

“Walking together: on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24.13-35)”

**Eighteenth Convention of the
Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC
June 4 & 5, 2021
Virtual Convention via Zoom
Minutes**

We recognize that the Saskatchewan Synod is on the Territories of Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, traditional gathering lands of 74 indigenous peoples and the homeland of the Metis Nation.

**We respect and honour the Treaties that were made on all territories,
we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and
we are committed to move forward in partnership with Indigenous Nations
in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration**

Friday, June 4; 1:00pm

Delegates and visitors joined the eighteenth convention of the Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC. Chair Doug Schmirler provided the treaty land acknowledgement. This was followed by orientation to the virtual meeting format, standing rules of order, and the code of conduct. The Complaint Handling Committee for convention are Rev. Ali Tote and Pamela Giles.

Opening worship:

Host – Good Shepherd, Saskatoon
Presider – Pastor Munye Mtata
Preacher – National Bishop Susan Johnson
Musical Director – Anna Scott
Musicians – Good Shepherd Choir, Good Shepherd Worship Band
Reader – Karen Harilstad
Technical Team Angela Friggstad, Nathan Elke, Marty Willick
Worship Assistance – Good Shepherd Altar Guild
Lessons – 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Gospel Mark 3:20-35

Anniversary and Remembrance Recognitions of Rostered Ministers

Anniversaries:

10 years Rev. Eldon Danielson, Rev. Sean Bell, Rev. Kristin Soveran,
Rev. Dawn Myrfield, Rev. Kragbe Legre

25 years Rev. Michael Diegel, Rev. Carla Blakely, Rev. Faith Rohrbough,
Rev. Carlton Larsen, Rev. Doug Shepherd, Rev. Greg Kiel,
Rev. Heather Anderson, Rev. Iris Kristjánsdóttir

40 years Rev. Joan Jespersen, Rev. Harley Johnson, Rev. Dr. Sid Haugen
Rev. Cam Harder

50 years Rev. Gary Schenk

60 years Rev. Ken Peterson, Rev. Roger Uitti

Remembrances: Rev. Caron Park, Rev. Gene Grant

The service closed with the Order for Opening of Convention, led by Bishop Sid Haugen.

Chair Doug introduced the Convention Keynote Speaker – Dr. Karoline Lewis is a theologian, speaker, teacher, author, and preacher. She is Professor of Biblical Preaching and The Marbury E. Anderson Chair of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. Dr. Lewis based her presentation on the Road to Emmaus text which was titled ‘Life After the Storm’; followed by a Question & Answer session.

The convention recessed for a break at 3:25pm.

Synod in Convention – Plenary #1

Friday, June 4; 3:45pm

Chair Doug called the meeting to order, and welcomed delegates, visitors, guests, and representatives of associated organizations. The treaty land acknowledgement was provided. Chair Doug introduced Cindy Hoppe, Vice Chair, who will be sharing convention chairing responsibilities, and convention chaplain, Rev. Sean Bell.

Chaplain Sean Bell began with song, ‘A Life Flows’ (Charlotte Moroz) and concluded with prayer.

Secretary Cheryl Bauer Hyde introduced the Convention Committees:

Committee on Registration and Attendance:	Anna-Marie Skogsrud
Committee on Nominations:	Jeff Barber, Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Sean Bell, Cindy Hoppe, Ali Tote
Committee on Elections:	Cindy Hoppe, Cheryl Bauer Hyde
Committee on Minutes (Synod Secretary):	Darlene Stelmacowich, Judy Parker
Committee on Reference and Counsel:	Jerry Borkowsky, Lyndon Carlson, Dennis Serfas
Complaint Handling Committee:	Pamela Giles, Ali Tote

Granting Seat and Voice

SSC-21-01 MSC that seat and voice be granted to: National Bishop Susan Johnson, Synod Staff, and representatives of our affiliated agencies and organizations in attendance.

