

**Eleventh Biennial Convention
In Mission for Others: Building Bridges
Saskatchewan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**

**July 6 – 9, 2006
Exhibition Building, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan**

MINUTES

**SYNOD IN CONVENTION - Plenary One – Thursday, July 6, 2006;
3:00 p.m.**

The 11th Biennial Convention of the Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC came to order with Rev. Dennis Hendrickson and Rev. Ian Nestegaard Paul leading the assembly in singing the gathering songs #166, “I Love To Tell the Story” and #159, “Come, Join the Dance of the Trinity” from the nu-cranberry coloured Sampler *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* booklet provided to the delegates.

Bishop Cindy Halmarson called the delegates to read responsively the Order for Opening of a Convention. Bishop Cindy Halmarson declared the convention open in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Rev. Gary Schenk, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, was welcomed and asked to come forward. Rev. Schenk welcomed everyone to Prince Albert for the convention.

Bishop Cindy Halmarson introduced:

Convention Manager, Rev. Roger Haugen, Assistant to the Bishop
Synod office staff, Sharon McKeown-Closs and Darlene Wilson
Convention Newsletter staff: Rev. Doug Shepherd, Rev. Ian Nestegaard Paul,
Rosine Gerhardt, Kerilyn Voigt and Rev. Bruce Ehlert
Officers: Rev. Jerry Borkowsky, Vice-chair and Co-chair of the convention
Joan Meyer, Secretary of the Synod
Guests: Rev. Paul Johnson, ELCIC Assistant to the Bishop
Dr. Roger Kingsley, ELCIC Vice President and Chair of National Church
Council
Rev. Brian Rude, ELCIC Missionary
Bishop Telmor Sartison, Retired ELCIC Bishop
Rev. Kevin Ogilvie, Convention Chaplain

The Bishop introduced clergy new to the Sask Synod since the 2004 convention:
Ordained in 2005 or 2006

Rev. Chris Bishopp (Redeemer, Biggar)
Rev. Amber Hoffman (St. Olaf, Swift Current)
Rev. David Jensen (Partners in Worship, Shell Lake)
Rev. Daniel Krauss (Lampman & Woodley)
Rev. Doug Schmirler (Shellbrook & Canwood)
Rev. Richard Prankev (Medstead)
Rev. Jeremy Chen (Zion, Saskatoon)
Rev. Margaret Propp (Davidson & Loreburn)

Received by transfer or recommendation by the Examining Committee:

Rev. Greg Fowlie-Neufeld (from MNO to Chaplain, LutherCare Communities, Saskatoon)
Rev. Peter Walker (from ABT to Kindersley & Marengo)
Rev. Kevin Ogilvie (from ELCA Missionary to President, Lutheran Theological Seminary)
Rev. Wayne Garman (received on roster from ELC Oldenberg, Germany to Lemberg & Neudorf)
Rev. Larry Fry (received on roster to Chaplain, Luther College High School, Regina)
Rev. Bob Deobald (from ABT to Military Chaplain – Dundurn)
Rev. Richard Chappell (from ABT to Chaplain, Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, Outlook)

Approved for ordination:

Pastor-elect Beryl St Germain (Porcupine Plain/Crooked River)
Pastor-elect Lori James (Esterhazy/New Stockholm)
Pastor-elect Arlene Brown (LutherCare Communities)

Pastors from other denominations appointed to serve synod ministries:

Rev. Shawn Sanford-Beck (ACC – Saskatoon Native Ministry)
Rev. Leigh Sinclair (UCC – Spiritwood)
Rev. Paula Foster (ACC – LutherCare Communities)

Delegate Orientation to Convention Rules and Procedures

Bishop Cindy Halmarson did a general orientation making delegates familiar with the various procedures of the convention and walked through the revised agenda and the materials in the bulletin of reports. She explained the variances in the name tags. Yellow (yes) and red (no) voting cards were distributed to all voting delegates and instructions were given for their use.

Standing Rules of Order based on *Bourinot's* are outlined in the Governance Section.

Announcement of Convention Committees

Registration & Attendance

Carol Eaton (chair), Rev. Bob Langdon, Louise Morris.

Nominations

Joan Meyer, Synod Secretary (chair), Rev. Kathy Schmitke, Synod Council Representative,

Deans: Rev. Scott Brown, Rev. Bryan Chappell, Rev. Rick Johnson, Rev. Greg Kiel, Rev. Kim Sherwin, Rev. Terry Simonson

Elections

Rev. Heather Anderson (chair), Elaine Hesje, Rev. Glenn Shore, Rev. Sheldon Gattinger

Minutes

Laurie Buck (chair), Rev. Daphne Bender, Deaconess Joan Cole-Heine, Bob Edwards, Rev. Lois Knudson Munholland.

Report of the Bishop

Rev. Pat Simonson (chair), Glenn Dokken, Rev. Lindsay Hognestad, Sarah Tomtene (youth assembly)

Reference & Counsel

Rev. Dr. Faith Rohrbough (chair), Irene Adams, Rev. Vivian Roberts, David Solheim

Special Concern

Three Synod Council members, Rev. Chad Moir, Patricia Leatherdale and Rev. Michael Diegel, raised a concern about having their names included in a letter circulated in the Synod. They wanted Convention delegates to know they did not consent to having their names placed in the letter or using this means to ask for support on ballots.

Recognition of Youth Delegates

The Bishop welcomed the youth delegates and their coordinators, Rev. Amber Hoffman, Rev. Chris Bishopp and Seminarian Ali Tote, to the Convention. Youth Delegates are:

Regina Conference –	Meaghan Kimmie
	Angus Livingstone
Saskatoon Conference –	Christopher Brown
	Kelsi Moser
Weyburn Conference -	Vanessa Rhodes
	Sandy Lohse
Yorkton Conference -	Bronwyn Nestegaard Paul

- Prince Albert Conference - Sarah Tomtene
Krystle Hoehne
- Swift Current Conference - No representatives

The Bishop turned the chair over to Vice-chair Rev. Jerry Borkowsky.

Recognition of Guests and Granting of Seat and Voice

SSC 06 01 MSC that, according to Synod Constitution, Article X, Section 8, seat and voice be granted to the following persons for the duration of the convention:

- a. Retired National Bishop Telmor Sartison
- b. Dr. Roger Kingsley, ELCIC Vice-President and NCC Chairperson
- c. Rev. Paul Johnson, Assistant to the National Bishop, ELCIC
- d. Lay members of Synod Council who are not delegates
- e. Lay representatives from Circle of Life and Saskatoon Native Ministry
- f. Clergy of other denominations serving in Sask Synod ministries: namely, Rev. Dan Fournier, Rev. Chris Harper, Rev. Carolyn McBean, Rev. Shawn Sanford-Beck, Rev. Leigh Sinclair, Rev. Cheryl Toth
- g. The Rt. Rev. Anthony Burton, Diocese of Saskatchewan
- h. Seminary interns serving in Saskatchewan Synod congregations, namely, Erik Bjorgan, Rick Laurendeau, Ali Tote

SSC 06 02 MSC that, according to Synod Constitution, Article X, Section 8, seat and voice be granted to the following persons in connection with their reports:

- a. Chairpersons of synod committees
- b. Representatives of LutherCare Communities and St. Paul Lutheran Home, Melville
- c. Saskatchewan Synod ELW President Carol Maurer
- d. Representatives of other related institutions and agencies

SSC 06 03 MSC that Rev. Brian Rude, ELCIC Missionary, be given seat and voice for the duration of the convention.

