



December 8, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the British Columbia Synod and the Synod of Alberta and the Territories,

Grace to you and peace--

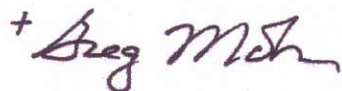
Advent is a season that shines with anticipation and hope and it is in this season's light that we write to you. Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, in convention this past summer, approved in principle the recommendations of the Structural Renewal Taskforce. One recommendation is to move from a five synod to a three synod church. This means we now have the opportunity of merging our two synods. Representatives from each synod have been exploring and developing the rationale, logistics and implementation of what this endeavour may look like. To date, we have had two face-to-face meetings and one conference call.

What is it that we anticipate for our restructured church, new synod, and local congregations? We anticipate a church better equipped to be In Mission for Others as well as being more flexible, affordable, and sustainable. We anticipate an enriched synod better able to support and respond to local congregational ministries chiefly through the newly created 'area' structures. 'Areas' are groups of up to fifteen congregations which are linked in a variety of ways, possibly according to shared strengths, interests, and needs. We anticipate congregations, along with their lay and rostered leaders, exploring and experiencing more focused care, support, and encouragement as they go about doing the ministry Christ has called them to do.

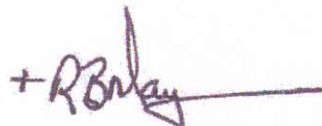
What is it that we hope? Our hope is that you will participate in this urgent and necessary process. Please ask your questions, voice your concerns, and share your suggestions. Your questions, concerns, and suggestions will help our team do its work. Equally helpful is your willingness to share what you see as important for the life and ministry of our church, synod, and congregations. Please take the time to contact either of us at <gmohr@elcic.ca> or <rbmayan@elcic.ca>. Your input is valuable and it is welcome. In addition, a number of materials will be available for study and discussion in the new year and some regional events will be organized to provide a forum for discussion and discernment. These events will be of particular interest to those who will be delegates to the May 2012 Synod convention.

Those working on your behalf from the BC Synod are Stephen Holmes, Darlene Johnson, Rev. Brenda Nestegaard Paul, Rev. Cliff Reinhardt, Rosalene Saleski and Bishop Greg Mohr, and from the Synod of Alberta and the Territories are Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Rev. Tim Posyluzny, Sharon Villetard, Brenda Visser, Stephen Wildfang and Bishop Ron Mayan. Rev. Kathy Martin of B.C. and Wayne Street of Alberta represent the National Implementation Team.

God bless your Advent journey,
Your servants in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol followed by the name "Greg Mohr" in a cursive script.

Bishop Greg Mohr
British Columbia Synod

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol followed by the name "Ron Mayan" in a cursive script.

Bishop Ron Mayan
Synod of Alberta and the Territories