



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
2015 Regular Meeting of the Synod Assembly**

The 2015 Regular Meeting of the Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was held May 30-31, 2015 at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton, Wisconsin under the theme, THE OPEN TABLE: ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE.

Prelude music by The River's Voice (Richard and Trish Bruxvoort Colligan). Bishop Froiland showed the Assembly DVD based on the theme: The Open table: Always Room for One More.

Assembly Session I

Bishop Froiland led the assembly in the Order of Service for the Opening of a Synod Assembly and called the Regular Meeting of the Synod Assembly to order.

Introduction to Social Media During Assembly

Jessica Guido informed the Assembly that she would be using social media to share the Assembly. She invited others to share their own Assembly experience via Twitter and Facebook.

Credentials Report #1

Helen Troutman (Bethel, Madison) presented the first report of the Credentials Committee. There are 340 Voting Members present.

Parliamentary Overview

Bishop Froiland informed the Assembly that David Moore was approved by the Synod Council to be the Synod attorney. Mr. Moore (St. John, Janesville) is also the Assembly parliamentarian. He provided a parliamentary overview and explained the importance of the rules used for good order at the Assembly. He stated that Robert's Rules of Order are used subject to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Synod.

Electronic Voting Introduction

Darin Beamish, from Qwizdom, explained the use of the electronic voting devices.

Adoption of Master Agenda

Vice-president Robin Cherwinka presented the master agenda as printed and distributed at registration. She noted that if there are no objections, the agenda will be adopted as printed. There were no objections so the agenda was adopted.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

Mrs. Cherwinka presented the consent agenda as recommended for approval by the Synod Council. She explained that with a consent agenda there is no discussion so if any voting member wishes to discuss an item, they may request that it be extracted from the agenda for discussion later in the schedule. Mrs. Cherwinka asked the Assembly if there were any items that anyone wished to be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed individually.

SA15.05.01 Adoption of Consent Agenda

VOTED

to adopt the Consent Agenda items: Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Assembly, Ratification of Assembly Committees, 2016 Compensation Guidelines, and bylaw amendment S7.11.02 *The time and place of regular meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Executive Committee, and notice of the time and place of such meetings shall be given by the secretary no less than six months before the date of opening of the assembly, provided that, under extraordinary circumstances, notice may be given at such later date as may be reasonable in relation to such circumstances.*

ADOPTED

Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Assembly

Mrs. Cherwinka highlighted several rules for the Assembly. She reminded the Assembly that any amendments or motions should be written out and submitted via email to the Synod Secretary. Members who wish to move or speak to any motion

should go to one of the three microphones and wait to be called on to speak. They should state their name, congregation, and city and have either their red or green card in hand to signal whether they are in favor or opposition to the motion.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The Rev. Kathy Gerking (Bethlehem, Portage), chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, brought the initial report of the Reference and Counsel Committee to the floor and stated that there were two resolutions submitted. Resolutions must be submitted by 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Nominations

The Rev. Jeff Jacobs (Springdale, Mt. Horeb and West Blue Mounds, Blue Mounds) thanked the people who served with him on the Nominations Committee. He reported that nominations and biographies are found in Section 7.0-7.27.

The slate of nominees is:

Synod Council – Treasurer – 4-year term (1 position to be filled)

Bruce Hutler

Synod Council - Youth – 2-year term (1 position to be filled)

Trevor Thom

Synod Council – Clergy Female (1 position to be filled)

The Rev. Karen Hofstad

The Rev. Lisa Nelson

Synod Council – Clergy Male (1 position to be filled)

The Rev. Robert Carlson

The Rev. Ted Lindquist

The Rev. Michael Short

Synod Council – Lay Female (1 position to be filled)

Eleanor Siebert

Sarah Schultz

Synod Council – Lay Male (1 position to be filled)

Alan Hines

Consultation Committee – Clergy Male (2 positions to be filled)

The Rev. Antonio Cabello

The Rev. Bob Fisher

The Rev. Peter Heide

Consultation Committee – Clergy Female (1 position to be filled)

