

Minutes of the 2019 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly

**Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Thirty-Second Annual Assembly
June 14-15, 2019
Centennial Hall, Augustana College
Rock Island, Illinois**

Plenary Session I - Friday, June 14, 2019

Opening of the Assembly

Following the gathering hymn, “*What Is This Place*”, Bishop Jeffrey Clements led the Assembly in the “Opening of the Assembly” liturgy and prayers. Bishop Clements welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and for their commitment to Christ and the mission of the church. He then gave a brief preview of the Assembly.

Introduction of guests

Bishop Clements introduced the following special guests to the Assembly:

- Churchwide Representative - The Rev. Kevin Strickland, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop/Executive for Worship, Office of the Presiding Bishop
- Keynote Speaker – The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen, OMG Center for Theological Conversation
- Domestic Partner – The Rev. James Dunlop, Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA (arriving later)
- Region 5 Coordinator – The Rev. Ramie Bakken
- ELCA Foundation – Mr. Tim Urness, Regional Gift Planner
- Lutherdale Ministries – Mr. David Box, Associate Director
- Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center – Mr. Rob Gieraltowski, Executive Director
- Mission Investment Fund – The Rev. Richard Wehrs
- Northern Illinois Synod Women’s Organization – Mrs. Kim Choin, President
- ELCA Church Council Representative – Mr. Vernon Veal, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Central Southern Illinois Synod
- Host congregations – Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline & St. James Lutheran Church, Rock Island (both served by The Rev. Don Knowles)
- Grace Place @ Northern Illinois University, DeKalb – The Rev. Dr. Robert Hansen, Interim Campus Pastor
- Arcot Lutheran Church, India – The Rev. Bavoni Rajon Joseph (retired)
- Head Table: Deacon Cheryl Erdmann, Assistant to the Bishop; The Rev. Pat Esker, Assistant to the Bishop and Parliamentarian; Mr. Bill Bartlett, Synod Vice President; Ms. Tammie Farley, Synod Treasurer; and The Rev. Marilyn Hanson, Assistant to the Bishop.
- Lutheran Social Services of Illinois – Mr. David Novak, Vice President, Advancement and Executive Director, Cornerstone Foundation; Ms. Kathy Hall, Assistant Vice President, Advancement.
- Augustana College – The Rev. Richard Prigge, College Chaplain: At the invitation of the bishop, Rev. Prigge, on behalf of Augustana College President Steven Bahls, welcomed the gathered assembly, gave thanks for the synod’s support of campus

ministry and spoke briefly of the college's ministry and outreach to its students. He also showed a two-minute video clip on campus ministry.

Cycle to Synod 2019

The bishop invited those who participated in "Cycle to Synod 2019" to "ride" forward to the front of Centennial Hall. As they came forward, he commended the group for their commitment to the cause of reducing hunger in the world and thanked them and their supporters. Bishop Clements announced the names of those who rode bikes, those who supported them in the ride, and those who hosted the riders enroute to Augustana College. It was noted that prior to the ride, the group had already raised over \$3,000 towards eradicating world hunger. It was announced that another \$1,000 was raised during the ride. Heide Gallagher then came forward and received an additional check from Bishop Jeff Clements.

Credentials Report

The Rev. Chris Lee, First Lutheran Church, Rock Island, reported that the following were in attendance: 99 Ministers of Word & Sacrament voting members and 10 retired/on leave from call/disability status Ministers of Word and Sacrament voting members, for a total of 109 Ministers of Word and Sacrament voting members; 4 Ministers of Word and Service voting members and 6 retired/on leave from call/disability status Ministers of Word and Service voting members, 217 lay voting members, and 19 youth/young adult voting members, for a total of 246 lay voting members. Therefore, the total of voting members was 355 which included 109 (31%) Ministers of Word and Sacrament and 246 (69%) lay voting members. In addition, there were 62 visitors in attendance. The grand total of registered Assembly attendees was 417. A quorum was declared.

Adoption of the Rules of the Assembly

Vice President Bill Bartlett, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved the adoption of the Rules of the Assembly, located on pages 5-9 of the BOR. The bishop explained that no second was required as the Rules were coming from the Synod Council.

