brothers and sisters with the message about God's care and God's saving plan for all human beings, working together with other Asian Lutherans in unity and peace.

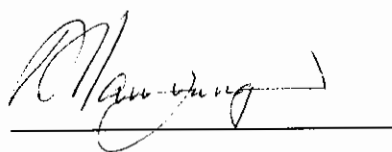
While practising love for the neighbour and serving the community, Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service (HKLSS) operated by our Synod has been actively engaged in building and establishing transitional housing for low-income families living in undesirable housing conditions under the auspices of our HKSAR Government. Several HKLSS transitional housing projects have already been completed, while others are underway.

Besides, our international school in Shenzhen (BCIS) is about to be fully accredited, while our international school in Hong Kong (CIS), which is already fully accredited, continues its service.

Stand firm in the faith which always produces good fruits and always encourages us to serve God and the neighbour!

Cordially in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Allan YUNG, LCHKS President



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ABN 36 763 133 867

197 Archer Street, North Adelaide SA 5006

08 8267 7300

bishop@lca.org.au

[www.lca.org.au](http://www.lca.org.au)

May 6th, 2022

Dear Reverend President Timothy Teuscher and my Sisters and Brothers in Christ of the Lutheran Church-Canada,

Grace and peace in Christ to you.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand, I greet you on the occasion of your Twelfth Regular Convention in Edmonton, Alberta.

I rejoice with you in the Gospel heart of the theme that you have chosen for your Convention. In our Australian Lutheran Hymnal, we have the hymn, "How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord." In the last two verses of that hymn, we sing:

*"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, His grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee: His only design Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

*The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose He will not, He cannot, desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell shall endeavour to shake, He never will leave and will never forsake."*

May the Lord who conquered sin, death, and the power of the Devil, strengthen and preserve you in true faith, to life eternal.

Behind Luther's famous "Ein feste Burg" is Psalm 46, where we are called to faithful witness:

*"Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah."*

I regret that I am unable to join you for this convention as I am attending the convention of one of our Australian Lutheran Districts at the same time that you are gathering. I do look forward to possibly joining with you at a future gathering. You may not know that I was in Edmonton some 20 years ago, visiting both Concordia Seminary and the Camrose Lutheran Bible Institute. Since I grew up in the tropical far north of eastern Australia, I remember that my visit to Edmonton in that mid-January 2000, was certainly the coldest weather I have ever experienced. I suspect that your Conference in June will see much warmer temperatures.

As you meet and consider your common life together as God's people, I pray that you may bless each other with the joyful knowledge of all that our Lord has done for us in his life, death and resurrection for our salvation.

Your fellow in Christ,

+ Paul

Bishop

Lutheran Church of Australia & New Zealand

*where love comes to life*

1 **RESOLUTION 22.3.07a** **TO RATIFY AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS TO**  
2 **CONGREGATION CONSTITUTIONS**  
3

4 (Reference Overture 3.07)  
5

6 WHEREAS upon review of changes to various congregation constitutions and subsequent  
7 recommendation of the President, the Board of Directors has approved the revisions and  
8 amendments to these constitutions; and  
9

10 WHEREAS such actions by the Board are to be “submitted to the next Convention for ratification”  
11 (Synodical Bylaw 1.5.b); therefore be it  
12

13 RESOLVED that the Convention ratify the actions of the Board on the following dates pertaining to its  
14 approval of amendments and revisions to the constitutions of the following congregations, as  
15 they are listed in Overture 3.07.  
16

17 Committee #3  
18  
19

**STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH – 1 Corinthians 16:13**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of Lutheran Church-Canada**  
**Edmonton, Alberta, Canada**  
**Sunday, June 12, 2022**

**MINUTES – Session 5**

**Call to Order**

President Teuscher called the second session to order at 8:21 am (MDT)

**Order of the Office of Matins – Rev. Cam Schnarr, Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee**

The pastors led the Convention in this time of worship.

**Bible Study – Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger**

Dr. Winger led a study of Ephesians, Chapter 6, which contains one of the many references in the New Testament about standing firm in the faith.

**Registration Committee Report – Grace Henderson, Chairman**

Voting Pastor Delegates – 137

Voting Lay Delegates – 152

Advisory Delegates – 22

Registered Visitors – 8

Other – 96

Total Attendees – 414

Quorum remains and the Convention continued.

