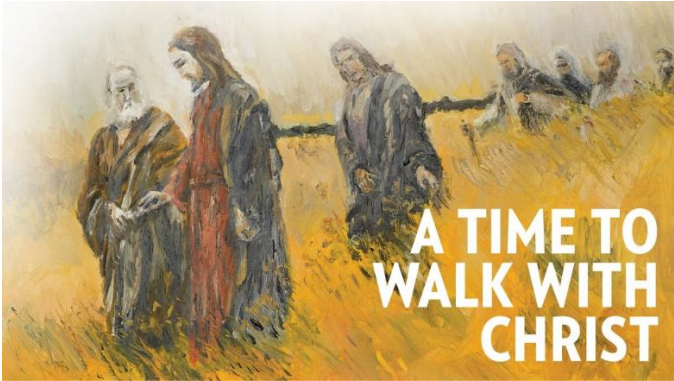


The Lutheran Connector

An Official Publication of the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC)



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Inside This Edition

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. This edition of the Connector is packed with information.

Our lead stories concentrate on our Shepherds. Basel Hakka Lutheran Church of Vancouver, BC, celebrated the ordination of Billy Chiew, pastor in charge of their English ministry. St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church of Kamloops, BC, installed Pastor Marc Lapointe as their fulltime pastor. We also included a news release put out by the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) which highlights two of our Shepherds in training.

The next two articles focus on CALC business. The establishment of the office of the Diaconal Ministry is announced and two initiatives the National Council will be bringing forward at the 2018 convention are described:

- National Conventions to be held every other year (rather than annually)
- Reducing the minimum size of our National Council from 10 to 8.

The next three articles describe three regional cluster meetings held in 2018.

The next article was written by the keynote speaker for our upcoming 2018 Annual General Convention and introduces the theme of our National Convention.

News from ILT includes two articles published by ILT. The first article announces ILT’s accreditation. The second article announces two new programs to be launched by ILT and ILT’s budget for 2018-2019.

The sections which follow provide information on our 2018 Annual General Convention and Pastors’ Retreat.

The “It’s the Law” section touches on the case launched by Trinity Western University. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled the government may interfere in the internal affairs of a Christian Law School by withholding accreditation of the school based on discrimination against the LGBTQ community.

We hope you find this edition of the Connector informative and inspiring. May God continue to richly bless you all.

In Christ,
Pastor Ed Skutshek, President.

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Reverend Billy Chiew Ordained – Basel Hakka Lutheran Church, Vancouver



On Sunday January 7th Billy Chiew was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Basel Hakka Lutheran Church of Vancouver, BC.

Thanks to the Reverend Doctor Eddie Kwok, Member of CALC's Board of Trustees for serving as Ordinator. Our President, Pastor Ed Skutshek provided a special greeting

by online video. <https://vimeo.com/249333571>.

Pastor Billy serves as the Lead Pastor for English Ministry at Basel Hakka Lutheran Church. He was born in Malaysia and came to Canada at the age of 12. At 18, he left Canada and joined his family in Australia where his father served as a missionary pastor, specifically to plant a church in Brisbane. Two years later, Billy and family moved to Vancouver where Billy began his theological studies at Northwest Baptist Theological College. Billy began his ministry as children's pastor at New Life Lutheran Church, Vancouver, BC. God then called him to be the youth pastor at Basel Hakka Lutheran Church. God is continued to refine Billy's heart for ministry and called him to be the lead pastor at Vancouver Chinese Mennonite Church for the next 16 years.

In God's amazing providence, He called Billy back to Basel Hakka Lutheran Church in 2016 to be the lead pastor of their English Ministry. Billy's prayer and desire is to see believers called to be Christ's church in the world and continue to be Christ's voice in our community.

Pastor Billy is married to Linda. They have been married for 16 years and have two wonderful children, Riley and Lauryn.

Basel Hakka Lutheran Church is an Associate member congregation of CALC. It began in 1982, when a group of brothers and sisters had a vision of starting a Hakka language church in Vancouver. Hakka is a language spoken in China. The first meeting was held in the basement of Brother Stephen Chong's residence. With God's amazing guidance and grace, Basel Hakka Lutheran Church (BHLC) was founded. Services were eventually held at Firth Lutheran Church in Vancouver.

In 1985 BHLC purchased a Church building on Jackson Ave. near Vancouver's famous Chinatown. The congregation grew very quickly during the immigration rush from 1985-1995.

Seeing the increasing number of young people, who primarily speak only English, the church started the English service in 1992. The English service grew rapidly and has great potential as more and more young people start to worship at

BHLC. Over the years, other ministries such as Faith Builders (formerly, Sunday School), Senior fellowship, Adult fellowship, Youth fellowship, Mandarin Ministry and Cell Groups were also established.

In 2000, due to the growth of all the ministries, BHLC had a vision to expand its church building. The Building Expansion Committee was formed in 2000 and pledging began in August 2002. In 5 short years, sufficient money was raised to purchase the new church and education building.

In 2007, with the grace of God, and the unity and commitment of the congregation, BHLC was blessed with this present church building. It is now BHLC's ardent commitment to expand the kingdom of God in this Nanaimo vicinity and beyond for His glory.



Basel Hakka Lutheran Church: 2575 Nanaimo Street, Vancouver, BC, V5N 5E6 (604) 255-5988.

May God bless the people of Basel Hakka and Pastor Chiew as they walk together with our Triune God into the future.

Marc Lapointe Installed at St. Andrew's in Kamloops



On Sunday March 18th, Pastor Marc Lapointe was installed by our President, Pastor Ed Skutshek, as the Pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Kamloops, BC.

Marc was born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario. Marc was the last of twenty-seven grand-children born into the Lapointe Family. At two months of age, he was

baptized in the school because the French Roman Catholic Church was still under construction. Learning to speak English at a young age Marc was fluent in both languages by the time he started school.

Marc's father was a World War 2 veteran who faithfully attended church when Marc was young. As time passed, his father attended less frequently. Marc continued to regularly attend church with his mother until High School when he left the church all together.

Being a hobbyist by nature and a lover of science Marc was enamoured by electronics while in High School. After graduation he entered a technology program at the local college, graduating in three years. It was the beginning of the commercial electronic revolution which would change our world. He worked fifteen years in the field of Electronics Manufacturing and Special Processes in Ottawa before returning to full time school in 1996.

It was shortly after entering the field of electronics that Marc met his wife and partner of thirty-five years. Together they now enjoy God's gifts of three adult children and seven grand-children. Mary was the catalyst that introduced Marc to the Lutheran Church where he became involved in everything from property to Sunday School.

Marc was involved with the National Youth Global Hunger and Economic Justice Seminar hosted by their church, St Peter's Lutheran, Ottawa in 1982. In 1984, Marc was asked to chaperon six youth to the Youth Leadership Training Event in Orangeville where Jesus appeared to Marc in a new and personal way. Marc was also involved in the organizing of youth events and the two Ottawa "March for Jesus" events.

Ten years later, Marc applied and was accepted to start seminary in Waterloo but God closed that door. Unable to make the move financially and an unexpected family concern Marc remained in Ottawa where he completed a course in Biblical Hebrew. It was during that time that Mary and Marc began exploring their relationship with Jesus and ended up meeting Rev Irvin Dixel who retired shortly after they joined All Saint's Lutheran church.

Two years later, Marc would travel to Stony Plain, Alberta for his church in order to learn about the Holy Spirit Event and help organize one for All Saint's in Ottawa. That summer Marc and Mary both resigned from their work, placed their belonging into storage and made the 4000 Km trek to the University of Saskatchewan where Marc would apply to study at the Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon. They had no idea where they would live or how they would manage financially except for the parting words of their pastor – "go in faith, trust in the Lord." Unknown to Marc and Mary their good Christian friends were also moving to Saskatoon that summer.

Marc graduated after four years, debt free. The university evaluated his credentials and granted him an honorary Bachelorette allowing him to pursue studies in a Master in Divinity program. Marc ended up taking one extra course at seminary (Biblical Greek), because the academic dean (who was German) and the Hebrew professor did not like the French slant Marc had on his Hebrew pronunciations. As it happens, having both languages is a blessing, as Marc hopes to one day continue his studies towards a Doctor of Theology and possibly write some books on Faith and Life.

