

**Task Force on Cultural Properties and Archives
Lutheran Church–Canada**

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO
Lutheran Church–Canada Board of Directors
[date]**

As revised June 14, 2010

Preamble

Remembering the works and blessings that God has bestowed in the past is and should be a high priority for His people. The Children of Israel were instructed to celebrate the Passover in remembrance of the rescue from slavery in Egypt (Ex. 12:21). The Sabbath day was also to be a remembrance of the same mighty act (Deut.5:15). “Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.” (Deut 32:7). The Psalmist writes, “I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.” (Ps 77:11) And the writer to the Hebrews encourages the church, “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.” (Heb 13:7) If we are to remember those who have gone before and the marvellous works of God in our midst, we must preserve records and cultural properties.

Report

The Task Force on Cultural Properties and Archives met seven times by telephone conference and once in person. Members of the task force met with archivists of the various entities of the synod, as well as with district and seminary presidents and business managers, and consulted with the archives of the Lutheran Church of Australia, The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and other institutions of similar size to LCC to glean information. Two members also attended a board meeting of the Lutheran Historical Institute. The use of an Institutional Assessment Guidelines survey tool provided a wealth of information on the current archival entities.

The following are the archival entities in Lutheran Church–Canada

- Lutheran Historical Institute, located in the Alberta-British Columbia District Office building in Edmonton. An agency of the A-BC District, LHI houses the archives of that district, as well as those of the Synod, Concordia University College of Alberta, and Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton. It employs one staff person, with some volunteer help. The budget of \$100,000 per year is funded by contributions from the four participating entities. There is a funding shortfall.
- Central District Archives, located in the Central District Office building in Regina, Sask. Its staff consists of one unpaid volunteer, with a small budget.
- East District Archives, located at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, in rooms designated for the archives at the time of construction, is staffed by one volunteer. The budget of \$4,000 per year includes a small honorarium for the archivist.
- Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Archives are maintained by the seminary librarian.

All the archivists are willing, enthusiastic, deeply committed and capable. The LHI, Central and East District archivists have completed courses which give them basic professional qualifications. The Task Force commends them for their dedication and their fine work. However,

Page 2

the work required to access and catalogue materials requires more time than they are able to give. In each location, space is limited and funding is inadequate. There seems to be a serious lack of understanding of the importance and significance, which makes for lack of financial support and inconsistent provision of archival materials generally throughout the church body.

The committee notes that there have been recent improvements at LHI, which address some of the concerns which had been raised in Resolution 08.3.09.

Recommendations

The Task Force offers the following recommendations to the LCC Board of Directors.

- 1 Establish an organization mandated by Lutheran Church–Canada bylaws for the preservation of historical materials. It is recommended that the CCMS make such provision in the bylaws.
 - 1.01 Goal: That by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 this organization becomes the preeminent Lutheran entity of its kind in Canada.
 - 1.02 That this organization becomes an advisor to the synod with regard to the preservation of historically significant cultural properties, and assumes an advocacy role for Lutheran heritage in Canada.
 - 1.03 That this organization becomes a resource for schools.
 - 1.04 That by 2017 this organization will have achieved a high level of accessibility in records for researchers
- 2 Stress the importance of collecting, preserving, organizing and maintaining records and historical materials at all levels of the synod (synod, district, institutions, congregations, etc.).
- 3 Establish one synodical body with provision for regional branches.
 - 3.01.01 Rationale:
 - 3.01.01.01 Lutheran heritage is under represented and not well preserved in Canada.
 - 3.01.01.02 Accessibility would better be served by keeping the current sites.
 - 3.01.01.03 “Lutheran Heritage and Research Institute” (LHRI) is proposed as a name which would emphasize the importance archives and history.
- 4 Maintain current sites at least for the time being. A possible scenario would have Lutheran Historical Institute as the main site, with Central, East, and CLTS as branches.
- 5 Create a qualified independent board partially elected by the synod in convention, partially appointed by the synod president or board of directors, with members elected by each district. Thus the board could consist of seven members, one each elected by the synod and the three districts, plus three appointed, and the Executive Director as a non-voting member.
 - 5.01.01 The board members would not represent the interest of any one entity.
 - 5.01.02 The primary purpose is to provide for uniform and coordinated policies and procedures.
- 6 Establish the position of a full-time executive director in addition to archival staff, with the following responsibilities, including, but not limited to: developing

Page 3

- national records management policy and reviewing collections policies under the direction of the board, setting priorities, fund raising, soliciting grants, staffing and succession planning and overseeing the operations of the organization.
- 6.01.01 The executive director would report to the governing board of the LHRI.
7 Funding rationale: An annual budget of at least \$200,000 would likely be required. Currently LHI has a budget of \$100,000, to which must be added funding for the other locations. Approximately a total of \$89,000 is currently contributed by the six entities.
- 7.01 Funding would be the responsibility of the synod.
- 7.01.01 Those who currently have holdings would be requested to offer grants for three years, after which a significant portion of the budget should be derived from other sources. The goal is that within three years the funds required by the organization would be raised from external sources.
- 7.01.02 That seed money be obtained for an executive director, who will also assist in preparing for and coordinating the 2017 Reformation celebration and implement the recommendations as noted above. This would require a three-year commitment of funding, with declining commitment as other funding sources are brought on board. Note: Canada Cultural Heritage Fund (Heritage Canada) is a possible source of funding.
- 7.01.03 Possible other sources of funding include solicitation of special donations from LCC members, as well as grants from other sources.
- 8 Legal stewardship of the existing collections would be transferred to the synod for management by LHRI.
- 9 The Task Force recommends the following time frame.
- 9.01 That the Executive Director be in place by 2012.
- 9.02 That an interim board be appointed for the period 2011-2014.
- 10 As Lutheran identity in Canada becomes merged with other bodies, Lutheran Church–Canada is poised to have a much stronger identity as confessional Lutherans. While retaining the individualities of the current archives, bringing them together under one umbrella will provide for a stronger identity, and assist in consolidating our national heritage as a Synod. There is a great opportunity for the LHRI to provide leadership for raising the visibility of Lutheran Church–Canada in the Canadian celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. These recommendations, if implemented, will guarantee a well-documented record of God’s grace working through Lutheran Church–Canada.