Registration and Attendance Report – Plenary #1

29	Lay delegates (including youth)
<u>51</u>	Rostered delegates
80	Voting delegates
<u>3</u>	Visitors
83	Persons attending via zoom

Approval of the Agenda

SSC-21-02 MSC that the agenda for the convention be approved as amended with the addition of Reference & Counsel Report #3 in Plenary #4.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 Convention

SSC-21-03 MSC that the Minutes of the 2018 Convention be approved as distributed.

Constitution / Bylaw Amendments

Secretary Cheryl Bauer Hyde introduced the process leading to the Constitution / Bylaw Amendments.

Reference and Counsel Committee

The process for contacting the committee was provided.

Bishop's Report

Chair Doug called on Bishop Sid for his report, located within the Bulletin of Reports. He provided an oral overview including the priority areas and responded to questions.

Bishop Sid introduced the clergy who have joined the Synod since 2018: Rev. Marja Hordern, Rev. Sarah Urano, Rev. Carlton Larsen, Sister Jane Amiotte, Rev. Jailyn Corbin, Rev. Richard Engel, Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry, Rev. Munye Mtata; and recognized the Youth delegates.

National Bishop

Chair Doug invited Bishop Susan Johnson to provide her report, which included recounting travel to Argentina with Bishop Sid and Kathy Haugen to meet with our Global Mission Companion, the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina (IELU).

Chaplain Sean Bell closed this session at 5:30pm with prayer and grace for the supper break.

Synod in Convention – Plenary #2

Friday, June 4; 7:00pm

Vice Chair Cindy Hoppe called the meeting to order.

Chaplain Sean Bell opened the session, beginning with 'A Life Flows' and introduced as part of Luther LUV (Lifting Up Voices), Rev. Victoria Mwamasika, Zion Weyburn, who provided the prayer.

Registration and Attendance Report – Plenary #2

20	Lay delegates (including youth)
<u>45</u>	Rostered delegates
65	Voting delegates
<u>3</u>	Visitors
68	persons attending via zoom

Officer Reports

Synod Chair Doug Schmirler provided an overview of the written report contained in the Bulletin of Reports, including reference to the strategic planning process.

Synod Secretary Cheryl Bauer Hyde outlined the Secretary's report, Synod Roster Changes, 2018 Convention Motions referred to Council, which are all contained in the Bulletin of Reports. She concluded with a final call for Nominations for the positions of Synod Treasurer, Synod Council, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors (SK Synod representatives).

Synod Treasurer Lyndon Carlson was called upon for the financial report of the Synod and spoke to the written report and audited financial statements provided in the Bulletin of Reports.

Synod Committee Reports – written reports were provided; committee chairs named in brackets.

Finance & Audit – 2021 Budget (Lyndon Carlson)
Compensation Review (Sean Bell)
Funding Allocation Committee (Merv Bender)
Governance Committee (Cheryl Bauer Hyde)
Congregational Constitution Committee (Merv Bender)

Standing Committee Reports – written reports were provided; committee chairs named in brackets.

Candidacy Committee (Iris Kristjansdottir)
Western Examining Committee (Jerry Borkowsky)
Mission in Ministry Committee (Linda Hall)
Lutheran Campus Ministry – Saskatoon (Mark Hedlin)

Reference and Counsel Committee – Report #1 – no report

Chaplain Sean Bell closed the session with a prayer at 7:45pm.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5 – 9:00am

Vice Chair Cindy welcomed back Convention Keynote Speaker – Dr. Karoline Lewis. Dr. Lewis concluded her presentation related to the Road to Emmaus text which today was titled 'But We Had Hoped'; followed by a Question & Answer session.

The convention recessed for a break at 10:15am

Synod in Convention - Plenary #3
Saturday, June 5, 10:45am

Vice Chair Cindy Hoppe called the convention to order.

Chaplain Sean Bell opened the session, beginning with 'A Life Flows' and introduced as part of Luther LUV (Lifting Up Voices), Rev. Jaily Corbin, St. Paul Yorkton, who provided the prayer.

