



Canadian
Association
of
Lutheran
Congregations

Highlights of CALC Conventions 2007-2019

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Highlights of Convention 2019

October 18 & 19



2019's Annual General Convention (AGC) was unique. It was held over two rather than three days. Our annual Learning Event (LE) took place on Friday October 18th. The theme for the LE was Christian apologetics. Our annual business meeting took place Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon was reserved for a keynote address and closing worship. Delegates and visitors who lived nearby typically returned home following worship. Those that could, stayed for a celebratory meal.

Our Convention took place at the Port O'Call Hotel on McKnight Boulevard, in Calgary, AB. The venue for the convention took us back to CALC's constituting convention held on Reformation weekend 1992. We went back to our roots. Twenty-seven years ago our founders took a bold step. Full of hope, joy and energy they took the first steps necessary to establish our Association. They laid the foundation upon which God has built our Association. Twenty-seven years later we returned to the Port O' Call Hotel and asked God to kindle within us that same hope, joy and energy. A summary of the convention follows.

Friday Learning Event

Christian Apologetics

Presenter: Rev. Col. John Eidsmoe



The Friday morning and afternoon before the annual general convention on Saturday is dedicated to Christian Education. The topic for this year's "Learning Event" was **Christian Apologetics**.

God often sends people our way with questions. Some, often motivated by an unexplained tragedy, desperately want to know what we believe and why we believe it. Others openly challenge the message we believe and our integrity and intelligence for believing this message. The discipline of

Christian apologetics seeks to find ways of answering critics who oppose or question the revelation of God in Christ and the Bible. The discipline is rooted in a desire to fulfill St Peter's mandate to Christians of every generation to "always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks them to give an account for the hope they have." (1 Peter 3:15)

We invited Rev. Dr. John Eidsmoe to speak at our Friday learning event. He is a sought-after speaker on Christian Apologetics. His academic and career background make him an especially apt teacher of this discipline. He has taught legal history and church history at law schools and seminaries. A constitutional attorney and retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, Colonel Eidsmoe has also taught church history and other subjects in various seminaries. He currently teaches Christian apologetics at the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), of Brookings South Dakota, an accredited online seminary. (CALC's seminary).

He gave four excellent presentations entitled:

Session #1: Reason in the Bible.

Session #2: Religious Liberalism.

Session #3: Challenging Darwinism.

Session #4: Islam and the Crusades

Session #1: Must I Check My Brain at the Church Door? Reason in the Bible.

In this presentation, Col. John helped us to craft a common criticism voiced by many whenever they encounter Christians and the good news of the Gospel. They argue that Christianity requires a blind faith and a blind leap into the future. They argue that you must check your brain at the door before you enter the church and listen to Christian teaching.

Col. John encouraged us to respond in this way: The Bible never calls us to "blind faith." God calls us to have faith in the promises made by Him. God calls us to use our reason in comprehending His word. He went on to give us some concrete examples of Jesus using reason.

By way of example, Col. John read this passage: "*As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher he asked, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. No one is good—except God alone.*" (Mark 10:17-18). In this terse reply, Jesus began called this man to use reason and logic and consider what he must do to inherit eternal life. He began by asking the man to consider what he had said to Jesus and his very posture. The man had called Jesus "Good teacher." He had knelt before Jesus.

Jesus confronted the man with the assertion that "only God is good." Jesus called this man to ponder and consider the implications of what he did and said. If he called Jesus good, and knelt before this good man, could his words and actions be a declaration that Jesus is the Son of God? Could it be that recognition of Jesus as the Son of God and worship of him has to do with the inheritance of eternal life?

In the same passage Jesus went on to reveal more about what this young man must do to inherit eternal life. The man admitted that he had to obey the commandments. In response, the young man confessed and declared scrupulous

obedience to the commandments. Jesus added another, *“Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.”* (Mark 10:17-18) Jesus called this man to see that his obedience to God’s commandments was impossible. Jesus asked that man, and all who would come after him, to think about it, and believe that the inheritance of eternal life cannot come from human action, rather it comes from faith and trust in the “Good Teacher.”

Col. John encouraged all of us to accept that the common understanding among people today is that you must leave reason at the door to the Sanctuary in order to be a Christian. We must emphasize, that while faith comes through the power of the Holy Spirit when the Gospel is proclaimed, Jesus spoke reasonably, eloquently and logically and we must lift that up when we preach, teach and proclaim.

Session #2: Religious Liberalism.

In his second presentation, Col. John traced the development of religious liberalism in America. He spoke of the influence of men like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Bronson Alcott, Charles Darwin, Albert Schweitzer, Julius Wellhausen, Walter Rauschenbusch and Rudolph Bultmann on the Christian faith.

By way of example, he spoke of the impact of Ralph Waldo Emerson. He was a pastor and a graduate of Harvard Divinity School. He challenged the teaching of the church and taught “Transcendentalism.” This emerging philosophy declared that people are inherently good and are corrupted by society. This good can be recaptured by truly independent and self-reliant people. He opposed Biblical teaching and the use of the Means of Grace. He led many Christians astray. Darwin’s theory of Evolution challenged the creation account found in Genesis. Some of these men were the architects of, or influenced by, what is called higher Biblical criticism. This higher Biblical criticism led many of them to confess that the idea that the Bible was “inerrant” could not possibly be believed by any reasonable person. They began to challenge and doubt the doctrine of substitutionary atonement (that Jesus suffered for our sins and died in our place); the virgin birth; and Jesus is the truth and the life and only way to the Father.

The most salient example of the impact of Liberalism revealed by Col. John was the impact of Julius Wellhausen on Old Testament studies in Christian seminaries. He was famous for his critical investigations into Old Testament history and the composition of the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament). He argued that the Torah or Pentateuch was not written by Moses. He believed that there were four independent texts written by four different authors (the four authors were identified by the Hebrew name each of them used for God). He believed that during the time of the Babylonian Captivity (608-538 BC), an editor wove these four

independent manuscripts together to form the Torah or Pentateuch we have today. Wellhausen's hypothesis was dominant model for Torah studies in many seminaries and universities studies until the last quarter of the 20th century. Other biblical scholars examined the text and saw more authors and editors at work in the Torah. The new scholars declared that the Torah we have today was edited well after the Babylonian captivity.

Col. John called all of us to oppose this understanding of the Torah with great urgency. He called us to declare that Jesus, his disciples and the Apostle Paul declared that Moses wrote the Torah. Didn’t Jesus say: *“It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law.”* (Mark 10:5) *If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.* (John 5:46). Jesus’ disciples believed that Moses wrote the Torah: *Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”* (John 1:45) The Apostle Paul believed that Moses wrote the Torah *“Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.”* (2 Corinthians 3:15).

He called us to see that Liberalism higher Biblical criticism attacks the very foundation of our faith and their rhetoric plainly contradicts the truth revealed by Jesus in the scripture. He called us to hold up the scripture that contradicts Liberal ideas every time we are confronted by them.

Session #3: Confronting Darwinism.

In this session, Col. John addressed a common criticism leveled by those around us every day. They say: *“There is no doubt that the world around us came to be through evolution. They call the Biblical account of creation a mere legend. They boast: “Evolution is good science, evidence of its truth is all around us.”*

Col. John’s advice to us is never let a person challenging the Biblical account of creation turn the discussion into a debate on “religion vs science.” You must clearly state that when we inquire into the origin of the universe the scientific method does not apply. The scientific method changes a scientific theory into a scientific fact when the result predicted by the theory is proved by many experiments that produce that same result. It is impossible to replicate the creation of the world in a scientific experiment. Therefore, if you can’t prove a theory of creation it must always remain a theory. Those that hold to the theory of Evolution have faith and trust in the assumptions, tenets and doctrines that make up the theory of Evolution. It is appropriate to challenge some of the assumptions, tenets and doctrines underlying the theory of Evolution.¹ The discussion can shift to another evidence based theory of creation. *“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”* (Romans 1:20). Col. John called all Christians to point to nature its complexity, diversity

¹ Two excellent presentations full of information to be used for refuting the Theory of Evolution by Dr. Ron Voss can be accessed at: <https://vimeo.com/67568539> and <https://vimeo.com/67568541>.

and interrelatedness. All this evidence declares that our world is not the result of random occurrences. It reveals and declares an intelligent design. This revelation can open the mind of the skeptical hearer to listening to the words God the Creator and the Word made flesh.

Session #4: A Christian Reflection on Islam and the Crusades. Islam is often described as a religion of “peace.” Col. John gave us a different perspective on Islam. He demonstrated that Islam’s primary method of growth and proselytization has been by Jihad or holy war. He described how the Ottoman Turks conquered Africa, the Holy Land and made significant inroads in Europe.

Christians are often criticized for the Crusades, often bloody military campaigns which wrested control of the Holy Land from the Muslims. He called to see that before the Muslim’s took control of the Holy Land, Christian pilgrims were able to travel to the Holy Land and visit the various sights. The Muslims put a stop to this and even destroyed Christian churches. The Crusades were launched to open the Holy Land to pilgrimages and confront the threat of Muslim expansion.

Col. John encouraged all to stand up for our Christian Faith by standing up for our understanding of Holy Scriptures. He called us to fight the myth that belief in God involves a blind leap of faith. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit call us to a relationship based on intimate knowledge of God through what is revealed in Holy Scriptures and work of the Holy Spirit through the means of Holy Scripture.

The word “apologetics” – is derived from the Greek word *apologia* meaning “speaking in defense.”

A chief goal in most debates is to embarrass, discredit and revile your opponent.

The goal in Christian Apologetics is to love and to win your opponent.

Convention 2019 Friday Worship *Sermon Opening the Learning Event*



Pastor Roland C. Weisbrot preached at our opening worship service on October 18th.

In his first letter to the Corinthian church, the Apostle Paul gives us the great triumvirate of “faith, hope, and love” (13:13). As a Church we talk a lot about faith and

a whole lot about love, and so we should! But often lost in the middle is this not so little thing called hope. This is ironic because the church could sure use some hope right now couldn’t it?

Year after year we are bombarded with report after report about how the church is in decline. These reports seem to suggest a very grim reality: church attendance in Canada has fallen by about 20% in the last few decades; the average age

of Church attendees goes up and up every year, making us wonder who will replace the older ones when they are gone; this year it was reported that we are set to lose 9000 churches in Canada in the next few decades; the United Church of Canada closes one church a week, and many denominations have rates of closure that are catching up to that number; basically all of our Lutheran churches are either in decline or stagnating, with few exceptions; and more and more younger people decide to identify as “religious nones.” Sadly, many of these statistics hit home for us, don’t they? We do not have to ask if they are true because we see them playing out around us.

We recently celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, thanks be to God for that! And yet, the celebrations are increasingly overshadowed by the questions so many other church bodies just like this one is asking: Are our churches going to still be here in another 50 years? In 30 years? In 10 years? Why do we tend to struggle to keep younger people in our pews? How do we get the younger generations involved? Is it inevitable that we are going to die out, to be forced to shutter our doors?

These questions fill us with a sense of hopelessness for the future. We pray and we beg of God the way King David did in Psalm 13: “How long, O Lord? Will you forget [us] forever? How long will you hide your face from [us]? How long must [we] take counsel in [our] soul[s] and have sorrow in [our] heart[s] all the day? How long shall [our] enem [ies] be exalted over [us]? Consider and answer [us], O Lord [our] God; light up [our] eyes, lest [we] sleep the sleep of death, lest [our] enemy say, ‘I have prevailed over [them],’ lest [our] foes rejoice because [we are] shaken” (vv. 1-4).

But even in this pit of despair, King David had hope in the promises of God. Verses five and six read: “But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.” You see, King David’s hope was not put to shame, and nor will ours be “because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom. 5:5) After all, how much more should we cling to hope, living in the time after Jesus’ earthly ministry? Jesus, in whom “the fullness of Deity dwells bodily” (Col. 2:9). Jesus, who “suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit” (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus, who promised that “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20b) – and indeed, He is with us, in His Word, His Sacraments, and by His Spirit (Matthew 18:20)!

Therefore, to abandon hope is to forfeit Christ: it is as simple and brutal as that. Brothers and sisters, we cannot afford to do that, can we? The stakes are too high to give up, to let Satan and his servants trample us and smother the Gospel by plaguing us with doubt and skepticism about its power to save – yes, even this generation! Scripture tells us that we must “honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). That’s our theme verse. But it is

hard to give a reason for the hope that is supposed to be in us if we and our congregations don't exhibit any, isn't it?

But we do have hope! And our hope is this: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:3-9). That is to say, "[our] hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness," as the old hymn goes.

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 2 that God "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (v. 4). That means we have a lot of work to do. We must spread this hope that has been planted in us by the Gospel and give reason for it. As Jesus Himself said, "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." There are millions waiting to hear the words that bring them life and salvation, abroad but even here at home in Canada! All who know Christ and His life-saving Gospel are called to be laborers in this abundant harvest, that means lay-people and the ordained! Christ was not kidding when He said to His followers, "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19).

This is why we study Scripture and come to God's house to proclaim and hear His Word; we learn theology for the sake of proclamation as the great 20th century Lutheran theologian Gerhard Forde said. We hear so that we can repeat! Because as the Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 10, "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (v. 17). Scripture tells us that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved," but "how then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?" (Rom. 10:13-15a).

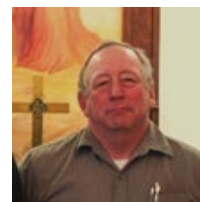
In this time of religious decline and increased public ridicule, many of us have stopped doing our Christian duty of proclamation, of sharing the news. In the face of opposition our hope has been shattered, and we have retreated as individuals and as a church into our few remaining strongholds, sealing ourselves off from witnessing to the world in an attempt to protect ourselves. This is a grievous error with a terrible result! We should not be falling back to our hidey-holes, because Scripture proclaims that "behold, now is the

favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2b). We must be willing to bear the ridicule, to become "fools for Christ" (1 Cor. 4:10a), recognizing that "the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18).

Therefore, it is time to sound the trumpets and don the armor of God: the belt of Truth, the breastplate of Righteousness, the shoes of readiness, the shield of Faith "with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one," the helmet of Salvation, and the sword of the Spirit "which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:14-17). Charge out into the mission field and proclaim the Gospel of the God who "so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life," to your family, your friends, your neighbours, and any stranger you meet (John 3:16)! And you can do this with the hope and confidence that God's Word does not go out from the mouth and return empty, "but it shall accomplish that which [He] purposes, and shall succeed in the thing for which [He] sent it" (Isaiah 55:11)

So, have hope brothers and sisters. Have hope that the God who saved you can also save others. For in a time so filled with hopelessness and anxiety about the future, what we need is Christ crucified for us. We need to make the Gospel heard, for it alone has the power to save. This is the hope for which we are to give reason. May God grant us such hope, that we may approach today's ministry context with confidence in the life-saving words of Scripture, knowing that it alone can bring the masses back. Amen.

Highlights of Business Meeting. Saturday October 19, 2019



CALC's 2019 annual general convention began with an inspiring devotion by Pastor-in-Training Ed Parke. He spoke of the challenges inherent in sharing the faith in the 21st Century. His devotion concluded with a message of hope and a call to persevere as expressed in the words of the poem entitled "The Tide" by an unknown author.

*On the far reef the breakers
recoil in shattered foam,
Yet still the sea behind them urges its forces home;
Its chant of triumph surges, through all the thunderous din
The wave may break in failure, But the tide is sure to win.
O mighty sea, thy message in changing spray is cast:*

*Within God's plan of progress it matters not at last,
How wide the shores of evil,
How strong the reefs of sin
The wave may be defeated,
But the tide is sure to win.*

Pastor Parke encouraged us to see that Jesus calls our proclamation of the Gospel to be as relentless as the waves of the sea. We may see the Gospel message thwarted; absorbed by the shores of evil and broken on the reef of sin. However, we must remember that the Holy Spirit uses the proclamation of the Gospel to create faith. The Holy Spirit is stronger than sin and evil. The Gospel will cross all barriers and save souls. We are called to keep sharing the Gospel.

Registration Report: Secretary Vivien Georgeson reported that there were 78 people registered for the 2019 CALC Annual Convention. There are 46 registered as Voting Delegates, 4 Associate Members, 10 members of National Council and 14 Visitors, with representatives from 28 of CALC's 32 congregations, from 5 provinces – BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. Attending as Visitors, were: Leon Miles representing the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) of Brookings, South Dakota, USA; keynote speaker, Colonel John Eidsmoe, Pike Road, Alabama, USA; Pastor Charles Jackson, representing World Mission Prayer League, Sherwood Park, AB; Pastor Rick Bergh, Certified Thanatologist with Grief Counseling Ministry, Victoria, BC; and Dan Bidulock, of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cochrane, AB, representing Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Elders' Report.



The Elders' Report came after the registration report. The report was delivered by Elder Rev. Peeter Vanker.

The following changes to CALC rosters were moved, seconded and carried:

Individual Associate Members Added to the Roster

Brenda Evjen
Pastor John Graham

Additions to the Roster of Pastors

Roland C. Weisbrot, by Ordination 2019-10-06
Victory Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat, AB
John H. Lofstedt, by Ordination 2019-06-09
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Pembroke, ON
Wayneroy Mohabir, Interim Pastor
Ev. Luth. Church of the Good Shepherd, Toronto, ON
Alan Gilman, Interim Pastor
All Saints Lutheran Church, Ottawa, ON
Kevin Nelson, upon Ordination 2019-11-24
Bethel Lutheran Church, Lea Park, AB

Deletions from the Roster of Pastors

Garfield Vikse, retirement
Salem/Trondhjem Luth. Par., Round Hill/Kingman, AB

John Graham, resigned to take a new call St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sullivan, ON
Ronald Hobden, retirement Peace Lutheran Church, Wainwright, AB
Elaine Hobden, retirement Peace Lutheran Church, Wainwright, AB
Douglas Kranz, fulfillment of Interim Ministry Resurrection Lutheran Church, Pembroke, ON

Deletions from the Roster of Diaconal Ministers

Lila de Waal
Victory Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat, AB

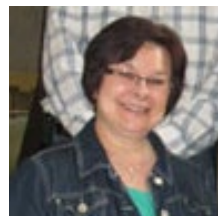
Additions to the Roster of Diaconal Ministers

Gary Graumann, provisional appointment as Chaplain
McCreary Care Home, McCreary, MB

Congregations in the Call Process:

Asker/Calvary Lutheran Parish Ponoka and Wetaskiwin, AB
Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal Stony Plain, AB
Salem/Trondhjem Lutheran Parish Ponoka-Wetaskiwin, AB
St. Peter's Lutheran Church Sullivan, ON
Christ Lutheran Church Sexsmith, ON

Trustees' Report.



Vice President Helen Zacharias gave the following report.

New Website: Our website is in the process of being redeveloped. The work is being undertaken by Red Rock Group, Inc., of Edmonton, AB, for a price of \$1,575.00.

Communication: Better lines of communication must be established between CALC and our member congregations regarding CALC's role in congregational life and CALC's financial position. Some suggestions for improving communication include providing our member congregations with: (1) Clear and concise examples of CALC's role in the life of congregations and the broader church; (2) Quarterly financial statements for CALC so that congregations can respond to CALC's needs; and (3) The designation of a CALC representative for each congregation whose mission is to make sure that information from CALC is received by and distributed in his/her congregation.

Stewardship of Resources: The Board of Trustees regularly reviews CALC's expenditures with a view towards cutting costs. The National Council generally meets face-to-face three times a year: (1) the first meeting typically occurs some time in

January, February or March; (2) the second meeting typically occurs in September or early October; and the National Council attends CALC's Annual General Convention (typically the third weekend in October). National Council members are reimbursed: (1) the costs of transportation (and accommodations at times), to the two National Council meetings; and (2) the costs of transportation, accommodations and full registration for the annual general convention. National Council will meet for the first meeting electronically or by a virtual boardroom on the internet.

Succession Planning: The relationship between our president and the National Council has been one whereby the National Council establishes policy and our president implements the policy. The president will term out October 2021. Board of Trustees must provide for a transition to new presidential leadership. The Trustees will be engaged in evaluating the president's current position and developing a way forward. (See also the article on Page 20 for more information on succession planning).

Reduction in the Size of the Board. Our constitution was amended to reduce the number of the elected Trustees to two (2), as a consequence, Dennis McGuire's position on the board (which became vacant at the convention), was not filled.

Elections: Fred Schickedanz, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cochrane, AB was elected Vice President for a four year term by acclamation. Helen Zacharias, Christ Lutheran, Morden, MB, was elected Treasurer for a four year term. She ran against incumbent Treasurer Brenda Evjen.

We want to thank Brenda Evjen and Dennis for their excellent service on our National Council. May God bless Brenda and Dennis and all their future endeavors. See article below.

Next Year's Convention: October 16-17, 2020. National Council was to investigate holding the convention at a Hotel.

President's Report.



Our President gave his 10th President's Report at the 2019 convention. He reminded those present that constituting convention of CALC met at the Port O'Call Hotel some 28 years ago (Oct. 1992). He highlighted some of blessings CALC has received over the past 28 years:

- Membership grew from 1 to 32 congregations.
- Members have supported 28 annual general conventions.
- Convention venues have included, churches, Bible Schools, convention centers, Christian camps and hotels.
- Keynote speakers have included: best-selling Christian authors; theologians; Christian Apologists; Christian TV personalities; dissident orthodox Lutheran Pastors; seminary presidents; and seminary professors.
- Our speakers have hailed from across Canada, the United States, and Bremen, Germany.