Report from the Committee on Registration and Attendance

Committee Chair Carol Eaton, reported as of 3:00 p.m., Thursday, July 6 there are:

Lay delegates	69
Rostered delegates	60
Total voting delegates registered	129
Visitors registered	32
Persons registered for convention	161

Clergy requesting to be excused from the Convention are:

Rev. Virgil Anderson
Rev. Ron Bestvater
Rev. Dr. Erwin Buck
Rev. Rik Cherland
Rev. Greg Fowlie-Neufeld
Rev. David Kaiser
Rev. Daniel Krauss
Rev. Lorne Lissel
Rev. Virgil Lundquist
Rev. Michael Poellet
Rev. Dr. Ken Neumann
Rev. Paul Nostbakken
Rev. Caron Parke
Rev. Merle Snustead
Rev. Art Solheim
Rev. Jaycen Snider

Approval of Agenda

SSC 06 04 MSC that the proposed agenda for the 11th Biennial Convention of the Saskatchewan Synod be approved.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2004 Convention

SSC 06 05 MSC that the minutes of the 10th Biennial Convention of the Saskatchewan Synod, July 2004, be approved. (*Distributed to 10th Biennial Convention delegates and congregations in 2005.*)

Announcement of Synod Council Recommendations

Synod Council member Murray Walter announced the Constitution and Bylaw Amendments (F 3 - F 34). The Constitution will be considered on Friday for second reading. The Bylaws will also be presented and voted on during Friday's plenary sessions.

The other motions being presented by Synod Council were also highlighted for delegate information.

Convention Manager Rev. Roger Haugen, Assistant to the Bishop, was called on for announcements.

Chaplain Rev. Kevin Ogilvie led the assembly in prayer before dinner.

The assembly recessed for dinner.

SYNOD IN WORSHIP - Opening Worship Service – Thursday, July 6, 2006

Delegates, visitors and friends gathered for worship at Messiah Lutheran Church in Prince Albert at 7:00 p.m. Leaders of the worship service were:

Preacher and Presider: Bishop Cindy Halmarson

Assistant: Vicar Erik Bjorgan

Acolytes: Jessica Serfas and Spencer Dowling

Lectors: Rev. Dan Haugen, Vicar Eric Bjorgan, Anglican Bishop Anthony Burton, and Bishop Cindy Halmarson

Musicians: Organist Sheldon Hirschfeld, Pianist Katie Ormerod and Guitarist and Drummer Rev. Dennis Hendricksen

During the service there was a remembrance of Rostered Leaders who had passed away during the past biennium: Dr. John Kleiner, Rev. Ray Beaver, Sister Elfriede Hilchier and Rev. Dennis Wiig. Also remembered were congregations that had closed: Scandia Lutheran Church, Hendon; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Regina; Peace Lutheran Church, Weyburn; and Bethania Lutheran Church, Macrorie. Congregations that have withdrawn from the ELCIC during the past two years were remembered: Bethany Lutheran Church, Parkbeg, and Chaplin Lutheran Church, Chaplin.

Bishop Cindy Halmarson based her sermon on the Gospel reading for the day, Matthew 5:1-12.

The offering from the service was designated to be evenly split between the Sask Synod Seminary Student Aid Fund and Sask Synod Rural Internship Fund.

Greetings were brought to the convention by the following church and civic leaders:

Rev. Dan Haugen, Messiah Lutheran, host congregation

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Anthony Burton, Anglican Church of Canada, Diocese of Saskatchewan

A letter of greeting from District President Prachar of the Man-Sask District, Lutheran Church Canada was read.

Pastor Lorna King, President United Church of Canada, Saskatchewan Conference

Representative of Bishop Blaise Morand, Roman Catholic Church, Prince Albert Diocese

The Honourable Myron Kowalski, Speaker of the House and MLA for Prince Albert-Carlton

Ms Marje Nainaar, Executive Director, Prince Albert Multicultural Council.

Ms Debbie Honch, Prince Albert Tourism

The evening concluded with a reception hosted by Messiah Lutheran congregation and sponsored by FaithLife Financial.

SYNOD IN CONVENTION - Plenary Two – Friday, July 7, 2006; 8:30 a.m.

Chaplain Rev. Kevin Ogilvie opened Plenary Session Two with Morning Prayer as printed in the Convention worship booklet. He was assisted by Rev. Dennis Hendricksen on the keyboard and Rev. Ian Nestegaard Paul on the flute.

Vice-chair Rev. Jerry Borkowsky called the session to order.

Point of Privilege

A delegate requested more information regarding the letter alluded to by the three Synod Council members. Bishop Cindy Halmarson asked that the matter along with a copy of the letter be referred to the Committee for Reference and Counsel for their consideration and recommendation.

Report from the Committee on Registration and Attendance

Committee Chair, Carol Eaton, reported as of 9:00 a.m., Friday, July 7, 2006 there are:

Lay delegates	91
Rostered delegates	90
Total voting delegates registered	181
Visitors registered	47
Persons registered for convention	228

Officers' Reports

Bishop's Report (C-1-20)

Vice-chair Rev. Jerry Borkowsky called on Bishop Cindy Halmarson to present her report to the Convention. Her comments related to the "bridge building" that is going on within this Synod. She thanked her assistant, Rev. Roger Haugen for the major role he is taking in making this happen through the Synod. She commented on the number of parishes currently vacant. Many retired pastors are assisting by serving as interim pastors so that ministry can continue in these communities. She acknowledged the role diaconal ministers have in Word and Service. The Synod is facing the many challenges of parishes within Saskatchewan with hope. She gave thanks for the opportunity to serve as Bishop for the past four years.

Committee on the Report of the Bishop (Appendix A)

Committee Chairperson Rev. Patricia Simonson introduced the entire committee and they each took part in presenting the report.

As part of their report they gave special recognition to Synod staff members: Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Roger Haugen, Administrative Assistant Sharon McKeown-Closs, and her team of Darlene Wilson and Doreen Boldt (as well as Janice Haugen who served during the past biennium). Recognition was also given to Bishop Cindy Halmarson's family for their special contribution to the Synod.

The Convention acknowledged these thoughts of appreciation by giving a round of applause and a standing ovation for Administrative Assistant Sharon McKeown-Closs and the Synod office staff.

Vice Chairperson's Report (C-21)

Bishop Cindy Halmarson took the chair and Vice-chair Rev. Jerry Borkowsky presented his report.

Secretary's Report (C-22-25)

Joan Meyer presented the Secretary's Report with the following additions to cover the period from April 30, 2006 to July 5, 2006.