Registration and Attendance Report – Plenary #3

24	Lay delegates (including youth)
<u>57</u>	Rostered delegates
81	Voting delegates
<u>4</u>	Visitors
85	persons attending via zoom

Committee on Nominations

Secretary Cheryl referred to the report provided in the Bulletin of Reports. No further nominations have been received from the floor.

Nominated for:

- Treasurer – Lyndon Carlson
- Synod Council (Lay - 2 to be elected)
 - Lynda Erlandson, Murray Patzwald
- Synod Council (Rostered – 2 to be elected)
 - Victoria Mwamasika, Doug Schmirler
- Lutheran Theological Seminary (1 lay and 1 rostered to be elected)
 - Mary Vetter (lay), Stewart Miller (rostered)

Elections for Synod Treasurer, Synod Council and Lutheran Theological Seminary

SSC-21-04 MSC that nominations for the position of Synod Treasurer cease.
Lyndon Carlson was declared elected by acclamation for a six-year term ending 2027.

SSC-21-05 MSC that nominations for the positions of Synod Council cease.
Lynda Erlandson, Murray Patzwald, Victoria Mwamasika, and Doug Schmirler were declared elected by acclamations for six-year terms ending 2027.

SSC-21-06 MSC that nominations for the positions of SK representatives for the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors cease.
Mary Vetter and Stewart Miller were declared elected by acclamations for six-year terms ending 2027.

Constitutional Amendments (Second Reading)

SSC-21-07 MSC that the following Constitutional amendments presented for Second and Final Reading be approved.

In Article VI Congregations, Section 3, amend by deleting reference to ‘conferences’, delete Section 4, and renumber following Sections.

Section 3. Every congregation of this synod shall choose a delegate or delegates to represent it at conventions of this synod ~~and at meetings of the conference to which the congregation is assigned~~ in accordance with procedures as defined in the bylaws of this synod. An alternate or alternates may act in the stead of the delegate or delegates in the event of their absence.

~~Section 4. The alignment of congregations in parishes shall be subject to approval of Synod Council.~~

In Article X Conferences, delete the Article and renumber following Articles.

~~Section 1. — This synod shall be organized regionally into conferences whose number and boundaries shall be determined by this synod in convention upon the recommendation of Synod Council.~~

~~Section 2. — The role of the conferences shall be defined in the bylaws of this synod.~~

In Article XII Synod Council, delete Section 4.

~~Section 4. — The bishop shall be an ex officio member of Synod Council.~~

Bylaw Amendments

SSC-21-08 MSC that the following Bylaw amendments be approved.

Part VI Election of Delegates to the National Church Convention (Congregation Constitution, Article VI, Sec. 2)

Section 1. The synod secretary shall inform the congregations of the number of voting delegates and the apportionment of lay, youth and rostered ministers to be elected to the national church convention as determined by this church.

Section 2. ~~Delegates will be elected at the synod convention in the year preceding the national convention. Nominations will be called for a minimum of 120 days prior to the synod convention and will close no later than 60 days prior to the synod convention.~~ The procedure for nomination and election of delegates shall be as approved by Synod Council and communicated to the congregations no later than twelve months prior to the national church convention.

Constitutional Amendments (First Reading)

SSC-21-09 MSC that the following Constitutional amendments presented for First Reading be approved.

Article IV Missions, Section 2, amend by replacing ‘ministers’ with ‘rostered pastors and rostered deacons’

Section 2. As the regional expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, in faithfulness to the Lord of the Church, this synod shall facilitate and advance the mission of this church within its territory and in cooperation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.
Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, it shall carry out this mission by shepherding its congregations, synodically recognized ministries, **rostered pastors and rostered deacons** ~~ministers~~, and by engaging in other forms of ministry which proclaim God’s Word and serve to bring reconciliation to the world.