- The convention that was farthest west: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Kamloops, BC. The farthest east: All Saints Lutheran Church in Ottawa, ON. Northernmost: Christ Lutheran Church, Sexsmith, Alberta. Southernmost: Faith Lutheran and Good Shepherd Lutheran in Toronto, ON.
- The highest attendance at a convention was 120 at the 2016 Convention held at All Saints Lutheran Church in Ottawa, ON.
- Clusters of congregations meet regularly in Ontario, Alberta and BC. We must encourage cluster meetings and improve upon their content and organization.
- We have sponsored and led Pastors' Study Conferences since 2007. Beginning in 2014, pastors' conferences have been held two days before our annual general convention. Over the past several years we have been blessed with keynote speakers who have inspired and equipped our congregants.
- This year we held the first annual joint CALC-ILT-CS Pastors' Study Conference. ILT-CS is a registered Canadian Charity that provides theological education in Canada through ILT. 44 Registered for the two day event. Guest pastors came from LCMC, NALC and the LCC.
- We forged a relationship with the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) of Brookings, South Dakota, USA. ILT uses an online video classroom system for instruction. Students learn in a live online classroom. They can study anywhere they find a good internet connection. As a consequence ILT is our seminary.
- **Shepherd's Pathway:** Our relationship with ILT has permitted us to adopt the Shepherd's Pathway. Candidates for the ministry study for the ministry with ILT and receive either a pastoral ministry certificate 36 credits or a Master of Divinity 90 credits.
- Two CALC students earned a Pastoral Ministry Certificate followed by a Master of Divinity Degree from ILT. One student has earned a Pastoral Ministry Certificate from ILT and is continuing his studies at ILT. Five pastors, who were trained by and served in another Christian denomination, and who now serve CALC congregations, received additional training for Lutheran formation from ILT.
- With the ordination of Kevin Nelson in November of this year, eight pastors will have been ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in CALC since 2012.

We have faced challenges over the years:

Pastors: God has blessed our congregations with pastors. However, many of our pastors will be retiring in the next decade. To fill the pulpits that are currently vacant and those that will become vacant we must take action:

- The next pastor of your congregation may currently be sitting in your pews. God could be poised to call a member of your congregation to be your pastor. ILT offers an exciting possibility. Your congregant could receive training from ILT and use that training in the parish immediately.
- We can work with the Augustana District of LCMC, other districts of LCMC and NALC to expand the list of potential candidates for call.

- We can work with ANiC (Anglican Network in Canada) to expand the list of potential candidates for call.

Conflict: Conflict in the parish/congregation has seriously challenged the integrity and growth of our congregations. We must be proactive in dealing with conflict. We must identify pastors and lay people who have the gifts for mediating conflict and provide for the training necessary to enhance their gifts. Trained and equipped mediators can be deployed to our congregations experiencing conflict.

Social Issues: CALC is called to study the problems of contemporary life and society in the light provided by the sacred Scriptures in order to bring to bear as Christian understanding of human nature, Law and Gospel, and Dr. Martin Luther’s insight concerning the two kingdoms, in order to enter effectively into society and government to help in dealing justly and mercifully with such problems. We have two existing statements, one on the role of women as leaders, including pastors, in the church and human sexuality and marriage. These publications have been used extensively by LCMC and ILT.

There are three social issues which must be addressed:

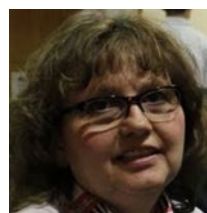
- (1) Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) Act;
- (2) the implications of new gender reassignment laws and non-discrimination legislation; and
- (3) Alzheimer’s Disease/Dementia – pastoral care and congregational care for the patient and the patient’s family.

Speakers at this year’s Pastor’s conference dealt with MAiD. The information generated will be useful in developing CALC’s teaching on MAiD which will be shared at the Friday Learning Event at the 2020 Convention. The 2020 Pastors’ Conference will, God willing, look at the implications for the church of new gender reassignment laws and non-discrimination legislation. The information generated will be useful in developing CALC’s teaching on gender reassignment which will be shared at the Friday Learning Event at the 2021 Convention. The 2021 Pastors’ Conference will, God willing, look at Alzheimer’s Disease/Dementia – pastoral care and congregational care to the patient and the patient’s family. The information generated will be useful in developing CALC’s teaching on the church’s response to dementia which will be shared at the Friday Learning Event at the 2022 Convention.

“In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.” (Proverbs 16:9). We have many plans, let us pray fervently that God would order our steps so that our goals are achieved and God is glorified in their accomplishment.

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

CALC’s Finances & Budget



Treasurer Brenda Evjen, gave CALC’s financial report. Delegates approved financial statements for 2018. Our Association’s expenses exceeded our income for a net loss of \$11,045.00.

The delegates approved a budget of \$104,650.00 for 2020. Line items of the budget are provided below.

BUDGETED REVENUE		2020
Congregational benevolence		\$69,350
Contributions - other		16,000
Convention registrations		7,500
Pastors retreat registrations		11,000
GST rebate		800.00
Totals		\$104,650
BUDGETED DISBURSEMENTS		
Administrative Assistant ¹		\$3,600
Annual national convention		15,500
Bank service charges		100
Conference fees ²		500
Director liability insurance		1000
ILT Canada Society		3,000
Marriage Registration		2,000
Membership - CCCC		350
National Council meetings ³		5,000
Office and postage		100
Outreach ⁴		55,000
Pastors' retreat		13,000
Travel - pastoral & executive		5,000
Website maintenance		5200
Totals		\$104,650

Over the past few years, CALC’s expenses have exceeded donations from all sources and we have eaten into our reserves. This cannot continue. CALC relies on benevolence from our member congregations and donations from individuals. Some of our congregations are facing challenges in membership and finances and for the foreseeable future their benevolence will reflect the impact of these challenges.

God has challenged National Council to constantly evaluate CALC’s spending and cut cost whenever possible.

The good news is that our congregations and certain individuals have stepped up and funded the ministry of CALC. God is still in control and the resources CALC requires are available.

National Council has met twice a year face-to-face in Calgary and gathered at the Annual General Convention. National Council has agreed to have one National Council meeting by Adobe Connect or other video conferencing service.

At times like this God asks others, specifically, individuals to come forward and give as they are able. Donations from individuals can be large or small. The trustees will look at a program whereby individuals can give monthly donations which are taken right out of an account or charged on a credit card. Donations of \$20.00, \$40.00 or \$50.00 per month add up.

We ask our congregations to continue to contribute to our Gathering Fund, so that congregations in financial difficulty are able to access grants so that their pastor or their delegate can attend a convention.

Saturday Keynote Speaker



Pastor Jim Bredeson, of Victory Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat, AB, was our Keynote Speaker for Saturday October 19th. He gave an inspiring presentation on the Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda (RLCR). He was invited to Rwanda by Pastor Jean Claude Maniragaba, the founder of the Reformed Lutheran Church

of Rwanda. (See picture below to the right of Pastor Jean Claude and his family).

Pastor Bredeson noted that the trip came as a bit of a “God-incidence.” Just before this invitation came, Pastor Jim had been visited by a man who lives in Medicine Hat who is an immigrant from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He showed Pastor Jim pictures of a friend in the DRC who is a Lutheran pastor as well as pictures of his ministry. Pastor Jim was considering a visit to the DRC when the email from Jean-Claude arrived inviting Pastor Jim to come to Rwanda. He thought the two pastors knew each other as Rwanda and the DRC are neighbouring countries. It turned out that they weren’t, and the men did not know one another. Jean-Claude had emailed Pastor Jim because he was interested in becoming part of LCMC and saw Victory Lutheran listed and liked its name (Victory).



The country of Rwanda is 49.5% Roman Catholic, 39.4% Protestant, 1.8% Muslim, 0.1% Indigenous, 3.6% none, and other 0.6%. The major Protestant denominations are the Anglican Church and the Seventh-day Adventist church. He also saw many Kingdom Halls of the Jehovah Witnesses. The Muslims are busy building mosques funded by wealthy oil-rich Arab countries. There is another Lutheran denomination present. The Lutheran Church of Rwanda was founded in 1994 by Rwandan refugees in Tanzania and has about 6,000 members.

The Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda (Lutheran.church.weebly.com) was formed in 2011 by Pastor Jean-Claude Maniragaba. He had come to learn of Martin

Luther while a student at the Westminster Theological College in Kampala, Uganda (today known as Africa Reformation Theological Seminary, ARTS, arts.ac.ug). The “Reformed” in its name may seem contradictory but should be understood in a sense more like “reorganized” rather than “Calvinist.” He began this church rather than joining the existing denomination because of its affiliation with the Lutheran World Federation and the ELCA.

There is a history in Africa of supporting churches imposing Western practices on African churches regardless of cultural norms. As the Western Church continues to veer from Biblical standards there is a concern what this might mean in the future. Pastor Maniragaba is a young man (36) with much ambition (in a good sense). He is driven to fulfill the mandate the Lord has given him and has the respect of his pastors.

The RLCR consists of 10 churches. He visited 6 of the 10 during my time there and 10 pastors (He met all of them). The church is concentrated in the Nyagatare District of the Eastern Province in the far northeast of the country where Uganda and Tanzania meet Rwanda. He also met all of the pastors’ wives as well as many deacons and deaconesses of the church. While in Rwanda, Pastor Jim baptized 25 children and youth and ordained six candidates for the ministry.



Rwanda is one of the safest countries in Africa. It has tremendous potential. The civil government is making every effort to make Rwanda a modern nation. The government has required that the churches fit into this new way forward. They are requiring church buildings to meet governmental standards. Government requires churches to establish standards for pastoral training and ordination. The civil government’s march forward has had a serious impact on the RLCR.

In North American terms, it is a building code problem. The church is in desperate need of buildings. This is difficult for them as most congregants are subsistence farmers and there are many widows and orphans. The three pictures below illustrate what the government of Rwanda wants from churches in the country. The outside of the building as well as the floor must be cemented. There must be a tank to collect water as well as proper sanitary facilities with doors for men and women.



In closing, Pastor Jim spoke of the opportunity for CALC, a small Lutheran Church, to partner with and help another small struggling Lutheran Church to become “Lutheran” and in the process help them to meet government regulations.

Highlights of Convention 2018

October 26th to 28th
Deer Valley Meadows



Setting and Attendance:

Our 2018 annual general convention (AGC) was held at Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center. The 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 Friday learning event, Saturday business sessions, convention worship services and keynote addresses were held in the camp’s newly constructed chapel.



Delegates and visitors stayed in rooms at the camp or nearby hotels in Stettler, AB.

Vivien Georgeson, CALC’s secretary reported that there were 70 people registered for the 2018 CALC Annual Convention, including 29 registered for the Pastors’ Retreat and convention. There are 40 registered as Voting Delegates, 1 Associate Member, 7 members of National Council and 22 Visitors, with representatives from 24 congregations from 5 provinces – 4 congregations from BC, 11 congregations from Alberta, 2

congregations from Saskatchewan, 1 congregation from Manitoba and 6 congregations from Ontario.

She further reported that, attending as Visitors, were Timothy Swenson representing the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) and his wife, Dale Ann, of South Dakota, USA, keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. John Krahn, New York, Pastor Charles Jackson, representing World Mission Prayer League, Sherwood Park, AB, Pastor Rick Bergh, Certified Thanatologist with Grief Counseling Ministry, Pastor Ted Hill, Camrose, AB, representing Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI), and also Dan Bidlock, of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Cochrane, AB, representing Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Elders’ Report: Elders Sherland Chhangur, Randall McLeod and Pastor Ed Skutshek delivered the Elders’ Report.

Historical Event: The delegates to CALC’s 2017 AGC approved the establishment of a Diaconal Ministry. Our congregations ratified this action in a congregational referendum conducted in 2018. Lila de Waal, serving Victory Lutheran Church Medicine Hat, AB, was the first candidate who applied for roster on CALC’s Roster of Diaconal Ministers. The delegates affirmed her roster as Diaconal Minister together with all rights, privileges and obligations appertaining thereto.



Changes to the Congregational Roster: Journeys Lutheran Church (JLC), Grand Prairie, AB, asked to be removed from CALC’s Roster of Pastors. JLC was a house church organized by members of Christ Lutheran Church, Sexsmith, AB. The congregations are worshiping together again. The remaining charter members of JLC wish to dissolve the congregation. The motion was moved, seconded and carried (M/S/C).

Individual Associate Members: National Council received and accepted applications from: Reverend Dr. Eddie Kwok of Vancouver, British Columbia; and Pastor Chim Pich (Samuel) of Hamilton, Ontario & Cambodia. The delegates affirmed their acceptance and roster as Individual Associate Members together with all rights, privileges and obligations appertaining thereto.

Ordinations: The following candidates were ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament since our last AGC: Pastor Billy Chiew, January 7, 2018, serving Basel Hakka Lutheran Church, Burnaby, BC; and Pastor Edgar Roste, September 23, 2018, serving Sharon Lutheran Church, Irma, AB. The delegates affirmed their roster as Parish Pastors together with all rights, privileges and obligations appertaining thereto.

Changes to the Roster of Parish Pastors:

Deletions: The following pastors were removed from the Roster of Pastors by reason of their separation from the congregation that called them: Pastor John Gooch, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal, Stony Plain, AB; Rev. Dr. Eddie Kwok, Vancouver Chinese Lutheran Church, Burnaby, BC.; and Pastor

Ted Hill, Asker-Calvary Parish, Ponoka, AB. The delegates affirmed these changes in the Roster of Parish Pastors.

Additions: Pastor Elaine Hobden, serving Peace Lutheran Church, Wainwright, AB (her name was mistakenly taken off the roster); and Pastor Mark Lapointe, serving St. Andrew’s Lutheran, Church in Kamloops, BC (Pastor Lapointe accepted a call from St. Andrew’s). The delegates affirmed these changes in the Roster of Parish Pastors.

Changes to the Roster of Pastors in Extended Ministry:

Additions: Pastor Harry Huff of Owen Sound Ontario, has received special training in and practices grief education counseling. He is rostered as an Individual Associate Member of CALC. He has applied for roster as a Pastor in Extended Ministry as a grief counselor and educator. The delegates affirmed Pastor Huff’s roster on the Roster of Pastors in Extended Ministry, with all rights, obligations and privileges appertaining thereto.

Changes to the Roster of Pastors Emeriti:

Additions: Rev. Dr. Eddie Kwok applied for roster as a Pastor Emeritus. The delegates affirmed Pastor Kwok’s roster on the Roster of Pastors Emeriti, with all rights, obligations and privileges appertaining thereto

Lutheran Enrichment: CALC congregations are free to call pastors who were trained by and served in other Christian denominations. CALC encourages pastors trained in another denomination to take courses through our seminary (Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT)) to enrich their understanding of the beliefs, confessions and traditions of the Lutheran Church. Pastor Hein Bertram, St. John Lutheran Church, Preeceville, SK, received a certificate affirming his completion of his Lutheran enrichment courses with ILT. It was noted that the following pastors were currently taking Lutheran enrichment courses. Leslie Kern, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Mission, BC; and Pagie Isaac, Faith Lutheran, North York, ON.

Mission Congregation in Camrose, AB:

Our President was contacted early in 2018 by Pastor David Hesje, a former CALC Pastor (he served at Christ Lutheran in Morden, MB), about setting up a CALC Mission Congregation in Camrose, AB.

It was suggested that this group take the same path as Goodwood Lutheran Church, meeting in Uxbridge, ON. Pastor Peeter Vanker and his wife Carol and other charter members joined CALC as individual members and began to meet as a mission congregation. In the years that followed, the group that met formed their own stand alone congregation. CALC had entered into a Mission Development Agreement. Offerings collected were made out to CALC. CALC would then return the funds to Goodwood mission group who paid their bills. CALC issued Charitable Receipts at the end of the year. CALC gave the Goodwood Mission \$1,000.00 in seed money.

Our Association received applications for membership as Individual Associate Members from Pastor Hesje, his wife and 10 individuals. The group in Camrose met under the name: “Camrose Church of Joy.” A Mission Development Agreement was prepared. CALC set up a special mission development

account. Offerings were deposited in the account and cheques for the operations of the mission congregation were written on the account. Tax receipts were to be issued by CALC at the end of the year. CALC also gave the Church of Joy \$1,000.00 in seed money.

The congregation met in a small rental space in a local business park and eventually a in a facility maintained by the City of Camrose in a local park. Pastor Hesje had to take on a second job, as the offerings from the congregation could not cover his living expenses. Pastor Hesje drove a cab at night to supplement his family’s income. Despite the best efforts by Pastor Hesje’s family and the members of the mission congregation, the maintenance of the mission congregation proved impossible. Pastor Hesje resigned and the mission congregation dissolved.

Seminarians: The following were recognized as students in various stages of seminary training. All but one student, is enrolled with the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), an online seminary located in Brookings, SD. Candidates are enrolled in either the ILT’s Master of Divinity Degree program or Pastoral Ministry Certificate program:

Candidate	Congregational Affiliation
Colin Adams,	Faith Lutheran Church, North York, ON
Sherland Chhangur	Faith Lutheran Church, North York, ON
Kelly Fedkiw	Faith Lutheran Church, Calgary, AB
John Lofstedt	Resurrection Lutheran, Pembroke, ON
Ronald Laferrier	Peace Lutheran Church, Wainwright, AB.
Randall McLeod	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Stony Plain, AB.
Kevin Nelson	Bethel Lutheran Church, Marwayne, B.
Ed Parke	Bethel Lutheran Church, Marwayne, AB.
Lynn Rech	Trinity Lutheran Church, Leader, SK.
Wendel Ritz	Deer Valley Meadows Camp, Alix., AB.
Roland Weisbrot	Faith Lutheran Church, Calgary, AB

Pray for our seminarians: Almighty God, we beseech you to inspire, guide, prepare and equip our seminarians so that they may one day feed and tend your flock with your Word and your Sacraments. We beseech you to prepare our hearts so that we receive your Word willingly, and Sacraments rightly, so that, in the end, we all receive the crown of eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Vacant Pulpits: The following congregations have vacant pulpits and have requested pulpit supply while they prepare to call a pastor.

Asker – Calvary Lutheran Parish , a two point parish, made up of Asker Lutheran Church, Ponoka, AB and Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wetaskiwin, AB.
Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal , Stony Plain, AB.
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd , Toronto, ON.
All Saints Lutheran Church , Ottawa, ON.

Constitutional Amendments: Please see pages 15-16 below.

President's Report: President Ed Skutshak's report touched the following topics.

Social Issues: He described decisions rendered in three important legal cases which impact religious freedom in Canada. He will take up these decisions in more detail in future editions of the Connector.

The case involving Trinity Western University (TWU), of Langley, BC. The Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) ruled that Canadian Law Societies may refuse to accredit TWU's proposed law school if TWU requires its students and faculty to sign a covenant to keep all sexual relations within marriage defined as one man and one woman. TWU has reluctantly made this covenant voluntary.

The case involving the Canada Summer Jobs Grant. Our Federal Government invited churches and religious organizations to apply for job grants, however, they required applicants to covenant they supported same gender marriage and abortion rights. Many religious groups, including CALC, sent letters to our Prime Minister objecting to this governmental action. Right to Life of Toronto, ON, filed a lawsuit and asked for an injunction forbidding the government from imposing these requirements. The court held they did not allege facts which justified a preliminary injunction. The case is making its way through the courts.

The case involving The Highwood Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. The SCC held that a member of the congregation could not appeal a decision of the congregation's judicial committee to the civil courts. The court held that the civil courts of Canada have no business deciding church doctrine.

Cluster Conferences: He described three successful cluster events: in Vancouver, BC; Goodwood, ON, and Deer Valley Meadows in Alix, AB. He encouraged congregations in geographic proximity to continue planning and hosting these events.

CALC's Support for Ministries: Our President described the role CALC plays in ministries beyond our congregations, including, grief counseling and education ministries. He encouraged our Association to step out and support other ministries undertaken by members of CALC.

ILT: Our President described strides forward made by ILT since their accreditation by the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). Student enrollment has jumped by over 100. The institution is moving forward with a PHD program and a Master of Divinity Degree specializing in military chaplaincy. ILT uses 21st Century technology to pass on to their students the faith and theology of the 16th Century Protestant Reformation. He encouraged all those present to invest in CALC's seminary.

Emphasis on Discipleship. Jesus' Great Commission commands the church to make disciples. Discipleship is the passing of the Christian faith from one person to the next. The Scriptures are clear; discipleship touches every aspect of our lives, including job or vocation. Lutherans believe that our workplace and those we touch because of our job, trade or profession are a part of our mission field. We will search for presenters, programs and materials in this area and even develop our own.

The challenges we face are formidable. However, we can take heart. We must believe and trust that God is on the throne and is behind all that occurs around us (according to His definite plan) and our prayers to God change things.

Trustees Report:

Pastor Vern Roste Memorial Scholarship. A suggestion was made at the 2017 AGC to create a scholarship fund in the name of Pastor Vern Roste, CALC's founding President. The establishment of a typical endowment fund, where interest from the fund is used for a scholarship, would require a great deal of capital and take a long time to raise. The decision was made to rename our Pastoral Training Fund, a pass-through fund, to the "Vern Roste Memorial Pastoral Training Fund."

Contingency Fund for Congregations in Need. A suggestion was made at the 2017 AGC to create an emergency fund to meet the needs of congregations requiring emergency building repairs and similar capital projects. The Trustees noted that CALC operates as a decentralized model where each congregation looks after its own needs. Each congregation should have a reserve fund for this purpose. The establishment of such a fund is not a mandate of CALC.

Website: The Trustees noted the CALC website is looking a little "old" and needs to be revamped. The cost of rebuilding the website is a 2019 budget item.

Director Liability Insurance: The Trustees have made application with Robertson Hall Insurance Agency for directors' liability insurance.