CLERGY ROSTER

Received by graduation and ordination

Jeremy Chen – ordained on April 30, 2006

Upcoming Ordinations

Jason Anderson

Arlene Brown

Lori James

Beryl St. Germain

Received by transfer

Rev. Robert Deobald by transfer from ABT Synod

Rev. Richard Chappell by transfer from ABT Synod

Received by examination

Rev. Wayne Garman from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldenberg, Germany

Removed from Roster

Rev. Brenda Nestegaard Paul by transfer to BC Synod

Jason Anderson by transfer to ABT Synod

Resigned from Roster

Rev. Steve Forbes – May 31, 2006

Retired

Rev. Bob Jarock – June 30, 2006

Rev. Heather Kleiner – June 30, 2006

Special Calls Issued

Rev. Richard Chappell to Chaplain, Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute,

Outlook

Arlene Brown to Chaplain, LutherCare Communities, Saskatoon

Non-Lutheran Clergy Approved to Serve Lutheran Ministries:

Rev. Paula Foster, Anglican Church of Canada – LutherCare Communities

DIACONAL ROSTER – no changes

CONGREGATION ROSTER

Dissolution of parishes

Christ Lutheran, Earl Grey from St. Mark's Lutheran, Markinch

Immanuel Lutheran, Admiral from Salem Lutheran, Shaunavon

Treasurer's Report (C-25-36)

Murray Walter, Synod Council member and member of the Synod Finance Committee, reported to the convention on the vacancy in the position of treasurer. Jim Peterson will not be finishing the balance of the term. Committee member Rev. Harold Hesje, with the assistance of Administrative Assistant Sharon McKeown-Closs presented the Treasurer's Report to the Convention.

Rev. Harold Hesje placed the Treasurer's Report before the Convention. He highlighted the fact there was a deficit incurred in 2005 of \$54,244. The budget will be presented later in the Convention.

First Ballot for Bishop

Vice-chair Rev. Jerry Borkowsky introduced Retired National Bishop Telmor Sartison to lead the process of electing the Bishop.

Bishop Telmor Sartison referred to page B-32 in the Bulletin of Reports which is Bylaws Part IV stating how nominations and elections are conducted for the officers of the Synod.

He read a meditation from ELCIC National Bishop Ray Schultz regarding the role and election of a bishop.

Report from the Committee on Registration and Attendance

Committee Chair Carol Eaton, reported as of 10:00 a.m., Friday, July 7, 2006 there were:

Lay delegates	91
Rostered delegates	94
Total voting delegates registered	185
Visitors registered	47
Persons registered for convention	232

Bishop Telmor Sartison called on Chaplain Rev. Kevin Ogilvie to lead the convention in prayer for the election of a bishop.

At the pre-determined time of 10:10 the Election Committee had the stewards distribute a ballot to each delegate in the Convention Hall. They were instructed to write the name of one ordained person they wanted to serve this Synod as Bishop. The ballots were collected.

Strategic Planning and Synod Priorities

The Vice-chairperson Jerry Borkowsky asked the Strategic Planning Committee to make a presentation to the Convention. Joan Meyer gave an overview of the Relationship Model of Governance which the Synod is using as its governance model; Rev. Chad Moir presented the Strategic Plan adopted by the Synod Council.

Bishop Cindy Halmarson challenged the delegates to submit ideas for the tactical plans she has to develop in order to accomplish the strategic goals.

The delegates were given time in table groups to make program suggestions on forms provided. At the end of the session the sheets were collected.

Convention Manager Rev. Roger Haugen, with assistance from others, gave a series of announcements.

Chaplain, Rev. Kevin Ogilvie concluded the session with prayer.

Plenary Three – Friday, July 7, 2006; 1:30 p.m.

Registration and Attendance Report

Committee member Louise Morris reported as of 1:00 p.m., Friday, July 7 there are:

Lay delegates	92
Rostered delegates	95
Total voting delegates registered	187

Visitors registered	49
Persons registered for convention	236

Results of the First Ballot for Bishop

Bishop Telmor Sartison called on the Chair of the Election Committee to give the report on the results of the first ballot for Bishop.

Rev. Heather Anderson, Chair of the Election Committee gave the report

Rev. Chris Bishopp 1	Rev. Rick Hordern 1
Rev. Carla Blakley 1	Rev. David Hunter 4
Rev. Jerry Borkowsky 4	Rev. Gordon Jensen 1
Rev. Sheldon Gattinger 1	Rev. Dennis Lueck 3
Rev. Cindy Halmarson 120	Rev. Eugene Mau 2
Rev. Daniel Haugen 34	Rev. Brenda Nestegaard-Paul 1
Rev. Roger Haugen 4	Rev. Kevin Ogilvie 1
Rev. Sidney Haugen 2	Rev. Daryl Olson 1
Rev. Amber Hoffman 1	Rev. Kathleen Schmitke 1

184 ballots were cast; 1 ballot was spoiled; 3/4 of the votes cast shall be required for election; therefore 138 votes were needed to elect on this ballot.

No election was declared and Bishop Telmor Sartison called for the Second Ballot for Bishop.

Second Ballot for Bishop

Chaplain Rev. Kevin Ogilvie led in prayer for the election of the Bishop.

The ballots were distributed to voting delegates. Delegates were instructed to vote for one person on the list generated by the first ballot. Ballots were collected.

Report from Committee on Reference and Counsel

The Committee on Reference and Counsel reported on their decision regarding the referral from the Bishop about the letter distributed to some of the delegates.

“The Committee on Reference and Counsel has made the following decision: We have chosen to read the letter rather than distribute it. We will do this without giving any of the names. Following the reading of the letter we will give our reasons for taking this approach.”

The letter was read, indicating the list of positions but not names.

“Reasons:

1. There are points in the theological opening statement that contravene the Confession of Faith in the constitution Article 3 Section 2.
2. Address and distribution:
Although the letter is addressed to all members of the Saskatchewan Synod, it has not been distributed to everyone. The proper way to distribute materials that pertain to the convention would be through the Synod Office.
3. The letter is unsigned. No one has taken responsibility for preparing and distributing it.
4. The letter proposes a slate of names for election to Synod Council, Seminary Board and the Office of Bishop. The proposal of such a slate contravenes the nomination process laid out in the bylaws of the Synod Part III, Section 3.f and Part IV Sections 1, 2 and 3.
5. Of the nine people whose names are listed, we know that at least four have not given their consent to appear on this slate.
6. The NB alert at the bottom states “All constitutional motions and amendments and all special provisions for seat and voice need to be carefully considered, if not defeated”. This statement counsels disruption of the convention process and potentially limits the full and free participation of convention delegates.”

Bishop Cindy Halmarson received the counsel of the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

Synod Council Report (E-1-9)

The Synod Council members came forward to present their report. Secretary Joan Meyer presented the report and led the Convention delegates through it. Opportunities were given for questions about the report.

Council member Murray Walter was called upon to introduce the Second Reading of the Constitution. (Bulletin of Reports page F 03-13)

SSC 06 06 MSC that the second reading of amendments to the Synod Constitution be approved so that the Constitution of the Saskatchewan Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada be amended by repealing Articles II, and IV to XIX and replacing the same with the proposed Articles II, and IV to XVIII. (First reading SSC 04-18)

ELCIC National Church Council Chair Roger Kingsley was asked when the Constitution could come into effect. He stated the Constitution could come into effect at the conclusion of this convention.