The Rev. Sylvia Lee-Thompson

Consultation Committee – Lay Female (2 positions to be filled)

Jessica Guido

Donna Ulteig

Consultation Committee – Lay Male (2 positions to be filled)

No nominations

Discipline Committee – Clergy Female (2 positions to be filled)

No nominations

Discipline Committee – Clergy Male (1 position to be filled)

The Rev. Jeff Jacobs

Discipline Committee – Lay Female (2 positions to be filled)

Nancy Fulton-Young

Discipline Committee – Lay Male (2 positions to be filled)
Matthew Helmers

2016 Churchwide Assembly – Assembly will vote on 17 total + 1 extra youth + 1 extra person of color – Total 19
Person of Color or Primary Language Other than English (up to 3 positions to be filled)

Adriano Hugentobler Ayres
The Rev. Antonio Cabello
Andre Fisher
The Rev. Stephen Marsh

Youth and Young Adult (up to 3 positions to be filled)

Jessica Helmers
Sarah Schultz
Casey Sweeney
Trevor Thom

Clergy Female

The Rev. Naomi Garber
The Rev. Sylvia Lee-Thompson
The Rev. Katya Ouchakof
The Rev. Emily Tveite

Clergy Male

The Rev. David Berggren
The Rev. Jeff Jacobs
The Rev. Steve Kottke
The Rev. Jeffrey Pedersen
The Rev. Rick Reitan
The Rev. Blake Rohrer
The Rev. Michael Short
The Rev. Matthew J. Smith-Laubenstein
The Rev. Scot Sorensen
The Rev. Nick Uthall
The Rev. Antonio Cabello
The Rev. Stephen Marsh

Lay Female

Sue Alseth
Carolyn Butts
Mary Nervig
Lindsay Reitan
Debbie Short
Nancy Fulton Young
Bonita Vize
Jessica Helmers
Sarah Schultz

Lay Male

Davit Frank
Matthew Helmers
Jason Poole
Adriano Hugentobler Ayres
Andre Fisher
Casey Sweeney
Trevor Thom

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations from the floor. Alan Hines (St. John's, Prairie du Sac) nominated Clayton Thorp (St. Luke's, Rome-Sullivan) for Synod Council Youth. The Rev. Mark Jones (First Lutheran, Beaver Dam) nominated Shannon Fleischfresser (First Lutheran, Beaver Dam) for Lay Female Churchwide Assembly. Bishop Froiland closed nominations. Voting members will have an opportunity for further nominations after the First Ballot.

Keynote: Love Songs at the Kitchen Table

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman, ELCA Director for Congregational and Synodical Mission, opened his keynote address with Hebrews 10:23-25: *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good works; not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as the day is drawing near.* His keynote address was based on the altar table as the table that unites the kitchen tables of the parish. Rev. Bouman spoke about setting tables among immigrants and refugees and the work the ELCA is doing to help others in the world.

Report from ELCA Church Council

Hans Becklin, a seminarian in candidacy in our Synod in seminary at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago gave a report from the ELCA Church Council.

Credentials Report #2

Helen Troutman (Bethel, Madison) presented the second report of the Credentials Committee. There are 349 Voting Members present.

The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein (St. John's, Johnson Creek) offered a prayer before the first ballot.

Ballot #1

The Rev. Jack Way (Luther Valley, Beloit) and The Rev. Emily Tveite (St. John, Oregon) brought the first ballot to the floor of the Assembly. The first ballot includes the following elections:

Churchwide Voting Members - Youth and Young Adult.

Jessica Helmers
Shannon Fleishfresser
Trevor Thom
Sarah Schultz
Casey Sweeney

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Churchwide Voting Members – Youth and Young Adults. There were no further nominations. The Bishop declared nominations closed

Churchwide Voting Members – Persons of Color and/or Person Whose Primary Language is Other Than English.

