

Report on the 2021 Convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories

This year's convention took place on Saturday, July 17th. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, delegates met virtually using the platform Lumi with Zoom integration. At the midday check-in there were 64 rostered participants, 42 lay delegates, and 22 guests. The day opened with a worship service and ended with worship, music, and communion. Throughout the day, there were videos showcasing different ministries and programs supported by the synod.

Missions Priorities

The convention focused on the 4 mission priorities:

SPIRIT-LED LEADERSHIP is characterized by trust in the Holy Spirit who “calls us through the Gospel, enlightens us with gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in true faith.”

HOPE-FILLED DISCIPLESHIP is expressed through ministries which embrace the diversity of all participants and the unity of the body of Christ working together for the glory of God.

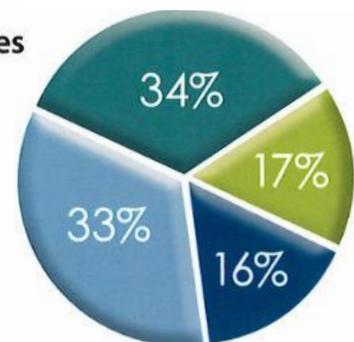
INNOVATIVE TRADITION is embraced and uplifted as an expression of God at work in and through the Synod.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS reflect the communion of saints and the interconnected nature of the Triune God as witness to the restoration, redemption and reconciliation of the world.

Finances

The Synod's 2021 budget of **\$685,000** supports ministries carried out under the umbrella of four Mission Priorities.

Spirit-Led Leadership – 34%
Hope-Filled Discipleship – 17%
Innovative Traditions – 16%
Collaborative Partnerships – 33%



Last year's benevolence was down by \$45,000 but was made up by government subsidies and reduced travel expenses due to Covid. This year we need \$40,000 of Additional Benevolence to balance the budget. See a detailed description of the budget in Appendix 1.

Bylaws and Constitution Updates

Minor changes to the bylaws were passed (97.3%), and minor constitutional changes were approved (100%) but require a second reading in three years to pass.

For a full list of constitutional and bylaw changes, please see Bulletin of Reports, Section D, pages D30-D64 at <https://albertasynod.ca/abt-synod-2021>.

Elections

Alberta Synod Council Chair: Deacon Karen Wedman from St. Paul, Ellerslie in Edmonton. (Current Chair, Wayne Street, removed himself from the running requesting time to take care of his health.)

East-Central Area Council Representatives: Rev. Deborah Ann Taylor (from Bethel in Camrose) and Shae Belanger (from Scandia in Armenia)

East-Central Delegates to the 2022 National Convention: Darlene Dahle, Shae Belanger, Rev. Craig Wentland, and Rev. Eleanor Ness.

For details about all elections, see Appendix 2

Bishop's Report:

Bishop Larry reflected on the theme of the convention: "On the Road", expressing his gratitude for the creativity, energy & hard work of the congregations, synod staff, and partner churches during the pandemic. He pointed out ways people were able to connect during this "liminal time" via area Zoom calls, synod-wide online services, and implementation of safe services as directed by Alberta Health. He expressed optimism for the path of our church in these changing times and reminded us to reflect on the positive lessons the pandemic has taught us... resilience, compassion, innovation, healing and to rely on God for strength and guidance.

Missions

We received a virtual greeting from Ata Hernández – Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Colombia. He and Bishop Larry virtually affirmed and signed a covenant of partnership for 2021-2027.

Pastor James Hendricksen recognized Pastor Brian Rude's work in El Salvador over the last 33 years and his upcoming retirement at the end of August. There will be a Zoom retirement party for him on his final day of work, August 31st, 2021. Pastor Rude plans to remain in El Salvador and continue to live out this ministry accompaniment there.

Recognition

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award was given to Pastor David "PD" Larsen.

26 pastors were recognized for Ordination Anniversaries in this three-year term. See Appendix 3.

Keynote Speaker

Karoline Lewis gave three presentations using the mission priorities of the synod to compare our lives during Covid and after with the time between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection with the early followers. These presentations and study guides are now available for anyone at <https://albertasynod.ca/abt-synod-2021>.

The entire 2021 Online Convention can be viewed on the *ABT Synod Office* YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zbk-H_K0bfg&ab_channel=ABTSynodOffice.