The Rev. Janet Wold, All Saints, Byron then moved to amend SA5.02 found on page 7 of the BOR by striking out the words, "The secretary of this Synod, The Rev. Don Knowles, shall serve as Secretary of the Assembly," and replace them with "The Rev. Marilyn Hanson shall serve as the Secretary Pro Tem of the Assembly." The motion was seconded. The Rev. Janet Wold explained that The Rev. Don Knowles who serves as the synod secretary is unable to be with us because of a death in his family.

ACTION SA-19-06-01: The motion to amend SA5.02 of the Rules of the Assembly to read, "The Rev. Marilyn Hanson shall serve as the Secretary Pro Tem of the Assembly" was adopted.

ACTION SA-19-06-02: The Rules of the Assembly were adopted, as amended.

Following the adoption of the Rules of the Assembly, Bishop Clements and Assistant to the Bishop, The Rev. Michel Clark, demonstrated how individuals are to approach the microphone, introduce themselves and present the motion and/or concerns that they have.

Assembly Committee Appointments

Secretary Pro Tem Marilyn Hanson was called upon to share the names of the Assembly's committee appointments, as follows:

Election Committee: The Rev. Lu Cantrell (chairperson), The Rev. Nathan Feig, Ms. Bethany Gola, Mr. Don Long, The Rev. Julane Nease, Ms. Laura Nelson, Mr. Mike Reibel, Dr. David Renneke (advisor)

Credentials Committee: The Rev. Chris Lee, The Rev. Wayne Melaas-Swanson, Ms. Deb Ehrler

Minutes Review Committee: The Rev. Julie Monnard and Ms. Donna Kelly

Resolutions Committee: The Rev. Miho Yasukawa (chairperson), Ms. Karen DeBolt, The Rev. Brad Haugen, Mr. Paul Dallgas Frey, Ms. Denise Norman, The Rev. Pat Esker (staff liaison and parliamentarian)

Adoption of the Agenda

Secretary Pro Tem Marilyn Hanson, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved that the agenda for the Synod Assembly, prepared by the Synod Council and found on pages 10-13 of the BOR, be adopted as the agenda for the 2019 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. No second was required.

ACTION SA-19-06-03: The motion to adopt the agenda was approved.

Certification of 2018 Synod Assembly Minutes

The Rev. Doug Liston, chairperson of the 2018 Synod Assembly Minutes Review Committee, reported that the committee had reviewed the minutes of the 2018 Synod Assembly and they were considered a fair and accurate representation of the proceedings of the assembly. Therefore, on behalf of the committee, he moved to adopt the 2018 Synod Assembly minutes. No second was needed.

ACTION SA-19-06-04: The 2018 Synod Assembly minutes were adopted, as presented.

Nominating Committee Report

The Rev. Andrew Kayes, chairperson of the 2019 Nominating Committee, began his report by thanking the Nominating Committee members and especially Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann for her leadership with the committee, the committee members for their work, and those individuals who were willing to stand for election to the various offices of the synod. He then presented the list of nominees for each office and the position to be elected. He directed the attention of the Assembly to pages 85-91 of the BOR and read the names of those nominated to serve as Synod Vice President and Treasurer, on the Synod Council, Congregational Life Committee, Global Mission Committee, Ministry Support Committee, Outreach Committee, Social Ministry Committee, Consultation Committee and the Discipline Committee.

The bishop asked for any further nominations. Since none were brought forward from the floor, the bishop declared that nominations were closed.

The Rev. Kayes then moved that these nominations become the official ballot of the Synod Assembly.

ACTION SA-19-06-05: The nominations, as presented, were approved as the official ballot of the Synod Assembly.

Bishop Clements thanked The Rev. Kayes for his good work and that of the Nominating Committee.

Distribution of the Ballot

The Rev. Lu Cantrell, chairperson of the 2019 Elections Committee, was called upon to explain the balloting process. The ballots were then distributed with the announcement that they would be collected at 2:30 p.m. Friday in Centennial Hall. Bishop Clements noted that in the BOR, page 111 the name of Dr. Randy Mullin should be listed as number 24B, not 25A for the Laity Male Nominee for the Consultation Committee.

