TOGETHER
for the love of the world

2013 JOINT ASSEMBLY July 3-7, 2013
www.jointassembly.ca

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Ensemble pour l'amour du monde

Greetings from the co-chairs of the Joint Assembly Worship Committee

Planning "paperless" liturgy for roughly 1000 people who come from at least two different Christian denominations as we gather in an enormous convention hall has presented the worship team with exciting opportunities to wed the liturgical core we hold in common with innovative expressions of worship. This process had us learning from each other so that together we could develop liturgies that would work for Joint Assembly. Like the theme of Joint Assembly advocates: "Together for the love of the world", your worship committee has spent much time "together" (for the love of the Assembly)!

And what discussions we had! It might seem obvious on one side, but, oops! Your thoughts? So we had great exchanges. On the role of liturgical ministers: "really? …the presider takes *that part* in your tradition? Mmmmm, not so much in ours"; or music…"I don't think we can get away with using that hymn"… "Oh! That one will really work!" or language "I thought a chaplain was…you know…a chaplain". We knew that this "new thing" which the Primate and National Bishop asked us to do, was going to mean thinking way outside of the box.

It meant starting with the basics: table; font; bread; wine; Word. No matter what our respective worship traditions have been, these are tangible expressions of the unity we share in the midst of our diversity.

It meant stretching our imaginations to transform a space used to hold tradeshows and business meetings, into a space where the church gathers to worship, to pray, to celebrate and to raise its voice in praising the Lord.

Above all, it meant coming together as the community of the baptised "for the love of the world."

Worship at Joint Assembly is likely to feel a little different than what you would normally experience on a Sunday morning in your own congregation. The notes we have included in the *Bulletin of Reports* and *Convening Circular* can provide some background. But, as with every worship experience prepare to open yourself to the Spirit. Prepare to discover the richness of the worship resources we share. Above all, be willing to recognise that where two or three (okay, a thousand, but who's counting?) are gathering together to share the Word and the Meal, Jesus will be in our midst.

Looking forward to seeing you in Ottawa!

Your servants in Christ,

Eric Dyck
Lutheran Co-Chair

Catherine Ascah
Anglican Co-Chair