Marc completed his Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in Ottawa at the Queensway Carleton Hospital and completed a one year internship at St Philip's in Toronto under Rev Doug Kramer. He graduated and was ordained by Bishop (retired) Bill Huras in 2000 at All Saints Lutheran Church, Ottawa, on the heels of the celebration of the fiftieth year of ordination

of a wonderful pastor and mentor – Rev Bill Riekert (from Saskatchewan). Marc is also thankful for the influence of Rev Gene Grant whom he first met while working at Luther Sunset Towers in Saskatoon.

Marc's first call was to a three point Parish of Rose Valley, Saskatchewan. In 2002, the opportunity to return to Ontario presented itself and he accepted a call to the two point Maynooth/Raglan parish. During that time he served the Synod Conference as secretary/treasurer and was the Registrar for the synod youth event "Go Deep." Marc and Mary also participated in a weekend Billy Graham School of Evangelism in Mount Trembland, Quebec. Marc served the parish for five years before accepting a call to Christ the Redeemer in Dollard-des-Ormeaux (Montreal).

Because of unforeseen problems, Marc resigned his call and was unemployed for over a year. They were graciously invited to live rent free with their Christian niece and nephew in Gatineau.

In 2010, a year after first hearing about it, God called Marc to the two point parish of Journeys, Grande Prairie and Christ, Sexsmith. Marc resigned from the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and joined the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC). After two years, Journeys (house church) and Christ joined together to worship at the church in Sexsmith. The church experienced minimal growth during that time and after four years of operating in a deficit, they all began praying for direction from God.

After three years of waiting on God (and many interviews) God opened the door in November 2017 and Marc received a call to St Andrew's Lutheran Church, Kamloops. In December 2017 Mary and Marc celebrated their eighth Christmas with their church family in Sexsmith, as they prepared to leave and make the winter trek across the mountains to Kamloops, BC in early January 2018.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church was one of two charter member congregations of CALC. Pastor Vern Roste, the first President of CALC, served St. Andrew's at the time of CALC's formation. Bill Anhorn, CALC's first Treasurer was also a member of St. Andrew's.

May God bless the people of St. Andrew's and Pastor Marc as together they work together to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission in the community of Kamloops and beyond.



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 815 Renfrew Street, Kamloops, BC, V2B 3X3, (250) 376-8323

NEWS FROM ILT

Online Article Published by the Institute of Lutheran Theology

Drafted to Serve: How One Church Solved the Pastor Shortage Dilemma -



Kevin Nelson and Ed Parke

Bethel Lutheran Church in Lea Park, Alberta, Canada, has two pastors who are both ILT students. Pastor Ed Parke and Pastor Kevin Nelson were drafted by their congregation to take additional training and become pastors of the church. The following is an account of both students' experience of being enrolled in ILT's Pastoral Ministry Certificate.

We interviewed Ed Parke for the newsletter first. He said ILT's teachers are very knowledgeable and patient, library service is great ("I get things right away"), that he chose ILT because we are Lutheran and on account of our position on the Authority of Scripture ("Not dogmatic, witnessed frank and open discussions, but the Bible always ends up as the final authority"). Ed Parke sent us the following endorsement of ILT:

At the age of about 58, after several decades of Bible study and a great hunger for the scripture, I went back to school. I wasn't sure I would be accepted. After all, I had left school at an early age to pursue my vocation. ILT welcomed me. It was there I met instructors who have the same love and passion for God's Word as I do. Their great knowledge of and respect for the authority of God's Word has made my classes exciting, informative, and enjoyable.

Next we spoke to Kevin Nelson, who continues his day job while studying. Kevin is just one class shy of the Pastoral Ministry Certificate. He related to us his story and we pass along the following endorsement in his own words:

My experience as a student at ILT is and has been enjoyable, challenging, and a whole bunch of other things (mostly good)! I feel that God has me where He wants me, and He has plans for me...And ILT is and has been a crucial part of it! Sound biblical teaching, hands on practical experience, and

instructors who are great mentors and take a genuine interest in my progress are all part of the experience! I thank God for ILT!



Your congregation may be in a similar situation as Bethel, or you may be a potential pastor like Ed and Kevin once were, someone who is known in your congregation as having gifts for the ministry, but that was not your initial path. ILT can work for you. Go to the students section of our website

(www.ilt.org/students) and look at the Graduate and the Certificate programs, think and pray about it, then call our Admissions Coordinator, Mrs. Threasa Hopkins, (605) 692-9337 or email Threasa at thopkins@ilt.edu. ILT is your partner in raising up another generation of pastors!

Congregations Voted to Ratify the Creation of a Diaconal Ministry in CALC

Delegates to CALC's 2017 convention unanimously approved amendments to our constitution which established the office of the Diaconal Ministry and guidelines for the training, call, roster and discipline of Diaconal Ministers. The proposed constitutional amendments and policies were presented to our congregations for ratification. Ballots were received from 24¹ (78%) of our congregations eligible to vote. The ballots were cast as follows:

Ballots in favor of the Diaconal Ministry	24	96%
Ballots opposed to the Diaconal Ministry	1	4%
Total	25	100%

The ballots received exceeded the 75% threshold for the approval of a constitutional amendment. Therefore, the office of the Diaconal Minister in CALC congregations has been established.

The Book of Acts testifies that the office of the Deacon was divinely established to meet the needs of the church. The first seven Deacons were set apart to meet the needs of widows and in so doing, free up the Apostles for their ministry. Deacons went on to serve in others ways. Phillip served as an evangelist, and church planter. He baptized the Ethiopian

¹ Asker Lutheran Church, AB; Bardo Lutheran Church, AB; Bethel Lutheran Church, AB; Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church, AB; Christ Lutheran Church, MB; Christ Lutheran Church, AB; Emmaus Lutheran Church, AB; Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, ON; Golden Valley Lutheran Church, AB; Goodwood Uxbridge Lutheran, ON; Grace Lutheran Church, BC; Immanuel Lutheran Church, SK; Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, BC; Mount Calvary Lutheran, BC; Peace Lutheran Church, AB; Salem Lutheran Church, AB; St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, BC; St. John Lutheran Church, SK; St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, ON; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, AB; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, ON; Sharon Lutheran Church, AB; Trinity Lutheran Church, SK; Trondhjem Lutheran Church, AB; Victory Lutheran Church, AB.

eunuch. He performed many miracles. His ministry was evaluated by the Apostles. The office of the Diaconal Ministry has been established in CALC to meet the needs of our congregations.

The office of the Diaconal Minister opens up new possibilities for our congregations and other ministries.

- Diaconal Ministers can be called by a congregation to assist their Pastor in preaching, teaching, visitation, pastoral care and the administration of the Sacraments.
- CALC has a very robust understanding of the forms that ministry can take. Our constitution declares that CALC wants to encourage, support and equip small communities of faith that gather for worship and fellowship. House churches and small congregations are typically not in a position to call an ordained pastor. House churches can call a Diaconal Minister.
- Congregations may experience a call to reach out into the community through a specific ministry, such as, counseling, visitation, community outreach, or marriage enrichment. A Diaconal Minister with specific training in any of these specialized ministries could enrich congregational life.
- CALC could endorse Diaconal Ministers for other ministries including chaplaincies, teaching positions, missionary activities, evangelism and outreach activities.

Qualifications for the office of the Deacons are laid out in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. These qualifications can be expressed as follows:

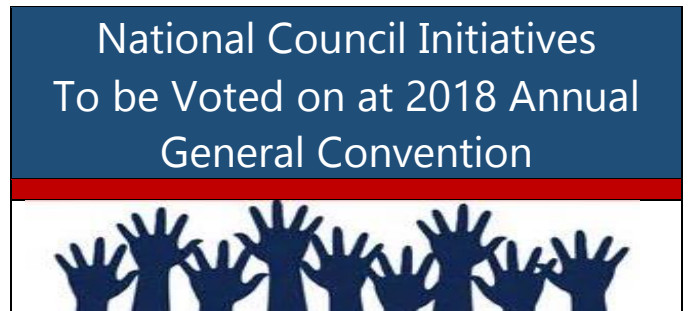
- Deacons are to be men and women of honesty, integrity, and dignity. Their marriage and family life should be above reproach.
- The diaconal minister must be able to demonstrate he/she has grasped the mysteries of faith, as revealed in Christ Jesus, and be able to uphold that faith.
- Candidates for the Diaconal Ministry should not be new converts to Christianity. They should be longtime members of the Lutheran church. In our context they should be steeped in the Lutheran confessions or be willing to take enrichment courses through ILT.
- Candidates must be examined to ensure they meet all of these qualifications and their ministry should be supervised by pastor or a church council.

