



THE STANDARD

Standing Together, Standing as One: Together One

LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA CONVENTION NEWS | VOL. 1 ISSUE 5 | June 18, 2026

NEW FELLOWSHIP PARTNERS *address convention*



On June 15, the presidents of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) and Lutheran Mission – Australia (LM-A) addressed the convention, celebrating LCC’s declaration of fellowship with their churches. “The unity of the church is not something we create,” LCP President Antonio del Rio Reyes noted. “It is a gift that God has given through Christ Jesus. We are one because Christ is one, and we share one faith because we have one Gospel.”

“We thank God that our church bodies stand together in confessing the Holy Scriptures” and “the Lutheran Confession in the Book of Concord,” President Reyes continued. “We also give special thanks and grace to God for graciously leading our churches to a godly, Spirit-filled agreement to officially establish altar and pulpit fellowship. This is a significant blessing from the Lord, and it is a joyful public recognition of the unity in doctrine and confession that He has granted upon us.”

LM-A President Matt Anker thanked LCC members for

their long-standing partnership with Australian Lutherans. **“We are incredibly grateful for the many years of solidarity in the Gospel** and the encouragement that Lutheran Church–Canada has been to confessional people in Australia,” he said. “We share your sadness that it became necessary to leave the LCA and start Lutheran Mission–Australia as the continuing confessional Lutheran church in the country. But we rejoice that our steadfast friends in LCC have stood with us from the earliest days.”

“LM-A is deeply humbled that LCC would so readily consider and, indeed, resolve to declare altar and pulpit fellowship with us in these early days,” he continued. “We recognize the vital importance of such relationships as a small and very isolated Synod which has arisen out of the need to take a stand for our confession.” It is LM-A’s prayer that the partnership between LCC and LM-A will “provide opportunity for mutual encouragement, partnership in mission, and a common confession to the glory of God and the blessing of all people.”



CONVENTION WORSHIP

Throughout convention, participants took time for prayer and worship, beginning with the **opening Divine Service on Friday, June 12.**

Saturday began with a Service of Prayer and Preaching. Rev. Marvin Bublitz, LCC's East Regional Pastor, served as preacher, and Rev. Andrew McDonald (Lord of Life/Shepherd of the Valley, Kamloops/Salmon Arm, BC) and counsellor of the Okanagan Circuit served as liturgist. In his sermon, Rev. Bublitz expounded upon the Scripture reading from 2 John 1-12.



Rev. Bublitz used the image of a three-legged race to illustrate how walking together requires having a shared direction, with each member caring about the other's needs. In the same way, a synod **"doesn't work if each one sets out in their own direction,"** he said. He implored the assembly to walk together in the truth. For **"this is love, that we walk according to His commandments"** (2 John 6).

Noon Daily Prayer was led by convention chaplain, Rev. Cameron Schnarr (Beautiful Savior, Winnipeg). Capt. Rev. Sye Van Maanen (Riverbend, Edmonton), a Chaplain of the Reserve Forces, led Responsive Prayer 2 in the afternoon. Saturday evening saw Rev. Schnarr lead Compline to mark the close of the day.

Sunday morning opened with Matins, with Rev. Robert Mohns, LCC's West Regional Pastor, leading the service and Rev. Kurt Lantz (Resurrection,

St. Catharines, ON) serving as liturgist. During his sermon Rev. Mohns spoke of the faithfulness of Christ to His church despite our own unfaithfulness, and how Christ has "prepared a banquet for us" as spoken of in the Gospel reading from Luke 14. He also encouraged those gathered to not grow weary in doing good.



Following the sermon, a choir made of members of **Shalom Oromo Lutheran Church** sang a song entitled **"Uumaman dura kan ture"**.

Noonday prayer was led by Rev. Schnarr. Sunday afternoon also featured a short **service to commemorate the 33 LCC pastors and four deacons** who entered into glory over the past four years. The service was led by Rev. Barry Wood (St. Matthew's/Grace, Roblin, MB/Zorra, SK).