**Approval of Minutes**

Using pages K.7 through K.14 in “*Today’s Business*”—the minutes of the previous session were presented

**C22-21 Motion:** That the minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church-Canada, June 11, 2022, Session #2, Session #3, and Session #4 be adopted as presented

**ACTION: Adopted**

**Greetings – Evangelical Fellowship of Canada – Bruce Clemenger, President & CEO**

**Nominations/Elections for Board of Directors – Commission on Nominations and Elections**

**Rod Johnson, Chairman**

**C22-22 Motion:** That the slate of candidates for Lay Members for the Board of Directors be adopted as presented

**ACTION: Adopted**

Prior to voting, Rev. Scott Lyons, Convention Chaplain, led the Convention in prayer.

Rod Johnson, Chairman (CNE) called for voting on the Ballot.

**Results:**

Arnold Drung – 175

Clifford Friesen – 168

Lois Griffin – 172

Kirsten Guggenmos – 219

Grace Henderson – 223

Jon Oberholzer – 136

Doug Petersen – 197

Arnold Drung, Lois Griffin, Kirsten Guggenmos, Grace Henderson, and Doug Petersen were declared elected to the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church-Canada.

**C22-23 Motion:** That the slate of candidates for Pastors for the Board of Directors be adopted as presented  
**ACTION: Adopted**

Rod Johnson, Chairman (CNE) called for voting on the First Ballot.

First Ballot Results:

Rev. Ted Giese – 200

Rev. Warren Hamp – 117

Rev. Mark Hennig – 125

Rev. Tom Kruesel – 136

Rev. Kirk Radford – 23

Rev. Kurt Reinhardt – 118

Rev. Don Schieman – 41

Rev. David Smilek – 40

Rev. Ted Giese was declared elected to the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church-Canada. Since no other candidates received a majority, Rev. Kirk Radford's name was dropped from the next ballot and a second ballot was presented to Delegates.

Second Ballot Results:

Rev. Warren Hamp – 119

Rev. Mark Hennig – 131

Rev. Tom Kruesel – 138

Rev. Kurt Reinhardt – 98

Rev. Don Schieman – 23

Rev. David Smilek – 26

Since no candidates received a majority, Rev. Don Schieman's name was dropped from the next ballot and a third ballot was presented to Delegates.

Third Ballot Results:

Rev. Warren Hamp – 120

Rev. Mark Hennig – 140

Rev. Tom Kruesel – 149

Rev. Kurt Reinhardt – 106

Rev. David Smilek – 22

Rev. Mark Hennig and Rev. Tom Kruesel were declared elected to the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church-Canada.

**C22-24 Motion:** That the slate of candidates for a Deacon Member for the Board of Directors be adopted as presented

**M/S/C**

Rod Johnson, Chairman (CNE) called for voting on the Ballot.

**Results:**

Deacon Suzanne Eberhard – 104

Deacon Amanda Hastings - 161

Deacon Amanda Hastings was declared elected to the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church-Canada.

**Theology and Church Relations – Resolutions Committee #2, Rev. Ted Giese, Chairman**

**RESOLUTION 22.2.02A TO REAFFIRM THE BIBLICAL VIEW ON MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY**

(Reference Overture 2.02)

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

WHEREAS Lutheran Church-Canada passed Resolution 93.1.05 affirming the sinfulness of homosexuality, and passed Resolution 96.1.06 reaffirming this position; 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 Sexual activity is a gift from God only within the bounds of marriage (Exodus 20:14; Hebrews 13:4); and

WHEREAS the fallen nature of mankind knows no bounds and regarding human sexuality the wisdom of Solomon applies, “there is nothing new under the sun” (Eccl. 1:9)

Therefore be it

RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada encourage all its pastors, deacons, and congregations to continue to teach the truth of God’s Word on sexuality and to reach out to those who have fallen into sexual sin with the encouraging Word of repentance and the forgiveness of sins; and be it further

RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada encourage all its pastors, deacons, and congregations to remain steadfast in our confession and faith, and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it.

**C22-25 Motion:** To adopt Resolution 22.2.02A

**C22-26 Motion:** To amend Motion C22-25 by adding the words “WHEREAS Holy Scripture does not make a distinction between a person’s sex and their gender; and” to Resolution 22.2.02A as a fourth WHEREAS

**ACTION: Adopted**

**C22-27 Motion:** To call the question

**ACTION: Adopted**

The Convention proceeded with the vote on amended Motion C22-25.