Murray Walter went on to explain the proposed Bylaws and compared them to the current bylaws. It was noted that the proposed Part III, Section 5.a.ii. is being removed as is Part IV, Section 5.a.ii. as they relate to mandatory retirement at age 65. National Church Council is advising all Synods to adopt a standard policy on retirement, recognizing that in some provinces it is illegal to have a mandatory retirement age.

Opportunities were given for delegates to ask questions regarding the changes in Bylaws and their implications and alignment with the National Church documents.

Report on the Second Ballot for Bishop

Bishop Telmor Sartison called on the Chair of the Election Committee to give the report on the results of the second ballot for Bishop.

Rev. Heather Anderson, Chair of the Election Committee gave the report:

Rev. Carla Blakley 3	Rev. Roger Haugen 3
Rev. Jerry Borkowksy 3	Rev. Sidney Haugen 2
Rev. Sheldon Gattinger 1	Rev. David Hunter 4
Rev. Cindy Halmarson 128	Rev. Gordon Jensen 1
Rev. Daniel Haugen 36	Rev. Dennis Lueck 4

There were 185 ballots cast; 0 spoiled ballots; 2/3 of the votes cast shall be required for election therefore 125 votes were required to elect on this ballot.

Bishop Cindy Halmarson was declared elected to her second term as Bishop of the Saskatchewan Synod. Bishop Halmarson accepted the election with thanks.

ELCIC National Report (G-1-26)

Bishop Cindy Halmarson introduced and welcomed ELCIC National Church Council Chairperson Dr. Roger Kingsley and Assistant to the National Bishop Rev. Paul Johnson.

Dr. Kingsley brought greetings on behalf of National Bishop Ray Schultz who is attending the Eastern Synod Convention meeting at the same time as the Sask Synod Convention.

Rev. Paul Johnson provided a supplement to the written report with a Power Point presentation.

Dr. Kingsley delivered a message from the National Church to the Convention.

Rev. Paul Johnson presented the report of Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA). (G-27-31)

Bishop Cindy Halmarson thanked the national representatives for their presentations.

Rev. Brian Rude, ELCIC Missionary to El Salvador was invited to address the Convention. He spoke of his work in the prisons and on the streets of El Salvador with prisoners, gangs and street kids. He thanked members for their ongoing support through LWF, CLWR, GHDA or directly and for helping build bridges for the youth of El Salvador.

The plenary session recessed with announcements and moved into a refreshment break.

Plenary Four – Friday, July 7, 2006; 4:00 p.m.

Lutheran Theological Seminary Report (G-51-53)

The Convention resumed with Vice-Chair Rev Jerry Borkowsky inviting Rev. Kevin Ogilvie, President of Lutheran Theological Seminary to present the report for the Seminary.

Rev. Kevin Ogilvie gave thanks to Rev. Dr. Erwin Buck for his gracious ease in the transition process. He added remarks to supplement the report printed in the Bulletin of Reports. He gave particular thanks to the Synod for their support of the Seminary. There is a projected enrollment of 70 students at Seminary for the fall of 2006. He gave a public thank you for the loan of Rev. Paul Sartison as Schmieder Resident at the Seminary this past year. He highlighted the theological journal *Consensus* and challenged pastors and lay people to subscribe to it.

He responded to questions from the floor.

FaithLife Financial Greetings

Dr. Dieter Kays, CEO of FaithLife Financial, brought a greeting to the convention. He highlighted the name change from Lutheran Life to FaithLife Financial in order to grow and to serve a broader clientele base.

Synod Council Report Continued (F-14-34)

Murray Walter resumed presenting the proposed new bylaws to the convention.

MS that the convention approve amendments to the Bylaws of the Saskatchewan Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada so that the current Bylaws be repealed and replaced by the Proposed Bylaws.

MS that an amendment be made to Part III, by adding Section 12.

An ordained minister of a shared ministry congregation which has a covenanted agreement between members of a denomination other than one which is in full

communion agreement with the ELCIC shall have the same rights and privileges as any ordained minister of this synod.

SSC 06 07 MSC that this amendment be tabled for fifteen minutes so that it can be reworked.

SSC 06 08 MSC that an amendment be made to Part X, Section 4b. that the members shall be appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Committee for Lutheran Campus Ministry – Saskatoon; and to Section 4c. The student members shall serve for one year terms with all other members serving two-year terms. No member shall be eligible for appointment for more than three consecutive terms.

SSC 06 09 MSC that an amendment be made to Part XII Financial Matters, Section 5 that the Synod shall submit the financial accounts annually for audit to a professionally designated accountant in Canada named by Synod Council.

MS that an amendment to Part V, Section 3, add a “f” to include “Ordained ministers serving as pastor to a ELCIC congregation in a shared ministry congregation which has a covenanted agreement with that ELCIC congregation.”

SSC 06 10 MSC that this amendment be referred to Synod Council.

MSD that an amendment to Part V, Section 9 add “Synod Council shall provide a written detailed accounting of all income and expenses of each Synod Convention to all congregations of the Synod.”

SSC 06 11 MSC that the amended motion to approve the Bylaws be approved.

MS that we suspend our rules so that we can start to function now under the new Constitution and Bylaws, as required.

SSC 06 12 MSC that the question be called to cease debate.

SSC 06 13 MSC that we suspend our rules so that we can start to function now under the new Constitution and Bylaws, as required.

Committee on Reference and Counsel

The Committee on Reference and Counsel gave a brief report that they have nothing ready to bring before the assembly at this time. Any motions delegates want to have brought before the convention must be submitted to the Committee for Reference and Counsel by 9:00 this evening.

The Plenary Session recessed with announcements from the Convention Manager.

Chaplain Rev. Kevin Ogilvie led in prayer before being dismissed for dinner.

SYNOD IN CELEBRATION - Friday, July 7, 2006; 7:00 p.m.

Recognition of Anniversaries and Retirements

Bishop Cindy Halmarson called the fifth plenary session of the convention to order and led the recognition of Ministry Anniversaries and Retirements. The following people were recognized:

10 Years

Rev. Heather Anderson
Rev. Carla Blakley
Rev. Christopher Dean
Rev. Michael Diegel
Rev. Valerie From
Rev. Darlene Harrison
Rev. Greg Kiel
Rev. Dr. Faith Rohrbough
Rev. Douglas Shepherd
Rev. Jeff Tank

25 Years

Rev. James Halmarson
Rev. Dr. Sidney Haugen
Rev. Joan Jespersen
Rev. Harley Johnson
Rev. Dr. Clarence Mitchler
Rev. Caron R. Parke
Rev. Michael Poellet
Rev. Kathleen Schmitke

40 years

Bishop (retired) Allan Grundahl
Rev. Harold Hesje
Rev. David Kaiser
Rev. Ron Sagness

50 years

Rev. Iver Moen
Rev. Paul Nostbakken
Rev. Dr. Roger Nostbakken
Rev. Reinhold Propp

60 Years

Rev. Virgil Lundquist
Rev. Arthur Solheim

Retirements

Rev. David Hanes
Rev. Heather Kleiner
Rev. Pat Simonson
Deaconess Joan Cole-Heine

Rev. Bob Jarock
Rev. Dr. Ken Neumann
Rev. Terry Simonson

SYNOD IN CONVENTION - Plenary Five – Friday, July 7, 2006; 7:00 p.m.