Andre Fisher
The Rev. Antonio Cabello
The Rev. Stephen Marsh
Andriano Hugentobler Ayres

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Churchwide Voting Members – Persons of Color and/or Person Whose Primary Language is Other Than English. There were no further nominations. The Bishop declared nominations closed

Synod Council - Treasurer

Bruce Hutler

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Synod Council - Treasurer. There were no further nominations. **The Bishop declared nominations closed and declared Bruce Hutler elected by acclamation.**

Synod Council - Youth

Trevor Thom
Clayton Thorp

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Synod Council - Youth. There were no further nominations. The Bishop declared nominations closed

Churchwide Voting Members – Clergy Female

Rev Katya Ouchakof
Rev Naomi Garber
Rev Emily Tveite
Rev Sylvia Lee-Thompson

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Churchwide Voting Members – Clergy Female. There were no further nominations. The Bishop declared nominations closed

Report of the Elections – Ballot #1

Voting was completed electronically.

Churchwide Voting Members - Youth and Young Adult (vote for 3)

331 votes cast – 166 elects

Jessica Helmers	218
Shannon Fleishfresser	184
Trevor Thom	211
Sarah Schultz	194
Casey Sweeney	170

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Jessica Helmers, Sarah Schultz, and Trevor Thom.

Churchwide Voting Members – Persons of Color and/or Person Whose Primary Language is Other Than English (vote for 3)

326 votes cast – 164 elects

Andre Fisher	249
The Rev. Antonio Cabello	243
The Rev. Stephen Marsh	254
Andriano Hugentobler Ayres	205

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Andre Fisher, The Rev. Antonio Cabello, and The Rev. Stephen Marsh.

Synod Council – Youth (vote for 1)

324 votes cast – 163 elects

Trevor Thom	185
Clayton Thorp	139

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Trevor Thom.

Churchwide Voting Members – Clergy Female (vote for three)

333 votes cast – 167 elects

Rev. Katya Ouchakof	233
Rev. Naomi Garber	225
Rev. Emily Tveite	262
Rev. Sylvia Lee-Thompson	261

Bishop Froiland declared the election of The Rev. Katya Ouchakof, The Rev. Emily Tveite, and The Rev. Sylvia Lee-Thompson.

Report of the Vice-President

Robin Cherwinka (All Saints, Fitchburg) brought the report of the Office of the Vice-President to the Assembly. Her report included the organizational chart of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. She also reviewed the mission and vision statement of the ELCA and the mission of the Synod “*We care for, connect and equip our congregations to be the heart and hands of Jesus.*”

Recognition of Congregational Anniversaries

Mrs. Cherwinka recognized congregational anniversaries.

Deerfield Lutheran Church, Deerfield - 125th anniversary
Grace Lutheran Church, Monroe – 125th anniversary
St. John Lutheran Church, Janesville – 125th anniversary

Introduction of Synod Council

Mrs. Cherwinka recognized Synod Council members.

Mary DeYoung – Secretary (Christ, Sharon)	Rolfe Nervig (St. Stephen’s, Monona)
Bruce Hutler – Treasurer (Our Savior’s, Sun Prairie)	Eleanor Seibert – (Five Points, Blue River)
The Rev. Anne Andert (Faith, Janesville)	The Rev. Michael Short (First English, Platteville)
Carolyn Butts (St. John’s, Evansville)	The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein (St. John’s, Johnson Creek)
Donald Gehrke (Castle Rock, Fennimore)	Jim St. Vincent (Lake Edge, Madison)
Alan Hines (St. John’s, Prairie du Sac)	Lily Zeich – (Luther Valley, Beloit)
The Rev. Karen Hofstad (St. Paul’s, Baraboo)	Trevor Thom – Youth (Our Savior’s, Iron Ridge)
The Rev. Margo Martens (Blanchardville, Blanchardville)	
Additional Advisory members include:	
Lon Buss – Men in Mission (Burke, Madison)	
Polly Carter – Women of ELCA (Good Shepherd, Madison)	

Rolfe Nervig (St. Stephen’s, Monona) offered a prayer before the second ballot.

Credentials Report #3

Helen Troutman presented the third report of the Credentials Committee. There are 351 Voting Members present.