**ACTION: Adopted**

**Report of the Regional Pastors – Rev. Robert Mohns, Rev. David Haberstock, Rev. Marvin Bublitz**

**Announcements – Alex Steinke, Director of Communications**

**Noon Daily Prayer – Rev. Scott Lyons, Convention Chaplain**

**Recess**

President Teuscher called the fifth session to close at 11:52 am (MDT)



**MINUTES – Session 6**

**Call to Order**

President Teuscher called the third session to order at 2:00 pm (MDT)

Rev. Scott Lyons, Convention Chaplain, opened the session with prayer.

**Registration Committee Report – Grace Henderson, Chairman**

Voting Pastor Delegates – 135

Voting Lay Delegates – 151

Advisory Delegates – 22

Registered Visitors – 8

Other – 96

Total Attendees – 412

Quorum remains and the Convention continued.

**Missouri North – President Emeritus Ed Lehman, President Emeritus Ralph Mayan,  
Past President Robert Bugbee, & Rev. Mark Lobitz**

Dr. Lehman shared how he was approached by Dr. Norman Threinen to talk about writing this book, Missouri North. The book traces the history of our Lutheran Church in Canada from its beginnings in the mid-1800s down to the present day. In the first half of Missouri North, Rev. Dr. Norman J. Threinen charts the development of its origins as an outpost of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, until its autonomy. The second half of the books sees LCC's first three presidents, Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman, Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, and Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee continue the story, recounting milestones in the history of Lutheran Church-Canada over the next three decades. Rev. Dr. David H. Somers provides an additional essay examining the unique story of LCC's French-language ministry. The Foreword was written by current LCC president, Rev. Timothy Teuscher.

**Nominations/Elections for Commission on Constitution Matters and Structure**

**– Commission on Nominations and Elections, Rod Johnson, Chairman**

**C22-28 Motion:** That the slate of candidates for Rostered Workers for the Commission on Constitution Matters and Structure be adopted as presented

**ACTION: Adopted**

Rod Johnson, Chairman (CNE) called for voting on the Ballot.

Results:

Rev. Jef Dul – 248

Rev. Alex Klages – 254

Rev. Paul Schallhorn – 248

Rev. Jef Dul, Rev. Alex Klages, and Rev. Paul Schallhorn were declared elected to the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure of Lutheran Church-Canada.

**C22-29 Motion:** That the slate of candidates for Lay Members for the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure be adopted as presented

**ACTION: Adopted**

Rod Johnson, Chairman (CNE) called for voting on the Ballot.

Results:

Ronald Faulkner – 248

Curtis Schafer – 258

Delton Zehr – 248

Ronald Faulkner, Curtis Schafer, and Delton Zehr were declared elected to the Commission on Constitution Matters and Structure of Lutheran Church-Canada.

**C22-30 Motion:** That the slate of candidates for Rostered Workers for the Commission on Theology and Church Relations be adopted as presented

**ACTION: Adopted**

Rod Johnson, Chairman (CNE) called for voting on the Ballot.

Results:

Rev. James Chimirri-Russel – 105

Rev. Michael Keith – 188

Rev. Joel Kuhl – 160

Rev. Paul Williams – 70

Rev. Michael Keith and Rev. Joel Kuhl were declared elected to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of Lutheran Church-Canada.

**C22-31 Motion:** That the slate of candidates for Lay Members for the Commission on Theology and Church Relations be adopted as presented

**ACTION: Adopted**

Rod Johnson, Chairman (CNE) called for voting on the first Ballot.

First Ballot Results:

Mathew Block – 216

Jane Jacob – 94

Shane Kelly – 22

Brian (Brad) Olhman – 32

Archie Richardson – 96

Daniel Smilek – 57

Mathew Block was declared elected to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of Lutheran Church-Canada. Since no other candidates received a majority, Shane Kelly's name was dropped from the next ballot and a second ballot was presented to Delegates.

Second Ballot Results:

Jane Jacob – 85

Brian (Brad) Olhman – 15

Archie Richardson – 117

Daniel Smilek – 45

Since no other candidates received a majority, Brian (Bud) Olhman's name was dropped from the next ballot and a third ballot was presented to Delegates.

