



TOWARDS THE CREATION OF ONE NEW SYNOD—JOINT COMMUNIQUE 1

Sisters and Brothers of the British Columbia Synod and the Synod of Alberta and the Territories,
Grace to you and peace.

The ELCIC, in convention this past summer in Saskatoon, approved in principle the recommendations of the Structural Renewal Taskforce to create changes that will result in a church better equipped to be *In Mission for Others* and to develop a frame work which is flexible, affordable and sustainable. One of the recommendations is to move from a five Synod to a three Synod church (for complete information please refer to the 2011 Convention Minutes at www.elcic.ca/In-Convention/2011). It is with this process in view that we write.

On Tuesday, September 27th, 2011, eleven representatives from our two Synods, along with a representative of the National Implementation Team, met in Leduc, Alberta for preliminary discussions around our coming together as one Synod. One important piece of the day's work was the creation of the following set of guidelines to guide our deliberations:

COMMITMENT— committed to see the process through;

EQUALITY— consider each other equal partners; show mutual respect;

CONSENSUS—discussion continues until agreement is achieved; decisions are honoured;

UNITY-- speak with one voice wherever practical; joint statement issued by the bishops;

FOCUS--on the task before us; recognize our sphere of responsibility;

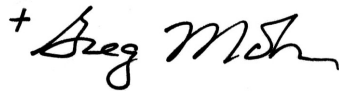
TRANSPARENCY--share clearly and regularly our work and intentions; and

NEWNESS—think of new ways to be flexible, affordable and sustainable.

Representing the BC Synod at this initial meeting are: Bishop Greg Mohr, Rev. Brenda Nestegaard Paul, Darlene Johnson, Stephen Holmes, Rev. Cliff Reinhardt, and Rosalene Saleski. Those representing the ABT Synod are: Bishop Ron Mayan, Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Stephen Wildfang, Rev. Tim Posyluzny, Brenda Visser (excused) and Sharon Villetard. All agreed to work together as members of their respective Synodical Implementation Teams (SIT). Rev. Kathy Martin represented the National Implementation Team. The meetings of the joint Synod Implementation Teams will be co-chaired by Rev. Brenda Nestegaard Paul of BC and Stephen Wildfang of ABT. The treasurers of both Synods agreed to work together to create a financial model for us. Other sub-committees include "Constitution/Legal Issues," "Communications," "Models and Locations," "Governance," and "Related Fiduciary Responsibilities."

You are invited to share your questions, concerns, encouragements and prayers with your respective bishops.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Mohr" with a small cross symbol to the left.

Bishop Greg Mohr
British Columbia Synod

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Mayan" with a small cross symbol to the left.

Bishop Ron Mayan
Synod of Alberta and the Territories