Ballot #2

The Rev. Jack Way and The Rev. Emily Tveite brought the second ballot to the floor of the Assembly. The second ballot includes the following elections:

Consultation Committee – Clergy Male

The Rev. Robert Fisher
The Rev. Antonio Cabello
The Rev. Peter Heide

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Consultation – Clergy Male. There were no further nominations. The Bishop declared nominations closed

Consultation Committee - Lay Female

Jessica Guido
Donna Ulteig

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Consultation – Lay Female. There were no further nominations. **The Bishop declared nominations closed and declared Jessica Guido and Donna Ulteig elected by acclamation.**

Consultation Committee – Lay Male (vote for 2) and Lay Male or Lay Female (vote for 1)

No nominations

The Bishop asked for nominations. There were no further nominations. The Bishop noted that if no nominees are brought forward the Synod Council would appoint people to fill these positions.

Discipline Committee – Clergy Female (vote for 2), Clergy Male (vote for 1), Lay Female (vote for 2), Lay Male (vote for 2)

Clergy Male – The Rev. Jeff Jacobs
Lay Female - Nancy Fulton Young
Lay Male – Matthew Helmers

The Bishop asked for nominations. Donna Hamilton (Emmanuel, Merrimac) nominated The. Rev. Lil Belusa (Emmanuel, Merrimac) for Discipline – Clergy Female. There were no further nominations. **The Bishop declared nominations closed and declared The Rev. Lil Belusa (Clergy Female), The Rev. Jeff Jacobs (Clergy Male), Nancy Fulton Young (Lay Female), and Matthew Helmers (Lay Male) elected by acclamation.**

Synod Council – Lay Male

Alan Hines
Clayton Thorp

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Synod Council – Lay Male. There were no further nominations.
The Bishop declared nominations closed

Synod Council – Clergy Female

The Rev. Karen Hofstad
The Rev. Lisa Nelson

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Synod Council – Clergy Female. There were no further nominations.
The Bishop declared nominations closed

Synod Council – Clergy Male

The Rev. Michael Short
The Rev. Robert Carlson
The Rev. Ted Lindquist

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Synod Council – Clergy Male. There were no further nominations.
The Bishop declared nominations closed

Synod Council – Lay Female

Sarah Schultz
Eleanor Siebert

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Synod Council – Lay Female. There were no further nominations.
The Bishop declared nominations closed

Report of the Elections – Ballot #2

Voting was completed electronically.

Consultation Committee – Clergy Male (vote for 2)

333 votes cast – 167 elects

The Rev. Robert Fisher	204
The Rev. Antonio Cabello	221
The Rev. Peter Heide	228

Bishop Froiland declared the election of The Rev. Antonio Cabello and The Rev. Peter Heide.

Synod Council – Lay Male (vote for 1)

331 votes cast – 166 elects

Alan Hines	224
Clayton Thorp	107

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Alan Hines.

Synod Council – Clergy Female (vote for 1)

328 votes cast – 164 elects

The Rev. Karen Hofstad	143
The Rev. Lisa Nelson	185

Bishop Froiland declared the election of The Rev. Lisa Nelson.

Synod Council – Clergy Male (vote for 2)

337 votes cast – 169 elects

The Rev. Michael Short	228
The Rev. Robert Carlson	200
The Rev. Ted Lindquist	222

Bishop Froiland declared the election of The Rev. Michael Short and The Rev. Ted Lindquist.

Synod Council – Lay Female (vote for 1)
328 votes cast – 165 elects

Sarah Schultz	187
Eleanor Siebert	141

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Sarah Schultz.

Report of the Treasurer

Bruce Hutler, Synod Treasurer, brought the Treasurer's Report to the floor of the Assembly. He reported that congregational Mission Support was \$1,508,000 in fiscal 2014. This was a decrease of \$26,139 (-1.7%) from fiscal year 2013 and the second smallest fiscal year amount in Synod history. SCSW Mission Support to Churchwide was \$845,115 in fiscal 2014, which is an increase of \$3,807 (0.5%) from fiscal year 2013. SCSW contributes 55% of Mission Support to the ELCA while the average in Region 5 is 52.7%.