Candidates who qualify are consecrated or set apart for a special ministry in the church. Candidates for diaconal ministry and their congregations should not take this ministry lightly. Deacons are stewards of God's word and the mysteries of faith. They should receive training to ensure that they are able to communicate the mysteries of faith. CALC's guidelines for Diaconal Ministry mandate that a candidate who is called to preach, teach and administer sacraments take the three core courses required by the Pastoral Ministry Certificate (PMC). Those specializing in worship should take the PMC course on worship. Candidates whose ministry is focused in pastoral care should take ILT's PMC course on pastoral care or a Stephen Ministry course. Called Diaconal Ministers who have been examined, qualified, trained and educated are rostered. As rostered deacons they may be

compensated for their ministry. They are called to live up to standards established by CALC and can be disciplined if they fail to meet these standards.

Shepherd's Pathway: The Pastoral Ministry Certificate (PMC) is one of the pathways to ordained ministry in CALC. Three core courses are taken by online video conferencing through the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), specifically, a course on preaching, one on Biblical interpretation, and a course on Luther, his Catechisms and Theology. The candidate begins ministering in a congregation after these three courses are taken and passed. Nine additional courses are taken while the candidate serves in the congregation. The PMC is granted when all 12 courses are completed. Currently the candidate becomes a pastor-in-training until all courses are taken. This designation is not entirely satisfactory, as it is often misunderstood. The Diaconal Ministry could be of assistance in this case. Upon finishing the three core courses, the candidate would be consecrated as a diaconal minister, who is licensed to preach, teach, baptize, confirm and marry in the congregation he/she serves. Upon completing the required 12 courses, the candidate is ordained to the office of Word and Sacrament.

For more information on the Diaconal Ministry please contact our President at (250) 801-3860 or president@cala.ca.



National Council will put forward two initiatives or proposals to amend CALC's constitution at CALC's 2018 Annual General Convention for approval by our delegates:

- The reduction in the minimum size of our National Council from ten (10) to eight (8) by the elimination of two positions from the Board of Trustees (BOT).
- Changing CALC's Annual General Convention to a Biennial General Convention (every other year).

Proposal #1: Biennial General Conventions:

CALC's constitution currently calls for an Annual General Convention. National Council will propose amendments to our constitution which will provide for a **biennial convention** or a convention every other year.

Practical Considerations: Our congregations are spread over five provinces, with the greatest concentration of congregations (19 out of 33) being in Alberta. It is costly for our seven congregations in Ontario, and one in Manitoba to send representatives to the west for a convention. The costs increase when the 25 congregations in BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan travel to a convention hosted in Ontario. Holding conventions every other year will allow congregations to generate the funds necessary to send

delegates to our national conventions. The extended time between conventions gives National Council more time to carefully plan the next convention, including, developing themes and selecting the keynote speakers. Like the convention, the Pastors' Retreat would be held every other year along with the Biennial General Convention.

CALC Act: It should be noted that Section 8(1) of the CALC Act (the Act of Parliament which created CALC states: *"There shall be a general meeting of the corporation at least once every two years."* The constitution we adopted pursuant to the CALC Act called for an annual convention. The proposed amendments which provide for biennial conventions would be completely in line with the CALC Act.

Approval Process: First, a majority of the delegates to our 2018 convention would have to approve the amendments establishing biennial conventions. Second, our congregations would have to vote to approve the constitutional amendments at their annual general meetings or a special congregational meeting called for that purpose. The proposed amendments would have to be approved by 75% of the congregations who return ballots in a timely manner.

Election of National Council Members: If our congregations approve biennial national conventions we will have to change the way we elect members of our National Council. The changes are described below.

National Council Members are elected to serve for four year terms. Our ten (10) National Council Members are elected over a four year election cycle, with a number elected each year. Our current four year election cycle is set forth in the table below.

If elections are to be held biennially and we wish to continue to elect members of the National Council to four year terms, we have to elect five members of National Council every other year. If our first biennial convention is held in 2019, we have to elect five National Council members at that convention to four year terms ending 2023. In 2021 we have to elect the other five members of the National Council to four year terms ending 2025. In order to achieve this we have to make one-time adjustments to existing terms of office so that five positions on the National Council expire every other year.

Position	Name	Term ends
Elder	Randall McLeod	2018
Vice Pres	Helen Zacharias	2019
Treasurer	Brenda Evjen	2019
Trustee	Dennis McGuire	2019
Elder	Peeter Vanker	2020
Elder	Sherland Chhangur	2020
Trustee	Tim Bauer	2020
President	Ed Skutshek	2021
Secretary	Vivien Georgeson	2021
Trustee	Eddie Kwok	2021

The amendments which establish biennial conventions will include a provision for a one-time adjustment to the terms of four members of National Council at the October 2019 General Convention.

Position	Name	Adjusted Term ends
Elder	Randall McLeod	2021
Elder	Peeter Vanker	2023
Elder	Sherland Chhangur	2023
Trustee	Tim Bauer	2021

The delegates to the 2018 Annual General Convention will have elected a candidate to fill Randall McLeod's position on the Board of Elders for the usual four year term which ends 2022. The term of this member of the Board of Elders will be reduced to a three year term ending at the 2021 biennial convention.

The positions on the Board of Elders held by Peeter Vanker and Sherland Chhangur (which normally would have ended in 2020) will be declared vacant at the 2019 biennial general convention. Candidates will be elected to fill these positions for four year terms expiring at the 2023 biennial convention.

The position on the Board of Trustees held by Tim Bauer (which normally would have ended in 2020) will be declared vacant at the 2019 biennial general convention. A candidate will be elected to fill the position for a two year term which will expire at the 2021 biennial convention.

Following these adjustments, five members of the National Council will be elected every other year.

Proposal #2: Reduction in the Size of National Council.

CALC's National Council (NC) consists of the Executive, the Board of Elders (BOE) and the Board of Trustees (BOT). The Executive consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The BOE consists of the President and the Secretary and three elected Elders. The BOT consists of the Vice President and the Treasurer and three elected Trustees.

Fiscal Impact: CALC' constitution requires that entire NC meet at least once a year. It requires our BOE to meet at least twice a year and the BOT to meet at least once a year. We currently meet as a NC twice a year, with the first meeting held in the first quarter of the new year. In 2018 we met March 10. During this meeting we consider and act upon business arising from our last Annual General Convention and begin planning in earnest for the next one. The second meeting generally takes place in September or early October and the purpose of this meeting is to make final preparations for the upcoming Annual General Convention. At each meeting, we meet as a National Council and then separately as a BOE and BOT. The entire NC also attends our Annual General Convention. The two NC meetings are held in a rented meeting room at the Calgary International Airport. National Council members from Alberta generally drive into the meeting and those from other provinces fly in. We try to fly in and out the same day. We meet for about 5-7 hours.

Current Costs: At this time we have seven (7) NC members who fly into meetings: 3 from Ontario; 3 from British Columbia, and 1 from Manitoba. Three (3) drive in from Alberta. The travel costs are significant for the two meetings. In addition CALC pays the cost of NC members for their travel, registration and accommodation costs associated with their attendance at the Annual General Convention. NC believes

that it is vitally important that we meet face to face. We accomplish a great deal at these meetings. Physical presence fosters community and collegiality.

Cost Cutting Measures: For 2018 we budgeted for only one face to face meeting of the NC. The second meeting will be by either teleconference or internet video conference. The elimination of one face to face meeting will reduce the costs of our meetings. In addition, the elimination of two positions on the National Council will further cut costs of attending the one face to face NC meeting and the costs of sending NC to the Annual General Convention.

Approval Process: Like the establishment of biennial conventions, the amendments reducing the size of the Board of Trustees would have to be approved by the delegates to the 2018 annual general convention and then ratified by a vote of congregations.

Implementation: The positions on the Board of Trustees held by Tim Bauer and Dennis McGuire which became vacant at the 2019 biennial general convention will not be filled.

