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Social justice fund created to honour David Pfrimmer, principal-dean of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

WATERLOO – The Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada (ELFEC) has announced the creation of the David Pfrimmer Social Justice Fund. The fund honours the contributions of David Pfrimmer, principal-dean and registrar of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, a federated college of Wilfrid Laurier University.

The new fund will provide annual grants to charitable organizations furthering social justice issues such as poverty, climate change and human rights. Pfrimmer will serve as an advisor to ELFEC, helping to select the charitable organizations and projects that will receive grants from the fund.

A former director of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Pfrimmer spent more than 20 years working in public policy advocacy, taking an active international role with governments on human rights and social justice issues. In 1997 he led the successful initiative to encourage the United Nations to grant representative status to the Canadian Council of Churches as a non-governmental organization, allowing it to address international issues such as human rights, development, welfare reform and climate change.

Pfrimmer also served on the Eastern Synod's investment committee for 18 years, and has been an ELFEC board member for the past seven years. ELFEC serves the Lutheran Church by managing investments and endowment funds contributed by individuals, congregations and affiliated organizations.

"During David's tenure he made numerous valuable contributions, but probably none greater than his insistence that investment activity must serve the broader mission of the church," said Susan Heard, president of ELFEC. "He was largely responsible for the implementation of Socially Responsible Investment, whereby potential investments are first screened against social, environmental and ethical standards."

Pfrimmer has been principal dean and a professor of Christian Ethics at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary since 2005, and he remains active in the life of Wilfrid Laurier University. Pfrimmer earned a BA in Economics from Laurier when it was known as Waterloo Lutheran University. He went on to earn a Master of Divinity from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, a Master of Arts in Social Ethics from Laurier, and a Doctor of Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary.

"I am very grateful to the ELFEC board for this honour," said Pfrimmer. "I think ELFEC's commitment to operate a foundation committed to socially responsible investment is extremely important."

For more information, please contact Jeff Pym, executive director of the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada, at 1-888-308-9461 or jpym@elfec.ca.