Financial Reports for 2017: Brenda Evjen, our Treasurer noted that in the year ending December 31, 2017, CALC received revenues in the amount of \$102,428.00. In the same period CALC incurred expenses in the amount \$108,178.00 resulting in a deficit of (\$5,750.00). The deficit was funded by unrestricted reserve cash. CALC's cash reserves December 31, 2017 were:

Non-Restricted Operating Surplus	\$45,301
Pastoral Formation Fund	2,571
Gathering Fund	2,250
Church Extension Fund	1,743
Surplus - End of the Year	\$51,865

Financial Condition 2018: Our Treasurer reported that as of September 30, 2018, CALC had received \$41,006.00 from all sources. CALC's expenses for the same period totaled \$54,816.00, leaving a deficit of (\$13,810.00). The Treasurer and Randall McLeod encouraged congregations to fund this deficit.

2019 Budget: The delegates to the 2018 AGC approved the following budget for the year ending December 31, 2019.

REVENUE	2019
Congregational benevolence	\$80,000
Contributions - other	11,100
Convention registrations	10,000
Pastors retreat registrations	9,500
GST rebate	700
Totals	\$111,300
DISBURSEMENTS	
Administrative Assistant ¹	\$3,600

Annual national convention	13,000
Bank service charges	100
Conference fees ²	500
Director liability insurance	1000
ILT Canada Society	3,000
Marriage Registration	2,000
Membership - CCCC	250
National Council meetings ³	10,000
Office and postage	150
Outreach ⁴	55,000
Pastors' retreat	12,500
Travel - pastoral & executive	8,000
Travel assistance (Gathering Fund) ⁵	
Website maintenance	2,200
Totals	\$111,300

1. Paid to CALC secretary for administrative work in support of convention and working with CALC's President's for special tasks. Calculated at 200 hours X \$18/hour.
2. Registrations for conferences attended by Pastor Ed and executive.
3. Travel and meeting room rental costs for two fully funded meetings. Other meetings are held by teleconference calls as required.
4. Compensation to Grace Lutheran for the time Pastor Ed devotes to CALC @ \$4,583.33/month.
5. Disbursements are made from designated funds if funds are available and are not a budget item. The purpose of the designated fund is to provide grants for congregations who need assistance in sending a delegate or their pastor to CALC's Annual General Convention.

National Council want to thank all our Congregations and Individuals for your generous donations, tithes and offerings. We pray that as this year ends and you count your blessings you prayerfully consider blessing CALC.

Elections:

The position on the Board of Elders held by Randall McLeod became vacant at our 2018 Annual General Convention. The vacant position was for a term of four years. Two nominations were received prior to the convention.



Randall McLeod, of Stony Plain, Alberta. He is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Stony Plain, Alberta. He has served one four year term on the Board of Elders. He is a licensed Doctor of Chiropractic. He is a long-time member of and has served in leadership positions

at Immanuel Lutheran. He is currently enrolled in theological studies at the Institute of Lutheran Theology.



David Neiman, of Alexandria, Ontario. He is a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Cornwall, ON. He is a retired school teacher. He is a long-time member of and has served in leadership positions at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. He has served on the Board of

Directors of a Teachers' Pension fund.

A candidate for the position was nominated from the floor at the convention.



Alvin Sorenson, of Viking, Alberta. Alvin has served as the Pastor of Golden Valley Lutheran Church for many years. He has served on the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI), of Camrose, AB. He has also

served on the Board of Hastings Lake Bible Camp, located east of Edmonton.

The delegates voted to elect Pastor Alvin Sorenson to fill the vacancy on the Board of Elders. The members of National Council look forward to Pastor Sorenson's service on the Board of Elders. A more detailed article on Pastor Sorenson will be featured in the next edition of the Connector.

The members of National Council would also like to thank God for Randall McLeod and his service on the Board of Elders. The spiritual gifts God has given him, together with his unique skills and talents contributed to the effectiveness of the Board of Elders and National Council in making decisions which affect all the members of our Association. His presence will be missed.

Closing Banquet.

The closing banquet is one of the highlights of every convention. This year was no exception. We feasted on turkey and barbeque ribs and all the trimmings.

The entertainment after our meal was a feast for the ears. We were inspired and entertained by the 75 voice Central Alberta Homeschool Choir directed by Debbie Zepick.



They opened with a choral piece entitled "Africa." The piece involved some amazing choreography. The whole choir used their hands, arms and legs to make sounds including, thunder and rain showers. Their performance was breathtaking.

The concert included some original music played and sung by Debbie Zepick. Some young people from the choir provided special music.



The choir is made up of young men and women that are being home schooled. They come from Red Deer, Rocky Mountain House, Lacombe, Ponoka, Camrose, Killam, Viking and even Airdrie. The senior choir is made up of students aged 12 through 18.

The highlight of every choral season, which begins in September, is the Christmas Choral concert. The senior choir is joined by a junior choir consisting of 100 homeschooled children (ages 6-11). The Christmas concert typically includes sacred Christmas and worship music. The free will offering taken at the concert, goes to support the Christian Life Orphanage Centre, a home for former street boys, in Mwanza, Tanzania. Concerts are held in three locations in central Alberta. During their CALC concert, we were treated to a preview of the music that will be featured in this year's concert.

Giving Thanks.

National Council wishes to thank God for and acknowledge the significant contribution of the following groups and individuals.

Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center (DVM) for the hospitality they extended to us. The facilities were wonderful and the meals were amazing. Special thanks to Wendel Ritz, director of programming for his hospitality, guidance, assistance and leadership.

Thanks to Asker Lutheran Church, Ponoka, AB and Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wetaskiwin, AB, for partnering with DVM in hosting our convention.



Pastor Ted Hill for preaching at the Opening worship service on Friday October 26. Pastor Ted, Debbie Zepick and Dean Zepick for planning opening and closing worship services and providing musical leadership for both services. Thanks to Wendel Ritz for providing opening devotions for the Saturday business meeting.

Registrations for this year's convention were complicated. Some stayed at camp. Some stayed in local hotels that featured breakfast. All ate lunch and supper at the camp. As a consequence there were many rates and delegates and visitors asked for exceptions. Special thanks to our Secretary Vivien Georgeson and our Treasurer Brenda Evjen, for all their efforts in registering all our delegates and visitors.

OFFICIAL DECISIONS

**Delegates to 2018 Convention
Reject Biennial Conventions**



The Board of Trustees periodically reviews the financial condition, policies, practices, and operations of all components

of our Association. In the course of such a review, our Board of Trustees (BOT) examined our practices with respect to our annual conventions. The BOT noted that conventions are costly. They noted that measures should be taken to control costs. In addition they noted the high costs borne by our congregations in sending delegates to annual conventions, most especially those who live great distances from the site of the convention. They put forward a motion that would have changed our cycle of conventions from annual general conventions to biennial general conventions (every other year). They noted that the act of Canadian Parliament which created CALC permitted our Association to hold biennial conventions. The constitution and bylaws accepted by our membership provided for annual general conventions.

The implementation of biennial general conventions required significant amendments to our constitution and bylaws. By way of example, all the language in our constitution and bylaws establishing annual general conventions would have to be changed to "biennial conventions." The delegates to biennial conventions would have had to approve budgets for the two years between conventions. The way we elect members of our National Council (NC) for staggered four year terms would have had to change. The four year terms of the members of the NC would have to be staggered so that five members of the NC would be elected at each biennial convention.

The NC's rationale for proposing biennial conventions and the necessary amendments to our constitution and bylaws to implement the same, were set out in the Bulletin of Reports for the 2018 Annual General Convention and explained to the delegates at the 2018 Business Meeting. Delegates spoke in favor and in opposition to holding biennial conventions.

- Delegates who spoke in favor of the implementation of biennial conventions supported the BOT's rationale and emphasized fiscal restraint on the part of our Association in spending on conventions. Some emphasized the high costs of travel that some of our delegates must incur to attend our conventions. Biennial conventions would increase the time travel funds could be raised.
- Delegates who spoke in opposition to biennial conventions emphasized the value of annual convention, including, the relationships and fellowship between and among congregations and individuals which have grown and flourished over the years. They have been informed and inspired by keynote speakers, engaged in the business of our Association, and inspired and encouraged by convention worship.
- Pastors' Retreat which has been held in tandem with the convention was addressed. The retreat was described as an opportunity for professional development, relationship building, mentoring, and fellowship.
- Those who spoke in opposition of biennial conventions recognized that our member congregations are spread over five provinces. As a consequence some congregations will spend significant amounts on travel no matter where our convention is held. Another solution to the travel

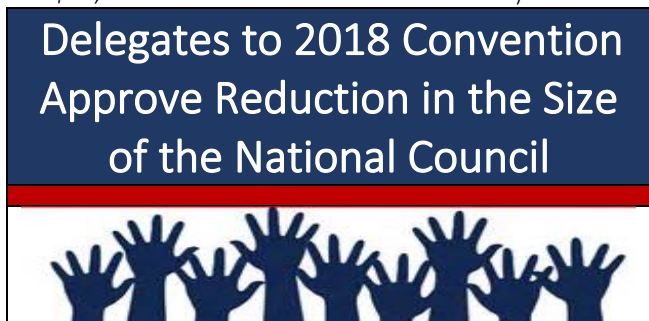
challenge is to create a designated fund which provides grants to financially challenged congregations.

- Pastors and delegates who spoke in opposition to biennial conventions emphasised that two years between conventions is simply too long and will diminish the strengths of annual conventions: effective Christian Education; relationship building and engagement in our Association's business.

The vote of fifty percent (50%) plus one of the delegates present and voting at the business session was required to approve biennial conventions and pave the way to a ratification vote by our congregations. When the vote was taken, a significant majority of the delegates opposed the motion. The motion was thus defeated.

National Council would like to thank all the delegates to our convention for their passionate and heartfelt debate on our proposal change annual to biennial conventions. We have heard your voices and in response we will strive to:

- ❖ Be fiscally responsible and judicious in organizing and spending on our annual general convention (AGC).
- ❖ Retain keynote speakers for our AGC who will engage, inspire, encourage and equip our delegates for ministry.
- ❖ Plan worship to open and close our convention which will give glory to God and inspire, encourage and equip delegates and visitors for ministry.
- ❖ Make individuals and congregations aware of our existing "Gathering Fund" and seek donations to the fund. This dedicated fund was established to provide financial grants for congregations who would otherwise be unable to send a delegate to an AGC.
- ❖ Continue to seek special donations from individuals and organizations to fund costs of hosting an AGC in addition to registration fees and CALC's general funds. (Our Association received special donations of more than \$11,000.00 to offset costs of our 2018 AGC)



The minimum size of CALC's National Council (NC) is fixed by our Constitution as ten members. The 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. National Council's proposal presented to the delegates to the 2018 AGC was to reduce the minimum number of Trustees elected from three (3) to two (2) and the minimum number of Elders elected from three (3) to two (2). NC's rationale for the reduction follows.

NC's primary motivation in reducing its size is our belief that, given the size of our Association (32 congregations), a council consisting of ten members is not necessary to fulfill our Association's current needs. The reduction of the NC to a minimum of eight members could reduce traveling costs. The NC typically meets twice a year and attends the General Convention. CALC reimburses NC members for their costs of travel to NC meetings and the Annual General Convention (AGC).

It could be argued that the two positions we propose to eliminate will most certainly contribute to the effectiveness of the NC in making decisions which affect the entire Association. Ten minds are better than eight when the entire NC is called to make important decisions which impact our congregations and individual members. It could be argued that power and authority become more concentrated when you move from ten to eight members on the NC and opposing voices are thus more easily overcome.

It could further be argued that travel costs could be reduced by using technology to connect NC members. Online live video conferencing services such as "Adobe Connect" or "Go To Meeting," as are currently used by our seminary students attending ILT, can be used to connect the members of the NC. While these strides in technology are effective, and helpful, it is beneficial to have face to face meetings so that relationships between new and incumbent members of the NC may be fostered.

It cannot be denied that a reduction of the size of the NC could impact its effectiveness as a decision making body and/or make the consolidation of power by a group on the NC possible. However, delegates were reminded that NC was only asking that the minimum size of the Board of Trustees and Board of Elders be reduced. As CALC grows and prospers and the workload of the Board of Trustees and Board of Elders increases, or for any other reason, the delegates to the General Convention have the authority to increase the number of members on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Elders and elect candidates to fill the newly created positions.

The following specific amendments to CALC's Constitution required to reduce the minimum size of National Council were presented.

The following amendment was proposed to Section 1 of Article Thirteen of CALC's Constitution: the minimum number of the members of the Board of Trustees specifically elected as Trustees is amended to include two (2) members.

1. Membership. The Board of Trustees is composed of the Vice President as Chairperson as tie breaker and Treasurer, and not less than three nor more than nine other members. Apart from the Vice President and Treasurer, this Board shall consist of **two (2)**, three (3), five (5), or seven (7) members, as determined by the General Convention in the year of election.

The following amendment is proposed to Section 1 of Article Twelve of CALC's Constitution: the minimum number of the

members of the Board of Elders specifically elected as Elders is amended to include two (2) members.

1. **Membership.** The Board of Elders is composed of the President as Chairperson as tie breaker and Secretary, and not less than three nor more than nine other members. Apart from the President and Secretary, this Board shall consist of **two (2)**, three (3), five (5), or seven (7) members, as determined by the General Convention in the year of election.

The vote of fifty percent (50%) plus one of the delegates present and voting at the business session was required to approve the reduction of the National Council and pave the way to a ratification vote by our congregations. Following a brief discussion, the delegates overwhelmingly approved both proposed amendments to CALC's constitution.

The following procedure will be followed for approval of the amendments to CALC's Constitution required to reduce the size of the National Council:

- ❖ A congregational referendum will be held.
- ❖ The Board of Elders will prepare disclosure materials and a ballot for each of our congregations entitled to vote in a congregational referendum.
- ❖ The disclosure materials and ballots will be emailed and mailed to our voting congregations the last week in December 2018.
- ❖ Congregations must vote on the proposed constitutional amendments at a duly called annual or special congregational meeting of the congregation. The disclosure materials and ballot are sent in December so the materials may be voted in on In January, February or March, the months our congregations typically hold annual general meetings.
- ❖ The vote of fifty percent (50%) plus one of the congregational members present and voting at the duly called congregational meeting must be achieved in order to approve the reduction of the National Council.
- ❖ To be counted, completed congregational ballots must be returned to CALC's Secretary (by mail or email) by 6:00 PM (PST) on Monday April 1, 2019.
- ❖ To be implemented, the proposed amendments must be approved by 75% of the congregations who return ballots in a timely manner.

Highlights of Convention 2017

Grace Lutheran Church, West Kelowna, BC

October 20-22



Grace Lutheran Church hosted CALC's 2017 Convention October 20th to 22nd. We celebrated a monumental anniversary and included some "firsts" for CALC. The theme for the convention was "Reformation 500" a celebration of five centuries of reformation.

Speakers:



The convention began Friday morning September 20th with our learning event. **Pastor John Rasmussen**, a professor at the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) was our keynote speaker.

CALC accepts and confesses Luther's Small Catechism as a brief and true statement of the doctrines of the Word of God, and requires of all its members, both congregations and individuals to subscribe to it. Pastor Rasmussen's two-part presentation took us through the Small Catechism.

Many view the Small Catechism as a very simple book with a limited purpose, most usually for Confirmation classes. His presentations revealed the many facets of this most famous of Luther's literary works. He drew attention to the structure of the book: 10 Commandments, followed by the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, the Office of the Keys and ending with Holy Communion. He declared that Luther structured the catechism in this way for a very important purpose. He described the Small Catechism as an instructional manual which reveals the basic truths of our Christian faith, a devotional book which comforts and stimulates a hunger for deeper intimacy with scripture and a tool for evangelism. His presentations may be viewed online at the following internet addresses:

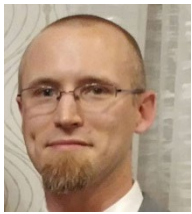
<https://vimeo.com/album/4816222/video/239511883>

<https://vimeo.com/album/4816222/video/239189001>

Friday Afternoon Breakout speakers.

Delegates and visitors to our convention not only heard our Friday morning keynote speaker, but were also given the opportunity to participate in two breakout sessions on Friday afternoon. Each Breakout session was an hour long. The

Breakout speakers included: Pastor John Rasmussen (Q & A after his presentation), Pastor Rick Bergh (grief and loss and the new Medical Assistance in Dying Act), Pastor Rob Lewis (Christian Missions in China), Pastor John Tatapudi (Advent Messengers in India) and Pastor Pagie Isaac (Evangelism to Muslims and Hindus).



Pastor Seth Flick was the keynote speaker for Saturday afternoon. He also is a professor at ILT. His presentation focused on the five “solos” or “onlys” of the Lutheran Reformation. The solas declare that we are saved by “Christ” alone, by “grace” alone, through “faith” which comes through the “word” alone and all glory for our salvation belongs to “God” alone. His explanation for each of the five solas was riveting. His presentations may be viewed online at the following internet addresses:

<https://vimeo.com/album/4816222/video/239567978>

<https://vimeo.com/album/4816222/video/239568676>

Graduation



Left to Right: Wendel Ritz, Rev Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt, President of ILT, Rev. John Rasmussen, faculty of ILT and Rev. John Graham.

History was made at our 2017 convention. The delegates at CALC’s 2009 Annual General Convention held at Grace Lutheran in West Kelowna, initially approved what is now called our Shepherd’s Pathway to Ministry (“SP”). The Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) was named our seminary. The SP provided two pathways to Parish Ministry: the traditional Master of Divinity (M-Div) a 4 year program and a Pastoral Ministry Certificate (PMC) a 2 year program. ILT provided all classes over the internet by video conferencing (a virtual real-time classroom). Pastor John Graham, serving St. Peter’s Lutheran of Sullivan, ON, was the first Canadian to earn his PMC and then his M-Div degree. Wendel Ritz of Three Hills, Alberta received his PMC. Wendel is continuing on in his studies towards an M-Div degree. Wendel is camp director at Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center, located near Alix Alberta.

The graduation took place at 7:00 PM on Friday October 20th, just prior to opening worship. The graduation ceremony was led by Reverend Doctor Dennis Bielfeldt, President of ILT and Pastor John Rasmussen, ILT faculty member. Pastor John Graham’s mother was present. Following the graduation,

Pastor John thanked all those who supported him during his studies through prayer, encouragement and financial help.

Attendance/Quorum:

Secretary Vivien Georgeson gave the following registration report. She reported that there were 85 registered for the convention, 43 Voting Delegates, 5 Associate Members, 9 members of National Council (3 NC members were also registered as voting delegates representing their CALC congregations), and 28 Visitors registered for the 2017 CALC General Convention; with representatives from 27 congregations from 5 provinces – 6 congregations from BC, 11 congregations from Alberta, 3 congregations from Saskatchewan, 1 congregation from Manitoba and 6 congregations from Ontario. Also in attendance, representing the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) were President Dennis Bielfeldt, keynote speaker, Rev. John Rasmussen and keynote speaker, Rev. Seth Flick; Tom Brook of Winnipeg representing Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), breakout speaker, Rev. Rick Bergh, Certified Thanatologist, Dean Rostad representing Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI) and Pastor John Tatapudi, Pastor & CEO of Advent Messengers (AM) of India.

Convention Business:

Diaconal Ministry: Convention delegates unanimously passed the constitutional provisions which established the office of the Deacon or Diaconal Minister. They also approved guidelines for the office of deacon which included: teaching on the office of deacon, terms of the roster of diaconal ministers, expectations for those holding the office of deacon, tools for use in evaluating the credentials and qualifications of a candidate for diaconal ministry, an application for entry into diaconal ministry, a sample call letter and procedures for discipline of a deacon.

The constitutional provisions and guidelines for the establishment of the office of the deacon and the training, roster and discipline of deacons must be approved by our congregations. A disclosure statement including the full text of the constitutional provisions establishing the office of diaconal minister and guidelines for the training, roster and discipline of deacons, together with a ballot, will be sent to Member congregations for a vote. The disclosure statement will be sent out the latter half November. A resolution to be voted on by each congregation is provided in the ballot.

Congregations can vote for the establishment of the office of the diaconal ministry at their annual meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose. The vote of a simple majority of those members present and voting is required for a congregation to approve the establishment of the diaconal office and the ancillary regulations. Ballots are due Monday April 2, 2018. For the constitutional provisions and guidelines establishing the office to become effective, 75% of the ballots filled in and timely received by our secretary must vote in favor of the resolution establishing the office deacon and the ancillary guidelines.

Memorial Resolution.



Pastor Vernon Roste, charter member of our Association and our first President, passed from this life to the next on December 7, 2016 at age 88. A motion was unanimously passed by our delegates which honored the great contribution Pastor Vern made as the chief organizer and first president of CALC. See page 11 for details.

Board of Elders:

The Board of Elders report affirmed that the 40 Day Discernment Program was completed and published. This program consists of daily 40 devotions which permit a candidate for pastoral ministry, and his/her pastor, spouse and key members of his/her congregation to be involved in exploring and discerning the call to ministry.

The Elders Report affirmed that 87% of the 24 congregational ballots cast in a recent referendum, voted in favor permitting incumbent president Pastor Edward Skutshek run for a third term (4 years) as president, existing constitutional term limitations not withstanding.

Changes in Rosters Maintained by the Elders:

Individual Associate Members added: Pastor Paul & Sally Swedberg, Osoyoos, BC Gary B. Graumann, McCreary, MB
Parish Pastors added: Pastors Leslie Kern, Zakaria Mandara, Doug Kranz, and Pagie Isaac
Parish Pastors removed (retired or resigned): Pastors Glenn Hobden, Ana Beck, Karl Faltin, Elaine Hobden and David Schumacher.
Pastors Emeriti added: Pastors Ana Beck and Paul Swedberg.
Pastors Emeriti removed: Pastor Vern Roste (deceased).