In Favor of Reduction of the Number of Trustees: The Board of Trustees' mandate is to: purchase or otherwise acquire title to real estate; borrow money (must be approved by congregations); invest and manage investment funds of our Association; prepare a budget and monitor spending; appoint auditors; prepare job descriptions and recommend remuneration for officers and other employees; review the financial condition, policies, practices, and operations of all components of CALC.

We do not currently have the need for or the resources necessary to acquire real estate. We do not need to borrow money at this point. Our Association's fund balances are not of a size at this point that they require specialized financial planning. We do not have an association-wide employee benefits package which requires administration. Our approved budget has only very recently exceeded \$100,000.00. The BOT's main mandate is to prepare an annual budget, monitor expenses and review job descriptions. We simply do not need five people (Vice President, Treasurer and three Trustees) to accomplish these tasks.

We believe that we must look at the size of our governing body in relation to the size of our association. We must ask: "Does the size and business of our association justify ten NC members?" We believe that, given the size of our Association and our current budget, we do not need ten members on the NC. Moreover, if our members believe power has become too concentrated, or CALC grows and prospers and the workload increases, the delegates to the Annual General Convention have the authority to determine the size of the National Council and elect candidates to fill the newly created positions.

In Opposition to the Reduction of Trustees: It could be argued that the two Trustees we propose to eliminate may contribute to the effectiveness of the NC in making decisions which effect the entire Association. Ten minds are better than

eight in reaching important decisions which impact our congregations and individual members. It could further be argued that a smaller NC may be easier to influence by those who may have an agenda. Power and authority become more concentrated when you move from ten to eight members and opposing views are more easily overcome. Travel costs could be reduced by using technology to connect National Council members. Online live video conferencing services such as "Adobe Connect" or "Go To Meeting," as are currently used by ILT students can be used to connect the members of the National Council.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL CALC ONTARIO CLUSTER GATHERING

Saturday, June 2, 2018



As Dennis and Ruth McGuire reminded us in their opening devotions, we must all keep in mind a common vision. That vision is grounded in

Christ, and his great commission.



Sherland Chhangur shared some of the earliest history of Guyana as well as that of the Lutheran church. He indicated that with the financial support particularly of the North American church and missionaries, many new church facilities were built, along with adjacent schools in the 1960's and 1970's. However, in the subsequent years the church has fallen on difficult times, particularly with the emigration of many Guyanese and the great shortage of pastors. There is a nominal relationship between that church and the ELCIC and some other North American individuals and groups. However, Sherland emphasized that the Guyanese Lutheran community continues to need practical support. He indicated that one of his future initiatives would be to purchase a facility to house short term visitors from North America.

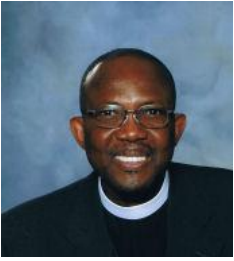
Our Lutheran congregations and church bodies need a common vision. But their trajectories over time may turn out quite differently.



Pastor Peeter Vanker commented on possible future church trajectories:

We must differentiate between "Christ's church" and the "institutional churches" in their various forms. "Christ's church" is God created, God sustained and eternal whereas "institutional church bodies and congregations" are human constructs, time conditioned, and temporary. We must not confuse between the two. His presentation entitled "Beginning to change a mindset – rethinking church" observed some of the major issues facing congregations and church bodies as institutions.

Darrell Weiler accompanied the group on the guitar during song breaks.



Following lunch Pastor Samuel King-Kabu from St. Ansgar's Lutheran (ELCIC) in Montreal spoke about the history of his tribal upbringing in Ghana, West Africa. He spoke about his ministry first in Western Canada and then his decision in faith to come to Montreal, along with the special challenges. He affirmed his confidence in God who will never abandon "Christ's church" even though the institutional church structures may prove but temporary.

We shared briefly our insights about some of the key reasons which prompted the Liberal party to insist that charities pick a side on abortion. This was followed by Sherland Chhangur's sharing his comprehensive paper on the Sanctity of Life and the Christian perspective based on our Biblical roots.

John Lofstedt spoke about the special support group in Pembroke for individuals desiring support and guidance as they wrestle with the issue of abortion and its lifelong consequences.

All present were challenged to evaluate what their congregations are doing with their previous "Synodical benevolence donations". The McGuires told the group that their congregation has diverted those funds to CALC.

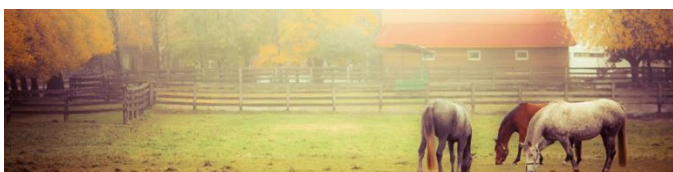
We spoke of some of the Lutheran outreach programs to share the Good News of Christ, citing such ministries as that of Pastor Samuel Chem in Cambodia, Pastor Tatapudi in India, as well as the solicitation of funds for an evangelistic centre in Tallinn, Estonia.

President Ed Skutshek announced the speakers at our annual Pastors' Retreat and the 2018 CALC Convention. He indicated that there will be proposals to revert to biennial national conventions as originally envisaged, and to reduce the size of the National Council.

Pastor Doug Kranz concluded the gathering with prayer.

Submitted by: Pastor Peeter Vanker

Thank you to Peeter Vanker for organizing and chairing the Cluster meeting. The cluster took place at the country home of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Schickedanz. Thank you to the Schickedanz family for opening their home to the 32 participants who attended the cluster meeting. Congregations represented included: St Peter's Lutheran Church, Sullivan; Goodwood Lutheran Church, Uxbridge; Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Toronto; Faith Lutheran, North York; St Matthew's Lutheran Church, Cornwall; Resurrection Lutheran, Pembroke.



REPORT ON THE ANNUAL CALC ALBERTA CLUSTER GATHERING

Saturday, April 21, 2018

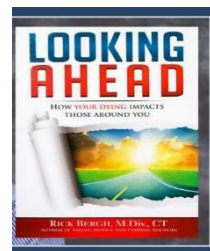


On Saturday April 21st about forty gathered to participate in a retreat facilitated and taught by Pastor Rick Bergh. The retreat went from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, with a break for lunch. The retreat included informational sessions taught by Pastor Rick. After each teaching session, small groups were formed. The groups discussed questions posed by Pastor Rick based on the topics covered.

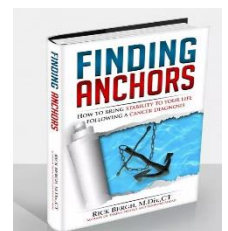
Pastor Rick's presentations pointed to timeless insights into grief revealed in the Gospels and the Epistles. He encouraged us to believe these insights still work today.

Many participants expressed their appreciation for the retreat and the insights they had received. Many expressed a willingness to keep the conversation going.

The Cluster Meeting was held at the Deer Valley Meadow Christian Camp and Retreat Center. President Ed Skutshek gave a brief update on the 2018 convention & pastors' retreat and the establishment of the Diaconal Ministry. The camp provided a delicious hot lunch. Thanks to Wendel Ritz and the staff at the Deer Valley Meadows Camp for their hospitality.



Rev. Rick Bergh (M.Div., CT, NT), is an ordained minister and serves a parish in Victoria, BC. He is a bestselling author, speaker,



narrative therapist and workshop leader. God has called him to a ministry as a Thanatologist (specialist in death, dying and bereavement). Rick has first-hand experience at transitioning through loss and leads workshops and speaks throughout North America on grief and bereavement. You can learn more about his work at: www.rickbergh.com.

REPORT ON THE VANCOUVER CLUSTER GATHERING

Saturday, February 17, 2018

Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church hosted a cluster meeting of CALC congregations from Mission and Vancouver BC. We were also joined by representatives from a local independent Chinese language Lutheran Church.

The Vancouver and lower Fraser Valley Cluster have been active, meeting several times a year. Congregations have actively worked together on projects, including, a Sunday afternoon musical program and a joint worship service to celebrate the quincentennial anniversary of the Reformation. Participants shared the joys and challenges of their ministries. President Skutshek shared information concerning the upcoming 2018 annual general convention, including National Council initiatives and the keynote speaker. The next cluster meeting was set for Saturday September 8th at Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church.

100th Birthday Celebrated at Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church!