Mr. Hutler also reported that Churchwide Mission Support for fiscal 2014 was \$48.4 million, a decline of \$573,000 (-1.2%). Region 5 Mission Support was \$10.15 million in fiscal 2014, a decline of \$114,000 (-1.1%). Region 5 has the highest Mission Support percentage at 52.7% with the average of all regions at 48.6%.

As of March 2015 Mr. Hutler reported that the Synod received Mission Support of \$1.131 million, an increase of \$61,754 from last year-to-date (5.5%). Mission Support is \$54,000 less than budgeted. Expenses are \$15,000 more than budgeted, but \$37,100 less than last year. The Synod has a negative Cash Flow of approximately \$32,600.

Introduction of the Spending Plan

Mr. Hutler presented the Spending Plan for July 1, 2015 through June 20, 2016. Income includes congregational Mission Support of \$1,580,000, which is equal to last year's budget. Mission support is distributed as follows: ELCA Churchwide support of 55%, Seminaries of 6.2%, and Lutheran Campus Ministry of 6.2%. Other projected income includes personal donations and special gifts, rent income, and interest income for a total of \$17,345. Net income available for Synod operations is \$532,425.

Expenses include:

- Other Ministry Partners Benevolence – \$11,725
- Personnel Expenses – Healthcare for 100% of full-time staff; Portico went up +10%; COLA increase of 1.7% for full-time staff that were employed as of June 1st – plus travel, mileage and meals – \$393,000
- Leadership Support – Equal to last year's budget – except dropped Synod Council Expenses – \$10,000
- Committees – Candidacy is equal to last year's budget, Mission Tables - reduced to \$5,000
- Communication – Media/Website reduced to \$500; Newsletter is equal to last year's budget
- Programmatic & Professional Leaders Education – Reduced to \$2,000
- Office – Most items equal to last year's budget – dropped Postage by \$750; dropped Rent to \$50K based on lower rent for new space; and
- Decreased telephone by \$1,500

The proposed spending plan is a "balanced budget."

Report of the Secretary

Mary DeYoung, the Synod Secretary, brought the secretary's report to the assembly. The report includes the approved constitutional, policy, financial, and roster change actions of the Synod Council since the May 2014 regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Endowment Committee

Elaine Kroeger (St. Luke's, Middleton) presented a report from the Endowment Committee.

Reports from Returned Deployed Leaders

The Rev. Todd Iverson (Immanuel, Watertown) spoke with the Assembly about his role as chaplain in Afghanistan. The Rev. Kirsten Fryer (Churchwide Global Mission) spoke with the Assembly about her ministry in Cairo, Egypt. Rev. Fryer offered a table prayer before lunch.

Bishop Froiland recessed the Assembly for lunch.

Session II

Bishop Froiland called Session II to Order.

Credentials Report #4

Helen Troutman (Bethel, Madison) presented the fourth report of the Credentials Committee. There are 356 Voting Members present.

Lily Zeich (Luther Valley, Beloit) offered a prayer before the third ballot.

Ballot #3 – Paper Ballot

The Rev. Jack Way and The Rev. Emily Tveite brought the third ballot to the floor of the Assembly. The third ballot includes the following elections:

Churchwide Voting Members – Clergy Males (vote for three)

The Rev. Jeffrey Pedersen
The Rev. Steve Kottke
The Rev. Scot Sorensen
The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein
The Rev. Blake Rohrer
The Rev. Rick Reitan
The Rev. David Berggren
The Rev. Jeff Jacobs
The Rev. Nick Utphall
The Rev. Michael Short

The Bishop asked for further nominations. For Churchwide Assembly Voting Members – Clergy Male. Eric Kaland (Faith, Columbus) nominated The Rev. Robert Moberg. There were no further nominations. The Bishop declared nominations closed.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Members – Lay Females (vote for four)

Lindsay Reitan
Carolyn Butts
Debbie Short
Mary Nervig
Bonita Vize
Shannon Fleishfresser
Nancy Fulton Young
Sue Alseth

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Churchwide Assembly Voting Members – Lay Females. Jason Poole (Faith, Janesville) nominated Jen Kooistra (Emmanuel, Mt. Horeb). There were no further nominations. The Bishop declared nominations closed.

