

# LCC's Ottawa Circuit Forum

Sat, October 22, 2022 – 10am to 3pm

At Christ Risen Lutheran Church, Kanata, ON  
(with attendees online as well)

## MINUTES

Rev. David Milette

*Apologies to anyone who did not receive the invitation to the Forum or received it late. Please accept our apologies, and help us build our email contact list for Lay Delegates and other members of Ottawa Circuit congregations by registering (even late) for this Forum at <https://lccottawacircuit.ca/ottawa-circuit-forum-oct-22-2022/>.*



LCC's Ottawa Circuit at a glance:

<https://ottawacircuit.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/>

### MEETING MINUTES by Pr Milette

#### *Attached:*

- *A. Forum Attendance report;*
- *B. RMMC report;*
- *C. Circuit Counselor's report;*
- *D. Forum Support Committee report;*
- *E. Treasurer's report;*
- *F. Parishes, Missions and Ministries reports*

10am - Opening Worship (LSB Service of Prayer and Preaching, Pr Groh)

10:30am – Break

10:45am – Circuit Forum Session 1

1. Call to order (Pr Smilek), Opening with prayer (Pr Milette)
2. Attendance (see below). Of our \_17\_ congregations spread across 3,000 kms, \_6\_ Pastoral Delegates and \_3\_ Lay Delegates in attendance, with \_13\_ total from \_10\_ congregations. \_10\_ from an additional \_8\_ congregations sent their regrets.

3. Forum officers
  - Forum Chair vacant, no nominations  
Ottawa Circuit Counselor Pr Smilek will serve as Forum Chair today by consensus
  - Regrets from Tim Kuhl, Forum Secretary (vacation)  
Pr Milette will serve as Forum Secretary today by consensus
  - Lois Detlefsen, Forum Treasurer (see below, re-elected for 3 yr term)
  - Forum Planning Committee: Chair Vacant, no nominations
  - Forum Ministry and Mission Support Committee: Anne Taylor, Ron Groskleg, Rena Detlefsen, Prs Smilek, Williams and Milette
4. Note from Chair: Forums no longer defined by LCC Handbook, only Convocations – but Circuit Counselors across the East Region seem agreed would like to return to Forums

\*\*\* CONSIDER: AMEND LCC CONST/BYLAWS AT 2028 CONVENTION – REINTRODUCE “FORUMS”?

5. Previous Meeting Minutes May 28, 2022 read and approved. M/S/C.
  - Only business arising from minutes was to follow up on the LCC convention, but nothing was prepared for today. Pastors’ Winkel and Support Committee have started to consider how to do this perhaps as a separate event, online, to allow more participants. A quick show of hands indicated that the Forum participants thought that was a good idea.

\*\*\* BUSINESS ARISING: CONSIDER CONVENTION DEBRIEF (REPORTS, DISCUSSION) FOR CIRCUIT? (PASTORS’ WINKEL, SUPPORT COMMITTEE?)

6. Next Forum: Spring 2023
  - a. Traditionally Spring Forum held in the Ottawa Valley, end April or early May
  - b. Other dates to keep in mind:
    - i. Easter Apr 9 2023;
    - ii. RMMC meeting Apr 15 2023;
    - iii. St Andrew’s Halifax NS & Our Saviour Ottawa ON both have Sat AM services.
  - c. Agreed tentatively for May 6, 2023
  - d. Reps from Grace Locksley ON said they will ask their people about hosting;  
Reps from Christ Petawawa ON said if not Grace, they will ask their people.

