British Columbia Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

BC Synod Council is our BC Synod Bishop, elected rostered leaders, and elected lay people from around BC who meet in spring & fall. These highlights are prepared to be shared widely around BC. Thank you for reading & sharing these.

BC Synod Council Highlights - Spring Meetings: March-June 2023

We were grateful to be able to meet in Nanaimo for this Spring meeting. Together we were able to participate in the ***Service of Confession and Reconciliation*** *for Pastor Bill Fehr. BC Synod Bishop Kathy Martin, MNO Synod Bishop Jason Zinko, National Bishop Susan Johnson and retired National Bishop Raymond Schultz all had significant roles in this important service of reconciliation. BC National Church Council and BC Synod Council members attended.*

In the Spring BC Synod Council meeting, we:

- responded to correspondence received from December 2022-May 2023;
- affirmed ongoing agreement for lease of space for Synod Offices in New Westminster;
- previewed the new BC Synod website that continues to be developed by Elina Singh in her role as Executive Assistant in the BC Synod office;
- adopted the Emergency Disaster Relief Fund Administration and Disbursement Policy;
- accepted constitutional changes for two congregations;
- noted need for congregations to send in proposed changes to BC Synod Constitution Committee *before* congregations vote and approve amendments;
- received and addressed requests for funding support from congregations;
- approved changes to dates for bishop's upcoming sabbatical;
- increased line item for congregational support noting the requests for financial support from congregations has increased;
- appointed Pastor Aneeta Saroop to serve on the Western Examining Committee;
- adopted a policy defining qualifications for rostered ministers to serve on the Pulpit Supply List;
- continued the conversation around ways to assist congregational treasurers with the challenges of their responsibilities;
- were joined by National Church Council representative Stephen Holmes and received updates on preparations for the Special National Convention in July;
- heard updates from congregations around BC

Campus Ministry Grants were distributed to all applicants! Looking ahead we will be seeking to develop a policy about campus ministry funding.

Plans to gather the 2023 Special Convention Delegates from BC are underway via Zoom. BC Synod is sending sixteen delegates from all regions, including three youth delegates

We approved roster changes in our synod:

The retirements of Rev. Marlys Moen & Rev. Roland Ziprick;
Transfer of Rev. Rebekah Swanson to Metropolitan New York Synod;
Reinstatement of Rev. H. William Fehr;
Transfer of Rev. Warren Nielsen (retired) from Sierra Pacific of ELCA to BC Synod

As Eastern Synod and Alberta Synod are considering different options for Episcopal Elections, we reviewed a draft Episcopal Nomination Process to begin conversations. A Task Group will be established going forward towards reflecting on our Episcopal Elections

We received Trinity Anglican Lutheran Church, Port Alberni & St. Mark's Lutheran, Vancouver on to the roster of congregations

Pastor Aneeta Saroop led us in an excellent Anti-Oppression Session as part of our ongoing commitment to anti-racism
With ongoing changing needs of congregations, we began a review of part-time ministry contracts and will continue that work at a future meeting of Synod Council

We set dates for the 2024 BC Synod Convention

Plan to elect delegates from your congregation at your next AGM for BC convention
June 20-23, 2024

The treasurer's report is always thorough and we engaged a healthy conversation including the ongoing work of aligning the budget with our vision, doing our due vigilance as Synod Council.

We approved seminary graduate Denise Pawliuk for ordination to Diaconal Ministry subject to acceptance of a call

Using the national resource ***Reimagining Our Church****, we used a devotional time to reflect on our various callings to serve*

We received and accepted an invitation:

In February 2024, BC Synod Rostered leaders will join with the Alberta Bishop's Study Conference in Canmore for continuing education and collegial connection.

We were welcomed to meet at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Nanaimo. Our gratitude to the congregation for hosting us!

With further business to accomplish and not enough time while meeting in person, future meeting dates online were set to ensure more time for discussion and decisions in the fall.

Members of BC Synod Council 2021-2024 include:
Bishop Kathy Martin; Rev. Eric Krushel, Chairperson (Coquitlam); Rev. Aneeta Saroop, Vice-Chairperson (Vancouver); Tarynn McKenzie, Secretary (Victoria); Jerry Nieman, Treasurer (Coquitlam); Robin Dielissen (Prince George); Rev. Jane Gingrich (Kamloops); Karen Lee (Vernon); Rev. Brenda Nestegaard Paul (Port Alberni); Cathy Preibisch (Chilliwack); Lisbeth Scott (Comox); Rev. Kristen Steele (Langley)

Thank you for sharing these Spring 2023 BC Synod Council Highlights widely!

BC Synod Council will meet next in person in October 2023 at Mt. Olive in Surrey