Monday morning's service of prayer and preaching was led by Central Regional Pastor (and LCC President Elect) David Haberstock, with Rev. Vishal Paul as liturgist. During the sermon, which was based on the reading from 3 John, Rev. Haberstock

Convention Worship continued...

spoke of how love in Christian life is a blessing Christ works in our hearts, how our confession unites us across countries and borders, and how this unity flows forwards into hospitality for each other.

Following the final business session, responsive prayer was led by Rev. Cameron Schnarr. The final service closed with those gathered singing "Christ the Eternal Lord" together.



Reflecting on the opening Divine Service, **Matthew Zvrlic**, lay delegate from First Lutheran Church (Windsor, Ontario) was struck by the number of attendees and the sound of the assembly's voices. **"It was so powerful to hear so many people confess the words of the Nicene Creed together,"** he remarked. This was Matthew's first time attending convention, and he found encouragement in hearing more than 500 voices joined in worship and prayer.



LIFE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Delegates to the convention were presented on Sunday with a copy of a new devotional book: *Life in the Body of Christ: Meditations on Living with Christ in His Church*. The devotional is authored by Rev. M.L. Smith—LCC's Director of International Missions—and features artwork by LCC member Harrison Avery Prozenko.

A free digital edition will soon be available to download from LCC's website for personal or congregational use. Those wishing to purchase additional print copies may do so on Amazon.ca



LCC PLANS FOR 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION

Lutheran Church-Canada is making plans to celebrate the **500th anniversary of the presentation of the Augsburg Confession in 2030**—including by ensuring that the 2030 Synod Convention theme be based upon it. The Augsburg Confession is the foundational Lutheran statement of faith.

LCC's 13th convention resolved that **"the Synod President, in consultation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, strike an anniversary committee** to prepare and gather study guides, provide worship materials, articles for The Canadian Lutheran periodical, and the like on the Augsburg Confession."

The resolution also directs the various gatherings and assemblies of the church—such as circuit forums, regional gatherings, church worker conferences, youth and young adult gatherings, and LWLMC rallies—to focus on the anniversary. Resources to mark the anniversary are to be disseminated two years in advance of the anniversary in 2030.



At the close of the convention, **Gelane Bahiru** reflected on the past four days' activities. As a choir member at Shalom Oromo (Winnipeg), she sang during Sunday morning's worship service. Wearing the traditional clothing of the Oromo people of Ethiopia, they first sang "Uumaman dura kan ture," which teaches about God's eternal nature, saying, "before creation You were there." Their second song was an uplifting anthem "praising Him, glorifying Him and thanking Him," she explained. **Christians of every language could unite in the song's chorus of "Hallelujah!"**



LCC CREATES PERMANENT

Youth Gathering Committee

On June 14, Lutheran Church-Canada's (LCC) convention adopted a resolution creating a **permanent standing committee for the National Youth Gathering (NYG)**.

National Youth Gatherings are held every three years in different regions across Canada, with youth, leaders, and volunteers from across LCC joining together for worship and faith formation.

The NYG Committee formerly operated under LCC's Board for Parish Services until it was dissolved in 2002. Since then, the NYG committee has operated independently but still in association with LCC. According to Dcn. Amanda Hastings, an NYG committee member and LCC Board of Directors member who spoke from the floor, this resolution was the result of a desire from both LCC and the NYG committee to formalise their relationship and work together more closely in the future.

The next NYG is slated to be held in 2028 in the West Region, though an exact location and theme have not yet been announced.

The convention **also passed a resolution to add an archives committee** to the list of LCC's standing committees. Such a committee will help LCC to develop policies for "the orderly acquiring, preserving, and making available the records and cultural properties of Lutheran Church-Canada."