\*\*\* FOLKS FROM GRACE, LOCKSLEY, PLEASE LET ETHER PR SMILEK OR PR MILETTE KNOW DECISION

\*\*\* ONCE DATE AND LOCATION SET, FORUM SECRETARY WILL SEND OUT A SAVE THE DATE NOTICE TO CIRCUIT AND TO LCC TO PUT THE DATE ON CALENDARS

7. REPORTS: Circuit and beyond
  - a. RMMC Report (Ron Groskleg, lay delegate, sends regrets)
    - Pr Smilek’s report was received with thanks, see attached for his report and Ron’s.
  - b. Circuit Counselor Report
    - Pr Smilek’s report was received with thanks. See attached.
  - c. Circuit Ministry and Mission Support Committee “Circuit Support Committee”
    - i. Anne’s report was received with thanks. See attached.
      - Given that this is an ad-hoc committee, motion to ask the Support Committee to continue it’s work for the next year. M/S/C.

\*\*\* SECRETARY: NOTE TO ADDRESS TERM FOR SUPPORT COMMITTEE AT FALL 2023 FORUM AGENDA.

- ii. Special report on Domestic Missions in LCC by Pr Milette
  - As Pr Milette was taking minutes, he could not write proceedings while delivering this report. See Pr Milette 2022-09-13 email to Support Committee “Resolutions re Domestic Missions and Local Outreach” for background.
  - Pr Milette summarized the above, rejoiced that the newly re-formed East Region RMMC has a new Domestic Missions Committee, and made a case for the need for a distinct LCC Domestic Missions Executive assisting the three LCC Regions so that the work of both International and Domestic Missions may receive the attention they require, as well as be able to work together and coordinate as needed.
  - Pr Milette also pointed out that the LCC Convention has passed a budget that includes funds for a second “Assistant International/Domestic Mission Director” to assist Pr Smith who has ended up by default serving as “International AND Domestic Missions Director” for 3.5 yrs now (exhaustingly so) because the LCC BOD asked him to take over very temporarily while they called and did not resume trying to fill the position because lack of funds. With the funds already approved in the LCC Work Program, the time seems opportune with funds in the budget and great need in all three Region for confessionally sound support, encouragement and help in domestic missions and local outreach, to re-establish the original plan to have a distinct International Missions Director and Domestic Missions Executive.
  - Motion to write a letter to the East RMMC encouraging them to petition the LCC BOD to resume and continue the call process for an LCC Domestic Mission Executive to answer to and serve the three LCC RMMCs to conform with the LCC 2022 convention resolution 22.1.04. Pr Smilek to write the letter on behalf of the Forum. M/S/C.

\*\*\* PR SMILEK TO WRITE LETTER TO RMMC AS PER ABOVE MOTION, AND REPORT BACK TO NEXT FORUM

- d. Circuit Treasurer’s Report – Lois Detlefsen
  - Report was presented and received with thanks.
  - Had not realized Circuit paying for both GotoMeeting and Jitsi videoconferencing. Not a problem for this year with the funds available, but needs to be addressed.

\*\*\* A DECISION NEEDS TO BE MADE ABOUT GOTOMEETING VS JITSI VIDEO CONFERENCING OPTIONS (CIRCUIT PASTORS OR SUPPORT COMMITTEE)

- Three congregations did not pay the 2021 Assessment, but have not historically either.
- The 2022 Assessment is being sent home with delegates or mailed now.
- Motion to adopt Treasurer’s Report as presented. M/S/C.
- Motion to set the Circuit Cost-Sharing Assessment to Congregations for 2023 to 1.25/communicant member (was 0.75 ea for 2022). M/S/C.
- As no one including Lois could remember when she was elected so, with her consent, Lois was nominated, accepted, and was elected to serve as Circuit Treasurer for another 3-year term ie. 2022-2025. M/S/C.

