



Report to the 2013 ELCIC National Convention

As executive director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), it is my pleasure to present this brief report to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) in convention, highlighting some of what has been accomplished over the past two fiscal years.

CLWR mission and work continues to be focused on four areas: international community development, shipments of donated commodities, humanitarian assistance and refugee resettlement.

As I write this report, we have entered the final year of a five-year agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The agreement acts as a blueprint for our ongoing community development work in five countries: Bolivia and Peru in Latin America, Mozambique and Zambia in Africa, and India. Over this five-year period, CLWR and partners such as The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service and Lutheran World Service India Trust have implemented programs that have helped families to feed themselves, provided healthier living conditions, raised awareness of HIV and AIDS, enhanced education and training, and improved gender relations. By the end of the agreement, just over \$12 million will have been expended.

During the past two years, CLWR has also continued to support the work of LWF Jerusalem by providing financial assistance to Augusta Victoria Hospital and the Beit Hanina and Ramallah campuses of the LWF Vocational Training Centre. Additional support has also been channelled to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land to assist with the operation of its school system. In South America, CLWR continues to work with Lutheran church partners advocating for a just resolution to the burden of illegitimate debt.

The “We Care” donated commodities program continues to benefit from the enthusiastic support of congregations all across the country. Since May 2011, eight shipments have left Canada destined for places such as Haiti, Mauritania, Tanzania, South Africa, Jerusalem, and Zambia. These shipments included almost 34,000 quilts and blankets and over 20,000 We Care kits, and had an estimated value in excess of \$689,000. Of special note was the shipment to South Africa. This project received special promotion through efforts of the Saskatchewan Children’s Choir during the lead up to its tour of South Africa in the summer of 2011. During that tour, members of the choir were able to personally deliver We Care kits to school children. Another noteworthy development was the launch of a Kitchener-Waterloo (KW) Baling Day event. Modelled after the long-running baling-day event held in the lower mainland of British Columbia, the KW event brought together volunteers from local congregations who baled quilts and kits and loaded them into a 20-foot container destined for Mauritania.

Disasters, whether the result of natural or human causes, confront us on what is seemingly, a daily basis. Between May 2010 and April 2012, CLWR supporters responded generously to appeals for victims of flooding in Pakistan and Colombia, the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and the severe drought conditions in the Horn of Africa. In East Africa, CLWR worked with Canadian Foodgrains Bank to distribute 1,900 metric tonnes of food aid that sustained 7,600 children and adults in the Goro region of Ethiopia, while another 10,000 benefited from food-for-work programming. The latter entailed efforts to mitigate the effects of future drought through water and soil conservation projects. Closer to home, CLWR launched appeals to aid those affected by wildfires in Slave Lake, AB and flooding in southeast Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba, and Thunder Bay.

This year marks CLWR's 32nd year of participation in Canada's Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program (PSRP) as a sponsorship agreement holder. During the last two fiscal years, CLWR has helped congregations and groups in submitting refugee applications for 368 persons and preparing for the arrival of 129 newcomers to Canada. Since 1979, CLWR has assisted Lutheran sponsorship groups across the country in bringing close to 10,000 refugees to Canada. Despite these efforts, the need for refugee sponsorship initiatives remains critical. Some 43 million persons worldwide remain forcibly displaced from their home countries.

In March 2012, our board of directors adopted a Youth and Young Adult Strategy, and later that summer, we welcomed Rev. Tyler Gingrich as our new staff member responsible for implementing the strategy. Several new youth and young adult initiatives have been launched, including a May 2013 Young Adult Global Encounter trip that saw 20 persons get a hands-on introduction to several CLWR projects in the Andean region of Peru.

I want to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation for the growing financial commitment of ELCIC members to the work of CLWR, as well as for the valued support and guidance provided by ELCIC members serving on the CLWR board of directors. Currently giving of their time and talents are Mr. Marcus Busch (board president), Rev. Dr. Faith E. Rohrbough (secretary), Mr. Gene Blishen (treasurer), Rev. Dr. Mark Harris, Ms. Lisa Janke and Mr. David Schulze.

Sincere gratitude is also extended to National Bishop Susan Johnson for her collegiality and that of her colleagues at the ELCIC National Office.

May God continue to bless the work of CLWR, its staff and supporters, and the people around the globe whom we serve together.

Respectfully submitted



Robert Granke
Executive Director
Canadian Lutheran World Relief

LUTHERAN COUNCIL IN CANADA

Report to the 2013 ELCIC National Convention

Friends in Christ Jesus,

The Lutheran Council in Canada (LCIC) is a cooperative agency relating to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC). The two member churches appoint representatives to the LCIC on the basis of their own criteria. The council focuses its work on a fairly limited scope of issues, which include the following:

- Lutheran chaplaincy to the Canadian Forces;
- Lutheran chaplaincy under the Correctional Service of Canada; and
- Scouts Canada.

The Rev. Hans J. W. Borch (Elmira, ON—ELCIC) has served as the LCIC's representative on the Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy since late 2008. The Rev. Dr. Garry Dombrosky (Edmonton, AB—LCC) represents the council to the Interfaith Committee for Chaplaincy in the Correctional Service of Canada. Finally, The Rev. Michael Diegel (Rosthern, SK—ELCIC) represents us with Scouts Canada.