On Sunday February 18th a special worship service was held to honor the 100th Birthday of long-time member Mrs. Martha Byer. She is pictured below with our President, Pastor Ed Skutshek. He was honored to be the guest preacher for the service.

She has led a remarkable life. The winds of war and history blew Mrs. Byer and her family from Russia to Poland, then to East Germany,

then to Germany and finally to Vancouver, BC. During the festivities which followed the service, one of her daughters gave a stirring account of her life.

“My mother was born in the bush in February 1918 on the Polish/Russian border, as her family was coming back to Poland (their homeland) from Russia. The Russian Czar had interned all the German ethnic people deep into Russia in 1917. He was afraid that they would join the German Army and fight against him in WW I – even though they were just simple farming people. The part of Poland in which my mother’s family lived belonged to Russia at the time. (A similar incident took place on the BC coast during WW II when the Japanese were interned further east – mainly into Alberta).

My mother was born in difficult circumstances. The train that brought them back to Poland stopped near the Polish border, so her father built a makeshift shed to spend the winter. Then in the spring they were able to continue on foot to their homeland.

Luckily, they encountered two border guards who gave them these instructions: To put all their belongings down. Then

they were to wait until the guards went on patrol in opposite directions. When the guards had their backs turned, they were to pick up their belongings and cross the border into Poland. The guards promised not to look back so that they could truthfully report to their superiors that they had seen nothing. They also suggested that the children carry as many of their belongings as was possible, as the border guards would not shoot at children. They followed the guards’ instructions and crossed the border.

After arriving at their farm in Poland, they found everything overgrown and they had to just about start over again. They had very little to eat, but they did have a sack of potatoes. So they cut out the eyes of the potatoes, and planted them, and ate the rest of the potatoes. God was very gracious and those potato eyes grew well and an abundant crop was harvested.

Yes, life was not easy in Poland, but they were happy, more so than in our affluent lifestyle. For instance, they made their own linens. First, the land was worked and flax seeds were planted, weeded and harvested. The seeds went for oil. The flax straw went to make fibers – a very laborious operation as they did not have modern equipment. The flax straw was soaked in the creek for a week or so until it became pliable. The flax straw was combed using homemade combs (pieces of wood with nails hammered through). The combs removed the chaff and exposed coarse and finer fibers. The fibers were spun together to make threads. The threads were woven together to make coarse and fine linen cloth. The coarse cloth was used to make sacks. The finer linen cloth was used to make towels, linens, shirts, skirts and so on.

They raised sheep and harvested wool from them. The freshly shorn wool was washed, combed and spun into wool yarn. They used the wool yarn to make socks, mittens, shawls, sweaters and so on.

The family was rather very self-sufficient. However, they relied on their community for many things. The entire community would get together for feather splicing. The spliced feathers were used to make feather beds.

These community work parties were one of the main social activities in the community. A lot of flirting would go on at these parties. My mother eventually met and married my father and they had three children.

My father was killed in WW II, leaving my mother with three little ones. When WW II ended, she fled with her young family from Poland to Germany. We only made it as far as East Germany.

East Germany was then under Soviet control. She was given a plot of land to farm. This plot of land had to provide for her needs and satisfy a quota imposed by the government. Her land was not that productive and she never made the quota the state demanded. She hid chickens she had grown so that she would not have to deliver them to the communists as part of her quota. She was put in jail for failing to meet her quota of food. Her brothers also ended up in East Germany. They would scrape enough together to get Mrs. Byer out of jail. Her brothers could not keep bailing her out of jail, so they hatched a plan.

My mother had a brother who had immigrated to Canada before WW II. Her brother would sponsor them to come to Canada. However, they would first have to escape from communist East Germany to the freedom of West Germany. So one night in 1948 we snuck across the border into West Germany.

After living some months in refugee camps, the paper work was done, and we were off to Canada – along with her youngest brother, who was a big help to her.

Of course coming to a new land where she did not know the language brought new challenges. Life in Canada has been great for us all. It was the best thing she ever did, aside from raising us to love and trust God.

We quickly joined Martin Luther congregation in Vancouver and mom is still here and very much active in church and community activities. Even at age 95, she dug, planted and weeded her garden and the flower beds around Martin Luther church. She faithfully shopped for and organized funeral lunches. Yes God has been good to her and us. Praise God for all his wonderous deeds. He truly is an AWESOME GOD!"

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2)

Mrs. Byer has lived alone in her house a block away from Martin Luther Church for decades. Tributes to Mrs. Byer were made by some of her neighbors. They praised her. Her garden at home and her gardening at church were lauded. They declared that she was the best neighbor possible. One family who gave a tribute had moved away some ten years before, but felt compelled to come and praise Mrs. Byer. Her activities in the community included running classes in the church which taught women the art and skill of canning.

Her activities in the church were praised. She was described as a pillar of the church. She had her hand in every church activity, most notably for organizing the annual Advent craft fair and overseeing the making of homemade sauerkraut that was sold and consumed in mass quantities by patrons. She was very regular in worship and Bible study. She prayed mightily. She truly embodied all that was good and noble in Jesus' friends Mary and Martha.

Martha was in the midst of selling her home and moving into an active seniors' residence at the time of birthday. May God bless her and keep her as she continues her journey with Jesus!



Martin Luther German congregation 1962



"I Think This Church Will Close"

By Reverend John Krahn

"I think the church will close." Three years ago, this was our bishop's honest assessment of the church I had just agreed to serve as Interim Pastor. After being there a week, I could not disagree with his thinking. Neither the bishop nor I wanted another one of our churches to be closing, but things looked pretty dire. I came in November. By Easter, we would run out of money and have to close unless something miraculous happened.

Three weeks after I arrived came the Sunday for the annual Sunday School Christmas Pageant. I had only noticed a total of four children in our Sunday School. But the pageant had gone on for sixty years, and the woman in charge was determined to have a Sunday School Christmas Pageant. So she also recruited four of her own grandchildren who were attending another church. The shepherds were three men in their seventies, all dressed in costume. It turned out to be a pretty decent pageant.

During the announcements that Sunday, I mentioned that one of our members had a great way for us to reduce the cost of our new offering envelopes. Instead of spending \$1,200, as we did in the past, we now would only be spending \$600. At the end of the service, out came the visiting grandmother of our three kings. As I shook her hand, she said to me, "I'll donate the money for the envelopes." I responded enthusiastically, "God bless you!" She replied, "I do not believe in God." That week she delivered a check for \$1000 to the church.

"God, if you can motivate an atheist to donate a thousand dollars to our struggling church, I think we will make it," I prayed that week. With much prayer and hard work, along with God's continued blessing, in nine months this church was debt free, had over \$125,000 in the bank, had nearly doubled its weekly giving, saw a 25% increase in attendance, in addition had \$45,000 worth of refurbishment done to its sanctuary, and received a new baby grand piano, all donated by its members. Then a few months later, it called a full time pastor.

Thirty some years earlier I had written six books which were published. Knowing this, the vicar who had been serving with me at this church said to me, "Pastor, you need to write a book From Surviving to Thriving – A Practical Guide to Revitalize Your Church." It was kindly endorsed by Dr. Philip Krey, the former president of the former Philadelphia Seminary and The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, the former bishop of the MNYS along with several other major church leaders from multiple denominations.

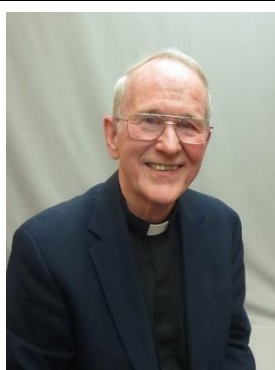
What pleases me most is that this book has already been read by thousands of people and has helped many struggling churches all over the United States and Canada. Pastors as well as laypeople and entire Church Councils are reading and benefiting from it. This fall I have been invited to be the presenter at the annual convention of the third largest Lutheran body in Canada. Like the United States, many Canadian churches are struggling as well. Having read my book, the bishop of this Canadian church body has invited me to be their presenter on the subject of church revitalization.

The fine reception of *From Surviving to Thriving* has encouraged me to write several others books including, *Living a Happier Life – At Every Age*, *Brief Prayers for Busy People*, and *Special Stories Along Life’s Journey*. In a few months, my next book, *Love- It’s the Greatest*, will be published by CSS Publishing Company. It is based upon one of the most popular chapters in the Bible, I Corinthians 13.