Third Ballot Results:

Jane Jacob – 93

Archie Richardson – 132

Daniel Smilek – 46

Since no other candidates received a majority, Daniel Smilek's name was dropped from the next ballot and a fourth ballot was presented to Delegates.

Fourth Ballot Results:

Jane Jacob – 93

Archie Richardson – 132

Archie Richardson was declared elected to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of Lutheran Church-Canada.

*Rod Johnson turned the Chairman position of Commission on Nominations and Elections over to Sharon Schieman for the next motion.*

**C22-32 Motion:** That the slate of candidates for Clergy and Deacons for the Commission on Nominations and Elections be adopted as presented

**ACTION: Adopted**

Sharon Schieman, Substitute Chairman (CNE) called for voting on the Ballot.

Results:

Deacon Kathy Cornish – 250

Rev. Keith Hoveland – 247

Rev. Kurt Lantz – 248

Rev. Philip Washeim – 248

Deacon Kathy Cornish, Rev. Keith Hoveland, Rev. Kurt Lantz, and Rev. Philip Washeim were declared elected to the Commission on Nominations and Elections of Lutheran Church-Canada.

**C22-33 Motion:** That the slate of candidates for Lay Members for the Commission on Nominations and Elections be adopted as presented

**ACTION: Adopted**

Sharon Schieman, Substitute Chairman (CNE) called for voting on the Ballot.

Results:

Rod Johnson – 238

Milton Joneson – 154

Rhonda Kelman – 194

Allison (Liz) Schieman - 170

Rod Johnson, Rhonda Kelman, and Allison (Liz) Schieman were declared elected to the Commission on Nominations and Elections of Lutheran Church-Canada.

*Sharon Schieman turned the position of Chairman for Commission on Nominations and Elections back to Rod Johnson for the next motion.*

**C22-34 Motion:** That the slate of candidates for Rostered Workers for the Commission on Adjudication be adopted as presented

**ACTION: Adopted**

Rod Johnson, Chairman (CNE) called for voting on the first Ballot.

First Ballot Results:

Rev. Kevin Fast – 121

Rev. John Rapp – 117

Rev. Jody Rinas – 108

Rev. Paul Roggow – 175

Rev. Paul Roggow was declared elected to the Commission on Adjudication of Lutheran Church-Canada. Since no other candidates received a majority, Rev. Jody Rinas' name was dropped from the next ballot and a second ballot was presented to Delegates.

Second Ballot Results:

Rev. Kevin Fast – 133

Rev. John Rapp – 135

Rev. John Rapp was declared elected to the Commission on Adjudication of Lutheran Church-Canada.

**Greetings – Lutheran Laymen's League Canada – Lisa Jackson, Managing Director**

**Recognition of Lutheran Service Organizations and Other Entities and Guests –**

**Rev. Mark L. Smith, Director of Missions**

Rev. Smith welcomed and acknowledged the following:

- ~ Rev. Ron Mohr, Executive Director, Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada
- ~ Rev. Dr. Steven Schave, Executive Director, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots-Canada
- ~ Rev. Richard Juritsch, President, Lutherans for Life Canada
- ~ Rhonda Kelman, Executive Director, BC Mission Boat Society
- ~ Rev. Ken Rodeman, Chairman, Lutheran Hospital Ministry of Northern Alberta
- ~ Michael Maunula, Executive Director, Lutheran Community Care Centre in Thunder Bay
- ~ Allen Schellenberg, Executive Director, Lutheran Church-Canada Financial Ministries
- ~ Rev. Glenn Worcester, Co-Chair, Lutheran Church-Canada National Youth Gathering
- ~ Deacon Lisa Olding, Co-Chair, Lutheran Church-Canada National Youth Gathering
- ~ Rev. Ted NaThalang, Bishop, Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church and Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- ~ Rev. Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Director of Church Relations, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- ~ Rev. Dr. Michael Frese, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- ~ Rev. Howard Ulmer, Malabar Mission Society

**Commemoration of the Faithful Departed – Rev. Daryl Solie**

**Recess**

President Teuscher called the sixth session to close at 3:28 pm (MDT)

**MINUTES – Session 7**

**Call to Order**

President Teuscher called the seventh session to order at 3:40 pm (MDT)

**Handbook and Structure – Resolutions Committee #1, Rev. David Bode, Chairman**

Rev. David Bode, Chairman presented Resolution 22.1.13A as a substitute for Resolution 22.1.13 which was previously presented in Session #4.