Pastors in Lutheran Formation: Three pastors currently serving in CALC congregations were trained by and served in another Christian denomination. Pastor Hein Bertram and Pastor Leslie Kern (both trained by and served in the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa). Pastor Pagie Isaac has served in the religious broadcasting industry and the Seventh Day Adventist Church. All three are currently or will soon be taking courses with the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) aimed at helping them form a Lutheran identity in their pastoral ministry. Pastor Manfred Schmidt, currently serving Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, Vancouver, BC, who received his training in a non-Lutheran seminary, has successfully completed seminary courses with ILT and Concordia Seminary, Edmonton, as part of his Lutheran formation.

Elections

Elections were held to fill three positions on the National Council: President, Secretary and one member of the Board of Trustees.

January of 2017, National Council elected a Nominating Committee consisting of three members of National Council and three members of CALC. National Council members

elected were: Pastor Peeter Vanker, Elder, ON; Sherland Chhangur, Elder, ON; Tim Bauer, Trustee, AB. CALC members elected were: Bernard Cheng, BC; Pastor Harry Huff, ON; and Pastor Manfred Schmidt, BC. Vice President Helen Zacharias served as chair of the committee. The committee solicited nominations through the CALC Connector, emails to pastors and congregations, and convention registration materials. Members of the committee telephoned congregational leaders in order to encourage them to seek out qualified nominees for the 2017 elections. Four individuals were nominated and accepted the nomination for the three vacant positions.

Vivien Georgeson, Grace Lutheran, West Kelowna, BC, was elected Secretary by acclamation. Rev. Dr. Eddie Kwok, Vancouver Chinese Lutheran Church, Burnaby, BC and Pastor Ed Skutshek, Grace Lutheran, West Kelowna, BC, were nominated as candidates for the office of President. Pastor Ed Skutshek was elected President. Don Johnson, Grace Lutheran, West Kelowna, BC, and Rev. Dr. Eddie Kwok, Vancouver Chinese Lutheran Church, Burnaby, BC were nominated for the position of Trustee. Rev Dr. Eddie Kwok was elected Trustee. Following our elections, CALC’s National Council is constituted as follows:

National Council Member	Term Ends
Edward Skutshek, President	2021
Helen Zacharias, Vice President	2019
Brenda Evjen, Treasurer	2019
Vivien Georgeson, Secretary	2021
Randall McLeod, Elder	2018
Peeter Vanker, Elder	2020
Sherland Chhangur, Elder	2020
Tim Bauer, Trustee	2020
Dennis McGuire, Trustee	2019
Eddie Kwok, Trustee	2021

2018 Budget

Delegates to our 2017 convention approved a budget of \$113,400.00. The largest increase in the 2018 budget over last year’s budget is found in Item 18 “Outreach”. This represents the amount that CALC reimburses Grace Lutheran for the time pastor Ed Skutshek spends on CALC business. He will be spending about 80% of his time on CALC business as he works toward the vision of: obtaining marriage registration status for CALC in BC, SK and ON (We are currently registered in AB and MB); strengthening our ties with ILT, CALC’s seminary; further developing our Shepherd’s Pathway; providing guidance and guidelines for our congregations in their day-to-day governance; and providing guidelines and guidance in the formation, call and roster of our pastors.

REVENUE	
1. Congregational benevolence	91,250
2. Contributions -individuals	2,000
3. Convention registrations	10,000
4. Pastors' retreat registrations	9,500
5. GST rebate	650
Totals	113,400
EXPENSES	
6. Administrative Assistant	3,600
7. Advertising - "Connection" publication	450
8. Annual national convention	13,000

9. Bank charges	100
10. Conference	500
11. Currency exchange (gain)	100
12. Director liability insurance	1,000
13. Institute of Lutheran Theology Canada Society	3,000
14. Marriage registration	2,500
15. Membership - Canadian Council of Christian Charities	250
16. National Council meetings	10,000
17. Office & postage	300
18. Outreach	55,000
19. Pastors' retreat	12,500
20. Telephone & fax	100
21. Travel - pastoral and executive	10,000
22. Website maintenance	1,000
Totals	113,400

Reduction in the size of the National Council. Both National Council and the Nominating Committee believe a reduction in the minimum size of the National Council should be considered by our association. National Council put forth a preliminary proposal that the minimum size of the National Council be reduced from 10 to 7. National Council will put forth a proposal for our congregations to examine prior to next year's convention.

Convention 2018 – October 26-28.

Wendel Ritz, Individual Associate Member of CALC and ILT seminarian, with the support of Asker Lutheran Church, Ponoka, AB and Calvary Lutheran, Wetaskiwin, AB, proposed to host CALC's 2018 Convention October 26th to 28th at Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center, located near Alix, AB. Wendel Ritz is a director of the camp and retreat center. The delegates affirmed their offer.

Banquet

The Meal: The Saturday evening banquet is a highlight of every convention. This year it was held at the Lions Westbank Community Center on Mainstreet in Westbank. A total of 112 feasted on prime rib roast beef, baked salmon, vegetables, pasta salad, Caesar salad, buns and assorted pastries for dessert.



Entertainment: We enjoyed some amazing entertainment. Don Johnson, of Grace Lutheran, served as emcee for the evening. He introduced the performers and peppered his dialogue with jokes and stories. Thank you Don!

Performers included:



Full of Grace: (L-R) Penny Pfahl, Rubie Litke, Marie Gering, Deni Skutshek, Otto Litke, Clayton Hack, Don Johnson and Miriam Kieth. Accompanied by Melodie Petersen.



Leah Green and Deni Skutshek



Garry Jespersen and Miriam Kieth



Special Guest Performers – Fraser Valley Quartet. They describe themselves as four ordinary guys who do not make a lot of claims about themselves, except that that they seek to worship the God who is alive and active in our broken world, and long to see revival in our churches. They are the first to admit that the words of the songs they sing – some old, some new – minister to them as much as anyone. As long as the words and music continue to bless their audiences, whether they've heard the gospel preached a thousand times before or they need to hear it just once, they're going to keep on singing. Formed in 2014, the quartet currently includes Brian Shauf (tenor), Rick Brands (lead), Brayden Hirsch (baritone), and Gary Van Ry (bass). They were outstanding.

It took the efforts of many volunteers to make CALC's 2017 convention a success. CALC's National Council, on behalf all who participated, want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of Grace Lutheran who volunteered in any capacity for this year's convention. Special thanks to Grace's convention committee for all their efforts: Everley Lutz, Vivien

Georgeson, Ted Schoepp, Coco Heebner, Bill Logan, Karen Arend, Herbert Heise, Kim Woroby, Pastor Ed and Pastor David. Special thanks to Vivien Georgeson for serving as convention registrar, Coco Heebner for acting as convener for lunches and breaks, to Al Hamilton and to those who served in the sound booth for recording each convention session and providing sound for the banquet and Ted Schoepp for coordinating the transportation of guests and registration.

New Member on Board of Trustees



Delegates to our 2017 convention elected Reverend Doctor Eddie Kwok to a four year term on the Board of Trustees, his first term on our National Council. Pastor Kwok has experience as a parish pastor and seminary professor at the Lutheran School of Theology (LTS), of Saskatoon, SK.

Rev. 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.

Rev. Kwok will bring many strengths, abilities and spiritual gifts with him as he begins service on our National Council. The Lord has blessed him with the gifts of preaching, teaching, administration, wisdom, leadership, pastoral care and encouragement. His experience on the faculty of LTS will be invaluable as we refine our Shepherd's Pathway and solidify our relationship with the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), our seminary.

Rev. Kwok will be a blessing to our National Council and the Board of Trustees. We look forward to the contribution he will make to the life and progress of our Association. Look for a feature story on Rev. Kwok in the next edition of the Connector.

Highlights of Convention 2016

All Saints Lutheran Church, Ottawa, ON

October 21-23

Host Congregations: Our convention was held at All Saints Lutheran Church, located in Ottawa, ON. The convention began Friday October 21st and concluded Sunday October 23rd. While All Saints provided the venue, two other local CALC congregations were involved in the convention. Members of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of Cornwall, ON, and Resurrection Lutheran Church of Pembroke, ON, contributed mightily to the convention. They provided delicious lunches, morning and afternoon snacks and refreshments on both Friday and Saturday. Resurrection Lutheran led opening devotions for the Saturday business session. St. Matthews planned Friday night worship and musical accompaniment Friday night and Saturday morning.



The people of All Saints made sure that convention delegates and visitors who flew into Ottawa International Airport were met, welcomed and then transported to the Best Western Hotel. They provided shuttle busses that transported delegates and visitors between the church and the Best Western. They made sure out of town delegates and visitors were transported to the airport. They planned a most excellent banquet on Saturday night. The meal was delicious. It was followed by singing and skill-testing games.

Attendance/Special Guests: CALC's secretary, Vivien Georgeson, reported that there were 117 registered members of CALC (the largest attendance in our history), 50 Voting Delegates, 31 non-Voting Delegates, 8 members of National Council and 38 Visitors registered for the 2016 CALC General Convention; with representatives from 28 congregations from 5 provinces – 4 congregations from BC, 14 congregations from Alberta, 2 congregations from Saskatchewan, 1 congregation from Manitoba and 7 congregations from Ontario.

Also in attendance were our Keynote Speakers, Pastor Olaf Latzel from Bremen, Germany and Rev. Douglas Morton, Brookings, SD, representing the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT). We had special speakers for our breakout sessions including: Pastor Samuel Chim, who resides in a nearby community, who the Service Coordinator representing Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) Cambodia; Pastor Tom Lo-van of Sioux City, Iowa, representing Lutheran Asian Ministries; Pastor William Moberly of Albuquerque, New Mexico, representing Awakening Lives to World Missions and China Service Ventures. Also present were: Tom Brook of Winnipeg, MB representing Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR); Dennis Biefeldt President of ILT; Eric Swensson of ILT; and Mark Vander Tuig of Iowa representing LCMC.

Video Recordings: Our 2016 Convention, from gavel to gavel was videotaped. The videos can be accessed from our website. Go to CALC's Homepage. Click on the box which is labeled "Videos for 2016 Convention – Click Here!" A menu of all videoed sessions will be displayed. Just click on the session you want to watch and enjoy! You can access this menu page at the following address: <https://vimeo.com/album/4219754>. These videos are a valuable asset for our membership. All are encouraged to watch these videos.

Convention Theme: As our nation's capital city, Ottawa hosts the embassies of many foreign nations, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Each foreign nation with an embassy in Ottawa appoints an ambassador. The ambassador's primary responsibilities are to promote good relations between his/her nation and the host nation; communicate his/her nation's foreign policy to the host nation; and work to smooth relations between countries in especially in sensitive areas of their relationship. With all these embassies surrounding our convention, it is most appropriate that our convention's theme be based on 2 Corinthians 5:20: "*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*"

The Apostle Paul calls us to see that every Christian who proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its purity, is an ambassador of Jesus Christ. Each congregation which preaches the Gospel in its purity is therefore an embassy of the Kingdom of God. Our keynote speakers spoke on an aspect of what it means to be Christ's ambassadors and our congregations as Christ's embassies.



Friday Learning Event. Pastor Doug Morton's sessions concentrated on communications within the congregation, or within the embassy. It is imperative that lines of communication are open and information freely flows between the staff of the embassy (members of the congregation) at all levels. When communication breaks down in the congregation, the message of reconciliation that the congregation is to preach is weakened.

Pastor Morton called us to see that communication is more than just words we use. We communicate using our entire bodies. Our communication, what we say, and what we hear, is influenced by our personality types. He introduced us to personality traits we have that influence how we lead and how we perceive the leadership of others. He introduced us to "Askers" and "Tellers." He challenged us to explore whether we were more task oriented or relationship oriented. He gave us very solid teaching in the area of reconciliation.

Friday Night Opening Worship: Special music was provided by the Sparrows Children's Choir of Timothy's Classical Christian Academy, which rents space from All Saints Lutheran Church. The children sang three anthems, in Latin: *Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring* by J. S. Bach, *Laudanum Te* by Antonio Vivaldi and *Laudate Dominum* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Our keynote

speaker Pastor Olaf Latzel preached at our opening worship service. He began unpacking the meaning of our theme of Ambassadors for Christ. He began to speak of the challenges orthodox Christians face in Europe. He emphasized our solemn duty to "implore" people to be reconciled to Christ. He reminded us to implore is to "beg someone earnestly or desperately to do something. He admitted that it is a difficult calling to beg people to humble themselves and turn to God when so many are disinterested in or even violently hostile towards the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet, God calls us to implore those around us to be reconciled.



Saturday Keynote Speaker: Like the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians, Pastor Olaf Latzel of Bremen revealed serious challenges facing the church which hinder the Gospel's call to repent and be reconciled with God. In his first session, he identified five key

challenges facing the Lutheran church in Germany. (1) The false teaching of the Bible. (2) Pastors are not true believers. (3) The church has separated itself from Mission and Evangelism. (4) The church accepts and proclaims horrible unethical practices and behavior. (5) The church accepts gods other than the God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These challenges make it almost impossible for the church to call the culture to repentance.

In his second session he spoke of five key challenges facing individual Christians. (1) Biblical illiteracy among Christians. (2) Christians do not pray enough. (3) Individual Christians do not call people to repent and believe in Christ Jesus. (4) Christians are not on fire for Jesus. (5) Christians are too afraid to speak the Gospel. He also revealed Scriptural antidotes for the malaise caused by the challenges which face us.

Convention Business:




Additions/Changes in Membership: Membership status of Faith Lutheran, Calgary, AB, changed from Associate to full member. Seven were added as Individual Associate Members: Pastor Carl Eric Back, Edmonton, AB, Pastor Hans Peter Hincke, Long Sault, ON, Ron and Diane Voss, Cochrane, AB, Pastor Jane Mitchell, Medicine Hat, AB, Pastor John Subhakar and Nirmala Kumaria Tatapudi, Secunderabad Andhra Pradesh, India.

Changes in CALC's Roster of Pastors: Additions: Pastor Hein Bertram, Pastor Kevin Nelson, Pastor Ed Parke, Pastor Karl Faltin (Interim) and Pastor Glenn Hobden. Deletions: Pastor Goddy Hodanu, Pastor Peter Hincke, Pastor Doug Kranz and Pastor Alan Boerner. Pastor Rick Bergh was rostered as a Pastor in Extended Ministry; and that Pastor Alan Boerner and Pastor Jane Mitchell were rostered as Pastor Emeriti.

Students in Shepherd's Pathway: Pastor John Graham (has PMC is working on his Master of Divinity), Ronald Laferrier, Colin Adams, Kevin Nelson, Ed Parke, John Gooch, Lynn Rech; Randall McLeod and Sherland Chhangur.

Elections/Nominations: There were three vacancies on our National Council which were filled at our 2016 Annual General

Convention: Two positions on our Board of Elders for a term of four years each and one position on our Board of Trustees. The following were nominated and elected by acclamation:

	<p>Name: Reverend Peeter Vanker Congregation: Goodwood Uxbridge Lutheran Church (GULC), Goodwood, Ontario. Status: Member of GULC, Individual Associate Member of CALC; Pastor Emeritus CALC Nominated for the Position of: Member of the Board of Elders</p>
<p>Term: Four year term ending 2020</p>	
	<p>Name: Sherland Chhangur Congregation: Faith Lutheran Church, North York, Ontario. Status: Member of Faith Lutheran Church Nominated for the Position of: Member of the Board of Elders Term: Four year term ending 2020</p>
	<p>Name: Timothy Bauer Congregation: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cochrane, Alberta. Status: Member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church Nominated for the Position of: Member of the Board of Trustees Term: Four year term ending 2020</p>

Nominating Committee: A motion was passed by the delegates to form a nominating committee for the 2017 convention. The Nominating Committee will consist of six people appointed by the National Council. Three members of the National Council will be appointed to the Nominating Committee and the National Council will appoint three members of our Association to said committee.

CALC Budget 2017: The delegates approved financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2015, with revenues of \$76,654.00 and expenses of \$83,271 with a net loss of \$6,617.00 (which loss was funded by operating surpluses from previous years). The delegates approved the following budget for 2017.

Projected Income	
1. Congregational Benevolence	84,600.00
2. Benevolence from Individuals	575.00
3. Convention Registrations	9,000.00
4. GST Rebate	800.00
Total Projected Income	94,975.00
Projected Expenses	
Administrative Assistant ⁽¹⁾	3,600.00
Annual Convention	9,000.00
Bank Charges	100.00
News Letters and Brochures	500.00
Conference ⁽²⁾	1,000.00
Institute of Lutheran Theology Canada Society	3,000.00

Marriage Registration	1,500.00
Membership in CCCC	225.00
National Council Meetings ⁽³⁾	11,500.00
Office and Postage	250.00
Outreach Executive Director ⁽⁴⁾	45,000.00
Pastor's Retreat	5,000.00
Shepherd's Pathway (40 Day Discernment) ⁽⁵⁾	2,000.00
Telephone and Fax	100.00
Travel- Pastoral & Executive	11,000.00
Website Maintenance	1,200.00
	94,975.00

- (1) CALC Secretary 200 hours per annum at \$18.00 per hour.
(2) Registrations for conferences like Canadian Rockies Theological Conference.
(3) Cost of travel and meeting room for National Council meeting twice a year.
(4) Compensation to Grace Lutheran as reimbursement for Pastor Ed Skutshek's time spent on CALC business.
(5) Pastor Rick Bergh has agreed to prepare our 40 Day Discernment program, an eighty page document, two pages per day: one page that includes the devotional and a second page that will include action steps coming out of that day's devotional. The cost of this will be \$4000.00 plus GST. The cost will be funded from a designated account and the amount budgeted.

Trustees' Report: The Board of Trustees met in person two times in the past year (January 30, 2016 and September 19, 2016), as part of the National Council meetings held in Calgary. Issues dealt with at the meetings included the following:

- Reimbursement of CALC National Convention expenses for National Council members. Because it is important for all National Council members to attend, travel and hotel accommodations will be reimbursed to all National Council members, who so request.
- Pension/Benefits/Life Insurance. The Board of Trustees has reached the conclusion that it is the obligation of each congregation to provide these benefits. The Canadian Council of Christian Charities has a plan with \$60,000 basic life insurance, as well as extended medical and dental insurance.
- Congregational communication. Proposed periodical newsletters to the chairpersons of each church council was discussed. The newsletter then needs to be passed on to the congregation.
- Directors' liability insurance. The need for directors' liability insurance is becoming more necessary for the National Council, as well as individual congregations due to the risk of litigation in our society.
- CALC Policy Manual. The need for a Policy Manual has become evident, due to such issues as paid medical leave for pastors, severance pay for pastors on leave, recommended formula for financing pastoral education, etc. The Board of Trustees is to compile a Policy Manual. To date, policies exist rather willy-nilly in the private archived website information. Caution is required in development of policies because of congregational autonomy.

Diaconal Ministers: One of the mandates of CALC's 10-Year Strategic Plan was to officially recognize the office of the Diaconal Minister in CALC's congregations. Constitutional amendments and guidelines for training, rostering and disciplining Deacons were presented to the delegates of our 2016 Convention.

Three congregations in our Association have seen the value of diaconal ministry and have called and consecrated diaconal ministers. These Diaconal Ministers are currently preaching, providing pastoral care, administrative support, administer Holy Communion, providing Christian education, visiting the sick and providing marriage counseling and enrichment.

Official recognition of the Diaconal Ministry requires CALC's constitution to be changed to include a definition of the office of the Deacon and must make provision for the establishment of a roster of diaconal ministers, and provide guidelines for the education, training, call and discipline of Diaconal Ministers. Delegates received a package which included:

- Proposed Constitutional Amendments which create the office of the Diaconal Ministers.
- A manual containing Biblical teaching regarding the office of the Deacon; guidelines for the education, training, call, consecration and discipline of Diaconal Ministers. The manual included a sample Application for Entry into the Diaconal Ministry, a sample Call Letter and sample forms and procedures to be used in the Discipline of Diaconal Ministers.

Congregations are encouraged to read these documents and offer feedback. Delegates to our 2017 national convention will be asked to approve these constitutional guidelines. They will be accessible on our website in the new year.

Youth Event Committee Formed: The President's Report sparked a question about the role of CALC in promoting events for youth. Youth events could take the form of an annual youth gathering in a camp setting; a youth mission trip; and/or the participation of youth in our national convention in some way. An ad hoc committee was formed to examine the various possibilities. Those who volunteered for the committee included: Pastor Alvin Sorenson (Golden Valley, Viking, AB), Garth Teskey (All Saints, Ottawa, ON); Ron Voss (Individual Member); Pastor Ted Hill (Calvary/Asker, Wetaskiwin, AB) Billy Chiew (Basel Hakka, Vancouver, BC) and Bernard Cheng (Vancouver Chinese, Burnaby, BC).

Congregational Resolution: The following resolution put forward by Faith Lutheran Church of North York, Ontario, was approved without objection:

Resolved: If nominated and said nomination is duly accepted, Pastor Edward Skutshek be permitted to let his name stand for election to the office of president of CALC for a four year term at our Association's 2017 convention, our constitutional term limitations notwithstanding. If approved this resolution to be presented to our congregations for ratification.

Next Year's Convention: Our Annual General Convention for 2017 will be held from Friday October 20th through Sunday October 22nd at Grace Lutheran Church, 1162 Hudson Road,

West Kelowna, BC. With the announcement of the host congregation for CALC's 2017 Annual General Convention, the business session was adjourned.

Celebratory Banquet: About 100 gathered for a celebratory banquet at the Best Western Hotel which accommodated out of town delegates and visitors. The meal and venue were excellent. We feasted, we sang, we played games and visited with one another.