If you are interested, the easiest way to acquire one of these books is to go to Amazon and type my name “John H. Krahn” in the search engine. This will bring you to my author’s page which lists all of my current books.

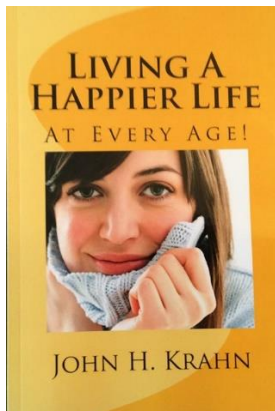
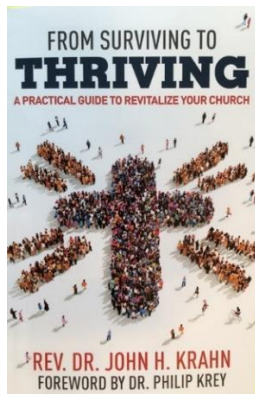
In my book, *Living A Happier Life at Every Age*, I encourage everyone to live a relevant life right down to his or her final breath. Why shouldn’t the final act of our lives be the very best one? I am an “officially” retired pastor now for 10 years. I hope God has at least a few more challenges for me to enjoy. After thirty years, it took an atheist to get me back to writing again. Our God is full of wonderful surprises.

I do not know when my final act will come, but I pray that it will come in the middle of my doing something worthwhile in our Lord’s service.



Rev. Dr. John H. Krahn

Known as the "Go To Guy" for finding creative and successful ways to save failing churches, Dr. Krahn has served both one of the largest churches in his denomination and some of the smallest. He believes that no church needs to fail. He is a much sought after speaker. He has been published over a hundred times in periodicals and authored seven books. He feels strongly that the problems before us are never as powerful as the God behind us



ILT Receives Accreditation

February 20, 2018



ILT President Dennis Bielfeldt (far right) and Comptroller Leon Miles are presented ABHE accreditation.

I remember vividly early summer of 2006 after the Word Alone Annual Meeting had just voted to move forward implementing an independent, autonomous, and fully accredited house of studies committed to the Biblical hermeneutic of the Lutheran Reformation. When writing the report that I had brought to the convention, I remember clearly thinking, “this is going to be a tremendous amount of work if we can pull it off.” I must admit that it has been a tremendous amount of work, and we did do it!

We have just been notified by the Commission on Accreditation of the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) that we have been voted to receive initial ABHE accreditation! Since we are already independent and autonomous, accreditation completes the original three conditions I specified that the Institute must possess. God be praised!

ABHE accreditation means that we are officially recognized now by the US Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as an accredited US educational institution. ABHE accreditation, like Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation, is comprehensive and institutional. It is not less difficult to achieve than HLC accreditation, though unlike HLC accreditation, it recognizes the religious nature and religious challenges of its member institutions. (Yes, the annual meeting opens with prayer!) We like working with ABHE because they have definitely helped us be the best we can be without placing upon us some of the “political correctness” conditions of both HLC and ATS (American Theological School) accreditation.

Our newly accredited status has some immediate benefits:

- We soon will be designated by ‘edu’ rather than ‘org’ in our URL and will be eligible for the entire educational vendor bundling of large universities.
- Our programs, now fully accredited, will meet the conditions specified by the federal government -- including the US military -- whose employees receive direct funding of continuing education.
- We will be able to operate legally in all 50 US states and Canadian provinces as an educational institution rather than a religious organization.

- Students can say that their degree is from a “fully accredited institution.”

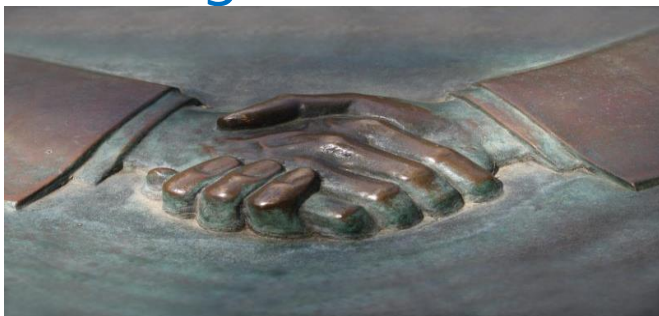
Everybody should realize, however, that students will likely not learn more at ILT than before. ILT accreditation will not likely affect the quality of student educational experience. ILT educational products have always been of high quality, and it is difficult to improve when one is already doing it correctly.

What accreditation does is announce to the world that we are a “going concern” institutionally. We are not just involved in the ad hoc training of a few good pastors, but are an institution with multi-generational staying power, a comprehensive institution that not only has a seminary, but is also involved in granting academic degrees to those wanting to study theology to the glory of God.

The board, staff, faculty and students of ILT thank all of you who have prayed for us and supported us financially during this long process of achieving accreditation. We look forward to God’s future, trusting that ILT will continue to be a blessing to students, to the Church, and to the culture in which we find ourselves.

In Christ,
President Dennis Bielfeldt, Ph.D.

A Historic ILT Board Meeting



The Board of Directors for the Institute of Lutheran Theology met on Tuesday, June 12 and Wednesday, June 13, 2018. There were many items on the agenda, among which changes to the ILT logo, the addition of a Ph.D. program, the addition of a 72-credit hour master's degree in military chaplaincy, and the budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 were most significant.

The Board dealt with the issue of modifying the ILT logo to make the name 'Christ School of Theology' more prominent. We surveyed our constituents, and many who responded were solidly in favor of moving forward with this. A number of others, however, did not feel comfortable with the change. The board decided to take no formal action at this time. The board would like to thank all who gave feedback on this issue.

The Board next voted to add a Ph.D. to the programs ILT offers. This was a historic moment for the school. The board approved two different emphases in the Ph.D., one in systematic theology and one in Biblical studies. With the addition of the Ph.D., ILT keeps the promise it gave in the

beginning to train not only lay people and pastors, but also the next generation of teachers who will carry the Lutheran theological tradition forward.

The board approved a Master's in Military Chaplaincy program. The faculty of ILT has been working together with army chaplains and endorsing agents to create a program for those who wish to serve in the military as chaplains.

The next step for implementing both of these programs involves the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), our accreditation agency. ILT must petition this fall to have these programs added to our other accredited programs and will receive the ABHE decision next February. ILT has both the resources and the capability to offer both of these programs and we are hopeful that ABHE will grant our request.

Finally, the board received a proposed budget from the board finance committee. This budget was discussed and adopted. ILT will have a \$987,700.00 operating budget for fiscal year 2018-2019. This budget is funded by tuition, rental income, donations from the staff/faculty, donations from individuals and congregations, and from the generous support of a Canadian charity dedicated to helping ILT students in Canada. The board expressed its gratitude to all the generosity of the staff and faculty, as well as all those who give to the mission of ILT. ILT depends on the generosity of its donors to be able to provide at reasonable prices the programs it offers.

Overall, the meeting was a great success. The entire board was able to attend, and it nominated two new people to join its ranks at the fall meeting. We are grateful to God for His continuing grace in the life of the Institute of Lutheran Theology!

CALC Sunday Initiative

At our March 10, 2018, meeting National Council unanimously voted to take the steps necessary to designate the first Sunday in May CALC Sunday. Like “Sanctity of Life Sunday” before it, we must bring this proposition to our 2018 National Convention for approval by the delegates.

If approved by the delegates to our convention, each year National Council will prepare a video presentation to be used in congregations on CALC Sunday. The video will be designed to keep congregations informed of current events in CALC.

National Council wants to suggest certain special events for CALC Sunday. These events and special initiatives could include:

- Pulpit exchanges between congregations in close proximity to one another.
- A special offering could be taken for CALC during the service.
- Visits from National Council members in a nearby CALC congregation.

CALC's 2018 – Annual General Convention.

Convention Dates: Friday October 26, Saturday October 27 and concludes with worship on Sunday October 28.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. John H. Krahn. See pages 10-11 above.

Proposed Schedule:

Thursday October 25:

Noon to 6:00 PM	Delegates and visitors begin arriving on Thursday afternoon.
5:00 PM	Registration begins.
6:00-7:00 PM	Supper
7:00 PM	Free time.