**RESOLUTION 22.1.13a TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED 2022 LCC HANDBOOK**

(Reference Overture 1.13)

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS it is essential to the operation of our church that we have this Handbook for the administrative and legal work of our synod in the world; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Convention recognize that there are, and that there will continue to be, areas that need constant editing and revision to maintain the business of the church and to do it in a way that shows our care for the needs of the members of the synod and which enables to work most effectively in our walk together; and be it further

RESOLVED that the CCMS be directed to give due consideration to specific areas of concern raised by members and submitted to them; and be it further

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

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

**C22-35 Motion:** To adopt Substitute Resolution 22.1.13A

**C22-36 Motion:** To call the question

**ACTION: Adopted**

The Convention proceeded with the vote on Motion C22-35.

**ACTION: Adopted**

**Handbook and Structure – Resolutions Committee #1 (continued)**

**RESOLUTION 22.1.02 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAWS 3.05 and 4.15**

(Reference Overture 1.02)

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

Synodical Bylaws

**3.05 Regional Mission and Ministry Council**

a. Authority and Make-up

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

**4.15 Relation to Regional Pastor**

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

**C22-37 Motion:** To adopt Resolution 22.1.02

**ACTION:** Adopted

**Handbook and Structure – Resolutions Committee #1 (*continued*)**

**RESOLUTION 22.1.06 TO ADD A COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

(Reference Overture 1.06)

- WHEREAS a Committee on Communications and Technology is currently functioning in accordance with Statutory Bylaw 14.07 (“The Board may from time to time appoint such other committees as it may deem advisable”); and
- WHEREAS such ad hoc committees established by the Board cease to exist at the end of every four years; and
- WHEREAS communications both within Lutheran Church—Canada and from LCC to the wider public has been identified as a high priority; and
- WHEREAS there is no mention of communications in the 2017 Handbook; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED that Statutory Bylaw 14.02 be amended to also include a Communications and Technology Committee as a standing committee of the Board; and be it further

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

**C22-38 Motion:** To adopt Resolution 22.1.06  
A 2/3 majority was required to pass this motion.

**ACTION: Adopted**

**Handbook and Structure – Resolutions Committee #1 (continued)**

**RESOLUTION 22.1.08 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 5.45**

(Reference Overture 1.08)

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.

**C22-39 Motion:** To adopt Resolution 22.1.08

**ACTION: Adopted**

**Handbook and Structure – Resolutions Committee #1 (continued)**

**RESOLUTION 22.1.04 TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MISSION AND SOCIAL MINISTRY SERVICES (CMSMS)**

(Reference Overture 1.04)

WHEREAS the Committee for Mission and Social Ministry Services is tasked with matters involving the international mission regions of LCC whether it be seminary training, continuing education, financial support of pastors and deacons, or various works of mercy; and

WHEREAS each Regional Mission and Ministry Council is tasked with matters pertaining to outreach endeavours and ministry support within their respective region; and

WHEREAS all the standing committees of the Board of Directors of LCC, except the CMSMS, are simply referred to as the Finance Committee, Governance Committee, Personnel Committee, or Reconciliation Committee; and

WHEREAS the acronym for the Committee for Mission and Social Ministry Services (CMSMS) is cumbersome and has been confused at times with the CCMS (Commission on Constitution Matters and Structure); and

- WHEREAS the current members of the Committee for Mission and Social Ministry Services have requested that the name of this committee be changed to International Missions Committee in order to better reflect their area of responsibility; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED that Statutory Bylaw 14.02 be amended as follows: “The Board shall establish the following Standing Committees: a Finance Committee, a Governance Committee, a Personnel Committee and ~~a Committee for Mission and Social Ministry Services~~ *an International Missions Committee*”; and be it further
- RESOLVED that the following be added to Article XIV of the Statutory Bylaws: “*The International Missions Committee shall oversee and monitor the work and activities of seminary training, continuing education, financial support of pastors and deacons, or various works of mercy in the international mission areas of the Synod.*”

**C22-40 Motion:** To adopt Resolution 22.1.04  
A 2/3 majority was required to pass this motion.

**ACTION: Adopted**

**Handbook and Structure – Resolutions Committee #1 (continued)**

**RESOLUTION 22.1.12 TO DELETE SYNODICAL BYLAW 4.57**

(Reference Overture 1.12)

- WHEREAS Synodical Bylaw 4.57 (“Pastors shall report the removal of their members to the parish to which such members have removed, in order to prevent a deplorable and unnecessary loss of members. Members shall keep their pastor informed of such removals.”) is not only confusing in that it is unclear whether this is referring to members who have moved away from the congregation, or to those who have been removed from membership in the congregation; and
- WHEREAS in either case this is a matter pertaining to pastoral care and practice, and not a synodical bylaw matter; therefore be it
- RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 4.57 be deleted.