Sunday Worship: CALC's 2016 Annual General Convention closed with worship. Our President, Pastor Ed Skutshek, preached. Pastor Ed installed Pastor Glenn Hobden as the fulltime pastor of our host congregation - All Saints Lutheran Church. Pastor Glenn presided at Holy Communion.

The church council and convention committee of All Saints Lutheran Church must be commended for all their efforts in organizing and leading the convention. The meals were delicious, the venue was comfortable and well appointed. We look forward to next year's convention.

Highlights of Convention 2015

Emmaus Lutheran Church, Edmonton, AB

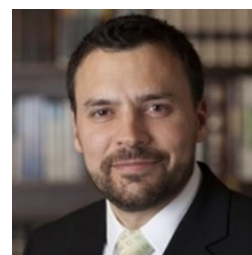
October 16-18

Our Convention Theme: *"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." (1 Peter 3:15-16).*



Emmaus Lutheran Church of Edmonton, Alberta, hosted CALC's 2015 Annual General Convention October 16th, 17th and 18th. I want to thank God for our Convention. He blessed our weekend mightily. Pastor Lucretia and the members of Emmaus Lutheran Church are to be commended for graciously opening their facilities up to us, their warm welcome, their planning, and their hospitality. A recap of our weekend follows.

Friday October 16:



Keynote Speaker: The convention began at 9:30 AM with our annual Educational Event. Reverend Doctor Joseph Boot of Westminster Chapel and the Ezra Institute of Toronto, ON gave two lectures on Friday morning. He is one of Canada's foremost Christian apologists. In his two

morning lectures Pastor Boot described the challenge facing those who wish to proclaim the Gospel in North America. Highlights of his lectures are found on page 5 below.

We enjoyed some great Alberta hospitality on Friday. The folks at Bardo Lutheran Church of Tofield and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal provided for our coffee breaks and lunch. The ladies from Emmaus provided sandwiches and soup Friday evening.

Breakouts: Following lunch visitors and delegates were given the opportunity to participate in two hour long breakout sessions. The first breakout session went from 1:00-2:00 PM and the second from 2:30 to 3:30. Convention participants had five options.

1. **Mosaic Center Field Trip.** About 30 delegates and visitors took a field trip to the Mosaic Center, a ministry to the poor and disadvantaged in Northeast Edmonton. The center is a ministry of Emmaus Lutheran Church and two other local congregations.
2. **Evangelism:** Randall McLeod, member of CALC's Board of Elders and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal, spoke to a group on evangelism.
3. **Missions:** Tom Brook of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) and Pastor Rob Lewis of World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) gave a presentation on the work of their organizations around the globe.
4. **Theological Education:** President Rev. Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt and Director of Students, Pastor Timothy Swenson, gave a presentation on the Institute of Lutheran Theology, CALC's seminary.
5. **Governance:** Pastor Ed Skutshek and Treasurer Helen Zacharias gave a presentation on ideas for more effective governance.



Good 4 the Soul of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Stony Plain, AB.

Friday Night Worship: Emmaus Lutheran Church planned and led Friday evening worship. Emmaus Lutheran's Praise Team provided musical leadership. *Good 4 the Soul* a quartet of ladies from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Stony Plain, AB, provided special music. Pastor Lucretia van Ommeren-Tabbert delivered a powerful sermon on our convention's theme text. She assured us that the Holy Spirit will give us many opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus with many people in many situations. On our part we must believe that the Holy Spirit will give us the words to say to them. She encouraged us to be immersed in God's Word, the vehicle the Holy Spirit uses to make us ready for any and every opportunity for sharing.

The fellowship which followed the service was amazing. Members of Emmaus provided us with dishes from their homeland. We enjoyed everything from Lumpia to Samosas and Pierogis. These refreshments were a real treat.

Saturday October 17:

Business Meeting: 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Opening Devotion: Pastor Alvin Sorenson gave a powerful devotion based on a Youtube video entitled "I am a Christian but I am not....." In the video a number of young people make statements about their faith. They make statements like "I am a Christian but I am not judgemental." "I am a Christian but I am not uneducated." Then these same people said: "I am gay.....I am open minded.....I have friends from other religions and I love them as they are."

Pastor Sorenson noted that not one person said: "I am a Christian because I follow Jesus Christ...or...I am a Christian because Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and the only way to the Father." This video was evidence that vast numbers of congregations that claim to be Christian are not preaching and teaching very core beliefs of the Holy Christian Church. It also shows how our young people are impacted by the surrounding culture. We must clearly and unambiguously teach that to be a Christian is to follow Jesus, the only begotten Son of God almighty.

Quorum: 48 Voting Delegates, 5 non-Voting Delegates, 9 members of National Council and 25 Visitors registered for the 2015 CALC General Convention; with representatives from 29 congregations from 5 provinces – 16 representatives from BC, 48 representatives from Alberta, 6 representatives from Saskatchewan, 3 representatives from Manitoba and 11 representatives from Ontario. Also in attendance were representatives from the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), World Mission Prayer League (WPPL).

New Congregation: Victory Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat Alberta, was admitted as a full member congregation of CALC.

Change in Status: Goodwood Uxbridge Lutheran Church (GULC) of Goodwood, ON, was admitted as a full member congregation of CALC. GULC began several years ago as a mission congregation started by a core group of committed Lutherans, including four individual members of CALC and Pastor Peeter Vanker.

Individual Members: Pastor Rick Bergh; Pastor Harry Huff; and Pastor Zakaria Mandara, were admitted as Individual Associate Members of CALC.

Congregations in the Call Process:

- All Saints Lutheran Church, Ottawa, ON
- Basel Hakka Lutheran Church, Vancouver, BC
- Faith Lutheran Church, Calgary, AB
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Stony Plain, AB
- Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Mission, BC

Installations/Ordinations/Interim Ministry:

Installations:

Pastor David Wunderlich

Grace Lutheran, West Kelowna, BC
Pastor Bart Eriksson
St. Peter's Lutheran, Cochrane, AB
Pastor Manfred Schmidt
Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church, Van., BC

Ordinations:

Pastor John Graham
St. Peter's Lutheran, Sullivan, ON
Pastor Ted Hill
Calvary/Asker Parish, Wetaskiwin & Ponoka, AB

Interim Ministry

Pastor Zakaria Mandara
St. Matthew's Lutheran, Cornwall, ON
Pastor Bill Flath
Immanuel Lutheran-Rosenthal, Stony Plain, AB

Elections: Our delegates elected the following persons to fill the following positions, for 4-year terms, which came vacant in 2015..

Vice President: Helen Zacharias
Treasurer: Brenda Evjen
Trustee: Dennis McGuire

See page 8 for a detailed description of the transition in our leadership.

Ten-Year Plan. The delegates approved the 10-Year Plan submitted by National Council and introduced by Pastor Ed Skutshek. The Plan is described on page 6 below.

Adjournment/Next Year's Convention: All Saint's Lutheran Church, Ottawa, ON, volunteered to hold CALC's 2016 Annual General Convention. All Saints' delegate Garth Teskey, challenged all of our congregations to send one pastor and one delegate from each congregation. He suggested that congregations begin fundraising now.

Music for the morning devotions and early afternoon was provided by Andrew and Dieta Carlson from Hastings Lake Bible Camp, near Tofield, AB, and Doug Rawling of Wilderness Ranch Bible Camp, near Claresholm, AB.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Boot gave his second keynote address following lunch. A summary of his presentation is found below.

Banquet: Saturday was capped off with a banquet prepared by the people of Emmaus. The main course included roast pork (donated by a member of Bardo Lutheran Church, Tofield, AB) and turkey, roast potatoes, rice, vegetables, and salads. The meal was capped off with dessert. The meal was amazing!

The people of Emmaus blessed and nourished our bodies with a wonderful meal. After dinner they blessed and nourished our hearts and souls with some very beautiful music and singing.



The choir from *Good News Message Church* sang for us. The choir included men, women, teenagers, grade school children and very young children. The women wore traditional African clothing. The choir often used drums in their hymns. This congregation worships at Emmaus on Sunday afternoons. The church includes immigrants from the Congo and Angola. They sang for us in English, French and the languages of the homeland. *Good 4 the Soul* from Immanuel Lutheran, sang for us again. Their repertoire included some songs from the 30's, 40's, 50's and sacred music.

Essence of Praise, a choir made up of six young men, sang for us. They are an acapella group. They all hail from the country of Zimbabwe, in Africa. All six are from the Zulu Tribe. They are a part of a Seventh Day Adventist church that meets at Emmaus on Saturdays. They sang hymns for us, including a traditional hymn using the Zulu language.

Sunday October 18:

Closing Worship. Emmaus Lutheran's worship team provided musical leadership. Good 4 the Soul provided special music. Pastor Lucretia led worship and presided at Holy Communion and President Ed Skutshek preached. Worship was followed by a luncheon.

Keynote Speaker's Address

Rev. Dr. Joseph Boot

Our convention's keynote speaker the Reverend Doctor Joseph Boot, of Toronto, Ontario, addressed us at our Friday morning learning event and Saturday afternoon as our convention Keynote Speaker. Reverend Boot is one of Canada's leading Christian Apologists, defined as a defender of the faith. Rev. Boot's address was given in two parts. On Friday morning he outlined the challenges facing the Church in the propagation of the Gospel in Canada. On Saturday afternoon he outlined a way forward for the Church.

The Challenge: Rev. Boot began his presentation by making a distinction between evangelism and evangelization. Europe and North America were once evangelized. The government, school and church worked together to ensure that the fundamental message of the Old Testament, most especially the Ten Commandments, and Gospel were communicated and were a part of the fabric of public and private life. The general population knew the basics of the Salvation story. For this reason in the 1960s and 1970s Billy Graham could fill up a soccer stadium in London, England (seating 50,000) every night for 3 weeks in a row. However, when Billy Graham came to

London in the mid 1980s he barely filled up the same stadium three nights in a row. What happened?

Rev. Boot spoke of a very intentional and systematic plan adopted by those in education and government to specifically promote atheism and paganism.

During the 1960's through to today, intellectuals, and pop culture figures like the Beatles, have pushed eastern religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism and Wicca. He called this movement a new paganism. In describing the new paganism that is based on eastern religions, Rev. Boot distinguished between one-ism and two-ism.

One-ism's fundamental belief is that nature, our world and the surrounding universe, is the only reality. Nature is divine. Everything is a part of the divine. We all therefore contain the divine. Human beings are therefore a true reflection of nature. Human beings are nature capable of thinking of nature. These tenets underlie all eastern religions.

Two-ism states that an uncreated creator, hidden from our sight, created the universe. The universe is God's creation. God is not in what He created. There is an absolute distinction between the Creator and His creation. Christians proclaim two-ism.

Scientists, academics and politicians have pushed God right out of the world. They are completely against the idea of a divine being of any kind behind creation. Communists in both Europe and Asia have attempted to institutionalize atheism. The university is especially hard on Christianity. The faculty of arts and the science faculty in most all institutions of higher learning give Christianity a good intellectual beating whenever they can. It is no wonder that 70-80% of Christian students stop practicing their faith in University.

Rev. Boot contended that paganism in every age and modern atheism are founded upon the most ancient of lies. The lie goes right back to the Garden of Eden. It is the Devil's promise: *"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* From the moment of Adam and Eve's transgression, human beings have taken the Devil's challenge and have acted as though we are gods.

The Apostle Paul helps us understand our contemporary situation in the first Chapter of Romans. He exposed an exchange that has taken place and its consequences. Paul claims that human beings have always seen God's *invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.* (Romans 1:20). They exchanged this truth for a lie. The truth of a transcendent God is exchanged for the human mind and our ability to determine good and evil. The exchange of the truth for a lie in the realm of faith led to idolatry. Men have constructed and continue to construct religions systems, creation myths, moral codes, idols, and sacrificial systems. The modern mind has transcended our historical roots and some have even thrown the divine out of the mix altogether.

The exchange of truth for a lie in the realm of faith led to an exchange of truth for a lie in the human realm. A symptom of this exchange is seen in the expression of human sexuality. Men and women left the natural God-given expression of human sexuality and engaged in all manner of sexual relations, including same-sex relationships. The exchange of the truth for a lie went even further. This exchange led to: unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice, envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness, gossip, slandering, God hating, insolence, haughtiness, boastfulness, inventors of evil, disobedience of parents, foolishness, faithlessness, heartlessness, and ruthlessness. (Romans 1:29-31)

Rev. Boot contended that the rise of atheism and the new paganism have changed our culture. North America and Europe are no longer evangelized nations. Our people no longer know the Ten Commandments of the Salvation story. These times are thus like the Apostle Paul's times.

In Paul's time the world did not know God. There were pockets of Jews in almost every town throughout the Roman Empire. The Jews knew the Old Testament promise of salvation. The Jews passed the promise of salvation on to Gentiles who became God-fearing Gentiles. When Paul came to a town he went to the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles. His only task among them was to prove Jesus was the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. Jesus' birth, ministry, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension were a fulfillment of the Old Testament promises concerning the Messiah. The rest of the world did not know about the Messiah and the promises.

The Solution: Paul's proclamation of the Gospel to the vast majority of the Gentiles had to be very different. In Acts 17:16-34 we see Paul preach the Gospel from a very different starting point. Paul started with the statues of the gods all over Athens. Paul noticed an empty pedestal. This pedestal was dedicated to the "UNKNOWN GOD." He declared that he was going to reveal the unknown god as he told of God the Father and God the Son. Some came to believe and others just scoffed at him.

Atheists and neo-pagans don't know the salvation story, and they can't see God in the world. However, the Apostle Peter contends that they may see God in us. As Peter said: *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.* Peter speaks of the process of sanctification. As we come to Jesus, hear his word, and are transformed by the power of the Spirit, Jesus will be Lord over more of our lives. As Jesus becomes Lord over more of our lives, hope will well up in us and this hope will be seen by others. Peter admonishes us to: *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*

Our hope is found in Jesus Christ. We must confess that before Jesus we had no hope because we were in bondage to a lie. We must declare that we could not free ourselves from this bondage. Only Jesus could do this through faith in him.

Rev. Boot bemoaned the fact that many contemporary Christians in North America have reduced Christianity to simply coming to Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. While this is important, and is essential, it is only the very beginning. We

must proclaim that Christianity involves setting Jesus apart as Lord over our lives, a lifelong journey with Jesus within a body of believers who also walk with him.

Adoption of CALC's 10-Year Strategic Plan

The delegates to our 2015 convention approved a 10-Year Strategic Plan for CALC. Strategic plans are a product of the secular corporate world. A corporate plan generally includes the following:

- Identity Statement
- Mission Statement
- Vision Statement
- Statement of Values
- Summary of the company's current position
- Long-term objectives
- Strategies for meeting the objectives
- Short and Long term Action Plans

Identity Statement: CALC is an association of independent Lutheran congregations, bound together by a common Confession of faith and certain common objectives.

Individual congregations are called to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission to baptize in the name of our Triune God and make disciples, defined as those who obey Jesus' teachings. Our congregations own their own properties, call their own pastors and develop their own programming.

Mission Statement: CALC's mission to:

- assist member congregations in their fulfillment of the Great Commission by gathering them together for worship, encouragement and education;
- work together with congregations in the call, training, and discipline of pastors;
- develop relationships with like-minded Christian groups and secular groups for the furtherance of our congregations' mission; and
- if practical, provide group pension and other employee benefits.

Statement of Values: We believe:

The Holy Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God.

Our faith and life are rooted in and shaped by the Holy Bible and our Lutheran Confessions.

Our common mission is found in Christ's Great Commission.

Christ's Great Commission is lived out in the local congregation, and local congregations naturally seek union with other congregations in order to more effectively fulfill their mission.

CALC believes that there are two expressions of the church in the world, the Holy Christian Church on earth, which exists from age to age and the individual congregation. CALC is therefore not seen as an ecclesial authority over congregations. Congregations voluntarily comply with CALC's programs. No congregation can be required to take part of any CALC program.

Church growth comes from the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is God who is responsible for the growth of each individual Christian and our congregations. ".....you are God's field, God's building. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." (1 Corinthians 1:9, 6-7).

CALC's identity and mission call us to keep our governance model very simple and uncomplicated.

Current Position:

Thirty-three (33) congregations call CALC home. Most all have come to CALC through separation from the ELCIC. ELCIC will not be a significant source for new member congregations.

A small number of our congregations are located in large urban areas. The bulk of our congregations are located in rural areas and small towns.

Many of our congregations are challenged by declining and aging membership.

Long Term Objectives:

In the next 10 years God is calling our congregations to: grow in grace, faith, service, outreach and number; and to partner together to plant new congregations and for CALC to be actively involved in the process by coordinating the efforts of congregations in the attainment of these goals.

Strategies for Meeting These Objectives:

Vision Statement/Action Plan:

- CALC continue to hosts conventions, conferences, and cluster meetings that will encourage, educate and equip our member congregations so that they may joyfully and enthusiastically fulfill Christ's Great Commission.
- CALC continue to develop and refine our Shepherd's Pathway to Pastoral Ministry for the training of our pastors.
- Regularly gather our existing pastors together for study retreats in order to foster continued professional development.
- CALC continue to provide materials for use in connection with the call and discipline of our pastors.
- CALC continue to cultivate relationships with likeminded Christian groups and secular groups for the purpose of the mutual support and edification and with the goal of entering into joint projects and supporting endeavors of mutual interest and benefit.

Highlights of Convention 2014

Grace Lutheran Church, West Kelowna, BC

October 16-18



A Snapshot

On October 17th to 19th Grace Lutheran Church hosted CALC's 2014 Annual Convention. As a delegate for Grace, I have prepared a brief summary of the convention. If you wish to have more detail, and have access to a computer, you will be able to view videos of the entire convention on our church website www.Gracelutherankelowna.com. The closing Worship Service, of Sunday, October 19, has already, been uploaded and can now be seen on Grace's website in the "Vimeo" format.

There has never been such an opportunity to become informed and involved as through the media we have today. We urge you all to get tuned to the "Websites of Grace and CALC" as they are excellent sources of information about ourselves.

There was a very good turnout with 58 voting delegates and 33 visitors. Delegates came from a total of 27 congregations spread over five provinces.

5 churches from BC
12 from Alberta
2 from Saskatchewan
1 from Manitoba
7 from Ontario

There were several other representative groups present:

- This year's Keynote Speaker, was The representative from LCMC, Pastor Steve Lein, was impressed with the convention and gave words of inspiration for our cross-border, cooperation and understanding between our two church bodies.
- Two representatives from "The Institute of Lutheran Theology", Rev. Dr. Dennis Beifeldt and Rev. Timothy Swenson from North Dakota were there. Five (5) candidates are, now, actively engaged in Seminary studies in their School with the goal to attain a call from a CALC Church.

- Christian Ministers Association (CMA) representatives, Steve Schroeder and Dan Friesen represent a "Fellowship of Ministers Program." It encourages friendship and cooperation between Ministers within Canada. Steve Schroeder presented Pastor Ed with a plaque adorned with a large key. A symbolic gesture of appreciation for our Pastor's leading role and interest in matters related to friendship and cooperation.
- The Canadian Lutheran World Relief representative, Jennifer Clark, from Winnipeg, re-affirmed the good deeds that are on-going through this organization. The CLWR is one of Canada's most experienced relief and development agencies.
- Robert Kuhn, the President of Trinity Western University from Langley B.C. He spoke on the theme "Speaking the Truth in an Adversarial World". Recently, the University had taken steps to establish a private Christian School of Law, but encountered various roadblocks for accreditation of the proposed school. He will deliberate further as he believes that, in these special times, we need to explore ways to maintain our Christian Witness in a society that is disinterested or even opposed to the gospel.

The delegates of last year's CALC convention had voted to begin the process of developing a "Ten Year Strategic Plan". The plan is intended to provide our congregations with foundational information and options for a path forward. It is intended, through hard deliberation, that the plan will be adopted at the next Annual Convention in 2015.

During the rest of this year and before the 2015 Convention, all congregations will have had the opportunity to put forward views on what course should be taken in formulating the proposed ten year plan. The basis for discussion will be:-

- Our Identity - (who we are)
- Our Mission - (why we are here)
- Our progress - (where we have been)
- Our Vision - (possibilities for our future)

From this convention I get a sense, from some of the Pastors and Delegates, that our purpose needs to be more clearly defined; perhaps with some change to our Traditional past. Pastor/President Ed Skutshek will seek input from all CALC congregations through "Regional Cluster Gatherings".

In closing - It is anticipated that our Pastor Ed's workload, on behalf of CALC, will no doubt increase as the CALC Community continues to grow. Accordingly, it is evident in CALC's 2015 budget; there is an increase in funding to our Grace Church to help offset the cost for increased demands on Pastor Ed's time.

Submitted by Otto Litke,
Delegate for Grace Lutheran Church.

National Council Elections

Election Results: The delegates to our 2014 National Convention elected candidates by acclamation for two positions on our National Council. **Dr. Randall McLeod** was

elected to a four year term on our Board of Elders and **Mr. Sherland Chhangur** was elected to serve out the last year of Art Kroeker's (deceased) term on the Board of Trustees. Below please find some information on our New National Council members.

Dr. Randall C. McLeod.



Dr. McLeod is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal. His service at Immanuel and other churches has been extensive. He has served as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of Immanuel's Church Council. For more than ten years he has been involved in

Children's Sunday School & Camp Ministry. For more than 30 years he was involved in Music Ministry in the Hospital and Nursing Home setting. He received training as a Lay Preacher in the Anglican Church of Canada. He has experience providing Pulpit Supply and leading worship.

Professionally, Dr. McLeod is trained as a Chiropractor. He received his Doctorate of Chiropractic degree in 1976. He practiced in Edmonton and Stony Plain since then. He took a brief hiatus from his chiropractic practice to pursue other interests. When he returned to practice in 1999 he focused his attention on Chronic Pain Management and Rehabilitation, obtaining a specialty fellowship in 2006.

