



Convention Moments

*Saturday
June 10, 2006*



Pastor Ron Mayan and wife Dianne

Pastor Ron Mayan Elected

On the third ballot, Pastor Ron Mayan was declared elected bishop with 155 votes. He expressed mixed emotions and quoted from the hymn “Just as I am without one plea”, as he humbly accepted the call. He asked for understanding, grace and support from delegates as he begins the transition to the office. In response to his words of acceptance, the convention honored him with a standing ovation.

Pastor Mayan began his ministry at Immanuel Lutheran church in Tomahawk (LCC), Alberta, then served at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lethbridge (LCC). After Lethbridge, he joined the faculty at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, Camrose, and became president. He has served as a former conference dean and a member of the Synod’s Church and Society Committee. He has served on the boards of Bethany Group, Camrose; Hope Centre Christian Counselling, Red Deer; and Alberta Pastoral Care Association, Lethbridge Chapter. For the past ten years he has served at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Red Deer.

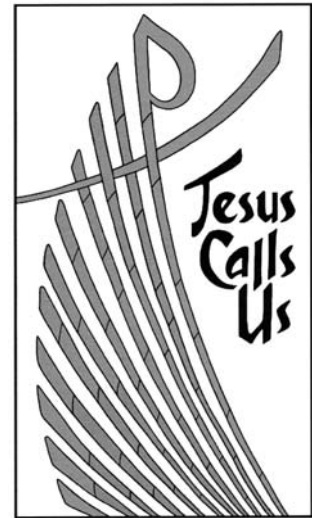
He and his wife Dianne have been married for 33 years. They have two adult sons. For leisure, Ron enjoys playing “extreme bocce ball” in the mountains where the balls can roll forever. Other pastimes include carpentry and winemaking. Pastor Mayan is a self-professed computer enthusiast.



Dianne receives a congratulatory hug from Jane Kristenson

In an earlier sitting, ELCIC national Bishop Ray Schultz stated that no person is born to be bishop. Rather, one becomes a bishop through a discerning process in which the church, through prayerful consideration acknowledges the experience, the leadership and qualities of an individual. He spoke of the five roles of a bishop: as a pastor who preaches, teaches and administers the sacraments; as a servant who draws upon resources to serve the church; as a guardian of faith; as a symbol of unity in Christ; and finally, as a leader and administrator who provides continuity.

As Pastor Mayan moves to the Office of the Bishop, the Synod Council chair position becomes vacant. The delegates voted to elect rather than to appoint a new chairperson.



Inside this issue:

- *Our new bishop*
- *Workshop highlights*
- *GHDA & CLWR news*

Morning Attendance

*120 Rostered
Delegates
145 Lay Delegates
62 Visitors*

*The Eleventh Biennial Convention
June 8-11, 2006, Red Deer, AB
Synod of Alberta and the Territories, E.L.C.I.C.*

www.albertasynod.ca



Pastor Dawn Starts Session with Worship

Before the start of the morning session, Chaplain Dawn Nelson called us to follow the invitation of Jesus to “love one another as I have loved you”. In his life, Jesus exemplified this love. He washed the feet of his disciples as an expression of such service. The Chaplain stated that the convention provides us an opportunity to reflect upon what we do. “Can others see Jesus in our actions?” she asked. We are called into mission to make a difference to others.

Greetings from Ecumenical Guests

Pastor Don Schiemann, President of the Alberta District LCC, expressed appreciation for his relationship with Bishop Kristenson and said he hopes for a similar relationship with the newly elected bishop. He stated that both the LCC and the ELCIC are called into a common mission to witness to the gospel.

Derek Hoskin, administrator, Calgary Diocese, Anglican Church in Canada, stated that he was pleased to bring greetings from his church which is now in fellowship with the ELCIC. With acceptance of the Waterloo Declaration, the uniting of the two church bodies in a common service is heartening. Another sign of this cooperation is the move to appoint a Lutheran Representative to the Eco-Justice Committee of the Anglican Church. This steady growth together is evidence of God’s graciousness in our lives. Jesus calls us to work together in mission for others.

Fresh Faces Grace the Floor

Youth delegates from Holy Spirit and Trinity Lutheran Churches in Edmonton, Bethel Lutheran Church in Camrose, and All Saints Lutheran Church in Calgary, were introduced to the convention.



Six pastors were honoured for **forty** years of service in the ministry. Honourees included:

- Rob Breitwieser
- Glen Carlson
- Richard Hanson
- Will Porat
- Lee Schneider
- Don Rasmussen



Bishop Steve expressed his thanks for their service. A musical tribute was presented by the choir.



Petitions

Six petitions were brought forward for vote. Five petitions were related to administrative change in the structure of the synod. Petition 6 asked the National Church to request all congregations in the ELCIC to respond to two questions regarding same-sex blessings and the ordination of homosexually active clergy. Discussion on the petition gave evidence of divergent views within the delegation. Petition 6 was not passed.

GHDA and CLWR Appeal

Paul Johnson, assistant to the National Bishop, described needs throughout the world to which the Global Hunger and Development Appeal, and Canadian Lutheran World Relief can respond. He cited examples of national catastrophes, political violence, and disenfranchisement where these agencies have responded.

He encouraged us to continue being generous in our giving. He stated that between CLWR and GHDA, our service to others resonates throughout the whole world.



Delegates attended workshops

Sharing of Mission Outreach Resources

Pastor Phil Hink presented an update on new mission activity in our synod. He also spoke about the opportunities available to pastors for training in mission outreach work.

Art and the Worship Experience. Presenter Kathy Neiman outlined how art and architecture contributes to our worship experience. In this multimedia presentation she spoke specifically about the stained glass commission at Peace, Leduc.

Celebrating Jubilee! A Ministry of Caring for the Future on Campus. U of A Campus Chaplain Richard Reimer led workshop participants on a journey through the 50 year life of campus ministry.

Working for Social Justice presented by Joyce Zutter and Robin Krause addressed how congregations can support social justice locally and globally by participating in ecumenical advocacy campaigns.

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts by Pastor Eleanor Ness. In this session, participants learned how to discover their spiritual gifts and use them for ministry within their congregations.



Rick and Lesley Quast uncovered *The Hidden Story* of Colombia's massive human rights violations driven by drug violence, and government and military corruption. People are encouraged to appeal to the Canadian government with the goal of improving the daily lives of Colombia's citizens.

Workshops continued.



In *Building Youth Leaders for Today*, presenter Chris Siegle spoke about the importance of encouraging youth to take on leadership roles within the church. This is critical for the wellbeing of the church and for fostering the spiritual life of youth. He promoted the workshop *Building Youth Leaders for Today* to be held August 2-6 at the University of Calgary.

Fast Food for Faith. Julianne Koivisto introduced activities and exercises that families can do together to nurture faith. Her “recipe” ingredients for growth in faith include Word and Sacrament, the body of Christ, and Families. The “tools” for encouraging growth in faith in families involve conversation, devotions, serving

together, and rituals and traditions.

Akaloo was presented by Jackie Nunn. Akaloo is a brand new interactive web-based program designed for families and small groups to supplement teaching that happens in church.

Telling the Story. Lisa Rude and Margaret Sadler encouraged participants from across the Synod to share their stories of faith.



Delegates Elect Councillors

Southwest Conference
East Central Conference
Northern Conference
Northern Conference
Southern Conference
Southern Conference

The Rev. Julianne Koivisto Barlow
Marilyn Murray
Brenda Visser
The Rev. Bill Bulger
The Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson
Wayne Street



Have you thanked a steward lately?



Have you seen the displays?

Please take a moment to view the displays featuring the many facets of the Church’s work.