CONVENTION VOICES

"It's not an official LCC event, but there will be beer!" **Jacob Lefebvre** was happy to be invited to unwind with convention attendees after the day's business. As the lay delegate of LCC's newest member congregation, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Cornwall, Ontario), Lefebvre signed LCC's constitution on Friday, a convention highlight. **He was heartened by the fellowship, and by being able to meet pastors "whose online sermons have impacted me."**

CONVENTION VOICES

At nineteen years old, **Jude Frey** was one of if not the youngest voting delegate at this convention. He represented the dual parish of St. Matthew's (Roblin, Manitoba) and Grace (Zorra, Saskatchewan). One meaningful aspect of the convention for him was receiving the trust of his congregation to be their delegate, as a young, first-time attendee. **"Knowing that my congregation has chosen me to represent them, it's definitely an honour."**



LCC REAFFIRMS OPPOSITION TO MAID

In light of the troubling expansion of **Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)**, the convention of Lutheran Church-Canada on June 13 reaffirmed **"her unwavering commitment to the sacredness of all human life from conception to natural death, and therefore also her firm opposition to the practice of MAID... along with the philosophical perspectives underlying it."**

The convention instructed the Commission on Theology and Church Relations "to formulate Pastoral Guidelines for pastors and laity struggling with MAID and its consequences." The convention also encouraged LCC and its partner agencies to "encourage a vibrant confession and ministry" on the issue of MAID "by providing relevant Bible studies, literature, and guidance for ministry to the faithful of LCC concerning this topic," as well as programming and agencies which provide for the lonely, the depressed, and the vulnerable, beneficial care and loving alternatives to MAID."

The resolution also saw the church encourage Canada's governing authorities to repeal MAID legislation.

CONVENTION ATTENDEES

enjoy fellowship

On Saturday evening, convention attendees and local congregations came together for a night of **"Fellowship Without Borders,"** hosted by Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada in the Hilton-Stevenson Ballroom.



The night market event **invited attendees to explore places around the world with an LCC presence.** Upon entering, attendees received a 'Convention Passport' in which to collect stamps from each of the destinations represented. Activities included a photo booth, trivia about the global church, a flower stand where attendees could write encouraging messages to send to Ukraine, and an audio station to hear and record Christian greetings in Oromo, French, Cree, and more.

The flavours of bubble tea, enchiladas, and spring rolls reflected places like the Philippines, Nicaragua, and Cambodia, where the church continues to grow.



On Sunday night, convention delegates enjoyed **"An Evening in Wittenberg."** Participants arrived to find the convention hall transformed into a Reformation-era themed hall, complete with volunteers in costume and live music performed by the Amindra Consort (Kevin Scott, Mark McLearn, and Margaret McKenty). Guests enjoyed good conversation together, along with a German-inspired meal.



Rev. Dr. Richard Beinert (Immanuel, Winnipeg) took on the role of a Wittenberg professor, leading participants in games and keeping the evening rolling along. After supper, guests enjoyed a magic show by magician Ken Sky.

CONVENTION VOICES

Three generations of the Griffin family attended this convention: **Kassi Griffin**, aunt **Wendy Chant**, and grandmother **Lois Griffin**. Kassi, attending her first convention, was **"encouraged by being with Lutherans from across the country, specifically other young people."** Kassi and Wendy were lay delegates of their respective congregations, while Lois Griffin serves on LCC's Board of Directors and has "attended too many conventions to count!"

They're an example of generations joining together in service of the church.



ELECTION RESULTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD):

Laity:

- James Frey (Central)
- Darryll Holland (East)
- Lois Griffin (East)
- Doug Petersen (West)
- Shaun Visser (West)

Clergy:

- Rev. Aaron Astley (East)
- Rev. Mark Hennig (West)
- Rev. Alex Klages (Central)

Deacon:

- Dcn. Amanda Hastings (Central)

COMMISSION ON ADJUDICATION (COA):

Rostered Workers:

- Rev. Murray Keith (Central)
- Rev. Adrian Kramer (Central)
- Rev. John Rapp (East)
- Rev. Dr. Kevin Fast (East)
- Rev. Darren Siegle (West)
- Rev. Don Hennig (West)

COMMISSION ON NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (CNE):

Laity:

- Wendy Chant (East)
- Rod Johnson (Central)
- Elizabeth Schieman (West)

