

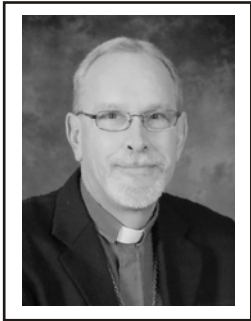


Synod of Alberta and the Territories

VISION STATEMENT

In mission with others, the congregations, rostered leaders and ministries of The Synod of Alberta and the Territories work together in the Spirit of Christ to bring the reconciling love of Jesus Christ to our homes and communities.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Synod Family,

We are pleased to offer you this overview of the Synod in action in 2008. One of the privileges of being Bishop is to have the opportunity to be with the various congregations and clergy of the Synod as they worship and meet. Sometimes I am there to make an official Sunday morning worship visit; sometimes I am there to meet with a council or a committee; sometimes I am there to work through a difficult issue. But the more people I meet, the

more I am convinced that the Spirit is alive and well, “in-spiring” (breathing into) the people of God in each community of faith and service on our territory. We are richly blessed with all the resources we need to do the mission and ministry entrusted to us by our Lord Jesus. Every visit I make confirms this in my heart and mind.

This Annual Report is provided to show how your benevolence dollars have been spent this past year and what we do together as a Synod. The Synod Council and I as Bishop are committed to be accountable to you in a transparent way and to keep you well informed. For your part, we ask for your prayers and your financial support so we can not only continue but enlarge the mission and ministry accomplished in this Synod.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel as we walk together and work together in the Spirit of Christ!

Blessings!

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop

2008 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Meeting under the theme, “LOL - In Mission for Others”, 307 delegates, visitors and guests worshiped, prayed, debated, elected, dined and celebrated life together as a synodical expression of the Church.
- Second reading of a constitutional amendment now grants the same rights and privileges to our full communion partners serving our congregations, as the equivalent order of ministry enjoys in this Church.
- Synodical bylaws were amended to encourage congregations to send younger delegates to convention.
- A task force was appointed to address clergy family stress and breakdown.
- A strategy was engaged to enable members to more seriously and effectively evangelize.
- The Task Force on Marriage, Family and Human Sexuality reported that they were unable to continue making progress towards a definitive statement. The Bishop and assembly thanked them for their hard work.

2008 SYNOD HIGHLIGHTS

- With Global Hunger & Development funding, we were able to support inner city homeless projects and raise awareness about poverty issues.
- Five seminarians in the ordained track, graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary.
- Processional torches were designed and created for use at synod events.
- A manual filled with ideas and resources to assist with congregational stewardship efforts, was developed and distributed upon request.
- Bulletin inserts on stewardship and evangelism continued to be provided through the mailings and on the website.
- Two regional church council workshops under the theme “Hope for the Small Church” provided sessions useful to congregational leaders.
- Three day-long courses for lay pastoral assistants served to equip students for service in their local parish.
- New resources were continually added to the synod’s website - www.albertasynod.ca
- The social ministry facilitator met with 30 congregations in the synod, with information about social issues and to strengthen the role of justice ministry.
- Abundant Life Chinese Lutheran congregation, Calgary held their first worship service in Citadel Park School.
- The Joyce Berg Memorial Fund raised approximately \$1700 for projects in the Colombian school that she once served as missionary.
- Members of the Synod raised approximately \$4900 for the school in Sogomosa, Colombia. Funds were matched by an anonymous donor.
- Over and above benevolence, congregations together designated gifts of \$522,000 to various ministries inside and outside of Canada.
- A Statement on Marriage, Family and Sexuality in the Alberta context was circulated for discussion, reflection and response.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 2007, 2006, 2005

	2008 Actual <i>Unaudited</i>	2007 Actual <i>Audited</i>	2006 Actual <i>Audited</i>	2005 Actual <i>Audited</i>
Revenue				
Benevolence	973,635	1,015,858	995,188	998,422
Other	<u>36,527</u>	<u>18,598</u>	<u>30,757</u>	<u>20,015</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$1,010,162</u>	<u>\$1,034,456</u>	<u>\$1,025,945</u>	<u>\$1,018,437</u>
Expenditures				
National Church Support	272,618	292,000	290,000	291,740
Seminary Support	116,000	115,000	115,000	115,000
Program Committees	214,472	205,013	235,125	229,305
Synod Support	<u>399,942</u>	<u>380,648</u>	<u>427,265</u>	<u>371,743</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$1,003,032</u>	<u>\$922,661</u>	<u>\$1,067,390</u>	<u>\$1,007,788</u>
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ 7,130</u>	<u>\$ 41,795</u>	<u>(\$ 41,445)</u>	<u>\$ 10,649</u>

Complete audited financial statements are available from the Synod Office upon request after April 30.