**C22-41 Motion:** To adopt Resolution 22.1.12

**ACTION: Adopted**

**Handbook and Structure – Resolutions Committee #1 (continued)**

**RESOLUTION 22.1.05 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 1.15 CONSTITUTIONS OF CONGREGATIONS**

(Reference Overture 1.05)

- WHEREAS in our former structure each district was tasked with the appointment of a standing committee to examine and review constitutions of congregations applying for membership in the Synod and also any revisions or amendments to constitutions of member congregations, and to then report their recommendation to the district’s Board of Directors for approval, with such action being ratified at a subsequent district convention; and
- WHEREAS this task now falls under the responsibility of the Synod President and the Board of Directors of LCC as per Synodical Bylaw 1.15; and



- WHEREAS according to Synodical Bylaw 1.15 a., the entire Board is tasked with examining a constitution of a community of believers applying for membership in LCC, prior to such approval; and
- WHEREAS according to Synodical Bylaw 1.15 b., the President is tasked with reviewing revisions or amendments to constitutions of member congregations through ‘existing channels’ prior to approval by the Board, although such ‘existing channels’ are not defined in the 2017 Handbook; and
- WHEREAS it would be beneficial for the Regional Pastor, who is tasked with providing ecclesiastical supervision and care for members, to be familiar with the constitutions of congregations in the region he serves; and
- WHEREAS this process of reviewing and approving congregation constitutions should be done as timely and efficiently as possible; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 1.15 be amended as follows:

### **1.15 Constitutions of Congregations**

- a. A community of believers which applies to become a member congregation in Lutheran Church-Canada shall submit its constitution to the president, who shall ~~refer it to the Board. The Board shall~~ examine the constitution to ascertain whether its provisions are in harmony with Scripture, the confessional position of LCC as set forth in the Synodical Constitution Article II, the Statutory Bylaws, the Synodical Constitution and these Synodical Bylaws in order that any necessary changes may be made by the community. *The constitution shall then be submitted by the president to the Board for approval.* A community shall not be received as a Member Congregation until it has made such changes as ~~the Board~~ may have *been* deemed necessary ~~and has so notified the President.~~
- b. A Member Congregation which translates, revises, or amends its constitution or adopts a new constitution shall submit such translation, revision, amendment, or new constitution to the president, who shall direct it through ~~existing channels~~ *the appropriate Regional Pastor* for review, *and then submit it to the Board for approval.* Upon favourable action by the Board, the congregation shall be notified that the changes are valid and approved and that the congregation is empowered to function under the new or changed constitution. Such actions shall be submitted to the next Convention for ratification.

**C22-42 Motion:** To adopt Resolution 22.1.05

**ACTION:** Adopted

### **Handbook and Structure – Resolutions Committee #1 (continued)**

#### **RESOLUTION 22.1.09 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 5.47**

(Reference Overture 1.09)

- 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.

**C22-43 Motion:** To adopt Resolution 22.1.09

**ACTION:** Adopted

**Report of the Administrator – Dwayne Cleave**

**Greetings – International Lutheran Laymen's League / Lutheran Hour Ministries**

**– Kurt Buchholz, President & CEO**

**Theology and Church Relations – Resolutions Committee #2, Rev. Ted Giese, Chairman**

**RESOLUTION 22.2.03a TO REJOICE IN THE CHURCH'S STANCE ON THE BLESSINGS OF GATHERING IN PERSON**

(Reference Overture 2.03)

WHEREAS We are to hold God's Word sacred and gladly hear and learn it (SC I.3); and

WHEREAS Scripture teaches that concerning the public proclamation of the Gospel, "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29); and

WHEREAS Jesus has promised us, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matt. 18:20); and

WHEREAS The Holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me" (Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-25); and

WHEREAS We are to address one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with our hearts (Eph. 5:19); and

WHEREAS we are to come together physically to devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42; I Cor. 11:33); and

