

**Highlights from CALC's 2009 General Convention**  
**Grace Lutheran, Kelowna, BC**  
**Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

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.*

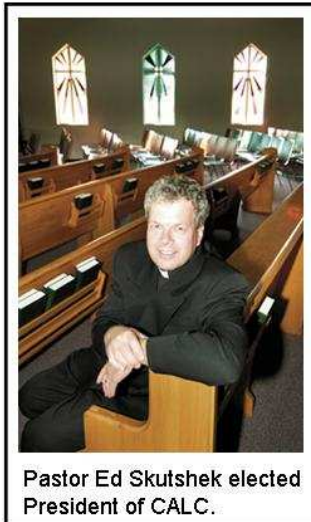
The Holistic Pathway for pastoral ministry in CALC was first introduced at the 2008 General Convention in Cochrane where the delegates passed a motion asking that work continue on the development of the Holistic Pathway model. With the work on the development of the Holistic Pathway essentially coming 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.



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.