Rostered Workers:

- Rev. Kurt Lantz (East)
- Rev. Kurt Reinhardt (East)
- Rev. Philip Washeim (West)
- Rev. Glenn Worcester (Central)

COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS (CTCR):

Laity:

- Mathew Block (Central)
- Daniel Smilek (East)

Clergy:

- Rev. Michael Keith (West)
- Rev. Joel Kuhl (East)

COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTION MATTERS AND STRUCTURE (CCMS):

Laity:

- Timothy Lach – lawyer (Central)
- Valerie Edward – lawyer (East)
- Ronald Faulkner (West)

Clergy:

- Rev. Jeffrey Dul (West)
- Rev. Andrew McDonald (West)
- Rev. Brian Falkenholt (West)

CIRCUIT COUNSELLORS LCC ARE:

Central Region:

- Assiniboine Circuit: Rev. Barry Wood
- Northland Circuit: Rev. Jakob Valsson
- Ontario Circuit: No nominations
- Qu'Appelle Circuit: Rev. Joshua Kurtenbach
- Red River Circuit: Rev. Richard Beinert
- Saskatoon Circuit: No nominations
- Southland Circuit: Rev. Travis Heide
- Wascana Circuit: No nominations

East Region:

- Hamilton Circuit: Rev. David Zake
- Hanover Circuit: Rev. Kenneth Maher
- Kitchener Circuit: Rev. James Keller
- London Circuit: Rev. Paul Schallhorn
- Niagara Circuit: No nominations
- Ottawa Circuit: Rev. Matthew Habermas
- Stratford Circuit: No nominations
- Toronto Circuit: Rev. Vishal Paul
- Windsor Circuit: No nominations

West Region:

- Calgary Circuit: Rev. David Dressler
- Cariboo Circuit: Rev. Noel Smith
- Edmonton Circuit: No nominations
- Greater Vancouver Circuit: Rev. Lucas Albrecht

- Lethbridge Circuit: Rev. Lee Loveridge
- Okanagan Circuit: Rev. Jeffrey Koenig
- Peace River Circuit: Rev. Terrance Goerz
- Stony Plain Circuit: No nominations
- Vancouver Island: Rev. Stephen Chambers
- Wetaskiwin Circuit: Rev. Brian Amison

REGIONAL MISSION AND MINISTRY COUNCILS (RMMCS):

Central Region:

- Assiniboine Circuit: No nominations
- Northland Circuit: Larry Durand
- Ontario Circuit: Howard Fiskar
- Red River Circuit: Gelane Bahiru
- Saskatoon Circuit: Denise Timm
- Wascana Circuit: Barb Schentag

East Region:

- Hanover Circuit: Kim Kuhl
- Kitchener Circuit: Anna Fierling
- Niagara Circuit: Scott Allan
- Stratford Circuit: Mark Rohfrietsch
- Toronto Circuit: David Chant
- Windsor Circuit: Matthew Zvic

West Region:

- Cariboo Circuit: Charles von Hahn
- Edmonton Circuit: Josh Bentley
- Okanagan Circuit: Hope Mendes
- Peace River Circuit: Rick Slater
- Stony Plain Circuit: Tiffany Playter
- Vancouver Island Circuit: Sonja Bland

The convention also ranked candidates for service on the boards of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (St. Catharines, Ontario) and Concordia Lutheran Seminary (Edmonton), recommending them to the seminararies for their consideration.



Published by Lutheran Church-Canada

Director of Communications: Dr. Tasheney Francis
 Digital Communications Coordinator: Causby Fernandez
 Chief Writer & Editor: Mathew Block
 Reporters: Anna Scheetz & Gabrielle George
 Photographers: Dr. Tam Winger & Sura Tulu
 Design & Layout: Afeta Abraham

Special Thanks to Lutheran Layman's League of Canada & the Communications & Technology Committee.

Special Thanks to our Donors!



BEAUTIFUL SAVIOUR
LUTHERAN SCHOOL
Let your light shine.



LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA



TD Asset
Management