Report of LSSI

Mr. David Novak, who serves Lutheran Social Services of Illinois as Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the Cornerstone Foundation, was introduced by Bishop Clements. He stated that LSSI is now in its 152nd year of ministry and is one of the oldest organizations in the state. As Jesus sees us in our wholeness, Mr. Novak told us that LSSI focuses on whole person care. After showing a brief video highlighting some of the work of LSSI, Mr. Novak thanked us for our generosity as a synod to support the work of this social service agency.

Break

Bishop Clements invited us to take a five-minute stand and stretch break.

Campus Ministry

Bishop Clements announced that Grace Place Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb has now called a campus pastor who will begin work later this summer. He stated that just as ministry has changed significantly over the years, campus ministry has also changed significantly over the years. Yet, he believes that campus ministry is still as important today as it has ever been. He encouraged us to remember campus ministry in our prayers and then noted that Ms. Tammie Farley, synod treasurer, currently serves on the state campus ministry board. A brief video on campus ministry was then shown.

Introduction

Bishop Clements noted Bishop James Dunlop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, our domestic partner synod, has arrived. He invited Bishop Dunlop to stand and be recognized.

Portico video

In the absence of Ms. Jennifer Prinz, our Region 5 representative from Portico Benefit Services, Bishop Clements shared the following written greeting from her as an introduction to showing a video of their services: "Portico Benefits Services, the ELCA's benefit ministry, is grateful to provide our leaders with essential benefits. This video celebrates all those who commit to a professional life of service." The video was then shown.

Keynote Address 1

The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen, a free-lance theologian from Two Harbors, MN, heads OMG Center for Theological Conversation and the Spent Dandelion Theological Retreat Center.

Picking up the theme of our synod's new mission statement, Dr. Madsen offered her first of three keynotes, titled "*Walking Together For the Sake of the World.*"

Video on ELCA Offerings (Mission Support)

A video was shown that highlighted the ministries throughout the world that are supported by our ELCA mission support dollars.

A Time of Prayer

Bishop Clements called on Bishop-elect Kevin Strickland to offer a prayer for Bishop John Macholz (Upstate New York Synod) and family on the death of his daughter Barbara.

Closing of Plenary Session One

Bishop Clements then declared Plenary Session One closed at approximately 12:15 p.m. The Rev. Marilyn Hanson, Assembly Co-Coordinator, was called upon to give announcements. The Rev. Karyn Kost, pastor of Freedom Lutheran, Oregon and St. James Lutheran, rural Forreston offered the closing prayer.

Plenary Session II - Friday, June 14, 2019

The Rev. Marilyn Hanson introduced the gathering hymn, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty." After the singing of the hymn, The Rev. Evan Mayhew, St. John's Lutheran Church, Joliet, offered the opening prayer. Bishop Clements then declared Plenary Session II open for business.

Credentials Committee Report

The Rev. Chris Lee presented the updated credentials report, noting that there were now 139 (35%) Ministers of Word and Sacrament voting members and 256 (65%) lay voting members, for a total of 395 voting members present as of 1:50 p.m. today.

Bishop's Report

Vice President Bill Bartlett took over the chair and Bishop Jeff Clements presented his report. He noted that his written report was printed on pages 15-17 of the BOR. Bishop Clements then stated that we have gathered for this Assembly under the theme of our new mission statement: "*Walking Together ... Loving Christ, loving all, for the sake of the world.*" He talked about the process used to develop the new mission statement, as well as the new vision statement and core values. He explained that each will help guide our synod's work in the years to come as we seek to "make Christ relevant to a diverse and changing world". As he closed his report, the bishop thanked the Assembly for their kindness, support and prayers for his work as bishop of the synod. The report was received with applause and Vice President Bill Bartlett returned the chair of the Assembly to the bishop.

Secretary's Report

The bishop called on Secretary Pro Tem Hanson to give the Secretary's Report. The Rev. Marilyn Hanson announced that the report of our Synod Secretary, The Rev. Don Knowles, is in the BOR, page 19. The report was received.

Synod Council Report

Bishop Clements recognized Secretary Pro Tem Hanson to present the Report of the Synod Council. She presented the report, indicating that it was in the BOR, pages 31-33. The report of the Synod Council was received.