ARTICLE VI Congregations, Sections 6 & 7, amend by replacing ‘pastors’ with ‘rostered leader’

Section 6. When a **rostered leader** ~~pastor~~ resigns, the congregational council shall receive the resignation, report it to the congregation and notify the bishop of this synod.

Section 7. During a pastoral vacancy, an interim **rostered leader** ~~pastor~~ or a vice **rostered leader** ~~pastor~~ may be appointed by the congregational council after consultation with the bishop. The responsibilities of the two roles are defined in the Call Process Manual.

ARTICLE VIII Rostered Pastors, amend by replacing ‘ordained ministers’ with ‘pastor or rostered pastor’

Section 1. This synod shall maintain a roster of ordained **pastors** ~~ministers~~.

Section 2. The standards of admission and continuance on the roster of **pastors** ~~ordained~~

~~ministers~~ shall be defined in the bylaws of this church.

Section 3. A **rostered pastor** ~~ordained minister~~ shall conduct **themselves** in accordance with the bylaws and policies of this synod and of this church.

ARTICLE IX Rostered Deacons, amend by replacing ‘diaconal ministers’ with ‘ordained deacons, deacons or rostered deacon’

Section 1. This synod shall maintain a roster of **ordained deacons** ~~diaconal ministers~~.

Section 2. The standards of admission and continuance on the roster of **deacons** ~~diaconal ministers~~ of this church shall be defined in the bylaws of this church.

Section 3. A **rostered deacon** ~~ordained minister~~ shall conduct **themselves** in accordance with the bylaws and policies of this synod and of this church.

ARTICLE XII Officers, Section 1, amend by replacing ‘ordained ministers’ with ‘pastors’

Section 1. This synod shall be served by a bishop who shall be its chief pastor and chief executive officer. The other officers shall be a chairperson and a vice-chairperson who shall be elected from among the members of synod council and a secretary and a treasurer who shall be elected according to procedures set out in the bylaws of this synod. The bishop shall be on the roster of **pastors** ~~ordained ministers~~ of this church. At least two of the other officers shall be lay members of a congregation or synodically recognized ministry of this synod. All officers shall serve as officers of the synod council.

Ministry Partner Reports

Lutheran Theological Seminary: in addition to the written report, a video presentation was viewed. President Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Harrison provided comments and thanks and responded to questions.

Luther College – Regina: in addition to the written report, a video presentation was viewed. President Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry provided comments and thanks and responded to questions.

Kinasao Lutheran Bible Camp: a written report was provided.

Prairie Centre for Ecumenism: a written report was provided.

LuMinHos (Lutheran Ministries in Hospitals of Saskatoon): a written report was provided.

Indigenous Christian Fellowship (ICF): in addition to the written report, a video presentation was viewed.

Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (LCBI): a written report was provided.

Reference and Counsel Committee - Report #2 – no report

Chaplain Sean Bell concluded this session with a prayer and table grace.

The convention recessed for lunch at 11:42 am.

Plenary #4

Saturday, July 5, 1:00pm.

Chair Doug called the convention to order.

Registration and Attendance Report – Plenary #4

24	Lay delegates (including youth)
<u>57</u>	Rostered delegates
81	Voting delegates
<u>3</u>	Visitors
84	persons attending via zoom

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)

Executive Director Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter spoke in addition to a written report, presentation of the CLWR 75th Anniversary video, and responded to questions.

Chaplain Sean Bell introduced as part of Luther LUV (Lifting Up Voices), Rev. Emmanuel Aristide, St. John's Shellbrook and Zion Canwood, who provided the prayer.

The convention recessed for the Corporation Meetings at 1:25 pm.

LutherCare Communities: Chair Doug called the meeting to order at 1:25pm.

MSC that the agenda be approved as amended with the removal of Nomination and Election of board members (items 7 and 8).

MSC that the minutes of the previous corporation meeting be approved.

Executive Report

Chief Executive Officer Gabriel Lafond spoke to the written report and materials.

MSC that the report be adopted.

