



Lutheran-founded Concordia College on Ada Boulevard is now under Canadian management

## *Western Lutherans to manage Edmonton college*

# Canadians to control Concordia

Ownership of Edmonton's Lutheran-founded Concordia College has passed from the U.S.-based Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) directly into the hands of Canadian Lutherans.

Rev. George Rode, president of LCMS's Alberta-B.C. district, said in an interview from Dallas (where he's attending the LCMS annual convention concluding this weekend) that the Ada Boulevard college "will still be synodically owned" but its administration, and technical ownership, will be more Canadian-oriented.

Mr. Rode added that both LCMS districts in Western Canada, the Alberta-B.C. and the Manitoba-Saskatchewan, will be responsible for the college's board of governors.

In other matters dealing with LCMS-Canada, convention delegates approved its continued relationship with the Evangelical Lu-

theran Church in Canada (ELCC) and the Lutheran Church of Canada (LCC) in regards to Saskatoon's Lutheran seminary.

All three Canadian denominations have been training future ministers there.

Though LCMS-Canada ministerial candidates have been training with members of the other two churches, their preordination examination has always been overseen by LCMS ministers only.

Mr. Rode said the church will from now on be able to examine and approve its own candidates using a board of LCMS, ELCC and LCC examiners.

Further relations between the Canadian LCMS and the ELCC will continue to be studied as well. Delegates voted to appoint LCMS President Dr. J.A.O. Preus to a theological committee which will study the closing bonds between both Canadian Lutheran bodies.

But the most vital question affecting LCMS Canada had yet to be debated, Mr. Rode said during The Journal's Friday telephone interview with him.

The Canadian church, he said, wants to be given the right by its U.S.-based mother church to decide for itself if and when it will merge with the other two major Canadian Lutheran churches to form an all-Canadian Lutheran church.

Mr. Rode suggested, however, that there should be little difficulty in securing delegates' approval, since the motion giving the green light for further talks between the Canadian churches is being recommended by the convention's floor committee.

Of the 1,080 delegates attending this 52nd convention in Dallas, 42 are from the Canadian church.

## *Lutheran meet condemns abortion*

Delegates to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's (LCMS) convention in Dallas this week condemned abortion, insisting on the rights of the unborn.

Delegates, including several representatives of the LCMS Alberta-B.C. district headed by Rev. George Rode of Edmonton, in mid-week ratified their support for groups seeking protection of the unborn.

While condemning abortion, the delegates, meeting for their 52nd convention, also voted

to "help believers who are contemplating having abortions"

Religious movements outside the mainstream of Christianity and the growing charismatic movement, also came in for strong criticism.

Delegates warned against "involvement in the religious practices of Transcendental Meditation" and cautioned Lutherans about joining the charismatic movement.

The convention, gathering delegates of the largest and most conservative Lutheran Church in the United States, also upheld the methods of historical biblical criticism.

In another resolution, they voted to establish a new push in proselytism and bible-teaching among the physically and mentally handicapped.

Increasing interest in the bible among the blind and emotionally disturbed was judged important.