Immanuel Lutheran Church is committed to being a safe place, and a center of healing and hope. The congregation established a Healing Centre as a community outreach facility. The healing center is intended to address the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of their community. Dr. McLeod's chiropractic practice is an integral part of this congregational ministry.

Dr. Randall C. McLeod is also known as "Cowboy Randy." Cowboy Randy has been writing and performing songs and cowboy poetry for over 20 years. His critical successes include: 1998 ARIA Award - Best Children's Artist - CD - God Made Dinosaurs Too; 1998 CDIS Write on 98 - Semi Finalist; 1997 SOCAN Jury Appraisal - "Great little song..a gem..gets your attention on first listen" - Leftover Lovers." 1996 Alberta Music Project - "lyrics, music and production values were very strong.." 1990 ARIA Nomination – "Jesus Train."

When asked to describe his Spiritual Gifts, Randall responded: evangelism and teaching. When asked to describe his hopes for CALC he responded: that CALC continue to reach out ecumenically and our congregations continue to witness evangelistically within Canada.

Randall is married to Patricia Ann, a pharmacist, geriatric specialist, currently pharmacy lead (manager) for the hospital in Camrose. She has served on church council as a member, secretary, vice chair and chair. She served as convention registrar at our 2013 Annual General Convention at Immanuel Lutheran of Rosenthal. They have six children.

Daughter Sarah Beth is married to Mark Taylor. She serves as a worship leader at Immanuel Lutheran. She is a song writer, and is experienced at recording, piano, guitar and flute. Son Matthew is married to Shenoa, they have one child. They live in Camrose, and Matthew is in auto sales. Daughter Bonny is married to John and they have three children. They live in Camrose. She is a homemaker and hair stylist. Nicholas is engaged to Sarah Colleen Samson. They live in Calgary. He is a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer. Daughter Hannah of Calgary, is single and a budding journalist. Igor is an orphan from Ukraine, currently an ESL student, and registering at NAIT.

Sherland Chhangur.



Mr. Chhangur is a veteran member of our National Council. He was first elected to the Board of Elders in 2009. He served as an Elder until 2013. In 2013 he agreed to run for election to the Board of Elders for a one year term. This short term was necessary to implement staggered terms for National Council members

as mandated by constitutional amendments passed by convention delegates and ratified by our congregations. He agreed to run to fill an unexpired term on the Board of Trustees left vacant by Art Kroeker's sudden and unexpected death.

He is a member of and is currently the Congregational Chair of Faith Lutheran Church located in the North York area of Toronto. He has served as chairperson and in other capacities since 1985.

Professionally, Mr. Chhangur has attained the designation of Registered Real Estate Broker of Record in Ontario in 1985. He is the founder and owner of his own real estate business, "The Realty Market Inc. Brokerage" which he began in 1985. In addition to serving his clients' real estate needs, Mr. Chhangur manages his own personal real estate portfolio, which includes commercial, industrial and residential properties. In 2009 he attained the designation of Registered Mortgage Broker in the Province of Ontario. He is also licensed as a Real Estate and Mortgage Broker in the State of Florida, USA.

When asked to describe his Spiritual Gifts, or corporate experience that would benefit CALC Sherland responded: "My vast sales, management, public relations, negotiating and business experience will be an asset at this young stage of development of CALC to help in the visioning and expansion of this blessed body."

When asked to describe his hopes for CALC he responded: "My vision for CALC is to see it grow beyond the Canadian Borders and for CALC to grow exponentially in the next decade. I thoroughly enjoyed being a member of CALC during these past five years of growth. I am proud to have been able to make my contribution and to work with a wonderful group of people who have worked so diligently and unselfishly giving of their time to promote the Word of God by providing spiritual leadership that is so wanting."

Sherland is married to Shanta. They are a dynamic duo, working together to manage the family real estate business as well as their private holdings. Shanta has served as chair and held other positions of leadership at Faith Lutheran. Sherland and Shanta worked tirelessly on the 2012 CALC Annual General Convention hosted by Faith and Good Shepherd. They have five children. Their eldest is Jaime. She is married to Mike Busgith, they have four daughters - Shara, Sandy, Serena and Simone. Their daughter Jennifer is married to Derrick Sloan, they have one daughter - Fiona Rose. Their son Jason is not married. Their daughter Jaclyn is to be married to Vicren Pillay on November 11, 2014. Their youngest son Jonathan is not married.

Let us thank God our Father for calling Randall and Sherland to serve on our National Council. Let us remember that God called them to work with their brothers and sisters on our National Council so that the work of Christ is accomplished in our Association and in our member congregations.

We also pray that the Lord will give them the wisdom, courage and strength to serve in their office of elder and trustee, respectively, and that by their service our Lord will be glorified.

We pray also that the Holy Spirit will move among all the members of our National Council, so that together they may be examples of faith active in love and that peace and harmony in our Association and our member congregations is maintained.

Highlights of Convention 2013

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal
Stony Plain, AB
November 1-3



Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal, Stony Plain, Alberta, hosted CALC's 2013 Annual Convention from Friday November 1st through to Sunday November 3rd. CALC's 22nd Annual General

Convention set new records. A total of 125 registered for the convention (57 voting delegates, representing 25 of our 28 congregations, and 68 visitors).

Thursday evening October 31st Immanuel invited the children of Stony Plain to their church for a Halloween party. Immanuel's gym was transformed into a Halloween carnival. Skill testing games were set up around the gym. Children received candy by participating in these games. Children and their escorts dined on hotdogs, chips and worms & dirt (a parfait made of chocolate pudding, cookie crumbs and gummie worms). A movie theater was also set up for the children that showed wholesome Halloween movies. About 80 participated in the event. The gym took two days to set up. However, as soon as the last child left, an army of volunteers took down the games and decorations and set the gym up for the convention. The same volunteers set up tables to seat 120

(for Lunch and Coffee time) and 18 tables for our 18 exhibitors (a record for a CALC convention).

Music was a highlight of this convention. Each session of our convention on Friday and Saturday was opened with praise and music. The music during opening worship on Friday night and closing worship on Sunday Morning was amazing. Special thanks must be given to Dr. Randall McLeod, Immanuel's Praise and Worship Band (Miriam & Naomi Querengesser, Erin Lampen, Doug Hafso, Caroline Fisher & Sarah Taylor), accompanist Jennifer Neufeld, and Good 4 the Soul (Carol Bond, Julie Villadsen, Norma Vanderkirkhove and Jennifer Neufeld).



Our convention's theme was a **1st Century Church for the 21st Century.** This will be our theme for subsequent conventions. In order to be a 1st Century Church for the 21st Century, we first have to understand what the 1st Century or early Church was to their time.

Friday November 1st



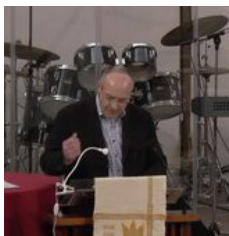
The Rise of Christianity: The unpacking of the nature of the 1st Century Church began with our first presenter, our President, Pastor Edward Skutshek. His presentation revealed that it is estimated that the Christian Church grew from about 3,500 at Pentecost to about 35,000,000 or half the estimated population of the Roman Empire by 350 AD. The first 350 years of the Christian Church was marked by waves of persecution. Christian leaders were jailed and some were executed by the Empire. Some Christians had their property confiscated and others were sent to the mines to work as slaves. The Church grew despite this persecution. In the time between campaigns of persecution, the church was able to grow publically. Large houses were converted to meeting halls. Christianity grew in times of religious freedom and times of persecution because

Christians loved their enemies and the poor and needy around them. They stayed behind and nursed the sick during plagues when Roman physicians and all healthy people fled the cities. They welcomed the poor and the stranger in town into their congregations. They viewed their congregation as an extended family. They rescued and raised infants (mostly girls) abandoned by their parents. These girls were raised Christian. They married pagan husbands who converted to Christianity. They helped and cared for widows and orphans. They did not only hear and preach the words of the Gospel they lived it out. The 1st Century church calls us to follow in their footsteps.

Break-outs & Exhibitors: In two hour-long breakout sessions (11:30 AM to 12:30 PM and 1:30-2:30 PM) each participant was able to attend four half-hour presentations by various Christian organizations who are reaching into the community for Christ at home



and abroad. Participants interested in world missions and relief heard a presentation by a representative of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). Those interested in Christian Education and Pastoral Training heard presentations by representatives from Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI) and the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT). Participants interested in reaching out to and mentoring single mothers heard a presentation by MOMS (Making Our Moms Successful) Canada (Meta Weir a member of our host congregation Immanuel Lutheran was a founding member of this Canadian Chapter of MOMS Canada). Representatives from “Mosaic Center” gave a presentation of how their drop-in center in NW Edmonton helps the homeless people in their community (Member congregation Emmaus Lutheran of Edmonton and two non-Lutheran congregations founded Mosaic). Trustee Ron Voss gave a synopsis of his course that helps Biblically-faithful Christians defend Creation from attacks by secular theories of creation. Our President gave a talk entitled CALC 101, during which he described the basics of our Association. Other exhibitors included LAMP Canada, Listening to God Ministries, Lutheran Renewal Canada, and an Author’s table, where Pastor Emeritus Rev. Sheilah Fletch was selling her novel, *Forgiven*, with proceeds going to support pastoral training in CALC. Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton set up a booth at the convention, manned by their Interim President, Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen.



Round-Table Discussions: From 2:30 to 4:00 PM, Fred Schickedanz, Vice President, facilitated a round-table discussion geared for and directed toward congregational leaders and pastors. Vice-President Fred Schickedanz challenged all present to answer this question: “How would you

describe and define a successful congregation?” A lively discussion followed. Most participants agreed that large numbers of congregants was not necessarily a sign of the success of a congregation. However, we all agreed that

congregations had to grow to be effective and continue on into the future. Some spoke of their attempts to bring people into their congregations. They tried to introduce contemporary worship which seemed to rile those already in the pews. Still others saw a successful congregation as one that acts, does things in the name of Christ in their community. Others saw any congregation that faithfully preaches the Gospel in its purity and rightly administers the Sacraments is a successful congregation. The discussion will continue on that question.

Friday Worship: Pastor Jim Bredeson, senior pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, our convention hosts, led worship and preached at our Friday night service. The Reformation was the theme. Pastor Bredeson’s sermon was based on Psalm 46. Pastor Jim declared that our congregations are in need of spiritual renewal and strengthening of personal faith, within our Lutheran heritage. Pastor Jim encouraged all of us to pray to God for renewal in our congregations. Following worship we gathered for a time of refreshment and fellowship.

Saturday November 2nd

Opening Devotions: Pastor Ted Hill of Calvary Lutheran, Wetaskiwin and Asker Lutheran, Ponoka, Alberta, led opening



devotions. His devotion was based on Matthew 14:22-33. Pastor Ted declared that like Peter, Jesus calls us out of our comfort zone as we go out into the world in his name, like Peter he often calls us to walk on water. In the

beginning, again like Peter, we step out on the water and begin ministering for Jesus, however, we soon begin to doubt in ourselves and others, and, like Peter, we begin to sink. However, we must believe that Jesus will never allow us to sink below the waves and drown. When we reach up to him, he grabs us and walks us to safety.

Our Convention’s Keynote Speaker: Greg Musselman, Vice-



President of Outreach, for Voice of the Martyrs-Canada was our keynote speaker. Greg is also an ordained minister. Through his moving presentation, Greg declared that Christians in many nations are persecuted and even killed for their Christian

faith. He informed us that 11 Christians are martyred (killed) for their faith every hour of every day or about 100,000 martyrs a year. He showed us video clips that set out chapter and verse the dangers faced by Christians in many nations. We could not record some of his presentation for security reasons. If certain information he presented got onto the internet it may put certain brothers and sisters in Christ in peril. He also shared that the suffering and death of the martyrs has not been in vain. Persecutors of the church in oppressive countries have come to Christ and believe in Him as a result of the

witness of the martyrs. Voice of the Martyrs not only documents the suffering of the martyrs, with other groups they advocate for the martyrs with the oppressing nations and offer aide, solace, resources and help to the relatives of the martyrs. He encouraged CALC churches to preach the pure Gospel and not water it down. He noted that the Gospel is most often watered down to avoid offense. He exhorted us to risk being offensive.

Business Meeting:

During the business session:

- (1) We welcomed and acknowledged several distinguished guests. Pastor Mark Vander Tuig of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), joined us for the convention. Several of our congregations are dually-rostered with LCMC and CALC. A report on their convention is included in this edition of *The Connector*. A contingent from the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) was introduced: Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt, President; Rad Fich, Director of Development; Pastor Tim Swenson, Admissions and Student Advisor. It was announced that ILT had formed a standalone Canadian entity ILT-Canada. Pastor Ed Skutshek (our President), Fred Schickedanz (our Vice-President) and Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt are ILT Canada's first Board of Directors. ILT Canada will partner with ILT to advance theological education in North America. ILT Canada is seeking charitable status and if granted will allow Canadians to make tax deductible donations.
- (2) **Congregations:** We admitted the following Congregations as full members of CALC: Emmaus Lutheran Church, Edmonton, AB; Salem Lutheran Church, Kingman, AB; Trondhjem Lutheran Church, Round Hill, AB; Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wetaskiwin, AB; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Sullivan, ON; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Mission, BC; and Asker Lutheran Church, Ponoka, AB. Vancouver Chinese Lutheran Church of Burnaby, BC, was admitted as an Associate member. Trinity Lutheran Church, Leader, SK changes from Associate to Full Member Congregation.
- (3) **Pastors:** We admitted the following pastors to CALC's Roster of Pastors: **Parish Pastors:** Rev. Dr. Eddie Kwok; Rev. Richard Hung; Rev. Garfield Vikse; Pastor Ted Hill; Rev. Alan Boerner; Rev. John-Mark Bredeson; Rev. Robert Deobald; and Rev. Douglas Kranz. **Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Glen Carlson.
- (4) **Individuals:** We Admitted the following Individual Associate Members: Carol Vanker; Arthur Schickedanz; Lloyd Weiler and Darrell Weiler.
- (5) **President:** President Skutshek addressed the convention. He noted that for so much of the history of CALC we have been identified by what we are against. This was absolutely necessary as CALC was formed as a lifeboat for ELCIC congregations who could not continue on the ELCIC's path. However, the time has come for us to put the past behind us and to move forward. We must articulate what we are for. We are for genuine and heartfelt repentance. We will not water down the Gospel and preach it in a way which impedes true repentance. We are

for marriage as God ordained it. We are for healthy marriages, families and congregations. He promised to move forward in rendering to Caesar what is Caesar, that is, registering CALC as a denomination in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Ontario for marriage purposes. In the interim, we are licensing our pastors in these provinces through the Christian Ministers Association (CMA) and St. Andrews, Kamloops. He identified a need on CALC's part to unite our youth in a common mission cause. He noted that we have two predominantly Guyanese congregations in CALC with ties to that South American nation. Guyana has an indigenous Lutheran Church. It is an English-speaking country. He planted a vision for the youth of CALC congregations to travel to Guyana the summer of 2015 and work with the Lutheran Churches there to host Vacation Bible School for the children in the neighborhoods surrounding the churches. He noted that the Board of Elders have been studying the Shepherd's Pathway in an effort to streamline the process. We have two young men are on the Shepherd's Pathway. John Graham, of St. Peter's in Cochrane, Alberta is more than half way through his studies for a Master of Divinity degree from the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT). Ron Laferriere of Peace Lutheran in Wainwright, Alberta has begun the Pastoral Ministry Certificate (PMC) Program with ILT. Our seminarians are out ahead of us and we must catch up to them with them. John Graham will soon be looking for internship site and a congregation once his studies are completed. Ron Laferriere will soon be looking for a congregation.

- (6) **Elders:** The Board of Elders introduced amendments to our constitution. The amendments would provide for staggered four-year terms for our National Council. About a third of the National Council would be elected each year. The constitutional amendments passed unanimously. The amendments must be ratified by our congregations. Ballots to be sent out to congregations as soon as is possible.
- (7) **Trustees:** The Trustees reported on their activities throughout the year, including the preparation of the 2014 CALC budget.
- (8) **Financials/Budget:** Delegates approved the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2012. Our financials disclosed a surplus (excess of income over expenses) of \$6,874.00 for 2012. It should be noted that Revenue Canada does not recommend or require full audit of a charity's books (about a \$5,000.00 cost) if the charity's revenues are under \$250,000.00. Fiscal responsibility dictates that a charity's books be reviewed. Consistent with Revenue Canada's guidelines, our books were reviewed by a retired chartered accountant. Delegates also approved a budget for 2014 in the amount of \$70,810.00. Our budget is intended to fund: the costs of travel for our President as he undertakes the business of CALC; the costs our National Council as they meet three times each year in Calgary; some costs for our annual Pastor's Retreat and the Canadian Rockies Theological Conference; an amount paid to Grace Lutheran Church,

West Kelowna, BC, as a contribution for the time taken by their Pastor Ed Skutshek (our President) as he tends to the business of CALC; and other standard costs of operation of a non-profit society.

- (9) **Elections:** The terms of seven members of our National Council had expired in 2013. The following were nominated for the vacant positions and elected by acclamation. Those elected would normally serve for four year terms. However, if the above described constitutional amendments are approved some of those elected this year will serve shortened terms to permit staggered terms in the future. The newly elected officers, elders and trustees are:

Position	Name	Year term expires*
President	Rev. Ed Skutshek, Grace, West Kelowna, BC	2017
Vice Pres	Fred Schickedanz, St. Peter's, Cochrane, AB	2015
Secretary	Vivian Georgeson, Grace, West Kelowna, BC	2017
Elder	Sherland Chhangeur, Faith, Toronto, ON	2014
Trustee	Ron Voss, St. Peter's, Cochrane, AB	2015 or 2016 #
Trustee	Art Kroeker, Christ, Morden, MB	2015 or 2016 #
Trustee	Everley Lutz, Grace, West Kelowna, BC	2017

*Assumes Constitutional Amendments are ratified by our congregations. Their successors will be elected to staggered 4-year terms.

Pursuant to our Constitutional Amendments, our three Trustees are elected to staggered terms: 2-year term, a 3-year term and a 4-year term. The two incumbent trustees will determine among themselves who will take the 2-year and 3-year terms.

- (10) A motion floor was made from the floor and passed which directed CALC's National Council to develop a ten-year strategic plan for our Association. National Council is to propose the method by which the plan will be developed and present the same to the National Convention in 2014.

Banquet: A day of devotions, learning and business was capped off with a sumptuous banquet at the Best Western Hotel in Stony Plain. The banquet afforded all present the opportunity to reflect on the business of the convention, make new friends, catch up with old friends and enjoy entertainment. With guitar in hand, Sarah Taylor performed several original Christian songs she had written. Afterwards, Sarah and her father, Dr. Randall McLeod, gave a special presentation. The presentation celebrated pieces of Stony Plain's mural collection in the words of original songs and original cowboy poetry written by Dr. McCloud. It was an amazing performance.

Sunday November 3rd

Closing Worship: The weekend was capped off with a closing worship service. Pastor Jim Bredeson led worship and presided



at Holy Communion. Our President preached. The processional at the beginning of the service was breathtaking. A stream of flag bearers processed up the center isle of the sanctuary. The flags of many

nations flew. They reminded all present of the Great

Commission, that we are to go out into the world in Jesus name. Four blasts from a shofar (a ram's-horn trumpet blown by the ancient Hebrews) brought the service to a start. Drawing on a fable penned by Danish Philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, our President encouraged all present to believe that as Christians we are often like ducks in a row, normally waddling and paddling through life. However, God gave us wings, and with God's help, He can take our duck wings and make us soar like eagles. We soar like eagles when, by the grace of God, we offer our left cheek when we have been struck on the right cheek by a sharp word or angry fist; we pray for and help our enemies; we preach the Gospel knowing we will be offensive and we will be hated and even persecuted; and/or we give to the poor. A particularly moving part of the service saw the relatives of those from Immanuel congregation who had gone to be with the Lord in 2013, light a candle in honor of their departed loved one. Following the service we enjoyed an amazing buffet lunch.

The people of Immanuel Lutheran must be commended for all of their efforts in hosting CALC's 2013 General Convention. The lunches and refreshments during breaks were delicious and plentiful. Emmaus Lutheran of Edmonton also helped with a coffee break. A job well done! Special thanks must be given to our convention registrar Pat McLeod and her husband Dr. Randall for all their efforts. Thanks also to Pastor Jim for planning worship, preaching and facilitating. Heartfelt thanks for your warm western hospitality.

Videos of all convention sessions which took place in Immanuel Lutheran's main sanctuary from Friday morning November 1st to Sunday, November 3rd may be viewed on your computer by following this link: <http://vimeo.com/user21663546/videos>. Special thanks to Al Hamilton of Grace Lutheran, West Kelowna, BC for his efforts in videoing the presentations, editing them and posting them on the Vimeo website.

Next Year's Convention. CALC's National Council was overwhelmed by this year's attendance. We had more visitors than delegates. The overwhelming majority of visitors came from CALC's congregations in Alberta. CALC's mandate is to gather our congregations together for business, worship and Christian Education. National Council is tasked with the duty of maximizing the number of delegates and visitors that attend any of our gatherings. For this reason, National Council requested the delegates' indulgence in order to make a more deliberate choice in the venue for our Annual General Convention for 2014. A suggestion was made that the 2014 convention be held a week earlier, inasmuch as, the snow storm of Sunday, November 3rd reinforced our Canadian conventional wisdom that states that our weather patterns consistently change the first week in November.

Highlights of Convention 2012

Good Shepherd Lutheran and Faith Lutheran Churches -
Toronto, Ontario



This General Convention included so many 'firsts'.