Presentation of R-1

Secretary Pro Tem Hanson presented for the Assembly's consideration R-1, a resolution concerning the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women which was adopted by the Synod Council at their April 13, 2019 meeting. Bishop then explained that normally, in an effort to honor the time of the Assembly, the resolution presenter would only read the resolves of a resolution, but he asked that the "whereas" portions of the resolutions be read since we are taking R-1 up so early in the agenda and the Assembly may not have had time to fully read the resolution. Secretary Pro Tem Marilyn Hanson, as instructed, read R-1 in its entirety.

R-1 Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

WHEREAS, in 1970 both the Lutheran Church in America and American Lutheran Church in their national conventions voted to ordain women; and **WHEREAS**, the ELCA rejoices in these actions of its predecessor church bodies and will recognize the 50th anniversary in 2020 of the ordination of women; and **WHEREAS**, we express our profound gratitude for the many and varied ways the gifts of ordained women have advanced God's mission through this church; and

WHEREAS, we learned in the research related to the 45th anniversary of women's ordination of some progress but also significant disparities for women in the areas of preparation for ministry, all calls including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education (<http://search.elca.org/Pages/Results.aspx?k=45th+anniversary+of+women%27s+ordination>); and

WHEREAS, the same research uncovered denigrating and discriminatory experiences of many ordained women, some particularly acute for ordained women of color; and **WHEREAS**, the church is called to reflect in church and society its roles of advocate and model for the respect, dignity, and equal rights due all women, including the ordained women of this church; and

WHEREAS, this church is simultaneously addressing justice and women in its social statement under consideration and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to urge all synods in their 2020 assemblies to include celebration and special recognition of ordained women upon the 50th anniversary of authorizing this ordination practice; and **BE IT**

FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon our seminaries, colleges, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social ministry organizations, and congregations to highlight women preachers, teachers and speakers throughout 2020 in recognition of the diversity of gifts women's ordination has brought to our church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon congregations throughout the Northern Illinois Synod to participate in the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in our church through worship services, bible studies and other efforts to celebrate and recognize the importance and contributions of ordained women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon all members of this Synod to examine our consciences, and confess our sins and complicity in circumstances whereby actions concerning women have involved creating barriers, discrimination, or

perpetrating sexual harassment as women have prepared for and served as ordained women in this church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we memorialize our churchwide organization at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to conduct a gender analysis in 2020, whereby strategies are developed to promote and protect gender equity and justice, with particular focus on addressing the areas of preparation for ministry, call process including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon this Synod to establish goals and strategies for our congregations to achieve for ordained women, comparable compensation packages commensurate with that of ordained men in all calls within this Synod by 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon this Synod to establish goals and strategies for achieving for ordained women, access to ministry roles where women are currently underrepresented, with an emphasis on the challenges faced by women of color receiving viable first and second calls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request this Synod's publications to plan features in 2020 on the ordination of women, lifting-up the amazing talents and gifts this church has received from its ordained women, the barriers ordained women still experience in this church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we invite the prayers of all members of this Synod for the successful outcome of these initiatives.

The Rev. Rakel Evenson (New Life, Bolingbrook) spoke in support of the resolution.

The Rev. Kenn Storck (retired clergy) stated that the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America (AELC) voted in 1976 to ordain women and asked if he could make a slight amendment to the first whereas of the resolution to include this information. The bishop said no and explained that the whereas section is simply to provide us with information to support the resolves and cannot be amended. He assured the Assembly that the AELC would be included.

The Rev. Brant Clements (retired clergy) then moved to suspend the Rules of the Assembly in order to amend the first whereas. The bishop ruled his motion out of order because the whereas section is not part of what we vote on.

The Rev. Jacob Gawlik, St. John's, Sterling moved to call the question. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

ACTION SA-19-06-06: R-1 was adopted, as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Tammie Farley, treasurer of the synod, gave her report. She stated that the annual audit came back with a clean report. She assured the Assembly that our internal controls are aligned with best practices and that our finances are in good hands. She reported that for Fiscal Year 2018, a total of \$2,168,867 was received in mission support. We were able to share 55% of that amount (\$1,192,877) with the ELCA. Ms. Farley said that although we had a \$32,727 shortfall in mission support for 2018, we have strong cash reserves and were able to cover the difference with those reserves.

Secretary Pro-Tem Hanson offered the following resolution on behalf of the Synod Council: “Whereas, the report of the Treasurer for Fiscal Year 2018 has been duly audited and declared to be a fair representation of the financial condition of the synod, be it resolved that the report of the Treasurer be received with thanks.” The motion required no second. Her report was received with applause.