\*\*\* SECRETARY: NOTE, CIRCUIT TREASURER'S TERM EXPIRES IN FALL 2025

*Noon - Asking a blessing, Lunch (provided by Christ Risen Lutheran Church – thank you!), Returning thanks*

*1:00pm - Group photo 😊*



*(not pictured here: online attendees)*

*1:05pm - Guest presenter: Lisa Jackson*

*– Introduction to the LHM “Spiritual Conversations” resource*

*2:00pm – Break*

*2:15pm – Circuit Forum Session 2*

- (c) Circuit Ministry and Mission Support Committee – additional business
  - Lois Detlefsen of Christ, Petawawa ON offered, was nominated, accepted and elected to the Support Committee. M/S/C.
- e. REPORTS: Parishes, Missions, Ministries of and within the circuit
  - i. New Ottawa Circuit Website
    - <https://ottawacircuit.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/>
    - Pr Milette’s presentation and report was received with thanks
    - We discussed of “Ottawa Circuit” as name misrepresents our 3,000 km wide circuit spanning 6 provinces: sounds like just Ottawa and a few other congregations -- but receives more assistance than the LCC Western and Central Regions combined. Our Circuit is LCC in half the country after all, but the name suggests just a city with some struggling congregations.
    - Discussed options, including
      - changing name to eg. “The North and Eastern Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada Circuit” (very long, but properly describes us)
      - splitting the circuit into eg. “Ottawa Circuit” and “Quebec and Atlantic Canada Circuit” (but this isolates the spread-out mission congregations)

- of Quebec and Atlantic Canada, who are not naturally suited to work closely either given distance and language differences)
- Noted that both the above options require petitioning the LCC BOD to recommend changes like these to the Convention (circuits are circuits of the Synod).
- Encouraged everyone to “register” for today’s Forum (even after the fact) on the above website (under top menu, “Convocations”) so Support Committee can build a mailing list and send minutes and follow-up materials to everyone.

\*\*\* EVERYONE TO GO TO <https://ottawacircuit.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/> AND CLICK ON CONVOCATIONS, THEN COMPLETE REGISTRATION FOR TODAY’S FORUM TO HELP ESTABLISH THE CIRCUIT EMAIL LIST AND TO MAKE SENDING OUT MINUTES ETC EASIER

- ii. Parishes/Missions/Ministries reports.
  - See attached for updated reports. Please share.
  - As parish reports were shared, approximate financial assistance requested from LCC to be able to function in 2023 were shared as well. These were:
    1. Christ-Timmins/Kirkland Lake ON
    2. Redeemer-Sudbury ON
    3. Our Saviour-Kingston ON
    4. Good Shepherd-Moncton/Riverview NB
    5. St Andrew’s-NS/PEI/NL

It was also noted that

- 6. Pastor David Somers is a synodical Missionary-at-Large to Francophones (called by all of us in LCC together to this work), whose funding is only partly covered by the Synod
- 7. Pastors Jacobsen and Clercius, Assistant MALs in Quebec City, and Milette in Moncton/Riverview are bi-vocational (they have outside jobs) and so very part-time, as their congregations don’t have the means to support them full-time.
- Reports were sheared for all 23 preaching locations and ministries of the circuit (thank you so much!), except
  8. the Tri-Parish of Western Quebec (3)
  9. Chaplain Padre Vic Morris in Ottawa
 We hope to hear from them at the next Forum; please keep them in your prayers and your congregation’s prayers meanwhile.
- 8. The business being concluded and the time having run out, the chair called the meeting to a close.

*2:50PM - Closing prayer and blessing for travel home (LSB Responsive Prayer 2, Pr Groh)*

\*\*\* REMINDER AFTERWARD FROM FORUM TREASURER FOR SPRING 2023 FORUM: “WE NEED TO RAISE THE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE (CURRENTLY 0.20/KM) AT THE NEXT FORUM”

*Thanks to all participants for joining us, especially delegates.*

*Thanks be to God for all His mercies and blessing our meeting, to the Support Committee for their work preparing the Forum, the many people who prepared and presented reports, our Guest Speaker*

*Lisa Jackson of the LLL-Canada, Pastor Milette and Smilek for providing the technology to allow online participation, and especially our kind hosts, the people and pastor of Christ Risen Lutheran Church, Kanata, On.*

*Farewell, tidy up, and travel home! + SDG +*