WHEREAS The writer to the Hebrews exhorts us concerning the primacy of gathering in person for Divine Service saying, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Heb. 10:23-25); and

WHEREAS The signs of the Day drawing near include pestilence, persecution, and war (Luke 21:11); and

WHEREAS The Divine Service is the most important gathering that takes place in the world and is a foretaste of the eternal feast in heaven where pestilence and persecution are no more; and

WHEREAS Christ our Lord did not institute the Sacrament of the Altar for our harm; and

WHEREAS We are commanded to pray for the church and our government (1 Timothy 2:1-4) and that Jesus says that if two or more agree on anything in prayer it will be granted (Matthew 18:19)

WHEREAS It is our intention to hold steadfast in this Confession and Church and suffer all even death, rather than fall away from it; Therefore be it

RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada pray for boldness and courage to hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering; and be it further

RESOLVED That Lutheran Church-Canada encourage one another to “rejoice always” (Philippians 4:4-9) in the blessing of gathering in person for Divine Service even while suffering and enduring the hardships and anxieties of this fallen world (Romans 5:1-11) recognizing that some are unable to gather due to illness, infirmity or incarceration, and that this does not separate them from the Body of Christ.

**C22-44 Motion:** To adopt Resolution 22.2.03A

**C22-45 Motion:** To amend Resolution 22.2.03A by striking the words “rejoice always” (Philippians 4:4-9) in the blessing of gathering”

**C22-46 Motion:** To call the question

**ACTION: Adopted**

The Convention proceeded with the vote on Motion C22-45.

**ACTION: Defeated**

The Convention proceeded with the vote on Motion C22-44.

**ACTION: Adopted**

**Theology and Church Relations – Resolutions Committee #2 (continued)**

**RESOLUTION 22.2.04b TO REQUEST THE PMC TO PROVIDE RELEVANT MATERIALS PERTAINING TO THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN BIOMEDICAL ETHICS, TECHNOLOGY AND THEOLOGY**

(Reference Overture 2.04)

WHEREAS the continual stream of modern scientific advancements in bio-medical research, development and technology more and more impact the life of the church and her members and congregants, and

- WHEREAS Lutheran Church Canada affirms its historic position on the sinfulness of abortion and on the sanctity of life; and
- WHEREAS the immorality of all complicity with elective abortion and related medical research is to be publicly taught against; and
- WHEREAS such research has wide implications regarding public health and individual medical care, and
- WHEREAS Government Legislation can impact the religious freedoms enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Article 1, and
- WHEREAS Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments can devise and implement laws, mandates, and guidelines that impact the physical bodies of all Canadians, and
- WHEREAS excellent material has been produced on the philosophical, ethical and theological questions raised relating to bio-medical research, development, and implementation, by partner churches and other relevant church bodies and organizations, which could be reviewed and considered in the Canadian context, and
- WHEREAS the individual burden upon conscience concerning these topics can cause great division, confusion, angst within and between congregations, and
- WHEREAS the Church needs pertinent and useful resources to navigate these issues, on an individual and congregational basis; Therefore be it
- RESOLVED that before the next regular Synodical Convention the President's Ministry Council provide relevant materials for study, guidance, reference, and discussion on these matters for Church Workers and the Church, and be it further
- RESOLVED that due to the complexity of issues relating to personal medical care congregations and congregants be encouraged to bear with each other in love and patience putting the best construction on individual matters of conscience.

**C22-47 Motion:** To adopt Resolution 22.2.04B

**C22-48 Motion:** To call the question

**ACTION: Adopted**

The Convention proceeded with the vote on Motion C22-47.

**ACTION: Adopted**

**Theology and Church Relations – Resolutions Committee #2 (*continued*)**

**RESOLUTION 22.2.05b TO RESPECTFULLY DECLINE OVERTURE 2.05**

President Teuscher sent the Resolution back to the Committee.

**Theology and Church Relations – Resolutions Committee #2 (*continued*)**

**RESOLUTION 22.1.08 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 5.45**

(Reference Overture 1.08)

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.

**C22-49 Motion:** To adopt Resolution 22.2.08

**ACTION: Adopted**

**Announcements – Alex Steinke, Director of Communications**

**Vespers – Rev. Marvin Bublitz and Rev. Alex Klages**

The pastors led the Convention in this time of worship.

**Recess**

President Teuscher called the seventh session to close at 6:03 pm (MDT)