Respectfully submitted,

Delegates Sharon Gilbertson and Juanita Hohm

Youth Delegate Wyatt Mowat

Appendix 1: Budget Comparison 2020-2022

SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES BUDGET 2022 AND COMPARATIVES

	Actual 2020		Budget 2021		Budget 2022
REVENUE					
Congregation Benevolence	615,009		660,800		660,000
Additional Benevolence Required					40,000
Special and One Time Gifts	28,270		17,000		28,000
National Convention Income 2022					33,750
Government Subsidies	58,134				
Interest and Other	3,628		7,200		7,200
	705,041		685,000		768,950
EXPENSES					
National Church Support	140,400	19.91%	142,000	20.73%	140,000 19.04%
Seminary Support	104,000	14.75%	104,000	15.18%	104,000 14.15%
Ministry					
Canadian Mission	5,000	0.71%	5,000	0.73%	5,000 0.68%
Campus Ministry	65,500	9.29%	65,500	9.56%	65,500 8.91%
Communications	10,432	1.48%	10,900	1.59%	10,900 1.48%
Theological Education	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0 0.00%
Ministry Teams and All Ministry Team Meeting	1,651	0.23%	2,000	0.29%	1,000 0.14%
Synod Council and Standing Committees	205	0.03%	15,000	2.19%	2,500 0.34%
Ecumenical Officers	99	0.01%	1,000	0.15%	800 0.11%
Synod Support					
Salaries & Benefits	222,135	31.51%	225,925	32.98%	282,400 38.41%
National Convention 2022					33,750
Travel	11,425	1.62%	20,000	2.92%	20,000 2.72%
Casual and Contract	26,429	3.75%	26,000	3.80%	28,700 3.90%
Rent	21,000	2.98%	21,000	3.07%	21,000 2.86%
Office & Computer	11,002	1.56%	14,000	2.04%	10,000 1.36%
Professional Fees	24,813	3.52%	20,000	2.92%	25,000 3.40%
Telephone and Internet	7,721	1.10%	6,675	0.97%	7,500 1.02%
Stationary & Printing	7,279	1.03%	3,000	0.44%	6,500 0.88%
Insurance	1,351	0.19%	1,500	0.22%	1,500 0.20%
Bank Charges	1,773	0.25%	1,000	0.15%	1,500 0.20%
Postage & Delivery	408	0.06%	500	0.07%	1,400 0.19%
	662,623		685,000		768,950

Appendix 2: Election Results

Synod Council

Chair: Deacon Karen Wedman

Treasurer: Paul Ellison

East Central Area: Shae Belanger , Rev. Dr. Deborah Ann Taylor

Northern Area: Heather Zirk , Pastor Heidi Wachowiak

Southern Area: Wendy Kalkan , Rev. Janice Whitelock

Southwestern Area: Nyajuok Kulang , Rev. Daranne Harris

West Central Area: Walter Goos , Rev. Fred Schneider

Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors

Laureen Wray

Rev. Kristian Wold

Delegates for National Convention 2022

Young Adult: Lydia Ungerer

East Central Area: Shae Belanger, Darlene Dahle, Rev. Eleanor Ness, Rev. Craig Wentland

Northern Area: Kim Goebel, Heather Zirk, Rev. Erin Thomas

Southern Area: Leah Steiner, Rev. Kathleen Calkins

Southwestern Area: Garth Hein, Laverne Rude, Rev. Kristian Wold, Rev. Dr. Tim Wray

West Central Area: no nominees

Appendix 3 – Ordination Anniversaries in 2018-2021

25 Years (1994-1996)

- Rev. Reginald Berg
- Rev. Faith Brace
- Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen
- Rev. David Melax
- Rev. Laird Borst
- Rev. Craig Wentland
- Rev. Bruce Zinken

40 Years (1979-1981)

- Rev. Horst Aechtner
- Rev. Doug Heine
- Rev. David Morck
- Rev. David Pettersen
- Rev. Timothy Posyluzny
- Rev. Ed Summers
- Rev. Ronald Flamand
- Rev. Orlow Lund
- Rev. Howard Mastin
- Rev. Kathleen Schmitke
- Rev. Martin Garber-Conrad
- Rev. Dale Olsen

50 Years (1969-1971)

- Rev. David Taeger
- Rev. Vernon Begalke
- Rev. Gary Nickel
- Rev. Gerald (Jes) Schienbein

60 Years (1959-1961)

- Rev. Daniel Berg
- Rev. James Chell
- Rev. Laverne Hoveland

*Appendix 1, 2, and 3 and all graphics are taken from www.albertasynod.ca