



"Some Mohr Jottings"

by Bishop Greg Mohr

September 2016

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CLAY 2016

I write this while I am attending the 2016 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering in Charlottetown, PEI. What an absolutely exciting time this is. 900 young people and leaders from all across Canada, gathered together for worship, service, learning, and a lot of fun. There are ministry projects, servant events, bible studies, music and drama, tons of activities, an abundance of conversations, and limited sleep. It is a blessing to be here.

I continue to be amazed at the dedication and commitment that youth leaders and pastors display in accompanying their youth to this biennial event. They are a gift--not only to the youth but to all of us in the church. Let us give thanks for their ministry among us.

CONSTITUTION: Changes to the BC Provincial Societies Act

The BC government has instituted a major review of the Societies Act. Beginning November 2016, congregations have two years by which they must "transition" to the new Societies Act. A Constitution review team for the synod has begun a review of the Model Constitution and Bylaws for Congregations and will have a report ready this fall. This report will outline the two-step process each congregation must take to "transition" to the new Act. The first step will be to "transition." The second step will be to make amendments.

The review team also will be presenting a revised Model Constitution and Bylaws to Synod Council for approval, ensuring that the Model incorporates the changes required by the new Act. In addition, the review team will be presenting to Synod Council recommended changes to the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws.

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FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS:

Lower Mainland (Greater Vancouver and Lower Fraser Valley)
 Saturday, Sept 17
 Location: Mt. Olive, Surrey

Southern Interior
 Friday-Saturday, Sept 23-24
 Location: Faith, Kelowna

Vancouver Island
 Friday-Saturday, Sept 30 - Oct 1
 Location: Shepherd of the Valley, Comox

Note: The Northern Region (Peace River and Northwest) met May 27-28 in Dawson Creek

At this year's Regional gatherings, we will begin to explore the practical implications as to how Ministry Areas might take shape among us. Rev. Kathy Martin (Assistant to the Bishop for Missional Renewal) will facilitate our conversations as we consider how we might best support and encourage one another as we join in God's mission in our neighbourhoods. There also will be some business to conduct and time for conversation and fellowship.

Each congregation is invited to bring a team of 4 to 6 people to the regional meeting, along with their pastor.

SYNOD CONVENTION 2016

Our synod gathered together for its biennial convention a few short months ago. Once again, I want to say thank you to Good Shepherd Lutheran, Coquitlam, for hosting this year's convention -- to Pastor Eric Krushel and Dawn Nieman (Local Arrangements Chair), to the chairpersons of all the local committees, and to all the volunteers from Good Shepherd and other Lutheran churches. We appreciate all the hard work and planning that went into making this a successful convention. I also want to say thank you once again to Joanne Solomonson (convention manager) and Angela Chorney (assistant convention manager).

This year's Synod Convention tried something new. We organized a Learning Day as part of the Convention. Dr. Craig van Gelder unpacked some church history for us, and then started us on a journey of identifying and articulating the adaptive challenges that are facing us.

DELEGATES SELECTED FOR 2017 ELCIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

At the Synod Convention, 17 delegates were elected to represent our Synod at the 2017 ELCIC National Convention. Those elected are as follows:

Lower Mainland, Rostered	Rev. Carolina Glauster Rev. Jennifer Marlor Rev. Kathy Martin
Lower Mainland, Lay	Dick Aporta Peter Reinhardt Paul Werner
North, Rostered	Rev. Jim Whaley
North, Lay	Sharon Bell Lana Wilfur

Southern Interior, Rostered	Rev. David Hunter Rev. Katrina Vigen
Southern Interior, Lay	Jan Schulz Norman Thompson
Vancouver Island, Rostered	Rev. Ed Chell
Vancouver Island, Lay	Angela Chorney Gerry Saleski
Youth	Sive Johnson

In case any of these delegates are not able to attend next year's National Convention, alternates will be selected from those whose names appeared on the ballot.

A CALL TO PRAYER

One of the motions passed by our Synod Convention encourages congregations and leader "to pray for a peaceful and just resolution to the conflict surrounding the building of the Site C dam." A sample prayer for use in your congregations and homes is as follows:

"God of all Creation, we pray for our province in this time of need. May everyone involved in the Site C issue choose the path of non-violence and conciliation. May your wisdom and compassion guide the decision makers and may the needs of the First Nation communities be honoured. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

TRANSITIONS AND CALL PROCESSES:

Port Alberni, Trinity (joint Lutheran-Anglican congregation): Call process continues.

Richmond, Our Saviour: Rev. Tim Le Drew retired at the end of June 2016; congregation has issued a Letter of Call; decision pending as of this writing.

Sechelt, Living Faith: Rev. Ian Nestegaard Paul has announced his retirement for September 2016; I met with congregational council to discuss interim ministry and up-coming call process.

Surrey, Christ the King; second pastor: Call process continues; new facility will be completed in fall of 2016 and congregational eagerly anticipates its move from its current rental location to the new building.

Surrey, Emmanuel: A special congregational meeting was held on Sunday, July 17, and a decision was made to close the congregation. Please pray for the people of Emmanuel Lutheran and for Pastor Henry Guo during this difficult time.

Vancouver, Redeemer: Rev. John Gram has announced his retirement for September 2016; I have met with the congregational council to discuss interim ministry and the call process.

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE SUMMER-FALL 2016

- Aug 16-21 CLAY (Canadian Lutheran-Anglican Youth gathering), Charlottetown PEI
22 - Holidays (through Sept 5)
- Sept 7-10 Conference of Bishops Meeting; National Church Council meeting
12 Missional renewal meeting
14 Reformation Commemoration task force meeting
17 Lower Mainland Regional meeting (Lower Fraser Valley and Greater Van);
at Mt. Olive, Surrey
18-19 Worship: Ascension, Nelson
23-24 Southern Interior Regional meeting; Faith, Kelowna
25 Worship: Hills of Peace, Kamloops
27 Officers' meeting
30-1 Vancouver Island Regional meeting; Shepherd of the Valley, Comox
- Oct 2 Worship: Shepherd of the Valley, Comox
11-14 First Call Program; Saskatoon, SK
15 Missional renewal
20-22 Synod Council meeting
26 Presentation at Seniors' group; Shepherd of the Valley, Langley
28 Meeting: Committee for Theological Education and Leadership
29-30 Reformation commemoration events; Victoria
30 Worship: Church of the Cross, Victoria
30 Synod Convention planning review
- Nov 1-2 Anglican Provincial Consultation
3-5 Lutheran Theological Seminary, Board of Governors' meeting