EXPLANATION OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE ITEMS

REVENUE

Benevolence consists of gifts received primarily from congregations for the ministry of the Synod and National Church. It excludes gifts designated for special causes or appeals. Benevolence comprises over 90% of the Synod's revenue in any year.

Other revenue consists of gifts in response to special causes or appeals, interest on deposits and other resources.

EXPENDITURES

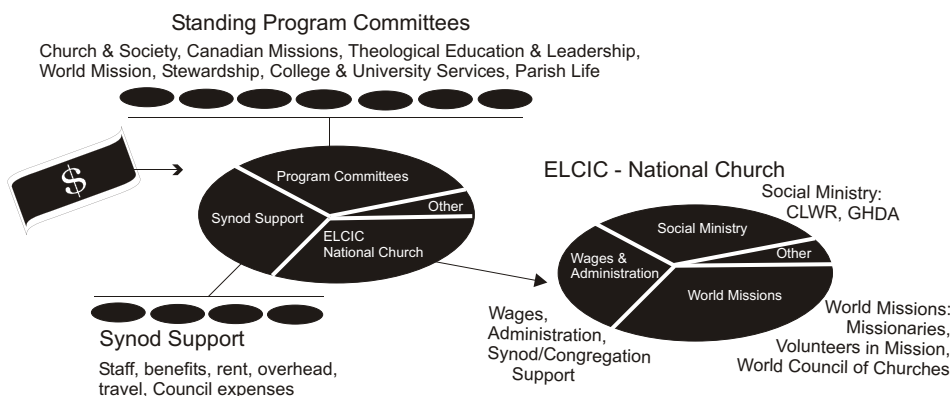
National church support is used to fund various national initiatives of the ELCIC through the national office in Winnipeg.

Program committee expenditures fund costs in the various areas of Worship, Witness, Learning, Service and Support.

Synod support includes salaries and benefits for the bishop, two full-time and two part-time support staff, office rent and overhead costs, insurance, bishop and staff travel, communications and expenses of Synod Council.

Other expenditures include acquisition of capital assets, synod convention net costs, costs for pastoral counseling and assistance and unbudgeted expenditures.

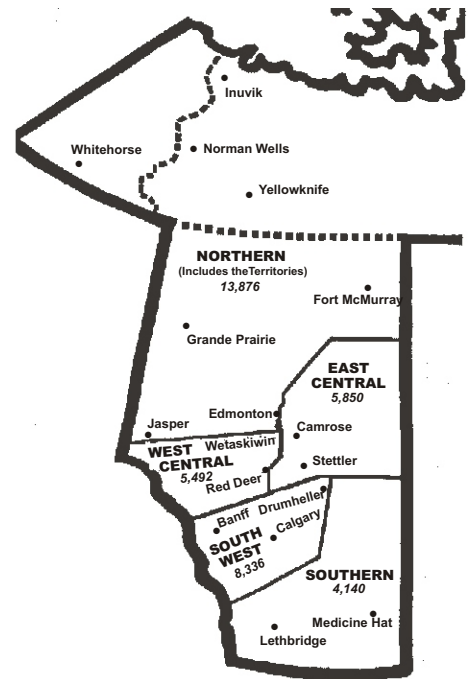
WHERE DOES A BENEVOLENCE DOLLAR GO?



The work carried out by the Synod in support of its congregations and their leaders is funded by the gifts contributed by its congregations - their "benevolence". Thank you to all those congregations and members who supported the wider ministry of the Church with their gifts to the Synod throughout 2008.