Vice-chair Rev. Jerry Borkowsky resumed the chair.

Registration and Attendance Report

Committee member Rev. Bob Langdon reported as of 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 7 there are:

Lay delegates	92
Rostered delegates	95
Total voting delegates registered	187
Visitors registered	51
Persons registered for convention.	238

Compensation Guidelines Report (F-35-36)

The Chair called for members of the Compensation Guidelines Committee to come forward to give their presentation. Rev. Harold Hesje and Daryl Nelson presented the report on behalf of the committee. A Power Point presentation gave the details of the changes being proposed to the Compensation Guidelines for Clergy. The committee fielded several questions from delegates.

MS that the convention approve the recommendations related to Compensation Guidelines as reported by the Task Force on Compensation Guidelines.

SSC 06 14 MSC that the above motion be divided to deal with recommendation #1 prior to consideration of the subsequent two recommendations.

SSC 06 15 MSC that with respect to Compensation Guidelines for rostered ministers of the Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC, the Synod Council be responsible to:

- a) Develop and approve Compensation Guidelines, including salary grids.
- b) Annually review and, as necessary, revise the salary guidelines to keep pace with changing factors, such as cost of living, cost of housing and utilities, changes in pension contributions, etc.
- c) Annually review and, as necessary, revise those matters (within the guidelines) that pertain to housing allowance, benefits, and professional expenses.
- d) Make guidelines available to congregations (employers) within the SK-Synod.

SSC 06 16 MSC that in the preparation of the Compensation Guidelines the Synod Council shall be guided by the following principles:

- a) The current guidelines shall be the starting point for developing new guidelines.
- b) Changes to the guidelines shall be measured against what is deemed to be fair and equitable for those just entering the profession, and for

- those who are gaining competency through experience during their early years in the profession.
- c) Those who have attained full competency in the profession shall be compensated accordingly.
 - d) Those who have attained different levels of education (that pertain to the profession) shall be compensated accordingly.

SSC 06 17 MSC that the following factors shall be built into the salary grids:

- a) A start rate (subject to review from time to time)
- b) Six step-increments (percentage increments) paced to coincide with years of full-time service or the equivalent.
- c) A three-year phase-in period for the transition from a “Start plus 15-step” grid to a “Start plus 6-step” grid. Thereafter, the “Start plus 6-step” grid would remain in place.
- d) Different rates of pay (percentage differences) for different levels of education. Note: In some cases the different levels of education are reflected in position titles, e.g. Diaconal Minister, Clergy, Pastor, and Doctor. Salary grids may use these titles, or may simply use Level I, II, III, etc., giving way to an independent process for determining into which level a given degree or level of education best fits.

The members of the Compensation Guidelines Committee were thanked for their work on developing these guidelines.

Reference and Counsel Report

Rev. Vivian Roberts, member of the Committee for Reference and Counsel presented the report.

Motion #1

That a standing committee for youth be established and funded. This committee would coordinate and work with the Bishop’s office, as well as reporting annually to Synod Council.

The Sask Synod Youth Committee will:

- 1) Assist with and prepare for participation of synod youth in various initiatives
- 2) Develop synod youth events and servants projects, as well as adult leadership training
- 3) Promote and support local initiatives in congregations and conferences
- 4) Nurture and develop leadership in our young people, provide worship resources and educational opportunities.
- 5) Actively participate in the process which would provide adequate funding for this ministry.

It is suggested that this committee have representatives from church schools and camps as well as congregations.

Reasons for this motion:

- 1) an established group is needed to ensure continuity and commitment to youth ministry needs that are continually growing and changing
- 2) there is virtually no Synodical ownership for this ministry at the present time.
- 3) there are many specific needs which need to be addressed on a regular basis by such a committee.

Submitted by Rev. Murray Halvorson, Faith, Regina and Rev. Jason Johnson, St. John, Laird

Reference and Counsel recommends:

MS that the resolution be referred to the Synod Council.

SSC 06 18 MSC an amendment to the resolution to add the words “for implementation as soon as possible”.

SSC 06 19 MSC that the question be called.

SSC 06 20 MSC that Motion #1 for a standing committee for youth be referred to the Synod Council for implementation as soon as possible.

Division was called and a count was conducted. The motion was declared carried.

84 in favour – 57 opposed

Extension in Plenary Time

The Convention granted an extension for this Plenary to continue until 9:30 pm.

Committee on Nominations

Rev. Kathleen Schmitke came forward to present the report on behalf of the Committee on Nominations.

Nominations for Synod Council Positions

Conference	Position	Nominees
Prince Albert	Council Clergy	Rev. R. Christopher Dean Rev. Joan Jespersen

Regina	Council Lay	Elaine Miller Lorna Pederson
Saskatoon	Council Clergy	Rev. Harold Hesje Rev. Peter Walker
Swift Current	Council Clergy	Rev. Chad Moir
Weyburn	Council Lay	Dianne Chapman Patricia Leatherdale
Yorkton	Council Lay	Bob Edwards Reg Knezacek
	(2 yr) Council Clergy	Rev. Michael Diegel

Nominations from the floor:

Synod Council, Yorkton, Lay – Victor Neufeld was nominated.

Nominations were declared closed.

Rev. Chad Moir (Swift Current) and Rev. Michael Diegel (Yorkton 2 yr) were declared elected.

Nominations for Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors:

Lay position	Myron Becker Earl Nostbakken
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Nominations were declared closed.

LutherCare Board – 4 year terms – need six directors

Dan Skaret
Rev. Bryan Chappell
Keith Ketilson
Rev. Dr. Bill Nelson
Rev. Val From
Roger Magneson

Nominations were declared closed and all nominees were declared elected.

St. Paul Lutheran Home Board – 4 year terms – need six directors

Fred Daunheimer
Dianne Hack
Mark Matthews
Rev. Daphne Bender
Robert Mann
Tim Ziola

Nominations were declared closed and all nominees were declared elected.

Night Prayer was lead by Chaplain Rev. Kevin Ogilvie as printed in the Convention Worship Booklet.

The Convention recessed for the evening.

RECEPTION:

The Lutheran Theological Seminary hosted a reception and celebration for convention delegates, guests and visitors.

Plenary Six – Saturday, July 8, 2006; 8:30 a.m.

Chaplain Rev. Kevin Ogilvie opened Plenary Session Six with Morning Prayer as printed in the Convention worship booklet. He was assisted by Rev. Dennis Hendricksen on the keyboard and Rev. Ian Nestegaard Paul on the flute.

Convention Manager Rev. Roger Haugen, made a series of announcements. He expressed thanks to Rev. Dennis Hendricksen for his assistance in coordinating worship services for the Convention.

Vice-chair Rev. Jerry Borkowsky called the plenary session to order.