At its most recent annual meeting in October, 2012, the council learned that *FaithLife Financial* had permitted LCIC member churches to abandon earlier plans for publication of an electronic, pan-Lutheran directory in favour of using the funds for priority communication projects in each church. Through Rev. Dr. Garry Dombrosky the council is also monitoring changes being proposed by the government that would affect longtime chaplaincy arrangements in federal prisons. National Bishop Susan Johnson committed to keeping the council informed of plans by The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to celebrate the 500 anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, while LCC reported on its ongoing discussions with the newly-formed North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and representatives of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB).

The council herewith extends its public congratulations to National Bishop Susan Johnson on the decision of Huron College to award her the honorary degree doctor of divinity in 2012.

Since the national offices of both Lutheran church bodies are in Winnipeg, the council for many years has generally chosen members from that area to save on meeting costs. ELCIC representatives to the council currently include your National Bishop, Susan C. Johnson; The Rev. Dr. Leon C. Gilbertson; and The Rev. André Lavergne, assistant to the bishop, ecumenical and interfaith. Representing LCC are President Robert Bugbee; Mr. Dwayne Cleave, the church's national treasurer; and The Rev. Cameron Schnarr, a Winnipeg-area parish pastor.

Despite profound differences in doctrine and practice, the member churches are persuaded that the Lutheran Council in Canada is able to make a helpful contribution within the areas of its mandate. I take this opportunity to thank the ELCIC for its continued commitment to the council, and to express sincere appreciation for the cooperative spirit of your representatives in its work.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee, President
Lutheran Council in Canada

SUOMI-CONFERENCE CANADA

Report to the 2013 ELCIC National Convention

Purpose

- Function as a special interest conference for those ELCIC congregations, that have Finnish speaking members.
- Function as a link between Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (ELCF), congregations and their pastors.
- Organize annual celebration and general meeting of Suomi-Conference.
- Publish spiritual material in the Finnish language (*Faith of our Fathers* periodical).
- Choose annually a recipient of the lay study stipend financed by the ELCF.
- Organize biennially continuing education for pastors serving in Suomi-Conference member congregations.
- Organize and finance, together with the congregation, Finnish language worship services in congregations that still have a Finnish speaking minority although the congregation has transformed over to English language ministry.

Members

Suomi-Conference member congregations in 2012:
Emmaus Lutheran Church, Burnaby, BC
Hilldale Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, ON
Zion Lutheran Church, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper Cliff, ON
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Sudbury, ON
St. John's Lutheran Church, South Porcupine, ON
Kirkland Lake Finnish Lutheran Church, Kirkland Lake, ON
Agricola Finnish Lutheran Church, Toronto
St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Montreal

Financing

Financing of Suomi-Conference activities comes mostly (ca. 90%) from the ELCF.

Board

The annual meeting elects the Suomi-Conference board. The board consists of five members: president (Pastor Olavi Hepomaki, Cambridge, ON); vice-president (Pastor Jari Lahtinen, Thunder Bay, ON); secretary (Paula Kankaanpaa, Sudbury, ON); treasurer (Hilkka Luus, Toronto); and two board members (Pirkko Monkare-Behamdouni, Montreal and Tuula Bernard, South Porcupine, ON).

Annual Report of Suomi-Conference for the year 2012

Continuing Education

A continuing education week was organized in February 2012 at Mount Carmel, Niagara Falls, ON. Our guest speaker for the week was professor Paavo Kettunen from the University

of Eastern Finland, department of practical theology. With his guidance pastors studied the concept of religious shame, its characteristics and distinctiveness from guilt. Professor Kettunen also visited Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (WLS), Waterloo, ON and had a lecture “Religious Shame and Assistance” there. Its material can be found at http://www.wlu.ca/documents/50120/Ketteun_Lecture_Handouts.pdf.

This kind of co-operation with the seminary brought mutual benefits. The conference got some visibility amongst the students, some of whom may be called to serve a Finnish-speaking congregation someday. We have made preliminary agreement with the WLS to continue this exchange.

Suomi-Conference celebration 2012 in Toronto

The conference celebration took place 2012 in Toronto, Agricola Church. The theme of the celebration was “I am the vine, you are the branches.” The three day program included a yoga, choir and kantele(Finnish Zither) workshop, guided Toronto tour, Jazz vesper, an evening for music celebration, CLWR mission presentation, Worships, and lots of eating. Honoured guests were ELCF pastor and deputy secretary of the office of the ministry for the Finns abroad Susanna Merikanto-Timonen and assistant to the Eastern Synod bishop, Pastor Riitta Hepomaki.

Publishing

Eleven issues of *Isien Usko (Faith of Our Fathers)* were published in 2012. July and August were a double issue. The distribution of the paper is 840 issues, most subscribers being in Canada, with some also in USA and Finland.