Friday, October 26

8:00-9:00 AM	Breakfast & Registration
9:00-10:30 AM	Keynote Speaker – Learning Session
10:30-11:00 AM	Refreshment Break
11:00 AM- Noon	Keynote Speaker – Learning Session
Noon- 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00-2:00 PM	Small Group Discussion
2:00-2:30 PM	Refreshment Break
2:30-4:00 PM	Feedback on Discussion and Q & A
4:00-6:00 PM	Free time
6:00-7:00 PM	Supper
7:00-7:30 PM	Free Time
7:30-8:30 PM	Opening worship – Pr. Ted Hill preaches
8:30-9:30 PM	Hospitality

Saturday October 27

8:00-9:00 AM	Breakfast & Registration
9:00-10:30 AM	Opening Devotion - Business Session #1
10:30-11:00 AM	Refreshment Break
11:00 AM-Noon	Business Session #2
Noon-1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00-1:30 PM	Introduction of Guests
1:30-2:30 PM	Keynote Speaker Session #3
10:30-11:00 AM	Refreshment Break
11:00 AM- Noon	Keynote Speaker – Learning Session
Noon- 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00-2:00 PM	Small Group Discussion
2:00-2:30 PM	Refreshment Break
2:30-4:00 PM	Feedback on Discussion and Q & A
4:00-4:30 PM	Any unfinished convention business
4:30-6:00 PM	Free time
6:00-8:00 PM	Convention banquet and program

Sunday October 28

9:00-10:00 AM	Breakfast
10:00-10:30	Free Time
10:30-Noon	Worship
Noon-1:00 PM	Lunch – Farewell & Godspeed

Venue: Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center, near Alix, Alberta. The camp and accommodations are described below.

Airport/Shuttle: Arrangements will be made for transporting delegates and visitors flying into Calgary International Airport to the camp and back to the airport at the close of the convention. Shuttles will also be provided between the camp and hotels.

Deer Valley Meadows Camp & Retreat Center:



Deer Valley Meadows Camp is located on 142 acres of woodland and grass meadows on the north bank of the beautiful Red Deer River. The camp is located 48 kilometers east of Red Deer, AB on Highway 11; and 33.5 kilometers west of Stettler, AB on Highways 12 and 11.



The camp facilitates and hosts conferences, retreats, seminars, family reunions, camps, business meetings, board meetings, weddings, school day trips, picnics, anniversaries, concerts, banquets and cultural groups.

The camp's cabins and lodges will accommodate about 80 people (based on double occupancy of rooms). Additional rooms will be available at hotels in Stettler (about a 20 minute drive).

Recreational Vehicle or RV spaces are available for rent at the camp. Delegates and visitors may bring their RVs and camp in assigned spaces. Costs will be made available with final registration materials.



The entire convention, including, the learning event, business sessions, worship and keynote addresses will be held at the camp. We will be using the Wagner Auditorium for all of our sessions. The auditorium is a 60 by 120 foot Quonset, with cement floors, 2 sets double doors, 1 large door, ceiling fans, stage, sound system & equipment, piano pews, chairs & tables. It seats up to 400 people. Renovations are being undertaken. The new additions include washroom facilities.



All meals will also be served at the camp. The camp's dining room will accommodate many more than the estimated 80 delegates and visitors staying at the camp.



Registration fees will be calculated in a very different way this year.

Base Registration Fee: There will be a base registration fee which is based on the estimated costs of: our bulletin of reports, convention bags and contents; facilities use fees charged by the camp; and costs of our keynote speaker (travel, accommodations, meals and an honorarium/fee). National Council will be soliciting donors to fund a major portion of the fees associated with our keynote speaker.

Accommodations: Delegates and visitors can apply to stay at the camp Thursday, Friday and Saturday night.

Three nights double occupancy per person	\$105.00
Three nights single occupancy	\$180.00

If you stay at the camp, these costs would be added to your registration fee. This rate assumes you bring your own linen. An extra charge will be levied for those who need linens. The charge is not known at this time.

This is the first convention in a camp setting. Camp accommodations are rustic. Washrooms will be shared between and among those occupying adjacent rooms. Rooms will be available in four buildings:

Centennial Lodge: A cedar chateau featuring a grand fireplace in its great room and a loft meeting room with another fireplace. The lodge includes under its roof: 12 bedrooms that sleep up to 36 people, men's & ladies' washrooms & showers. Guests share restroom



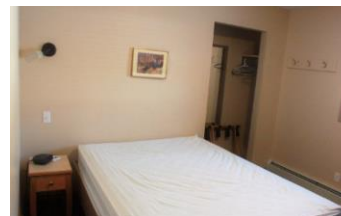
facilities.



Gazebo Place: The six family style bedrooms can accommodate up to 29 people. There is a full kitchen, washrooms and showers and a handicap bathroom with a

shower. The central lounge area connects with the gazebo outside. A great place to visit. Guests share restroom facilities.

Youth Centre: This building's 9 bedrooms will sleep up to 28 people on the main level. The lower level has kitchen facilities, a meeting space and bunks to provide beds for another 16 people. There is a bathroom for guests to share on each level.



Dining Hall: Their modern kitchen provides food service for up to 250 guests in large dining area with view of the river valley. It also has bedrooms attached which accommodate 16-24.

Alternate accommodations are described on the next page.

Meals: The camp will offer meals for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The fee for meals consumed at the camp is added onto the base fee.

Option 1: Full Meal Option: Supper Thursday; Breakfast and Lunch Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Supper Friday and Saturday banquet, together with snacks.	\$133.50
Option 2 – Breakfast at Hotel Supper Thursday; Lunch Friday, Saturday and Sunday and Saturday banquet, together with snacks.	\$113.50
Option 3 – Day Rate – Come for Friday only Lunch & Supper Friday and snacks	\$36.00
Option 4 – Day Rate – Come for Saturday only Lunch & Supper Saturday and snacks	\$41.00

These costs would be added to your registration fee.

Alternate Accommodations.

CANALTA Hotel, Stettler, AB:

6020 50 Ave, Stettler, AB T0C 2L0 - 1-403-742-3371



Per night rates assuming double occupancy plus taxes
Standard two queen room.
Complimentary Breakfast included – Indoor pool.
Regular Rate: \$128.33
CAA or Senior: \$121.92
We are in the process of negotiating a block room rate which may be lower.

Super 8 By Wyndham Stettler

5720 44th Avenue Stettler, Alberta T0C 2L0 (403) 742-3391



Per night rates assuming double occupancy plus taxes
Standard two queen room.
Complimentary Continental Breakfast included.
Regular Rate: \$116.82
We are in the process of negotiating a block room rate which may be lower.

CALC's 2018 – Pastors' Retreat.

Venue: Like our convention, CALC's 2018 Pastors' Retreat will also be held at Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center, near Alix, Alberta.

Dates for the Pastors' Retreat: Wednesday October 24 through Thursday October 25. Pastors will gather Tuesday evening October 23.

We are asking pastors to stay at the camp for the Tuesday and Wednesday night. You may opt for accommodation in Stettler for the convention.

Registration Fees. Like the convention, the registration fee will consist of:

1. A base fee (made up administrative or facilities fees charged by the camp and costs of the keynote speaker. National Council will be soliciting donors to fund a major portion of the fees associated with our keynote speaker); plus,
2. Costs of accommodation and costs of meals.

Accommodations and Meals based on single occupancy of a room at camp.

Accommodations Tues. Oct 23 & Wed. Oct. 24	\$120.00
Meals: Tuesday 23: Supper. Wednesday 24: Breakfast, lunch and supper. Thursday 25: Breakfast and Lunch.	\$92.00
	\$212.00

Accommodations and Meals based on double occupancy of a room at camp

Accommodations Tues. Oct 23 & Wed. Oct. 24	\$75.00
Meals: Tuesday 23: Supper. Wednesday 24: Breakfast, lunch and supper. Thursday 25: Breakfast and Lunch.	\$92.00
	\$167.00

Proposed Schedule:

Tuesday October 23:

Noon to 6:00 PM	Pastors arrive on Tuesday afternoon.
6:00-7:00 PM	Supper
7:00-8:00 PM	Free time.
8:00-9:00 PM	Worship
9:00 PM	Free time.