Bishop Cindy Halmarson announced that as a result of passing the revisions to the Bylaws, the Anglican Clergy serving Lutheran ministries as well as the lay members of the Synod Council are now voting members of the assembly. They were asked to turn in their visitor name tags for voting name tags and to receive voting cards.

Registration and Attendance Report

Committee Chair Carol Eaton reported as of 9:00 a.m. July 8, 2006 there are:

Lay delegates	98
Rostered delegates	97
Total voting delegates registered	195
Visitors registered	46

Committee on Minutes

Laurie Buck, Chair of the Committee on Minutes, reported that the minutes of Plenaries One through Four have been reviewed and found to be correct. Plenary Five minutes will be distributed following the nutrition break this morning and the minutes for all five sessions will be voted on later this morning.

Report for Ballot on Officers

Secretary - Bishop Cindy Halmarson announced the nomination for Secretary according to the newly adopted Bylaws. The Synod Council nominated Joan Meyer to serve as Secretary. The biographical information will be distributed. Nominations from the floor were invited. There were no nominations forthcoming. Joan Meyer was declared elected as Secretary of the Synod.

Treasurer - Bishop Cindy Halmarson announced the nomination for Treasurer. The Synod Council nominated Daryl Nelson to serve as Treasurer. The biographical information has been distributed. Nominations from the floor were invited. There were no nominations forthcoming. Daryl Nelson was declared elected as Treasurer of the Synod.

Nominating Committee Report

Rev. Kathleen Schmitke, spokesperson for the Committee, reported that the biography for the additional Nominee to Synod Council, Victor Neufeld, has been prepared and will be distributed.

The ballot is ready for distribution.

Announcement – Companion Synod Committee

Rev. Greg Kiel announced that a trip is being planned to our Companion Synod in Argentina in April of 2007. Members of the Synod are encouraged to join in the trip. More information will be coming.

Ballot for Synod Council and the LTS Board

The ballots were distributed and delegates were asked to mark their ballots. The stewards collected the ballots.

Greetings from Church Schools

Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute – Outlook

Mr. Doug Hopkins, President of the College brought greetings to the assembly from the college. He reported on the status of the school and the relationship with the local Lutheran parishes. They are also actively developing relationships with Lutheran Theological Seminary and Camrose Lutheran Bible Institute with an internship program at the college.

Luther College – Regina

Rev. Larry Fry, Chaplain at Luther College High School, brought greetings on behalf of Luther College and its President Bruce Perlson. He noted the international and multicultural nature of the enrollment at the college. He mentioned the refurbishing of the high school buildings that will be happening over the next few years.

Report from the Eastern Synod

The Eastern Synod Assembly is meeting at the same time as our Synod. Word has been received that Bishop Michael Pryse has been elected on the second ballot for a third term as Bishop of the Eastern Synod.

Evangelical Lutheran Women Greetings

Carol Maurer, Synodical President of the ELW brought greetings to the Convention. She highlighted several programs that the ELW is involved in on a national, synodical and congregational level. In particular she noted the award winning magazine *Esprit*. The ELW collected funds from Praise Offering services across Canada in the amount of \$119,000; the National ELCIC received \$100,000 and the remaining \$19,000 was dispersed to various ministries throughout the church.

Lutheran Campus Ministry Presentation

A Power Point presentation highlighting the ministry and life of the Lutheran Campus Ministry in Saskatoon was shown to the assembly. Rev. Renita Falkenstern followed the presentation with the announcement that there is residential space available in the community housing operated by the Saskatoon Campus Ministry Centre.

The Convention recessed for a nutrition break.

Plenary Seven – Saturday, July 8, 2006; 11:00 a.m.

The seventh plenary opened with the youth delegates leading the assembly in a series of songs.

Vice-chair Rev. Jerry Borkowsky called the session to order.

A Point of Privilege

SSC 06 21 MSC that greetings be sent to the Eastern Synod along with congratulations to their re-elected Bishop Michael Pryse.

Report of the Elections Committee

Chairperson Rev. Heather Anderson presented the reported on the results of the election.

SYNOD COUNCIL

- 1. Prince Albert Conference – clergy – 4 year term**

Rev. R. Christopher Dean	81	
Rev. Joan Jespersen	87	Declared elected

- 2. Regina Conference – lay – 4 year term**

Elaine Miller	95	Declared elected
Lorna Pederson	75	

- 3. Saskatoon Conference – clergy – 4 year term**

Rev. Harold Hesje	114	Declared elected
Rev. Peter Walker	56	

- 4. Weyburn Conference – lay - 4 year term**

Dianne Chapman	53	
Patricia Leatherdale	112	Declared elected

- 5. Yorkton Conference – lay – 4 year term**

Bob Edwards	86	Declared elected
Reg Knezacek	20	
Victor Neufeld	62	Needed to elect - 85

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Lay - 4 year term – need to elect 1

Myron Becker	59	
Earl Nostbakken	104	Declared elected

Synod Council Report continued (C-36; E-10-17)

Members of Synod Council came forward to continue the report and recommendations.

Synod Priorities

SSC 06 22 MSC that the convention approves the Synod Priorities for 2006 – 2010, namely:

Support to Congregations
Train and Nurture Rostered Leaders
Participate in Relationships beyond the Synod
Foster Opportunities for Mission.

2006 Revised Budget (C-35)

SSC 06 23 MSC that the convention approves the revised budgeted expenditures for 2006 of \$750,000 as proposed by Synod Council.

2007 Budget

SSC 06 24 MSC that the convention approves budgeted expenditures for 2007 of \$765,000 as proposed by Synod Council.

2008 Budget

SSC 06 25 MSC that the convention approve budgeted expenditures for 2008 of \$780,300 as proposed by Synod Council.

Bishop Cindy Halmarson thanked the delegates for their approval of the Synod Council's recommendation and for their support and direction for the next biennium.

Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel Report

The second report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel was distributed and will be dealt with immediately following lunch.

Recess of Convention

The Convention of the Saskatchewan Synod was declared to be recessed.

The Convention proceeded to reconvene for the Corporation Meetings.

Following the Corporation Meetings there was a series of announcements by the Vice-chair and Convention Manager.

Chaplain Rev. Kevin Ogilvie led in prayer before the assembly recessed.

CORPORATION MEETINGS

LutherCare Communities

The meeting was called to order by Bishop Cindy Halmarson, President of the Corporation.

MSC adoption of the agenda

MSC adoption of the minutes of the previous corporation meeting of July 2004.

Board Chairperson Carol Tastad brought greetings and introduced CEO Bernie McCallion who reported on behalf of the Corporation, supplementing the report on pages H2-H4.

MSC the adoption of the report of the Corporation.

There was no business arising from the report.

Nomination of the board and elections for the Board was completed in the regular Convention elections.

Resolution of ratification:

“That any and all actions of the biennial convention of the Saskatchewan Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada which pertain to the Corporation of LutherCare Corporation are hereby ratified.”

The meeting was declared adjourned.

St. Paul Lutheran Home - Melville

The meeting was called to order by Bishop Cindy Halmarson, President of the Corporation.

MSC adoption of the agenda

MSC to adopt the minutes of previous corporation meeting of July 2004.