First Reading of the 2020 Proposed Budget

Secretary Pro-Tem Hanson, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved that the budget, prepared by the Finance Committee and adopted by the Synod Council, as it appears on page 37 in the BOR, be adopted as the budget for Fiscal Year 2020 for the Northern Illinois Synod. No second is required. Synod Treasurer Farley then spoke briefly about the proposed budget which totals \$2,291,000. Members of the Finance Committee were thanked for their work, with a special thanks given to out-going Vice President Bill Bartlett.

Collection of General Ballot

At 2:30 p.m., the ballots were collected.

Keynote Address 2

Dr. Anna Madsen offered her second keynote address using the second portion of our synod mission statement: *“Loving Christ For the Sake of the World.”*

Conclusion of Plenary Session II

At approximately 3:50 p.m., Bishop Clements declared Plenary Session II ended. He reminded us that business would resume at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.

The Rev. Marilyn Hanson was called on to make announcements and The Rev. Mara Ahles-Iverson, Zion Lutheran Church, Kewanee, offered the closing prayer.

Afternoon Forums & Workshops

Assembly participants were given the opportunity to attend two forums from 4:00 p.m. - 4:40 p.m. and again from 4:50 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. Offerings included a budget hearing, conversation with the Churchwide rep, a presentation by the “Light” youth ministry group, the Synod Candidacy sub-committee, and the five standing committees of the synod – Congregational Life, Global Mission, Ministry Support, Outreach and Social Ministry.

Special Event - Friday Evening, June 14 - at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline

The evening program, *“A Time of Recognition, Celebration and Remembrance”* began at 7:30 p.m. with Bishop Jeffrey Clements welcoming all who had gathered in the sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline. Together we sang a Gathering Hymn, “All Creatures, Worship God Most High.”

Leaders new to the synod – Bishop Clements welcomed rostered leaders who were new to the synod in the past year, including Rev. Mara Ahles-Iverson (Zion, Kewanee), Rev. Peter Bredlau (Trinity, Moline), Rev.-Elect Paul Gebo (Christ, Stockton), Rev. Karen Rees (Hill Correctional Center, Galesburg) and Rev. Karen E. Tews (Prince of Peace, Freeport)

and the candidates awaiting their first call – Ms. Chelsey Olson, Mr. Mack Patrick, and Mr. David Peterson. The gathering welcomed them with applause.

Recognition of Synod Council Members – Bishop Clements recognized the Synod Council members who were completing their term of service, including Mr. Bill Bartlett, Ms. Tammie Farley, Ms. Heide Gallagher, The Rev. Robert Franek, Mr. Craig Peterson, Deacon Carla Vanatta, and The Rev. Janet Wold. As they were thanked, each was given a gift of a hand prayer labyrinth. He then recognized those who were continuing their terms: The Rev. Don Knowles, The Rev. Brad Haugen, Mr. Ryan Mackey, Ms. Minnette Scott, The Rev. Gwen Sefrhans-Murphy, Mr. Jim Spring, Ms. Carol Swenson and The Rev. Andy Tyrrell.

Recognition of Synod Staff – Bishop Clements then recognized those serving on the synod staff and asked them to stand: Full-time Assistants to the Bishop - Deacon Cheryl Erdmann, The Rev. Gary Erickson, The Rev. Pat Esker and The Rev. Marilyn Hanson; Part-time Assistants to the Bishop – The Rev. Denver Bitner, The Rev. Michel Clark and Deacon Karin Graddy; and the Synod Administrative Staff – Ms. June Cain, Ms. Nancy Corey and Ms. Julie Lewis. The bishop then gave special recognition to Ms. Julie Lewis for her twenty years of service on the synod staff and to Deacon Karin Graddy for her fifteen years of service on the staff.

Anniversaries of Rostered Ministers – The bishop then recognized those rostered ministers with special anniversaries of service this year. After the names were read, they were honored with applause.