Bylaw Amendments

MS that the following amendment be made to Bylaw 4.

Current: Members and Associate Members

4.1. A Member of LutherCare Communities is a voting member of a congregation that is in good standing with the Church*.

4.2. An Associate Member of LutherCare Communities is:

4.2.1. a voting member or adherent of a Lutheran congregation other than one that is part of the Church; or

4.2.2. a voting member or adherent of any Christian denomination if that voting member or adherent is committed to the Mission Statement of LutherCare Communities.

* "Church" means the Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Proposed: Members and Associate Members

4.1. A Member of LutherCare Communities is a voting member of a congregation that is in good standing with the Church* or is a voting member of congregation that is in full communion with the Church (e.g., the Anglican Church of Canada)."

4.2. An Associate Member of LutherCare Communities is a person of another Christian denomination or world religion if that person is committed to the Vision and Mission of LutherCare Communities.

* "Church" means the Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

MSC that the proposed bylaw amendment to allow non-Christians to be Associate Members of LutherCare Communities, and to serve on the Board, be postponed until the 2024 Synod Convention to allow more time for consultation and dialogue with Saskatchewan Synod congregations,

Resolution of ratification:

MSC that any and all actions of the triennial convention of the Saskatchewan Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada which pertains to the Corporation of LutherCare Communities are hereby ratified.

The Corporation meeting was declared adjourned at 2:10 pm.

St. Paul Lutheran Home, Melville: Chair Doug called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

MSC that the agenda be approved as amended with the removal of Nomination and Election of board members (items 7 and 8).

MSC that the minutes of the previous corporation meeting be approved.

Executive Report

Administrator Sheri Honeywich provided a written report. Bishop's representative Doug Schmirler spoke to the report.

MSC that the report be adopted.

Resolution of ratification:

MSC that any and all actions of the biennial convention of the Saskatchewan Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada which pertains to the Corporation of St. Paul Lutheran Home, Melville are hereby ratified.

The Corporation meeting was declared adjourned at 2:15 pm.

The Convention was called to order at 2:15 pm.

Reference and Counsel Committee – Report #3

Committee of Reference & Counsel recommends that this resolution be considered by the assembly.

SCC-21-10 Moved by the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

That this Convention offer thanks to:

Host & Opening Service– Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Saskatoon;

Rev. Munye Mtata and the Good Shepherd worship assistants

Volunteers – set-up, and the many tasks required to create this experience

Virtual Meeting Arrangements – Barndog Productions Inc.

Convention Co-ordinator Karen Linsley - prior to moving to virtual convention format

Worship Coordinators – Rev. Munye Mtata as well as Worship Leaders and Musicians

Convention Committee members
IT Support - Marty Willick
Keynote Speaker Karoline Lewis
Convention Chaplain – Rev. Sean Bell
Executive Assistant / Convention Manager – Judy Parker
Office Manager / Registrar – Anna-Marie Skogsrud
Finance Manager – Monica Johnson
Website & Bulletin of Reports – Kathy Haugen
Bishop Sid Haugen & Synod Council – Officers Rev. Doug Schmirler, Cindy Hoppe
Cheryl Bauer-Hyde, Lyndon Carlson; and all Synod Council members
Convention Committees – Registration & Attendance, Nominations, Elections, Minutes,
Reference & Counsel
Bishop Susan Johnson and honoured guests
Sponsor – Canadian Lutheran World Relief
All delegates – youth, lay, rostered

The Convention was adjourned at 2:22 pm.

Closing

Chaplain Sean lead singing of ‘A Life Flows’ and invited all to come together as one breath and to contribute what each of us will carry forward out of this convention or what we noticed throughout the convention. He closed with prayer.

Bishop Sid read the journey of the Road to Emmaus, and the Order for Closing of Convention. The departing prayer: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction: So, go in peace, remember God, keep the faith, and wherever you live and work, rest and play, be the church of Christ. Go in peace, serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.