Synod Council representative Bob Edwards and Board Member Rev. Daphne Bender brought greetings and introduced the Administrator, Jacki Stanley, who reported on behalf of the Corporation, supplementing the report on pages H5-H6.

MSC that the adoption of the report of the Corporation.

There was no business arising from the report.

Nomination of the board and elections for board was completed in the regular Convention elections.

Resolution of ratification:

“That any and all actions of the biennial convention of the Saskatchewan Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada which pertain to the Corporation of St. Paul Lutheran Home are hereby ratified.”

The meeting was declared adjourned.

Plenary Eight – Saturday, July 8, 2006; 1:30 p.m.

The afternoon started with Dean Bernier and Conrad Amyottee providing several fiddle musical numbers for the enjoyment of delegates. Several delegates were seen dancing in the aisles.

Opening Devotions for the plenary were led by the Chaplain, Rev. Kevin Ogilvie.

Agenda Adjustment: Registration & Attendance Report
Reference and Counsel Report
Building Bridges Panel
Youth Assembly Report
Reflections from Saskatchewan Diocese, ACC
CLWR Report
Reference and Counsel Report

Registration and Attendance Report

Committee member Louise Morris reported as of 1:00 p.m., Saturday, July 8, there are:

Lay delegates	98
Rostered delegates	97
Total voting delegates registered	195
Visitors registered	49
Persons registered for convention.	244

Reference and Counsel Report

Motion #2

That the Synod Council create a Task Force to determine the process to carry out dialogue on the issues of same sex blessing and ordination of practicing homosexuals.

This Task Force shall consist of no fewer than eight members representing a balance of views.

The Task Force should report a summary of the process back to the next synod convention.

Submitted by: Messiah Lutheran Church, Assiniboia
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Outlook
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Yorkton
Trinity Lutheran Church, Leader

Presented by Reference and Counsel without Recommendation

SSC 06 25 MSC an amendment to replace the words “practicing homosexuals” with the words “people of same sex orientation in committed relationships”

MSD that the motion be divided into two parts.

SSC 06 26 MSC an amendment to add “would include no fewer than two self-identified gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender or two-spirited individuals.”

SSC 06 27 MSC an amendment to remove the words “to determine the process” from the first sentence and remove the words “the process” and replace with “its actions” in the last sentence.

SSC 06 28 MSC the amended motion that the Synod Council create a Task Force to carry out dialogue on the issues of same sex blessing and ordination of people of same sex orientation in committed relationships.

This Task Force shall consist of no fewer than eight members representing a balance of views and would include no fewer than two self-identified gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender or two-spirited individuals.

The Task Force should report a summary of its actions back to the next synod convention.

Special Order - “Building Bridges” Panel

Kathy Magnus, the Lutheran World Federation Regional Officer for North America, led a panel in Multicultural conversation.

Panel members included Rev. Jeremy Chen, Pastor of the Saskatoon Chinese Ministry; Ruben Bignell, Vice-chairperson of the Saskatoon Native Ministry; Vanessa Rhodes, Youth delegate from Assiniboia; and Stanley Livingstone from Liberia and now living in Prince Albert.

Questions asked and responded to by panel members:

If someone asked you what your faith meant to you, how would you respond?
Do you find it easy or difficult to talk about your faith?

How has your faith changed since you were a child?
How does your faith relate to everyday life?

Members of the assembly were invited to tell their own stories of how their faith relates to everyday life.

Kathy expressed a sincere thank you to the panelists and assembly members who shared their faith stories during the Building Bridges conversation. The audience responded with a standing ovation for the participants.

Bishop Cindy Halmarson thanked the panelists and presented each of them with a small gift of appreciation.

The Convention recessed to a refreshment break.

Plenary Nine – Saturday, July 8, 2006; 3:30 p.m.

The session began with a series of songs lead by the Youth delegates.

Youth Assembly Report

Rev. Amber Hoffman, leader of the Youth Assembly, introduced the youth delegates and the presentation they made to the Assembly. Through a combination of poetry, humour, a skit, and a song the young people expressed their impressions, reactions and appreciation for being a part of the Convention. It was finalized with a personal reflection from youth delegate Vanessa Rhodes who said, “I come here feeling united in the church, and marvel at how the church Peter began way back around 2000 years ago, is still so active in ministering to our neighbours.”

Minutes Committee

Laurie Buck, Chair of the Minutes Committee presented the minutes for plenary one through plenary six with a few editorial corrections.

SSC 06 29 MSC that the minutes of plenary sessions one through six be approved as distributed.

It was noted that the final plenary minutes will be the responsibility of the Bishop and Secretary.

Reflections

Bishop Cindy Halmarson invited the Right Rev. Anthony Burton, Bishop of the Saskatchewan Diocese, Anglican Church of Canada to bring his reflections of our Convention.

Bishop Burton reflected that one of the gifts the Lutheran Church brings is its ability to put differences aside to be able to worship as an entire body. Bishop Burton's delightful sense of humour and knowledge of church history enthralled the delegates. He noted how similar we are in our current discussions and the debates being held within our churches at this time. He challenged us to draw closer in our witness so that the world may know Jesus Christ.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Report

Assistant to the National Bishop Rev. Paul Johnson introduced CLWR Executive Director Bob Granke. Mr Granke thanked the delegates for their support of CLWR through GHDA. He thanked the church for the amicable working relationship between GHDA and CLWR. He also acknowledged the service of Sask Synod members Joan Meyer as Secretary of the CLWR Board and Rev. Dr. Faith Rohbough as a CLWR Board Member.

Mr Granke's report focused on three major areas: the work with Lutheran World Federation and the Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem giving medical care to Palestinians; refugee work and resettling refugees within Canada; and the Alternative Trade Organization's new name "Four Corners" along with an expansion in inventory from more areas of the world.

Mr Granke looked forward to having an opportunity to talk with delegates and answer the questions they may have about CLWR during his time with us.

Reference and Counsel Report (continued)

Motion #3

That the Saskatchewan Synod Council petition the National Church Council to defer any decision regarding same sex blessing until the 2009 national convention.

Submitted by: Messiah Lutheran Church, Assiniboia
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Outlook
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Yorkton
Trinity Lutheran Church, Leader

Presented by Reference and Counsel without Recommendation.

MSD that the Saskatchewan Synod Council petition the National Church Council to defer any decision regarding same sex blessing until the 2009 national convention.

Motion #4

That, at the close of the convention, the Elections Committee destroy all ballots.

Submitted by: Rev. Sheldon Gattinger, Zion, North Battleford
Rev. Heather Anderson, LutherCare Communities

Reference and Counsel recommend that the resolution be adopted.

SSC 06 30 MSC that, at the close of the convention, the Elections Committee destroy all ballots.

Motion #5

That the convention thank the Prince Albert Conference and Messiah Lutheran Church for hosting the 11th Biennial Convention of the Saskatchewan Synod;

To commend the Local Arrangements Committee, volunteers and donors, office staff and Convention Manager Rev. Roger Haugen, for the excellent and warm hospitality;

To thank the Convention Chaplain Rev Kevin Ogilvie, the song leader Rev. Ian Nestegaard Paul, worship planners, Rev. Dennis Hendricksen, Rev. David Hunter and Rev. Brenda Nestegaard Paul, and all the other worship leaders for sharing their gifts in words and music;

To thank Rev. Jerry Borkowsky for chairing the convention and Joan Meyer for her work as secretary;

To thank Bishop Cindy Halmarson and the Synod Counsel for its custodianship of Synod affairs between conventions.