Recognition of Anniversaries of Congregations - Bishop Clements named the congregations celebrating significant anniversaries while Julie Lewis presented representatives of the congregations with framed certificates. The congregations recognized included Alleluia! Lutheran Church, Naperville (25 years); Grace Lutheran Church, Wilmington (75 years); Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline (100 years); Zion Lutheran Church, Belvidere (125 years); Peace Lutheran Church, Port Byron (125 years); St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kent (150 years); Messiah Lutheran Church, Galva (150 years); Zion Lutheran Church, Kewanee (150 years); and Calvary Lutheran Church, New Windsor (150 years). He then recognized Trinity Lutheran Church, Durand (175 years) and invited Ms. Debra Preston, president of the congregation, to briefly highlight the mission and ministry of the congregation. Next, he recognized Capron Lutheran Church, Capron (175 years) and invited Ms. Shirley Anderson, a representative of that congregation to also speak. A short video (2-3 minutes in length) was shown of each congregation.

Recognition of Retirements – Rostered ministers who had retired within the last year and were present were invited to come forward and receive a certificate marking their retirement. Those who had retired included The Rev. Lawrence Conway III, The Rev. Timothy Kenyon, The Rev. Jeff Linman, The Rev. Mark Oehlert, and Deacon Patricia Tillman. Bishop Clements then invited The Rev. Kurt Nordby forward and thanked him for his service on the staff of the Northern Illinois Synod as Director of Evangelical Mission. Rev. Nordby retired on January 31, 2019 after 40 years of ordained ministry and ten years on the synod staff. He was presented with a retirement gift and thanked for his many years of faithful service.

Fifty Year Ordination Anniversaries – The Rev. Marilyn Hanson was then called upon to introduce the two pastors celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordinations this

year. She first introduced The Rev. Dennis Heaney and his wife Bev, followed by The Rev. Arlyn Tolzmann and his wife Jeanne. Both pastors were given the opportunity to briefly speak to those present with their reflections from their years of ministry. The bishop presented each with a framed certificate in recognition of their anniversary.

Holden Evening Prayer Closing Worship – Following a short interlude in which people were invited to light candles in memory of loved ones, we closed the evening with the Holden Evening Prayer Service, led by Deacon Carla Vanatta (Salem, Sycamore) and Deacon Marti Bein (Our Savior's, Rockford) and musicians Mr. Chon Wherry (organ and piano) and Ms. Karen Neder (violin), both from Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline. Those rostered ministers who had died in the past year were remembered in prayer – The Rev. Gerald V. Larson, Deacon Linda Schmidt and The Rev. John L. Kindschuh.

Ice Cream Social - Trinity Lutheran Church then hosted an ice cream social for those who had gathered, with ice cream donated by Mr. Kent Kindelsperger, owner of Country Style Ice Cream of Moline.

Plenary Session III – Saturday, June 15, 2019

Following the gathering song, “When Morning Gilds the Skies,” and an opening prayer by Pastor Preston Fields, Bishop Clements declared Plenary Session III open for business.

Credentials Committee Report

The Rev. Chris Lee presented the updated credentials report: ministers of Word and Sacrament voting members: 116; retired ministers of Word and Sacrament voting members: 14; total ministers of Word and Sacrament voting members: 130 (33%). ministers of Word and Service voting members: 4; retired ministers of Word and Service voting members: 6; lay voting members: 238; youth/young adult voting members: 21; total lay voting members: 269 (67%). total voting members: 399. registered visitors: 74. The bishop declared a quorum present.

Election Committee Report

The Rev. Lu Cantrell was called upon to share the results of the general election balloting. The following, except as noted for a second ballot, were elected:

- Synod Council: Vice President (4-year term) – Minnette Scott
- Synod Council: Treasurer (4-year term) – Tammie Farley
- Synod Council: Laity (3-year term) – Carla Vanatta
- Synod Council: Laity (3-year term) – George Sanchez
- Synod Council: Clergy (3-year term) – Janet Wold
- Synod Council: Clergy (3-year term) – Scott Ralston and Robert Franek on a second ballot
- Synod Council: Laity, Person of Color (3-year term) – Monique Castillo
- Synod Council: Youth Representative (1-year term) – Grace Hoening
- Congregational Life Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Melinda Alekna
- Congregational Life Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Elizabeth Mascall
- Congregational Life Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Zachary Baer
- Global Mission Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Jessica Bakken
- Global Mission Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Reed Pederson
- Ministry Support Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Deanna Swanson
- Ministry Support Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Karyn Kost
- Outreach Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Amanda Schanze