This was the first time a CALC General Convention was held in Eastern Canada. The convention was co-hosted by CALC's two Toronto congregations, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and Faith Lutheran. Their efforts in making the convention weekend a success are gratefully acknowledged.



To enhance the time for teaching and fellowship when we come together for our General Convention, for the first time we held an educational event on the Friday morning and afternoon of the convention weekend. We were pleased that Rev. Jaynan Clark, former President

of WordAlone and a good friend of CALC, agreed to lead this session on the theme, Discipleship in the "Light" of the Cross. A dynamic speaker, Jaynan is passionate about evangelism and a revitalization of Christianity in North America and her passion came through loud and clear during this session with about 50 persons squished into the Extended Stay Hotel's meeting room.

It was the first time that two CALC congregations, in this case, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and Faith Lutheran, worked together to host a CALC convention.

It was the first time that opening and closing worship services were held in two different sanctuaries – Friday evening at Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, North York and Sunday morning at Faith Lutheran, North York.

It was the first time that there was the installation of a pastor on the convention weekend. As part of the Friday evening worship service, CALC President, Pastor Ed Skutshek, installed Pastor Goddy Hodanu as the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.



It was the first time ten new congregations were received in membership at one time and seven new congregations sent delegates to our convention.

It was the first time that Convention Rules of Order were adopted.

When there are so very many 'firsts' in an event it can be daunting and even overwhelming for the organizers. However, God gave them all the grace to soldier through and made our weekend of 'firsts' a weekend for CALC's record books.



A special thank you to Pastor Harry Huff of Faith Lutheran, overall convention organizing committee chair, for his leadership, enthusiasm, perseverance and faithfulness.

The theme for the 2012 General Convention, "Shepherding the Faith", drew upon the names of the two organizing congregations, Good Shepherd and Faith Lutheran.

Thirty-eight delegates and thirty-five visitors registered for the convention. During Saturday's business session, ten new congregations were received into membership in CALC: Sharon Lutheran Church, Irma, AB; Golden Valley Lutheran Church, Viking, AB; Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Toronto, ON; All Saints Lutheran Church, Ottawa, ON; St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Cornwall, ON; Bardo Lutheran Church, Tofield, AB; and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal, Stony Plain, AB as full members, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Leader, SK; Basel Hakka Lutheran Church, Vancouver, BC as associate members.

Nine new congregational pastors were accepted for placement on CALC's Roster of Pastors: Pastor Alvin Sorenson; Pastor Kim Voon Yee; Pastor Chiew Peng Chua; Pastor Goddy Hodanu; Rev. Dr. Zakaria Mandara; Pastor Peter Hincke; Pastor Kevin Langager; Pastor James C. Bredeson; and Pastor Lucretia van Ommeren-Tabbert.



Joyfully received as Pastors Emeritus were Rev. Sheilah Fletch, Rev. Dr. Peeter Vanker, and Rev. Harry Vibe. As well as pastors Fletch, Vanker and Vibe, Ronald and Eunice Kropf, London, ON were received as Associate Members of CALC.

It was recommended that the Shepherd's Pathway to Pastoral Ministry, particularly the Pastoral Ministry Certificate (PMC) stream, be studied over the next year and the results of such a

study be distributed to the delegates at next year's General Convention.



As a supplement to his written, statistical President's Report, our president, Pastor Ed Skutshek, spoke on how we are a confessional church believing that both the Old and New Testaments are inerrant and that Jesus is the only Saviour. He then laid out a vision for CALC going forward under the acronym GEEE:

Gather – We will focus our efforts on two gatherings each year: 1) Our annual General Convention; and 2) an annual Shepherds' Retreat for CALC's Pastors, Church Workers and National Council members. The purpose of the four-day Shepherds' Retreat will be to educate, refresh, revitalize, renew and recharge our pastors and leaders. We want to organize our annual General Convention so that it is an opportunity for: 1) CALC's congregations to be inspired and equipped for service through worship, Bible Study and keynote speakers; and 2) for our congregations to share their successes, challenges, hopes and visions for the future. Following our annual General Convention and the Shepherd's Retreat, we want to encourage the information our pastors, leaders and/or delegates learned to be intentionally shared at the congregational level.

Equip – We want to equip our congregations to serve their members and their communities. CALC is working on recognition as a denomination under Provincial Marriage Acts from BC to Ontario. We are networking with other Church bodies, including LCMC, LC-C, NALC, CLBC CMA and AFLCC, so that we may share our human and learning resources to God's glory.

Encourage – We want to help individuals discern their call to ordained and lay leadership in CALC and each of our congregations. We want to provide pastors and church council members with resources that allow them to follow the very best practices in all they do.

Educate – CALC is called to work with its congregations to educate, certify and discipline an ordained ministry to administer the Means of Grace. We are developing relationships with various seminaries, including the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) and Concordia Seminary, of Edmonton, Alberta, in providing for the training of CALC pastors.



An amendment received from Sexsmith Lutheran Church, Sexsmith, AB to limit the number of National Council members from a given congregation to two persons and tabled from the 2011 General Convention was defeated. Constitutional Amendments to clear up ambiguities as to the number of members

who can sit on CALC's two boards, the Board of Elders and the Board of Trustees, were approved.

A 2013 CALC budget in the amount of \$59,600 was approved by the convention.

There were four candidates for the two vacancies on the Board of Elders, Rev. Ronald Hobden, Wainwright, AB; Rev. Dr. Peeter Vanker, Markham, ON; Mr. Tim Bauer, Cochrane, AB and Mr. Dennis Persaud, Toronto, ON. Rev. Dr. Peeter Vanker (1st term) and Mr. Tim Bauer (2nd term) were elected to the Board of Elders.

During the convention representatives from Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), Lutheran Bible Translators, FaithLife Financial, the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), and Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) were on hand to explain their ministries and services. As well, various resources from Sperling's Church Supply were available for purchase.

The Saturday business session concluded with Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal, Stony Plain, Alberta graciously offering to host the 2013 CALC General Convention.

On Saturday afternoon greetings were received from Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt, President, Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT) and Rev. Mark Vander Tuig, Service Coordinator for Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). Rev. Vander Tuig invited CALC to join LCMC for a period of prayer for repentance and renewal from January 8-10, 2013.

The afternoon concluded with the delegates being treated to inspiring presentations from the two keynote speakers, Rev. Jaynan Clark, former President of WordAlone and now involved with The Disciple Ship (<http://www.tdship.org>), an outgrowth of WordAlone, and Rev. Ebenezer Sikakane, one of the early evangelists and leaders of African Enterprise, founded in 1961 by a South African, Michael Cassidy. Rev. Clark, with a focus of re-evangelizing North America, stated that God sent both prophets and Jesus as one to many, the same theme as Rev. Sikakane. We are witnessing in a "wayward" world. The 1st century church was called the "Way". Speaking to the convention theme, she said that we need to Shepherd the Faith in a wayward world – using the Way and the Word. Our pastors are not here to be people pleasers but God/Jesus pleasers by teaching the truth – God's Word. She likened the church to a filling station – Our Pastor fills our tanks so that we can go off and fulfill what God has equipped us to do. If we take away God's law and salvation, Satan will come to fill it with his trinity – shoulda, coulda and woulda. She ended with a powerful thought that we all die "of" or "from" something, but as Christians we don't live of or from something. We live FOR. How would our lives change if we died FOR.

Rev. Ebenezer Sikakane, an evangelist and leader of African Enterprise founded in 1961, told those gathered that this ministry is now in 10 countries with 10 teams in each. He quoted Billy Graham as saying that we need to bring the church back 2000 years; not 200 years. Christ's Great Commission has

not been rescinded; it is still in force today and encourages us



to start in our own backyard by preaching the Gospel. He stated that Africa is the first continent to become over 50% Christian. Their program in South America and Asia is also growing rapidly. Start

with prayer, then witness to one person, look after their physical needs as well spiritual and they will witness to others. Especially start by seeking out people in authority. The venue for the Saturday night banquet was beautiful and well appointed. The food and the service were first class. The entertainment was inspiring. Thank to Good Shepherd Lutheran for planning Friday night's service of worship and the sumptuous meal which followed, and Faith Lutheran for planning Sunday morning's worship service and the awesome luncheon which followed. The food was outstanding and reflected your cultural backgrounds so beautifully.

Many of the delegates and visitors who were present at the closing worship service on Sunday morning at Faith Lutheran were moved to say that CALC's 2012 Convention was a wonderful, landmark, Holy Spirit-filled gathering.



Pastors gathered in 2012. Back row L-R: Goddy Hadanu, Nick Hopman, Ron Hobdon, Rick Bergh, Marc Lapointe, Zakaria Mandara, Alvin Sorenson. **Front row L-R:** Tom Baker, Harry Huff, Lucretia van Ommeren-Tabbert, Elaine Hobden, Harry Vibe, Kevin Langager, Jim Bredeson, Peter Hincke and Peeter Vanker.



Faith Lutheran



Good Shepherd Lutheran

Highlights of Convention 2011

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cochrane, Alberta

November 4-6



CALC's 2011 General Convention, the 20th annual convention of the Association, was hosted by St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cochrane, November 4-6, 2011. Our convention theme based upon John 21:6 brought to mind boldly trying something new in faithfulness to God and His Word and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Those who were in attendance were treated to a wonderful uplifting event. The Convention began with the Friday evening worship service, which was punctuated by vibrant singing of inspirational hymns sung both by St. Peter's choir and those attending the service.



A highlight on Saturday morning was the reception of three new full member congregations into the CALC family: Martin Luther, Vancouver, BC; Resurrection Lutheran, Pembroke, ON; and Peace Lutheran, Wainwright, AB. Another highlight was

the presence of several of CALC's pioneers and their words of greeting and encouragement. In attendance were Bill Anhorn, CALC's first Treasurer (1992-1995); Olive Kieler, CALC's first Secretary (1992-1999); and Rev. Vern Roste (pictured above) CALC's first President (1992-1995) who together with Edmonton lawyer Phil Brose traveled to Ottawa where they guided the Charter Bill for the Association through Parliament. Also in attendance and addressing those present were Harold Stedel, one of the five petitioners (which included Dr. Garth Wagner, George Cooper, Olive Kieler and Rev. Vern Roste) for the act to incorporate CALC as well as having served as a member of the Board of Elders (1992-1995) and Rev. Ken Wilsdon, who chaired the committee that drafted CALC's



Saturday afternoon session concluded with our invited speaker Rev. Dr. Douglas Schoelles (Resurrection Church, Keller, Texas) speaking passionately on the topic of *Equipping Parents to be the Spiritual Leaders in Their Homes*.



Constitution. CALC's President, Pastor Ed Skutshek, read an informative and encouraging letter from Edmonton lawyer Phil Brose, who was unable to attend.

Following a busy day of business, education and edification, on Saturday evening we were treated to an exciting banquet organized by the people of our host congregation. The banquet was a time for discussion of the day's events and building relationships in Christ as we dined and mingled before and during dinner. Lutherans are known to like good food and delicious food was served up both for Saturday's lunch and banquet by Pat's Palate Pleasers, a catering business run by Pat Parker, a member of St. Peter's.

Issue No. 10, Autumn 1995, of *The Lutheran Connector*, reporting on the 1995 General Convention, concluded with the following, "God grant that the vision of the church body founders be remembered in years to come". We are delighted that these pioneers were able to join us for CALC's 20th annual convention. We are now living in the legacy of their early work and we thank them for it.

Those attending the Saturday banquet were beneficiaries of a special treat as they witnessed an exciting inaugural performance of the Rocky Mountain College Children and Youth Choir directed by Erica Phare-Bergh. Upon conclusion of their performance, those in attendance gave the choir a standing ovation.



Rev. Paul Spaulding, representing LCMC

Rev. Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt, ILT

Rev. Tom Walker, Sola Publishing



Our weekend convention concluded Sunday morning (All Saints Day) with a service of Holy Communion and Rev. Ed Skutshek, President of CALC, preaching on Psalm 116:15 (Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints).

Faith Lutheran, Toronto has graciously offered to host next year's General Convention.

In the Saturday afternoon session we heard greetings from various invited guests, including Rev. Dr. Paul Spaulding, representing Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), Rev. Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt, representing the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), and Rev. Tom Walker, representing Sola Publishing. Later in the day, Rev. Alvin Sorenson (Golden Valley, Viking, AB) as a former member of the Board of Directors brought greetings on behalf of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI) in Camrose. CLBI President Rev. Harold Rust attended the Friday evening worship service but was unable to attend on Saturday because of other commitments. The Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), Sola Publishing, and the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI), Camrose all had display tables at the Convention. Warm greetings were read from Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, President of Lutheran Church-Canada and from Rev. Randy Freund and Rev. Mark Richardson, District Chair and Service Coordinator, respectively, for the Augustana District of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

Highlights of Convention 2010

Christ Lutheran Church, Morden, Manitoba

November 5-7



Worship, which included uplifting singing; fellowship; good food; good conversations; and reconnecting with old friends and making new friends all contributed to the success of this year's convention hosted by Christ Lutheran Church, Morden, Manitoba, November 5-7, 2010.



The convention started off on an excellent footing on Saturday morning with the devotional, "Let The Seed Be A Seed" based upon Mark 4:26- 29, led by Lutheran Church-Canada President Rev. Robert Bugbee.

The most important agenda item for the morning business session was CALC President, Rev. Ed Skutshek, summarily presenting two papers that he had written, one on the "Ordination of Women to the Office of Ministry of Word and Sacrament – Scriptural and Confessional Authority" (pages 31-48 in the Bulletin of Reports) and the other a "Statement on Marriage and Human Sexuality – Scriptural and Confessional Authority" (pages 49-65 in the Bulletin of Reports). Each congregation in CALC is encouraged to study the papers over the next year. The papers may be amended following congregational review and will be presented for affirmation by the delegates at CALC's annual General Convention, November 2011.

In keeping with CALC's deep and abiding desire to build relationships in Christ with other Confessional Lutheran bodies in Canada and the U.S., the theme for the 2010 convention was Building Relationships in Christ. To this end, on Saturday afternoon, invited representatives from four Lutheran bodies,

Rev. Robert Bugbee, President of Lutheran Church-Canada (LC-C); Rev. Mark Vander Tuig, Service Coordinator with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC); Rev. Tom Walker, Vice-president of WordAlone Ministries; and Rev. Dr. Dennis Bielfeldt, President of the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), introduced themselves and their bodies to the assembled gathering.

Following a busy day of business, education and edification, on Saturday evening we were treated to a delicious banquet organized by the people of our host congregation. The banquet was a time for discussion of the day's events and building relationships in Christ as we dined and mingled before and during dinner. The evening concluded with Leland Klassen, recognized as Canada's premier clean comedian, leaving everyone in stitches – a fitting, relaxing conclusion to a long event-filled day.

Our convention concluded Sunday morning with a service of Holy Communion at Christ Lutheran Church. We were once again treated to uplifting music. The challenging sermon message given by Rev. Ed Skutshek, President of CALC, was "There's Room in the Pews – What do we do?"

Overall, President Skutshek's prayer, expressed in the September 2010 issue of CALC's newsletter (The Lutheran Connector), was realized, namely, "that as many of our members as can possibly attend come out for our convention and as we worship, pray, learn and sing Psalms and spiritual songs to one another, we encounter our Lord Jesus Christ in our midst and we experience the unity that he fervently prayed for".

Highlights of Convention 2009

Grace Lutheran Church, West Kelowna, BC

November 6-8



Pastor Ed Skutshek's message at the opening service on Friday evening was entitled "Attitude" as concerns pastors and youth leaders who are interacting with youth. Pastor Ed thought it good to keep in mind the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23:

Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not

under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

At this opening worship service, the closing Sunday worship and especially at the Saturday night banquet, delegates and visitors were treated to the wealth of musical talent within Grace Lutheran.

Saturday morning's session was dedicated to business. About 50-60 people attended the business session of which 19 were voting delegates. For the first time, a Bulletin of Reports was distributed to the delegates prior to the Convention and this probably helped contribute to the smooth functioning of the business session. Despite the business session concluding ahead of schedule ending a half hour early, nonetheless, some very important decisions were made by the convention delegates.

The first order of business was to accept three new congregations into CALC's family: Grace Lutheran, Kelowna, BC and Faith Lutheran, North York, Ontario as full members and Martin Luther, Vancouver as an associate member.

The proposed budget for CALC in the amount of \$60,000 for the year ending December 31, 2009 was adopted without modification. The assembled delegates also agreed to establish a designated fund for Pastoral Formation.

In response to the motion passed at CALC's 2008 General Convention, "That the National Council of CALC explore with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) the possibility of developing a cooperative fellowship agreement between CALC and LCMC", CALC's National Council adopted the following motion at their June 13, 2009 meeting: "That the Cooperative Agreement between CALC and LCMC be adopted, and subject to a similar adoption and intention by LCMC's Board of Trustees, that the agreement then be presented to the respective national conventions (LCMC in October and CALC in November) for adoption."

Pastor Ed Skutshek, who had attended LCMC's Annual Gathering in Fargo, North Dakota in early October, reported that the Cooperative Agreement document was not brought forward to the Annual Gathering. However, the following motion submitted by LCMC's Board of Trustees was adopted at the Annual Gathering:

Be it resolved, that the LCMC Board of Trustees be authorized to engage in conversation with other Lutheran reform and renewal organizations, including, but not limited to, The Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations, The WordAlone Network and Lutheran CORE, for the purpose of identifying commonality in mission and ministry.

Be it further resolved that any proposed agreements resulting from conversations with said groups be brought to the Annual Gathering of the association for consideration.

As there was no basis to proceed with the motion adopted by CALC's National Council in June 2009, the delegates at CALC's General Convention rescinded that motion and responded to the LCMC resolution with a reciprocal motion declaring,

That CALC's National Council be authorized to engage in conversation with other Lutheran reform and renewal organizations, including, but not limited to, The Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations, The WordAlone Network and Lutheran CORE, for the purpose of identifying commonality in mission and ministry.

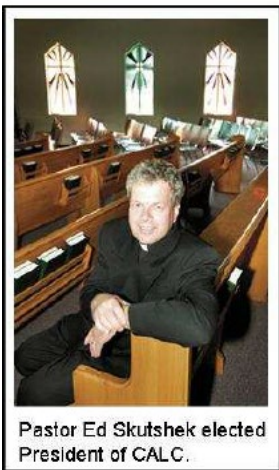
Be it further resolved that any proposed agreements resulting from conversations with said groups be brought to the Annual Gathering of the Association for consideration.

The Holistic Pathway for pastoral ministry in CALC was first introduced at the 2008 General Convention in Cochrane where the delegates passed a motion asking that work continue on the development of the Holistic Pathway model. With the work on the development of the Holistic Pathway essentially coming to completion, the delegates to the 2009 General Convention unanimously passed a motion, "That the Holistic Pathway (HP) Program for Pastoral Ministry in CALC be adopted."

Both the "substantive" and "non-substantive" amendments to CALC's Constitution, which were brought forward by CALC's National Council, were adopted unanimously. There are three major changes introduced by the "substantive" amendments:

- 1) The number of classes of pastors under Bylaws – Part Six (Classification of Pastors) is reduced from ten to three, leading to a significant simplification. The three classes of pastor would then be, "pastors of this association", which is expected to account for the vast majority of pastors in CALC; "pastors in extended ministry" (serving in non-parish ministry), of which there are currently none and "pastors emeriti" of which there are currently two such pastors,
- 2) CALC as an organization will no longer be in the pastoral "certification" business as a result of the removal of Section 5 (Pastors Certified for Call) of Part Six of the Bylaws, which states "Pastors who have been satisfactorily colloquized and recommended by the Board of Elders of CALC and approved by the National Council and are open to a call to serve a parish of CALC and shall be designated Pastors Certified for Call. Their names shall be on the Roster of Pastors of this Association",
- 3) Also, leading from the above, there will be a simplification of the understanding of what is meant by CALC's pastoral "roster". Pastors (see #1 above) serving in parish ministry (pastors of this Association), pastors serving in non-parish ministry (pastors in extended ministry) and pastors emeriti will be on the Roster of Pastors of this Association.

Before any amendments to CALC's Constitution and By-laws, approved through majority vote at a CALC General Convention, can become effective they must be ratified through a process whereby three quarters of CALC's member congregations vote in favour of the amendments.



Pastor Ed Skutshek elected President of CALC.

The business session ended with elections.

Three of CALC's officers were newly elected by acclamation this year: Pastor Ed Skutshek (Grace, Kelowna) as President, Fred Schickedanz (St. Peter's, Cochrane) as Vice-President and Peggy Krause (Christ, Morden) as Secretary. Helen Zacharias (Christ, Morden) continues in her position as Treasurer of the Association.

Sherland Chhangeur (Faith Lutheran, North York) was elected by acclamation to the Board of Elders. Art Kroeker (Christ, Morden), Tim Hartness (Grace, Kelowna) and Ron Voss (St. Peter's, Cochrane) were elected by acclamation to the Board of Trustees.

With these elections CALC new National Council will look as follows:

Officers: President Pastor Ed Skutshek, Vice-President Fred Schickedanz, Secretary Peggy Krause and Treasurer Helen Zacharias.

Board of Elders: Pastor Ed Skutshek as Chair, CALC's Secretary Peggy Krause, Lowell Lovrod (Journey's, Grande Prairie), Tim Bauer (St. Peter's, Cochrane) and Sherland Chhangeur (Faith Lutheran, North York).

Board of Trustees: Fred Schickedanz as Chair, CALC's Treasurer Helen Zacharias, Art Kroeker (Christ, Morden), Tim Hartness (Grace, Kelowna) and Ron Voss (St. Peter's, Cochrane).

Greetings were received from several special guests and visitors.

