



NELCSA

Northeastern Evangelical Lutheran Church
in South Africa

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To: Members of Church Synod,
Chairpersons of Congregational Councils and
Pastors of NELCSA

28 May 2021

Postponement of Synod 2021

In the last year, the Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc in many of our lives. Plans have been made, changed or abandoned, often at very short notice. The church has unfortunately not been able to escape this fact.

An elective Synod was planned in 2021, where the new bishop of the NELCSA was to be elected. Church Council believes that due to the importance of this election the synod should be physical and not virtual. However, due to the current situation regarding the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa, the possibility of holding such a synod safely and effectively has become very unlikely. Church Council therefore took the difficult decision to postpone the date of the elective synod that was to be held from the 7th to the 10th of October 2021 by a year to October 2022. The exact date of the synod to be held in 2022 will be communicated in due course.

To continue with the day-to-day business of the church, the church budget for 2022 2023 will have to be approved during the year 2021. A special session of Church Synod will therefore be held as a virtual synod on the 9th of October 2021 from 9:00 to 12:00. During this session, the church budget for the next two years will be tabled and approval from Synod requested. Two virtual preparation sessions will be offered before the financial synod meeting, the first on the 14th and the second on the 28th of August 2021. Both meetings are scheduled to take place from 9:00 to 12:00. Further details will follow.

At its meeting on the 25th and 26th of May 2021, Church Council requested bishop Horst Müller to continue serving as bishop of the NELCSA until the physical elective synod in 2022, where a new bishop will be elected. We are thankful that he has agreed to do so.

With the postponement of the synod until 2022 nominations of candidates for the position of the bishop of NELCSA, by the congregations will not close in June 2021 but will remain open until further notice is given in 2022. Those congregations that have not yet done so are encouraged to nominate pastors for the position, after obtaining their agreement to do so. Candidates that have already been nominated will remain on the list of nominated candidates.

We apologize for any inconvenience that the decision to postpone the synod has caused and ask for your understanding in this matter.

We greet you with the words from the letter to the Philippians, chapter 4, verses 6 and 7:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Yours faithfully,



Theo Jäckel
Deputy Bishop



Henning Springer
President of Synod



Vernon Filter
Treasurer