- Outreach Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Roger Haefner
- Outreach Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Nathan Knowles
- Outreach Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Frank Langhoff
- Outreach Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Lisa Burbank
- Social Ministry Committee: Laity (3-year term) – Joan Soltwisch
- Social Ministry Committee: Clergy (3-year term) – Chuck Olson
- Consultation Committee: Laity (6-year term) – Lynn Tubbesing
- Consultation Committee: Laity (6-year term) – Randy Mullin
- Consultation Committee: Clergy (6-year term) – Elizabeth Martin
- Consultation Committee: Clergy (6-year term) – Preston Fields
- Discipline Committee: Laity (6-year term) – Karen Dolan
- Discipline Committee: Laity (6-year term) – Michael “Mic” Brooks
- Discipline Committee: Clergy (6-year term) – Henrietta Milner
- Discipline Committee: Clergy (6-year term) – Jacob Gawlick

A second ballot was distributed to be collected later in the morning.

Budget Proposal

Bishop Clements reminded the Assembly that the 2020 budget had been moved in Plenary Session II and opened up the floor for discussion of the budgeted.

The Rev. JoAnna Patterson (Grace, Loves Park) commented that the budget is a statement of faith. If innovation is a key value, she asked how that is reflected in the budget. She suggested that maybe holding Synod Assembly and the Congregation Resourcing Event every other year would free up funds for innovation. In response Treasurer Farley noted that there is funding available in various dedicated accounts for ministries in the synod and in congregations. Bishop Clements said he would take The Rev. Patterson’s suggestion to the synod council.

Mr. Paul Rowland (Bethlehem, DeKalb) said that he believes an annual assembly is important in order to conduct the business of the synod.

Mr. Chris Patterson (Grace, Loves Park) took note of the cuts to agencies in the budget. He said these programs are important and asked the synod council to reevaluate these cuts.

The Rev. Gary Erickson (Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission) offered thanksgiving for those who are encouraging innovation and noted that there is money available through the ELCA for “Holy Innovation.”

The Rev. Scott Ralston (Faith, Forreston) called the question and received a second. The motion passed.

The Bishop called for the vote.

ACTION SA-19-06-07 - The 2020 budget of the Northern Illinois Synod was adopted as proposed.

Salary Guidelines

Secretary Knowles was called upon to present the 2020 Salary Guidelines, which were printed on pages 121-140 of the BOR. Secretary Knowles moved, on behalf of the Synod

Council that the 2020 Salary Guidelines for rostered ministers of Word & Sacrament and rostered ministers of Word and Service as recommended by the Ministry Support Committee and approved by the Synod Council, be adopted.

ACTION SA-19-06-08 - The 2020 Salary Guidelines were adopted.

Churchwide Representative

Bishop-Elect Strickland brought greetings to the assembly on behalf of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and showed her video. He challenged the assembly members to consider how God is calling us out, what we might dream for ourselves as individuals, congregations, a synod and the ELCA. He invited assembly members to discuss their thoughts with someone near them then asked a few people to share their thoughts with the whole assembly. He then offered thanks on behalf of Bishop Eaton and the ELCA to the congregations of the synod, the synod, Bishop Clements and the synod staff for their ministry. He thanked the synod for our generosity, giving \$1,192,878 in mission support. He called the assembly's attention to the upcoming social statement on *Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* which will be voted on at the Churchwide Assembly and other emphases to be considered at the Churchwide Assembly. Bishop Clements noted that the synod has given a gift in Bishop-Elect Strickland's name to the ELCA Fund For Leaders in appreciation of his work.

The second ballot was collected at 9:30 a.m.

Keynote Address

The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen presented her address, "*Loving All For the Sake of the World.*"

The Rev. Jeff Schlesinger (Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish) requested a standing ovation for the keynote speaker.

Election Committee Report

The Rev. Lu Cantrell was called upon to share the results of the second general ballot. The following was declared elected:

- Synod Council: Clergy (3-year term) – Robert Franek

Youth Ministry Report

The Bishop called on Heide Gallagher to give a report from "Light" synod youth ministry. Ms. Gallagher highlighted plans for some upcoming events, including a "mini Houston" in which the Bishop will speak. She presented a "Light" t-shirt to the Bishop.

