



September 25, 2014

Dear Synod Delegates:

We hope you had a blessed and fun summer and are ready for the beauty that the fall season brings. We look forward to seeing all of you in October at our 2014 Synod. We have a very busy Synod agenda and one of the key items will be to approve (HOL) and ratify (HOP) the ECC national budgets for 2015 and 2016. A copy of these proposed budgets, as well as an explanatory Report, accompany this letter.

We recommend that you take a moment and review the accompanying important documents. Everyone will have an opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions, and offer recommendations when this topic is publicly addressed.

In addition to approving the budgets, the Finance Committee has two specific requests: 1) We need a **preliminary estimate** at the Synod of what your ECC Community will be tithing for 2015 [the enclosed 2015 budget is based on a 5% increase over your current annual tithe; and for 2016, we are recommending a 5% increase over your 2015 pledge]; and 2) We need your **final 2015 tithing commitment** no later than **December 10, 2014**. We will be following this same procedure next year (2015) for setting the final 2016 Community tithing commitments.

Your Synod folder will provide instructions on how to submit both your **preliminary estimate** [which we need during the Synod] as well as the **final 2015 tithing commitment** [which we need e-mailed to us no later than **December 10, 2014**].

Our final request is that you personally and your Community consider a donation in response to the September 14th fundraising appeal from the ECC Leadership Council. Once you review the enclosed documents, you will see just how critical this request is to help us balance the budget through 2016.

Peace and Blessings to All,

Carla Altepeter and Jack Coyne

ECC HOL Chair and ECC Finance Committee Chair

Enclosures: Financial Report to All Delegates; Budgetary Spreadsheets
cc: Teri Thompson, ECC Administrator; Marlene Guganig, ECC Accounting