Reference and Council recommend that the resolution be adopted.

SSC 06 31 MSC that the resolution of thanks be approved.

The Reference and Counsel Committee was thanked for their work and guidance during the Convention.

Invitation for the 2008 Saskatchewan Synod Convention

Rev. Greg Kiel, Dean of the Weyburn Conference and Rev. Bob Langdon pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Assiniboia came forward to invite the Saskatchewan Synod to Assiniboia for the 2008 Saskatchewan Synod Convention, June 12–15.

Expressions of Appreciation

Bishop Cindy Halmarson thanked several participants for their attendance and assistance during the Convention:

Small gifts of appreciation were presented to:

Local Arrangements Chair Rev. Gary Schenk with expressions of thanks to his committee for their hard work and warm hospitality. The local Arrangements Committee consisted of:

Secretary – Debbie Honch

Treasurer – Grant Getz

Accommodations & Hospitality – Debbie Honch

Banquets & Special Programs – Sunni Fenski; Felix & Sharon Tillmanns

Child Care – Darcy Mayert

Convention Office – Dan Fenton

Decorations & Signage – Deanna Rindal

Facilities – Roger Mayert

Meals & Nutrition Breaks – Ann Mayert & Sheila Baessler

Publicity & Public Relations – Linda Moriarty

Registration & Information – Hazel Schultz

Stewards – Jasmine Haugen

Worship Services – Rev. Dennis Serfas

Messiah Church Council Liaison – Linda Clavelle

Rev. Dan Haugen, pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church, host congregation

Retired Bishop Telmor Sartison for his guidance in the election of the bishop

ELCIC Vice-President Dr. Roger Kingsley for representing the ELCIC

Rev. Kevin Ogilvie for serving as Convention Chaplain

Kathy Magnus for leading the Multicultural Panel and in advance for her presentation at the closing worship service

Thank you was extended to:

Rev. Dennis Hendricksen – Worship Coordinator for the Synod

Rev. Ian Nestegaard Paul – song leader for worship times

All the musicians

The Convention Committee members

The Youth assembly leaders and youth

The Convention Newsletter crew

The Convention Office staff under the leadership of Sharon McKeown-Closs

The Sound System operator – John Rogers

The catering and kitchen staff

Convention Manager, Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Roger Haugen

Synod Secretary Joan Meyer

Synod Vice-chair Rev. Jerry Borkowsky

Convention Manager Rev. Roger Haugen made final announcements and instructions to the delegates.

The convention recessed.

SYNOD IN CELEBRATION

Evening Barbeque at Kinasao Lutheran Bible Camp

The delegates boarded buses and were transported to Kinasao for a barbeque and an evening of entertainment.

SYNOD IN WORSHIP – Closing Worship Service – Sunday, July 9, 2006

Delegates, visitors and friends gather for worship at Messiah Lutheran Church in Prince Albert at 10:30 a.m. Leaders of the worship service were:

Presider – Bishop Cindy Halmarson

Preacher – Kathy Magnus, Lutheran World Federation North American Regional Officer

Assistant – Intern Ali Tote

Lectors – Joan Meyer and Rev. Jerry Borkowsky

Acolytes – Jessica Serfas and Preston Rindal

Cantor – Rev. Ian Nestegaard Paul

Musicians – Organist – Elaine Serfas; Pianist – Janet Grey; Trumpet – Rev. David Hunter; Flute – Rev. Ian Nestegaard-Paul

Sacristan – Rev. Dennis Serfas

During the Service, Kathy Magnus spoke of her experiences with Lutheran World Federation projects especially in third world countries.

Bishop Cindy Halmarson installed the newly elected officials.

The offering from the service was designated to be evenly split between the Sask Synod Seminary Student Aid Fund and Sask Synod Rural Internship Fund.

At the conclusion of the Service Bishop Cindy Halmarson led the congregation in the “Closing of a Convention” and declared this eleventh Saskatchewan Synod Convention closed in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Following the service, everyone was welcomed to a lunch in the fellowship hall before they departed for home.

Minutes recorded and respectfully submitted by

Joan Meyer, Synod Secretary

Report of the Committee on the Report of the Bishop – Appendix A

The Committee on the Report of the Bishop wishes to thank Bishop Cindy for her Report and for her leadership, and for her work among us and with us these last four years. We are not going to reiterate the Bishop's Report. We trust that each of you has read it and given it its due attention but we would like to highlight some aspects of it:

The work of the Bishop, indeed, the work of the entire Synod is made possible by the support provided by those in Synod Office. We want to express our appreciation and ask the convention to entertain a motion of thanks to Sharon McKeown-Closs and her team – Darlene Wilson and Doreen Boldt (and to Jan Haugen, also contributed during this time) for being the voices and faces of the Saskatchewan Synod for all of us in the field.

We also want to acknowledge the tremendous support provided by Pastor Roger Haugen in his role as Assistant to the Bishop and Stewardship Consultant. His working presence has doubled the contact the Synod Office has with the people, pastors and congregations who comprise the Saskatchewan Synod- improving not only communication but our sense of community and our commitment to it and to one another. Thank you, Roger.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to Bishop Cindy's family, Pastor Jim Halmarson, Sarah and Danny for their ongoing support of Bishop Cindy and her ministry, and thus, of us.

Bishop Cindy writes eloquently about the role of the Bishop and of her commitment to her Call to uphold the Constitution of our Church which guides our life together under the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. We commend her integrity, wisdom and commitment to be faithful to this Call. We wish to express our appreciation and support.

As a field of ministry, the Saskatchewan Synod offers unique challenges for leadership and oversight. We in the field often perceive a problem of a "shortage of pastors," but the situation isn't really that simple. True, there are places wishing to call pastors, but we also have flexibility from our professional leadership. This issue is going to become increasingly significant with the number of pastors expected to retire over the next few years. This Committee wished to express its appreciation to the Bishop, to the Assistant to the Bishop and to Synod Council for their encouragement, vision, and leadership as we in the field create area strategies that will enable and empower us to develop and sustain the mission and ministry to which God is calling us in the 21st century.

We also, on behalf of the Synod, wish to express our appreciation for the program of Every Congregation Visits which has revitalized and strengthened relationships between the Synod and its congregations over the last two years. Please continue this program.

Thank you, Bishop Cindy for your leadership.

The Committee wants to express its appreciation, too, to the members of Synod Council, particularly outgoing Vice-Chairperson Pastor Jerry Borkowsky; Secretary, Mrs. Joan Meyer; and Treasurer, Mr. Jim Peterson.

We also thank the Deans for their Reports, for the Support they provide to Synod Office, and the leadership they give us in the Conferences.

Respectfully submitted

The Committee on the Report of the Bishop

Rev. Patricia Simonson

Rev. Lindsay Hognestad

Glen Dokken

Sarah Tomtene (Youth Assembly)