Report of the Vice-President

Vice President Bartlett recognized three people who especially helped him as he began his tenure as vice president: Myrna Anderson from whom he learned that everyone's opinion counts, Esther Prabhakar from whom he learned how to pray, and Leona Peterson-Spear from whom he learned numbers and how the church worked. He encouraged assembly members to return to their congregations and share with others what the synod is all about. He recognized that through the synod he has been able to see the church in Laos, Africa and India. He also celebrated that the Northern Illinois Synod is recognized for ministries we have enabled in our partner churches in Africa and India. He acknowledged the synod's transparency in decision making and encouraged people to bring their innovative ideas to the synod. He concluded by explaining his reasons for resigning as vice president at this time. His report was received with a

standing ovation. The bishop presented Mr. Bartlett with a gift from the synod in appreciation of his ministry with the synod.

Resolutions Committee

The Rev. Miho Yasukawa presented R-2 Concerning Gender Equality for Rostered Leadership in the Northern Illinois Synod. The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption.

R-2 Concerning Gender Equality for Rostered Leadership in the Northern Illinois Synod

WHEREAS, scripture declares, “When God created humankind, [God] made them in the likeness of God. Male and female [God] created them, and [God] blessed them and named them ‘Humankind’ when they were created.” (Genesis 5:1b-2, NRSV); and, the Apostle Paul writes, “there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28, NRSV); and

WHEREAS, R-1 “Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women” recognizes the historical significance of the ordination of women; and

WHEREAS, the same resolution highlights the continued struggles experienced by women who are ordained; and

WHEREAS, the same resolution calls for further action by our church;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod develop or provide training materials for the synod staff, candidacy committee, call committees, councils, and congregations that address the topic of equality in compensation and benefits for all rostered positions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod develop or provide anti-sexual harassment training materials to assist congregations in developing anti-sexual harassment policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod make both sets of training materials available to all congregations and provide for congregations that complete the training materials for equality in compensation and benefits and develop anti-sexual harassment policies with a certificate of completion and artwork featuring faithful women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod encourage ministers in a call or serving a community to regularly engage the community they serve through preaching, study, or small group activities on the topic of gender equality.

The Rev. James Gallagher spoke in favor of the resolution, noting that the resolution takes one further step than R-1. He believes that our congregations need better training and information to provide gender equity for rostered leaders. R-2 asks the synod to provide that help.

With no further discussion the bishop called for a vote on R-2 as presented.

ACTION SA-19-06-09 - R-2 Concerning Gender Equality for Rostered Leadership in the Northern Illinois Synod was adopted as presented.

Following the adoption of R-2, a video produced by the North Carolina Synod regarding inappropriate comments made to female pastors was presented.

The bishop declared Plenary Session III closed at 11:30 am. He then announced that a gift to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal has been made by the synod in honor of Bishop Dunlop.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion passed.

The bishop led the Order for the Closing of the Assembly

The assembly concluded on Saturday afternoon with a Service of Holy Communion with Rite of Ordination.

**Submitted by: The Rev. Marilyn Hanson, Secretary Pro-Tem
The Rev. Donald Knowles, Secretary**

***Note:** The abbreviation “BOR” indicates the “Bulletin of Reports.” Resolutions are noted with an “R” followed by a number. The actions of the Assembly are indexed, with the index of actions located at the end of the minutes.

2019 SYNOD ASSEMBLY “Summary of Actions”

ACTION SA-19-06-01: Appointment of The Rev. Marilyn Hanson as Secretary Pro-Tem (amendment to the Rules of the Assembly) – approved.

ACTION SA-19-06-02: Rules of the Assembly - adopted, as amended.

ACTION SA-19-06-03: Assembly Agenda – approved.

ACTION SA-19-06-04: 2018 Synod Assembly Minutes – approved.

ACTION SA-19-06-05: Official ballot of the Synod Assembly – adopted, as presented.

ACTION SA-19-06-06: R-1 Anniversary of the Ordination of Women adopted.

ACTION SA-19-06-07: 2020 Northern Illinois Synod Budget adopted.

ACTION SA-19-06-08: 2020 Salary Guidelines adopted.

ACTION SA-19-06-09: R-2 Concerning Gender Equality adopted.