

## Statement to Members of Lutheran Church-Canada

In an effort to clarify and address some of the questions that have surfaced in recent days relative to matters that will be proposed at the upcoming District conventions, please note the following.

The corporations known as: Lutheran Church-Canada, the Alberta-British Columbia District; Lutheran Church-Canada, Central District; and Lutheran Church-Canada, East District are each governed by its own separate Act of Incorporation or Articles under the laws of the jurisdiction in which each corporation was established. Each corporation operates as an individual entity, with its own objects and its own membership, and is managed by its own Board of Directors elected pursuant to the Bylaws governing the corporation. Each of the corporations has provided in their respective Bylaws provisions setting out eligibility for membership in the corporation and the terms and conditions of maintaining membership.

Lutheran Church-Canada has been incorporated under ***An Act to incorporate Lutheran Church-Canada*** (June 4, 1959) and has enacted Statutory Bylaws to provide generally for the carrying on of the objects and purposes of Lutheran Church-Canada. Those Statutory Bylaws provide for two classes of membership, namely Member Congregations and Individual Members. Lutheran Church-Canada has also adopted a Synodical Constitution setting out the Confession to be embraced by its Members and establishing ecclesiastical prerequisites for membership as well as additional conditions of membership.

At its October 2017 convention, Lutheran Church-Canada (“LCC”) adopted a new governing structure that is to take full effect on January 1, 2019. Under this new structure, LCC has created a regional system to deliver additional services to its Members. As a result, many of the services provided by the three District corporations to their members will now be included in the work carried on by LCC for its Members.

It is not the intention of LCC to comment on the plans being advanced to the members of the District corporations as to how such corporations will operate or be governed after December 31, 2018. Each member of a District corporation should carefully consider proposals being presented to the membership of the corporation and should be free to vote on the merits of such plan. Each member should also be free to determine whether or not it is in its interests to continue membership in the District corporation after December 31, 2018.

So as to avoid confusion, LCC would confirm to its Members that there is no requirement in the Statutory Bylaws of LCC, the Synodical Bylaws of LCC, or the Synodical Constitution of LCC, nor any ecclesiastical reason, that would require a Member Congregation or an Individual Member of LCC to participate in the Lutheran Church-Canada, the Alberta-British Columbia District; Lutheran Church-Canada, Central District; or Lutheran Church-Canada, East District as a member of such corporation.

*The Statutory Bylaws of LCC states in paragraph 6.05: “An organization which supports the principles, doctrine and religious standards of LCC as set out in the Synodical Constitution and the Synodical Bylaws may apply to the Board to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding under which such organization would support the mission and ministry of LCC. Any such organization will be considered part of the Synodical Family. The Board may terminate a Memorandum of Understanding with an organization in the event the Board is of the opinion that the organization is conducting its affairs in a manner inconsistent with the principles, doctrine and religious standards of LCC or in a manner inconsistent with supporting the mission and ministry of LCC”.*

The Board of Directors of LCC will be reviewing any application of a District corporation to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with LCC that would take effect after December 31, 2018, guided by the criteria set out in the Statutory Bylaws.

— Rev. Timothy Teuscher, President  
Lutheran Church-Canada

— Arnold Drung, Chairman  
Board of Directors, Lutheran Church-Canada