Wednesday October 24:

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 to 10:00 AM	Keynote Speaker – Session 1
10:00 to 10:30 AM	Refreshment break
10:30 AM to Noon	Keynote Speaker – Session 2
Noon to 6:00 PM	Lunch & Free time
6:00 to 7:00 PM	Supper
7:00 to 8:00 PM	Keynote Speaker – Session 3
8:00 PM	Free Time

Thursday October 25:

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 to 10:00 AM	Keynote Speaker – Session 4
10:00 to 10:30 AM	Refreshment break
10:30 AM to Noon	Keynote Speaker – Session 5
Noon to 5:00 PM	Lunch & Free time
5:00 to 6:00 PM	Worship & Sharing
6:00 to 7:00 PM	Supper
7:00 PM	Free Time

Pastors’ Retreat Speaker: Rev. Dr. Eddie Kwok



Reverend Doctor Eddie Kwok will be the presenter at this year’s conference.

Pastor Kwok has experience as a parish pastor and seminary professor at the Lutheran School of Theology (LTS), of Saskatoon, SK.

He is a graduate of Regent College Master of Divinity (M.Div.). He has earned a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Systematic/Historical Theology from London School of Theology.

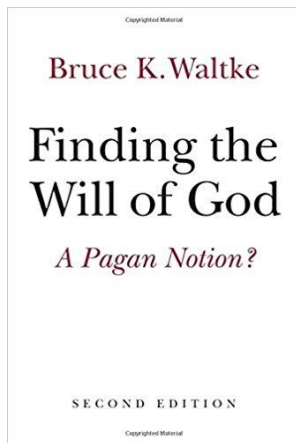
Pastor Kwok is married to Janet. They have two adult children Stephanie and Justin. Stephanie is a teacher employed by the Vancouver School Board. Justin is studying Computer Science Technology at British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby, BC.

Pastor Kwok’s presentation will rely on a book written by Professor Bruce K. Waltke. Pastor Kwok believes that this book should be read by all those who wish to serve on church council.

The author asks: “Does the Bible teach Christians to “find” God’s “special will” for their lives?” No, it does not, says respected biblical scholar Bruce Waltke, contrary to much popular evangelical teaching. In this acclaimed book Waltke clearly

distinguishes between pagan divination (“guessmancy”) and solid, Bible-based guidance as he distills from Scripture a six-point program to help guide Jesus followers on their life journey.

This expanded and extensively rewritten second edition of Waltke’s *Finding the Will of God* incorporates the best insights from many other books on guidance that have appeared since the first edition came out (2002), and it includes an entirely new chapter on learning to protect one’s heart. This edition also features thoughtful questions for reflection at the end of each chapter.



“It’s the Law”

When Can Canadian Courts Allow Interference With Freedom of Religion?



Chief Justice Richard Wagner of the Supreme Court of Canada

The Trinity Western University Case.

On Thursday June 15th the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) issued a decision on the appeal filed by Trinity Western University (TWU) on their long road to accreditation of their proposed law school. The issue which sparked the lawsuit was a covenant that TWU has faculty, staff and student’s sign which marriage as God ordained it (one

male and one female in a life-long commitment), and to refrain from sexual activity outside marriage. The law school must be accredited by the law society in each province. TWU’s law school was granted accreditation by some provincial law societies.

At first, the BC Law Society accredited TWU’s law school through their committee system. However, a minority group within the society, who were against the above described covenant, forced a referendum of all the members on the matter. The members’ vote revoked the accreditation. TWU took the society to court. The highest Court in BC reversed the action of the membership, thus reinstating the society’s accreditation of TWU’s law school.

In 2014, Ontario’s Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC) refused to accredit TWU’s law school based on their rejection of the above described covenant. The covenant barred admission to TWU’s proposed law school to sexually active LGBTQ people, those living in common law relationships and those who are not Christians in contravention of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In July of 2016 the Ontario Court of Appeal’s (highest court) upheld the law society’s decision.

These two cases were consolidated on appeal. The SCC upheld the decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal, which decision denied accreditation. Law Societies across Canada can now legally refuse to license graduates of Trinity Western University based on the covenant which requires all students and faculty to abstain from sexual activity outside marriage between one man and one woman.

These cases involve the collision of two rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: the freedom of religion together with the right of free association and the right to freedom from discrimination based on sexual

orientation. When two Charter rights and freedoms collide, the court is called to review the decision making process to ensure that the rights and freedoms are properly balanced. The SCC ruled: "...an administrative decision which engages a Charter right will be reasonable if it reflects a proportionate balancing of the Charter protection with the statutory mandate."

The court found that LSUC had a statutory mandate other than to assure that those admitted to the bar had a good legal education and of good character. (Section 4.1 of the LSUC Act). The law society also had a statutory duty to "advance the cause of justice and the rule of law, facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario, and protect the public interest." (Section 4.2 of the LSUC Act).

The court found that LSUC had only two choices in exercising its statutory duties, to accredit or not to accredit based on TWU's educational plan, including, admission standards. The 7 to 2 majority, ruled it was the SCC mandate was to ensure that the decision made by the LSUC, which engaged and challenged the freedom of religion, proportionately balanced Charter protection with their statutory mandate.

The SCC found that the "public interest" the LSUC could legitimately defend included the following.

- Ensuring access to law school was based on merit and diversity.
- Ensuring equal access to and diversity in the legal profession.
- Preventing the risk of significant harm to LGBTQ people.

As additional support, the court specifically found that under certain circumstances religious freedoms may be curtailed. *"Limits on religious freedom are often an unavoidable reality of a decision-maker's pursuit of its statutory mandate in a multicultural and democratic society. Religious freedom can be limited where an individual's beliefs or practices harm or interfere with the rights of others (R. v. Big M Drug Mart Ltd., [1985] 1S.C.R. 295, at pp. 34.)"*

The court found that the harm to TWU's freedom of religion and association caused by LSUC's decision not to accredit their law school was not as significant as the harm to the legal profession and LGBTQ people. The court specifically found:

In our view, the LSUC did not limit religious freedom to a significant extent. As discussed in the companion appeal, the LSUC's decision only interferes with TWU's ability to operate a law school governed by the mandatory Covenant. This limitation is of minor significance because a mandatory covenant is not absolutely required to study law in a Christian environment in which people follow certain religious rules of conduct, and attending a Christian law school is preferred, not necessary, for prospective TWU law students.

In our view, the decision significantly advanced the statutory objectives by ensuring equal access to and diversity in the legal profession and preventing the risk of significant harm to LGBTQ people. The reality is that most LGBTQ individuals will be deterred from attending TWU's proposed law school,

and those who do attend will be at the risk of significant harm.

Except for the interference identified above, no evangelical Christian is denied the right to practice his or her religion as and where they choose. The LSUC's decision means that TWU's community members cannot impose those religious beliefs on fellow law students, since they have an inequitable impact and can cause significant harm. The LSUC chose an interpretation of the public interest which mandates access to law schools based on merit and diversity, rather than exclusionary religious practices. This decision prevents concrete, not abstract, harm to LGBTQ people and to the public in general.

Two judges dissented. They were appointed by Stephen Harper. They argued that LSUC's only legitimate public interest was to ensure that the courses offered by TWU met the standards for the law society and candidates for admission to the practice of law in Ontario met the personal and professional standards set by the society. The LSUC had no business looking at admission criteria and other inner workings of TWU's law school, as these have nothing to do with the course content and educational standards. The dissent went on to argue that TWU is a private educational institution, and as such, its admission policies, based on religious freedom, are beyond the review of the court and the LSUC.

The dissenting opinion concluded that the only way we can really have diversity in Canada is to accredit TWU's law school. *"Finally, even were we to accept the overbroad statutory "public interest" objectives which are urged by the LSUC and adopted by the majority, it would not follow that accrediting TWU is against the public interest, so understood. As we discuss in our reasons in Law Society of B.C. (at paras. 324-36), the public interest in fostering a liberal, pluralist society is served by accommodating religious freedom. The unequal access resulting from the Covenant is a function not of condonation [condoning or approving] of discrimination, but of accommodating religious freedom, which freedom allows religious communities to flourish and thereby promotes diversity and pluralism in the public life of our communities."*

This decision has just been handed down. Its implications have yet to be fully explored. TWU and its Board of Governors have some very serious decisions to make. Please keep them in your prayers.

In Christ

Pastor Ed Skutshek

