

## 2005 NATIONAL CONVENTION RESOURCE PROPOSAL



Welcome to ELCIC + RENEWING WORSHIP! The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is a participant in RENEWING WORSHIP, a multi-year, five-phase process, undertaken by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, designed to renew the worship of the church and to produce the generation of worship resources to succeed the *Lutheran Book of Worship*.

### RENEWING WORSHIP: A FIVE-PHASE PROCESS

The five overlapping and interwoven phases of Renewing Worship are as follows:

Phase 1. **CHURCH-WIDE CONSULTATIONS** ~ Throughout 2001 four consultation groups met around the following topics: language, music, preaching and environment for worship. Guided by the ELCA's **THE USE OF THE MEANS OF GRACE** (1997) --broader and more detailed than the ELCIC's **STATEMENT ON SACRAMENTAL PRACTICES** (1991)-- the consultations developed **PRINCIPLES FOR WORSHIP** for study and response. Approximately 100 people were involved in this consultation phase including ELCIC members André Lavergne (language), Karen Johnson-Lefsrud (music), Jann Boyd (preaching) and Lawrence Haave (environment for worship).

Phase 2. **EDITORIAL TEAMS AND DEVELOPMENT PANELS** ~ From 2001 through early 2005, small editorial teams have been and will be revising and developing draft worship materials in a variety of areas. Each editorial team relies on input and response from larger development panels made up of people from across the church who have particular interest or expertise in the area on which the teams are working. Some 30-40 ELCIC people have been involved in this phase.

Phase 3. **TRIAL-USE RESOURCES** ~ The work of each editorial team has resulted in the publication of a provisional worship resource meant for trial-use and feedback from the church. The work of the teams is staggered and overlapping. About two provisional resources have been published each year. The following resources, together with other related support volumes and materials, are available from Augsburg Fortress Canada:

- Congregational Song
- Principles for Worship
- Baptism and Related Rites
- Life Passages: Marriage, Healing, Funeral
- New Hymns and Songs
- Renewing Worship Songbook
- Holy Communion and Related Rites
- Daily Prayer
- The Church's Year

Phase 4. **REGIONAL AND SYNODICAL EVENTS** ~ In the ELCA, worship staff and Augsburg Fortress staff are leading regional and synodical events (2002-2005) to foster conversation, introduce resources and receive direct feedback to proposed resources and suggestions for future development. The ELCIC's Program Committee for Worship offered Renewing Worship events at each of the five 2004 ELCIC Synod assemblies. There were also offerings at the 2004 ELCIC National Worship Conference and Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering.

Phase 5. **RESOURCE PROPOSAL** ~ Phase 5 includes the drafting of a comprehensive proposal for primary worship resources designed to succeed **LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP**.

#### **NATIONAL CONVENTION RESOURCE PROPOSAL**

The final phase of the Renewing Worship process is coming together nicely under the direction of a Resource Proposal Group. In 2005, their proposal will be presented to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and to the National Convention of the ELCIC. In addition to preparing the final proposal, the Resource Proposal Group has reviewed each trial-use resource prior to publication.

In November, 2004, the Resource Proposal Group offered a first draft of a **REPORT ON THE RENEWING WORSHIP PROJECT** to the Church Council of the ELCA. It has now been made available to the entire ELCA and ELCIC constituency. The report is available on-line on the Renewing Worship website at <[www.renewingworship.org](http://www.renewingworship.org)>. Together with many other items, the draft contains a hymn list for the proposed new principle volume. To download the report, go to <<http://www.renewingworship.org/about/proposal.html>> and click on the appropriate link.

#### **FURTHER ELCIC RESPONSE**

Comments, questions and observations concerning this report or any other related matter are most welcome. They should be directed to either of

The Rev. Karen Johnson-Lefsrud ~ [johnsonlefsrud@shaw.ca](mailto:johnsonlefsrud@shaw.ca)  
The Rev. André Lavergne ~ [lavergne@telc.ca](mailto:lavergne@telc.ca)

#### **IN TIME FOR ADVENT**

Three sample evening prayer services have been published in time for Advent. They are available in camera-ready assembly and leaders editions. They are available at <[http://www.renewingworship.org/resources/daily\\_prayer/examples.html](http://www.renewingworship.org/resources/daily_prayer/examples.html)>.

#### **PARTICIPATION IN ELCIC + RENEWING WORSHIP**

All trial-use resources can be ordered from Augsburg Fortress Canada <[www.afcanada.com](http://www.afcanada.com)>. Rites and other materials are also available for download from the Internet. Individuals, study groups, church leaders and others are invited to use and to evaluate these resources; to see how they work in the life of our communities; to reflect on the material; and to offer comments and suggestions to the Renewing Worship team either at <[www.renewingworship.org](http://www.renewingworship.org)> or by returning the forms in the published volumes.

#### **HELPFUL WEBSITES**

We invite the people of the ELCIC to explore our participation in RENEWING WORSHIP. The ELCIC's *Lift Up Your Hearts* worship and spirituality web site <[www.worship.ca](http://www.worship.ca)> offers an area dedicated to ELCIC + RENEWING WORSHIP, the Canadian dimension of the RENEWING WORSHIP project. The ELCA's RENEWING WORSHIP website <[www.renewingworship.org](http://www.renewingworship.org)> is the principal project web site. It provides a comprehensive overview, a large number of downloadable trial-use resources, together with detailed and current progress reports on all aspects of RENEWING WORSHIP.