Benevolence giving in 2008 declined by 5% from 2007 to \$973,635. Through expenditure control we were able to achieve a small surplus for the year. Based on actual benevolence received for 2008, budget reductions are anticipated in 2009. In uncertain financial times we will strive to carry on the ministry we are called to do with the resources provided to us. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us at 1-866-430-2636 or e-mail any of the office staff. Check out the synod's website (www.albertasynod.ca) for more information.

ABT CONFERENCE MAP



PEOPLE WHO SERVE

Synod Council:

Rev. Tim Pospeluzny, Edmonton
 Stephen Wildfang, Edmonton
 Brenda Visser, Barrhead,
 Jennifer Laurendeau, Calgary
 Rev. Julianne Barlow, Calgary
 Marilyn Murray, Round Hill
 Rev. Paul McCormick, Provost,
 Gail Berg, Eckville
 Rev. Peter Van Katwyk, Innisfail
 Norman Olson, Edmonton
 Rev. Bill Bulger, Hinton
 Wayne Street, Coaldale
 Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson,
 Medicine Hat
 Donna Christensen, ELW
 President

Theological Education and Leadership

Rev. Karl Johnson, Edmonton
 Rosealine Begalke, Grande
 Prairie
 Carol Jaspersen, Tilley
 Deaconess Julie Hink,
 Edmonton
 Rev. Doug Heine, Hinton
 Rev. Arnold Alksne, Calgary
 Rev. Stewart Miller, Calgary
 Marcia Vikse, Donald
 Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen
 (Seminary representative)

Examining Committee

Judy Gusdal, Wetaskiwin
 Rev. Kevin Langager, Tofield
 Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen,
 Saskatoon
 Rev. Dawn Nelson, Strathmore
 Karen Triomphe, Edmonton

Review of Congregational Constitutions

Don Nielsen, Red Deer
 Brenda Visser, Barrhead
 Mark Hambridge, Calgary
 Jonathan Mohr, Camrose

Worship and Arts

Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer,
 Edmonton
 Colleen McGinnis, Wetaskiwin
 Carolyn Speakman, Lethbridge
 Tova Olson, Camrose
 Rev. David Mueller, Calgary

Leadership Development

Ron Bennett, Calgary
 Eleanore Ness, Hughenden
 Janet Charlton, Edmonton

Study conference

Rev. Faith Brace, Cochrane
 Cathy Kochendorfer, Edmonton
 Rev. Rachel Dart, Edmonton
 Rev. David Holmes, Rimbey

Partners in Faith

Rev. James Hendricksen,
 Edmonton
 Alan Welde, Hay Lakes
 Rev. Jane Mitchell, Red Deer

Canadian Missions

Gail Kaiser, Wetaskiwin
 Rev. Jim Bredeson, Stony Plain
 Rev. Barrett Scheske, Medicine
 Hat
 Rev. Don Hall, Okotoks

Outdoor Ministry

Rev. David Larsen, Bentley
 Mark Kuntz, Sherwood Park
 David Bragg, Mulhurst
 Lauren Wray, Calgary
 Doug Rawling, Claresholm

World Mission

Ray Blacklock, Camrose
 Lorna and Norman Jacobsen,
 Arrowwood
 Holly Johnson, Scandia

Companion Synod

Sub-Committee:
 Rev. Dennis Aicken, Calgary
 Marjory Ariza, St. Albert
 Mark Hambridge, Calgary
 Doug and Diane Kilbourn,
 Cochrane
 Rick and Lesley Quast, Calgary

Campus Ministry

Wendy Kalkan, Lethbridge
 Rev. John Lentz, Olds
 Janine Berg, St. Albert
 Rev. Darryl Roste, Wetaskiwin

Church in Society

Joyce Zutter

Stewardship

Lorraine Kalis

Communications

Lisa Rude, Calgary
 Walter Goos, Leduc
 Rev. Tim Graff, Calgary
 Sharon Thesberg, Leduc
 Rev. Kevin Powell, Lethbridge

Youth

Rev. Kevin Scott, Calgary
 Rev. Markus Wilhelm,
 Edmonton
 Dorina Brown, Camrose
 Rev. Dawn Nelson, Strathmore

Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors

Marla Mulloy, Redwood
 Meadows
 Rev. Bart Eriksson, Wainwright