Jorgen and Lona Munck were former members of Christ Lutheran in Chilliwack, BC. Jorgen spoke of the history of their leaving the ELCIC and meeting at a house church with others who had left Christ Lutheran and its development into an organized church called New Life Christian Church which gathers in a hotel meeting room in Chilliwack, BC. Their Lead Pastor is Norm Miller.

Pastor Karl Johnsen from Calvary Lutheran Church in Edmonton, AB. spoke of the very difficult time that his congregation experienced in regard to member and financial loss brought on by the struggles with the ELCIC. Pastor Johnson encouraged CALC to make overtures to CORE (Lutheran Coalition for Renewal). He called for a stop to "silly infighting" among orthodox Lutherans. He also requested prayer for ELCIC congregations going through similar struggles.

Pastor Ed Skutshek read a very cordial and uplifting letter received from Pastor Don Schiemann, President of Lutheran Church-Canada's ABC District, who regretted that he was unable to attend because of other commitments.

Pastor Tom Walker, an Administrator for the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), extended greetings from the ILT and

alluded to how interactions with CALC have opened up fresh new thinking about the training of pastors.

Pastor Bill Sullivan, Service Coordinator with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), extended greetings on behalf of LCMC and declared that God is doing amazing things in the church today and that he and LCMC are filled with hope and excitement. He felt that God was calling the two Lutheran bodies that were so similar – LCMC and CALC – to work together.



Saturday afternoon was devoted to teaching and learning. Ken Moser a renowned specialist in youth ministry with 26 years of experience was the special invited guest speaker and spoke to the convention theme of "Passing on Our Faith to Our Children and Youth". Those present were

treated to two stimulating lectures given by Ken. One of Ken's main theses is that the traditional approach to youth ministry of focusing upon games and entertainment does not work. He then sketched out what the objective of youth ministry should be and approaches for achieving successful youth ministry.

The message for the Sunday morning Eucharist worship service was on the "Seven Worlds of the Pastor" and was delivered by a team consisting of Pastor Steve Herbert (St. Andrew's, Kamloops), former CALC President Roger Plested, Pastor Tom Baker (Christ, Morden), Pastor Bill Sullivan (LCMC's Service Coordinator and a special guest at CALC's Convention) and Pastor Tom Walker (a pastor of a congregation in North Dakota as well as being an Administrator for the Institute of Lutheran Theology). This message sketched out beautifully the seven roles and responsibilities of a pastor. Then followed the installation of Pastor Ed Skutshek and Pastor Karen Seifert as pastors of a CALC congregation with Pastor Rick Bergh (St. Peter's, Cochrane) officiating. Pastor Karen was given a stole with her father (Pastor Tom Walker) doing the honours of placing it around her shoulders.

Overall, by all accounts this was a very successful General Convention. All the volunteers at Grace, Kelowna who contributed to its success deserve a big pat of the back. Well done! You have raised the bar for succeeding CALC General Conventions.

Highlights of Convention 2008

Minutes of the National Convention

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cochrane, AB

November 8, 2008



Following a service of praise and worship, President Roger Plested opened the convention.

First officers of CALC were introduced: Pastor Vern Roste, President; Bill Anhorn, Treasurer; and Olive Kieler, Secretary.

John Cobb from Augsburg Lutheran Church in Saskatchewan was introduced. This church has become incorporated as a Confessional Augustana Canada church. The new church has its roots in Germany. John had tracts on Islam to hand out. He also promoted a new book by Oliver K. Olsen called "Reclaiming Lutheran Liturgical Heritage".

Pastor Ed Skutshek from Grace Lutheran, Kelowna then introduced Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ. (LCMC) in the U.S.

1.0 Agenda changes and additions - none

CC01 M/S/C To accept last years minutes as circulated.

2.0 President's Report.

CC02 M/S/C To accept President's Report as circulated.

CC03 M/S/C To accept Treasurer's Report for December 31, 2007.

3.0 Hymnal Committee Report.

CC04 M/S/C To accept report as amended. The last line of the report to be removed.

4.0 Elders' Report.

CC05 M/S/C To accept Elders' Report as circulated.

5.0 Trustees' Report.

Holistic Pathway program to start immediately.

CC06 M/S/C To accept the budget as presented.

6.0 Pensions and Benefits Report.

Recommend Council implement pension program through the RBC Financial Group. Benefits - Number of churches using Chamber of Commerce benefit plan. At this time each church should continue benefit plan that they have.

Board of Trustees working on new nominating committee plan. More information is needed from congregations as to gifts and talents of their members.

CC07 M/S/C That the National Council of CALC explore with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) the possibility of developing a cooperative fellowship agreement between CALC and LCMC.

After much discussion National Council agreed to explore relationship.

CC08 M/S/C That the Convention approve the continuation of the Holistic Pathway for training pastors.

7.0 Nominating Committee Report:

Tim Bauer - Board of Elders

Janet Muir - Secretary

Art Kroeker - Board of Elders

Lowell Lovrod - Board of Elder

Leif Lovrod - Board of Trustees

All the above were elected by acclamation.

8.0 Next year's convention.

November 6-8, 2009 at St. Andrew's, Kamloops or Grace, Kelowna.

9.0 Nominating Committee change

CC09 M/S/C That the nominating committee be changed to the Council Members. CC10 M/S/C To adjourn convention

Highlights of Convention 2007

Christ Lutheran Church, Sexsmith, AB

November 2-3, 2008



The opening worship service took place the evening of Friday, November 2nd at Christ Lutheran Church in Sexsmith, Alberta. Sexsmith is a small town a short distance north of Grande Prairie. The theme for the weekend was "The Foolishness of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18-29) remembering that by the world's standards, CALC, its churches, its pastors, and even the very foundations of CALC's faith in Jesus Christ seem foolish. However, "this foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength" (1 Corinthians 1:25). Our trust is in God, not in human understanding. Pastor Harold Rust, president of

the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI) in Camrose, was the special guest speaker for the weekend, and spoke on the conference theme at the opening service. I was pleased to find that "In Christ Alone", which has become one of my favourite hymns, was part of this opening service. I had thought about contacting the organizers of the convention to suggest the inclusion of this hymn; so I was pleasantly surprised that they had chosen to include this hymn.

The business session for CALC's National Convention took place during the day on Saturday, November 3rd and was held at Dunes Golf and Country Club in Grande Prairie, a pleasant, peaceful setting amidst a beautiful forest. The meeting was presided over by CALC's president (For more about CALC's governing structure, see Appendix I) Mr. Roger Plested from Kamloops, BC. The Convention considered four recommendations received from CALC's National Council.

The first motion, related to St. Peter's application for membership in CALC was unanimously adopted with the insertion of the word "joyfully" before the word "approved" in the original motion. After that, St. Peter's delegates present at the meeting, Pastor Rick, Fred Schickedanz, John Duerksen, and Ron Voss, were entitled to voice and vote. Although Diane Voss was present as a visitor, she also was granted voice and vote as a result of a motion to that effect for all registrants which was adopted at the start of the Convention.

The second motion proposed an amendment to Part Two (General Convention) of CALC's bylaws dealing with the formula to be used in determining representation at the National Convention. The previous formula entitling one representative per 50 confirmed members plus the pastor(s) serving Member Congregations was amended to read:

Member Congregations are entitled to one representative per 50 confirmed members or greater traction thereof to a maximum of three representatives, plus one pastor serving Member Congregations. A Member Congregation of more than 600 confirmed members shall be entitled to have a maximum of four representatives, plus one pastor serving the Member Congregation. All member and Associate Congregations are entitled to at least one delegate.

This amendment was unanimously adopted. Such an amendment was necessary in anticipation of CALC being joined by other, fairly large congregations in the future. According to the old bylaw, a large congregation such as Victory, Medicine Hat with about 1400 confirmed members would have been entitled to 28 lay delegates! That would have created an impractical and costly situation for such a congregation as well as a gross imbalance in the decision-making powers at the National Convention.

Roger Plested pointed out that, according to CALC's Constitution, an amendment adopted at a National Convention subsequently needs to be ratified by at least three quarters of the member congregations voting in favour of the amendment before it can come into effect.

The third motion was related to CALC's policy on the ordination of women as contained within its Statement 2.5 (Ordination and Ministry of Women) in its Declarations Concerning Matters of Life and Practice. That statement read that CALC "shall ordain only men in to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament". The amended statement as proposed by CALC's National Council read as follows:

*Statement 2.5
ORDINATION AND MINISTRY*

The Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations has studied the role of men and women in the Church in the light of Scriptures and with the enlightening of the Holy Spirit.

The Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations submits to Scripture the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life. All Christians are priests. (1 Pet 2:9) There is no distinction. (Gal 3:28) Mostly, the functions are as follows: to teach, to preach and to proclaim the Word of God, to baptize, to consecrate or administer Communion, to bind and loose sins, to sacrifice, to pray for others and to judge all doctrines and spirits. We are all priests before God, as much as we are Christians (Rom. 8:32; Gal. 3:28; 1 Cor. 10:17; Eph. 4:4; 5:30).

For order within the congregation, (1 Cor 14:40) no one should exclusively claim those functions that are common, in public, without allowance of the community or without special calling.

God has given gifts to Priests and calls a Pastor. (Eph. 4: 8-11) God teaches and equips priests as Pastors (Jn. 5:6) and then they are called by the congregation.

God wills who is to be recipient of His Gifts and partakers of his preached and offered mercy. His will is not to be inquired into but reverently adored, as by far the most awe-inspiring secret of the Divine Majesty, reserved for Himself and alone and forbidden to us.

Prior to amendment, Statement 2.5 was quite explicit that women could not be ordained and while it was implied that women could be ordained in the amended version proposed by the National Council, it did not explicitly say so. Accordingly, I suggested an amendment that after the first sentence in the second-last paragraph that the phrase, "men and women" be inserted. That generated some discussion but eventually the amended version carried with a few dissenting votes. The dissenting votes did not necessarily mean that those who voted that way were opposed to the ordination of women but rather that they thought the inclusion of my suggested phrase was not necessary.

Roger Plested explained the process started last fall whereby CALC came to revise its position on the ordination of women. Position papers on the matter and questionnaires were circulated to the congregations from whom feedback was solicited. That feedback indicated overwhelming support in favour of ordaining women to ministry. On that basis, the CALC National Council developed its recommended modification to Statement 2.5. Too bad the ELCIC had not followed such a consultative process in trying to introduce change. Instead, it was very much a top-down approach relying extensively on

convention politics to introduce change with little, if any, provision of Scriptural and Confessional support for the proposed changes with respect to the church's teaching and practice.

The fourth and final motion from the National Council, which was unanimously adopted, instructed CALC's president to write two papers, one on marriage and the second on the conclusions of the study on the ordination of women.

CALC's 2008 budget of \$32,150 was approved.

Pastor Terry Sauder reported that the Board of Elders had conducted a colloquy of four people called to ministry in CALC: Eilene Winn (sp?) – as an Associate Lay Professional; Tom Baker (serving Christ, Morden, Manitoba) – as Lay Professional Pastor in Training; Steven Herbert – as Lay Professional Pastor in Training; and Rick Bergh – as Rostered Ordained Clergy. [Note: A Lay Professional Pastor in Training can be recommended for ordination after sufficient training.]

An interesting 8-page Report of the Hymnal Committee entitled "CALC and Recommended Hymnals for Use and Worship in Our Churches" was distributed and explained by Pastor Terry Sauder (Kamloops), one of the authors of the report. According to Pastor Sauder because of the greater use of electronic media, there is a trend whereby printed hymnals may become obsolete in the future such that there will no hymnals in the pews. The report provided pros and cons for various hymnals. The Lutheran Book of Worship (Green Book) and the Lutheran Service Book (official new hymnal as of 2006 for the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod) were "recommended for CALC use" The Ambassador Hymnal (published by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations in 1994) was identified as "good for CALC use". The new hymnal Evangelical Lutheran Worship published in 2006 for use by the ELCA and the ELCIC was "not recommended for CALC use". Other hymnals, including Reclaim, a new hymnal under development by an orthodox group within the ELCA intended to correct some of the errors in Evangelical Lutheran Worship and With One Voice, will be reviewed and reported on at the 2008 National Convention.

Reports from each of the six CALC member congregations were given with Fred Schickedanz providing the report on behalf of St. Peter's. Fred expressed excitement about moving forward with the CALC folks. In his report for St. Andrew's, Kamloops Pastor Terry Sauder emphasized the importance of sharing prayer concerns among CALC's member congregations.

Pastor Harold Rust, president of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose (CLBI), gave a presentation on his school. Literature on CLBI was circulated. Pastor Rust suggested that perhaps CLBI may be able to help to fill the many pastoral vacancies in rural congregations (for example, there are 12-14 ELCIC Alberta Synod congregations east of Camrose without a pastor) by providing pastoral training for lay pastors. To maximize the use of CLBI he threw out the idea that some pastoral training could be conducted at the school in the summer months. What would be needed is a pastor coming

forward to conduct such training. Pastor Rust invited CALC and its member congregations to think about the idea.

Prior to the National Convention I provided CALC's National Council with a written report on possible options for a Pension and Benefits Plan for CALC congregational employees. At the National Convention I put forward the following motion, which was approved:

That National Council be instructed to review the options available for providing pastors and workers a Pension and Benefits Plan and through consultation with the congregations provide recommendations for options to be considered by the congregations or to take steps to arrange for CALC to participate in the Pension and Benefits plan of Lutheran Church-Canada.

Lowell Lovrod in his Elder's Report emphasized the importance of communication between congregations ("nothing more powerful than what we can do for one another through prayer"). He asked the various CALC member congregations to identify a contact person who would be responsible for forwarding prayer concerns to the president of CALC, who, in turn, would pass on those concerns to the congregations. During the discussion of the Elder's Report, I suggested that CALC review and make recommendations with respect to which lectionary CALC churches should use. As well, I suggested that CALC consider becoming a member of the International Lutheran Council.

In his Trustee's Report, Pastor Terry Sauder mentioned that the money was not there for mission support ("cannot make commitments we cannot fulfill"). Rather than putting a line item in the budget for mission support he suggested the creation of a CALC Mission Support Fund which would largely rely upon voluntary contributions ("faith ministry"). The National Council would provide regular monthly updates to keep the church informed as to the status of the fund and how effectively the current mission needs at Grande Prairie and Leamington were being met. A motion calling for the creation of such a fund was adopted by the Convention.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, elections were held for National Council positions. From St. Peter's delegation Ron Voss was elected to sit on the Board of Elders and Fred Schickedanz was elected to be a member of the Board of Trustees. Three new Committees were created by the National Council – Youth, Ministry Standards and Church Transition Committees. The Ministry Standards Committee would be responsible for formalizing the requirements for a candidate to fit each CALC classification. The responsibility of the Church Transition Committee would be to help those congregations interested in receiving more information about CALC and making the transition to CALC should they choose to join CALC. Pastor Rick and I, along with Steven Herbert, volunteered to serve on the Church Transition Committee. Pastor Rick also volunteered to serve on the Ministry Standards Committee along with Pastor Mark Story and Steven Herbert. I also volunteered to assist with the publication of CALC's newsletter, The Connector. With respect to the Youth

Committee there was a request that each congregation provide a contact person. CALC hopes to have youth representation at the 2008 National Convention.

Pastor Rick's offer that St. Peter's would be willing to be the host congregation for CALC's 2008 National Convention was gratefully received.

After adjournment, Pastor Mark Story from CALC's mission church in Leamington, Ontario led an interesting interactive presentation on "Church Planting – Ways to Get Started". A one-page summary of his presentation was distributed.

There was a lot of singing during the course of the Convention ably organized by Lynn Lovrod from Grande Prairie.

At the concluding worship service, after a delicious supper together, Pastor Harold Rust gave his concluding presentation on the conference theme "The Foolishness of God".

Approximately 35 people were in attendance at CALC's National Convention. Overall, for me, CALC's National Convention was an uplifting event with an efficient and amicable conduct of necessary business, good food, good fellowship, and praise and worship for our Lord and Saviour. Compared to my recent experience at ELCIC national and synodical conventions, that was rather refreshing! Also, it was refreshing that one had a chance to make constructive comments for improving the functioning of the church body that were seriously considered. Also, there was an opportunity to deal expeditiously with all business that one would like to have considered. In contrast, at ELCIC National Conventions it was common for many resolutions not to make it to the floor of the convention for consideration by the delegates 'for lack of time', particularly if the ELCIC hierarchy was not in favour of such motions. In dealing with the business at the CALC Convention the political manipulation and discord so evident at ELCIC conventions was absent.

Ron Voss
November 9, 2007

[Appendix I](#) [An Introduction to the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations \(CALC\)](#)

The Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC) (www.calc.ca) has its headquarters in Kamloops, B.C. CALC and its constitution were formed out of several meetings held in the summer and fall of 1991 in Calgary, Alberta. About forty lay and clergy came together in the desire to establish a middle of the road, theologically conservative church with an emphasis on Scriptural authority and the Lutheran Confessions. A model was seen in the center ground previously held by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada (ELCC). A founding convention was held in Calgary in 1992 attended by over 100 delegates (including Pastor Norm Miller). CALC's original purpose was to offer congregations and clergy, uncomfortable with liberal theological trends, a new home. In June 1994, CALC was granted its federal incorporation.

There are currently six congregations in CALC (Christ, Morden, Manitoba; Christ, Sexsmith, Alberta; St. Andrew's, Kamloops, B.C.; and St. Peter's, Cochrane, Alberta), two of which are mission congregations (Journey's Lutheran Church, Grande Prairie, Alberta and Living Word Lutheran Church, Leamington, Ontario).

As far as organizational structure, CALC's National Council is composed of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary as officers and the Board of Elders and the Board of Trustees. The current President of CALC is Roger Plested, a lay member of St. Andrew's, Kamloops and Rev. Terry Sauder, pastor at St. Andrew's, is the Vice-President of CALC. According to CALC's Constitution, if the President is a lay person then the Vice-President must be a rostered pastor and vice-versa.

At the present time, none of the members of CALC's National Council are paid employees; participation is on a volunteer basis. The National Council functions as the legislative agency of the Association in the interim between General Conventions in order to deal with situations which necessitate action before the next General Convention. Legislative acts by the National Council shall require a majority vote of all its members and must be presented to the next General Convention for review.

The **Board of Elders** shall be responsible for the leadership and supervision of CALC in all spiritual matters not otherwise assigned by this Constitution, Bylaws, or the General Convention. The Board of Elders is composed of the President of CALC as chair person and the Secretary, and not less than three nor more than nine other members. The number of members on the Board of Elders shall be determined by the General Convention in the year of election.

The **Board of Trustees** shall have charge of the general management and business affairs of CALC. The Board of Trustees is composed of the Vice-President of CALC as chair person and the Treasurer, and not less than three nor more than nine other members. The number of members on the Board of Trustees shall be determined by the General Convention in the year of election.

The highest constitutional authority delegated by the congregations to CALC shall be vested in the General Convention, which shall meet in regular sessions annually by call of the President in consultation with the National Council. CALC's Constitution states that one of the limitations on the General Convention's powers is that, "questions involving doctrine shall not be ultimately determined by vote of the General Convention, but on the basis of the Word of God and the Confessions of the Church". An amendment to CALC's Constitution and by-laws which is approved through majority vote at a CALC General Convention needs to be ratified through a process whereby three quarters of CALC's member congregations vote in favour of the amendment.

CALC is a "confessional church" which means that its members and member congregations subscribe to written statements of what CALC believes, teaches and confesses. Article Three (Confession of Faith) from CALC's Constitution is so important that it alone "shall be unalterable".

Article Three - CALC's Confession of Faith

The Bible

The Association accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as a whole and in all their parts as the divinely inspired, revealed, and inerrant Word of God, and joyfully submits to this as the only infallible authority in all matters of life and faith.

Faith in the Triune God

The Association is built upon faith in the ever-living Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as revealed in the Holy Scriptures to Whom be the glory for ever and ever (see the three Ecumenical Creeds).

God the Father

Almighty God, Creator of the universe, Who formed man in His own image, Who from the beginning loved goodness and hated evil, desires that the children of His creation live in eternal fellowship with Him. We hold to the creation and fall of humanity as described in the first chapters of Genesis, not as myth, but as historic facts.

Therefore, the Creator gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16) to be the Savior of the world, that people might be set free from the bondage of sin, and become joint heirs with Jesus Christ of eternal life.

Jesus Christ, God's only Son and our Savior

At the heart and centre of this faith is confidence in Jesus Christ and love for Him, the Eternal Word of God, true God (only Son of the Father from eternity), and true man (born of the Virgin Mary), and the only Savior of the world.

The reason for our being the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations is to proclaim salvation solely by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ.

Dependence upon the Holy Spirit

We also acknowledge dependence upon the Holy Spirit working solely through the Means of Grace to call unbelievers into saving faith in Jesus Christ, to empower believers to grow in faith, to bestow His gifts for the ministry of the Church locally and universally, to inspire love for one another, and to bring glory to the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Head of the Church.

Symbols: Basic and Required

As brief and true statements of the doctrines of the Word of God, this Association accepts and confesses the following Symbols, subscription to which shall be required of all its members, both congregations and individuals: The ancient Ecumenical Creeds: The Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism.

Book of Concord - Normative

As further elaboration of and in accordance with these Lutheran Symbols, this Association also receives the other documents in the Book of Concord of 1580: the Apology, Luther's Large Catechism, the Smalcald Articles (including the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope) and the

Formula of Concord; and recognizes them as normative for its theology.

Pure Doctrine

The Association accepts without reservation these symbolic books of the Lutheran Church not insofar as but because they are the presentation and explanation of the pure doctrine of the Word of God and a summary of the faith of the evangelical Lutheran Church.