The officers of the paper are: editor-in-chief, Olavi Hepomaki; editor, Jari Lahtinen; treasurer, Sinikka Ylinen. Suomi-Conference board members (see Board p.J-4) are functioning as an editorial board for the paper.

ELCF Award

Since there were no lay applicants for the study award, Pastor Olavi Hepomaki applied and received the award to study narrative journalism in Orivesi, Finland.

Finnish language Worship services

At the moment there are two congregations where people have expressed a need to hear the Word of God in their mother tongue—St. John’s in South Porcupine, ON and Kirkland Lake, ON, Finnish Lutheran. During 2012 eight Finnish language services were held in both of these congregations. This pilot project that was started over two years ago has become a part of Suomi-Conference’s mission and there are signs that it will grow and become an essential way to serve the Finnish population, as more and more of the congregations go through a transformation to English language ministry.

Rev. Olavi Hepomaki,
President, Suomi-Conference Canada
In Cambridge, Ontario
March 07, 2013

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE IN NORTH AMERICA Deutsche Evangelische Lutherischen Gemeinden in Nordamerika (DELKINA)

Report to the 2013 ELCIC National Convention

Who we are

We are the special interest conference for ministry among people of German language and/or heritage in North America. We adhere to the *Lutheran Confessions*, but we are open to cooperation with other church organizations. Reaching out to people whose primary language is not English (i.e. German), we see ourselves as an integral part of the multicultural mission and outreach of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). As an official interest conference, we work with and are supported by the two major Lutheran church bodies in North America, namely ELCIC, ELCA, and by the Evangelical Church in Germany (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland or EKD). Our financial support comes largely from the memberships and donations of member congregations and individual members. Membership is open to all who share our mission. An important part of the German Interest Conference (DELKINA) is its biennial general assembly, which serves to foster fellowship and communication among its members, and to plan for the future. Between the biennial meetings, an elected board does DELKINA's work.

Our mission

We support and promote the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the German language throughout North America.

Our history—Where does DELKINA come from?

The “German Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Neighbouring States” is mentioned for the first time in the year 1781. Since that time, some kind of organization or association of German Lutheran congregations has continually existed. One of the later organized efforts to maintain ministry in Word and Sacrament in the German language was made in 1919 in Philadelphia and with the assembly of the General German Conference in Buffalo, NY, 1921.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Conference in North America (DELKINA) was initiated in 1986.

Our congregations

Our congregations (27 congregations in Canada plus several individual members) are the face and the backbone of the DELKINA. They reflect the diversity of German-speaking Lutherans in North America. There are historic immigrant congregations with long and impressive histories like Old Zion in Philadelphia (1742), Zion Lutheran Church in Baltimore (1755) or Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmonton (1901).

There are also relatively recent German congregations with significant numbers of expatriates, temporary residents, and business people, for example in Atlanta, Washington, Miami, San Diego, and Toronto.

Most of the congregations participating in the DELKINA are member congregations of one of the larger Lutheran church bodies in Canada or the United States. They are bilingual, offering worship services both in English and in German. Some are defined as German speaking worshipping communities without a formal congregational structure.

Our ministry—What we do

- We foster communication among German speaking congregations or congregational groups, in particular through the biennial assemblies.
- We contact and visit German speaking congregations or congregational groups to support in all questions regarding German ministry.
- We use our monthly periodical *Kirchliches Monatsblatt (Church Monthly)* and other ways of communication to reach out and to care for people in the German language.
- We network throughout North America and across the Atlantic, wherever the need for German speaking ministry can be identified. We maintain our own website: www.delkina.org.
- As a recognized Special Interest Conference in the largest Lutheran church bodies in Canada and the USA, we represent the concerns of those who desire or offer worship and pastoral care in German.
- We support individuals, congregational groups and congregations in setting up and maintaining German ministry.
- We assist congregations in the search for German-speaking pastors and other personnel. Our special relationship to the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and its member churches enables us to promote the exchange of communication and human resources with their North American partners.

Some statistics

In 2012–13 we visited 12 German or bilingual congregations in both Canada and the United states. Ten interviews or pre-interview talks were offered, 28 contacts over the phone, through email or in person were held with officials from the ELCIC and the ELCA and 10 counselling sessions were offered to individuals or congregations.

We held 8 board meetings via Skype and two in person in Edmonton and Toronto.

Our next general assembly

Our next general assembly will take place September 2013 at Trinity Lutheran Church and St. John's Lutheran Church in Edmonton. One of the goals of the board of the DELKINA is to be sensitive to the context of the local congregation and to incorporate the context into the theme of the conference. Edmonton is the primary supply and service hub for Canada's oilsands. Representatives of the two hosting congregations raised deep concerns regarding the negative

impacts that the oilsands have on environment and public health. On the other hand, the economic growth in Alberta creates a high employment rate and provides a safety net of jobs for (foreign) workers, from such countries as Germany. At the general assembly we will be thinking about how to provide a “church-home” for them in an unknown country and at the same time we will be considering the role of (our) religious voice in public.

Thank you for reading!

Respectfully submitted

President Rev. Frank Kopania (Miami)

Vice President Rev. Ingrid Cramer-Doerschel (Edmonton)