Paper ballots were distributed for the Churchwide Voting Members – Clergy Male and the Churchwide Voting Members – Lay Female. Bishop Froiland declared the balloting closed.

Ballot #3 – Electronic Ballot

The Rev. Jack Way and The Rev. Emily Tveite brought the electronic balloting for the third ballot to the floor of the Assembly. The electronic third ballot includes the following elections:

Churchwide Voting Members – Lay Male

Adriano Hugentobler Ayres
David Frank
Jason Poole
Casey Sweeney
Matthew Helmers

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Churchwide Voting Members – Lay Male. There were no further nominations. The Bishop declared nominations closed.

Consultation Committee – Clergy Female or Male

The Rev. Bob Fisher

The Rev. Sylvia Lee-Thompson

The Bishop asked for further nominations for Consultation – Clergy Male or Clergy Female. There were no further nominations. The Bishop declared nominations closed.

Report of the Elections – Ballot #3

Voting was completed electronically.

Churchwide Voting Members – Lay Male (vote for 3)

323 votes cast – 167 elects

Adriano Hugentobler Ayres 190

David Frank 176

Jason Poole 213

Casey Sweeney 181

Matthew Helmers 187

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Adriano Hugentobler Ayres, Jason Poole, and Matthew Helmers.

Consultation Committee – Clergy Female or Male (vote for 1)

328 votes cast – 165 elects

The Rev. Bob Fisher 102

The Rev. Sylvia Lee-Thompson 226

Bishop Froiland declared the election of The Rev. Sylvia Lee-Thompson.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Mary Froiland presented her report to the Assembly based on Luke 21:13-15, the story of Jesus walking with the disciples to Emmaus on the day of his resurrection. She noted that this text has been a formative passage for her as he travels around the Synod. This passage seems to be a fitting description of our life together as the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. We walk this path together, often weighed down by our own doubts, sorrows, and confusion, knowing that Jesus walks with us even if we don't always recognize him. We open the Scriptures together, feeling our hearts burning within us as we recognize Jesus there. We return home together, and gather at the table where Jesus himself is both host and meal as his presence is revealed among us. And we go out with renewed hope and with new energy to tell the story that Jesus is alive and therefore so are we!

This story is repeated over and over again throughout our Synod, in the lives of individuals and congregations. It is a story in which we can recognize ourselves, and a story that gives us hope and encouragement and purpose. As we begin the journey of another year as companions along this journey of life and faith, may we continue to talk with one another, sharing our dreams and our disappointments. May we know and trust that Jesus is accompanying us on the way even if we don't always recognize him beside us. May we experience his life-giving presence as we break bread together and he is revealed among us. May we be inspired and energized as we are sent out to tell the story: We have seen the Lord and he is alive!

Introductions

Bishop Froiland introduced and thanked the Synod Staff.

The Rev. Steve Kottke

Carla Fears

Karen Kretschmann

The Rev. Erik Jelinek

Linda Freitag

Becky Johnson

Vicki Hanrahan

Bishop Froiland introduced and recognized the following:

New Rostered Leaders to Our Synod

The Rev. Kalen Barkhotz (on leave from call)

The Rev. Bob Fisher (York Memorial, Blanchardville)

The Rev. Kathy Gerking (Bethlehem, Portage)

The Rev. Kimberly Jordan (Trinity English, Fort Atkinson)

The Rev. Brenda Lovick (East Koskonong, Cambridge)

The Rev. Rod Nordby (on leave from call)

The Rev. Peter Sherven (retired)
The Rev. Gloria Stubitsch (Agrace Hospice, Madison)

First Call Candidates

The Rev. Kirsten Curtis (St. Martin's, Cross Plains)
Peg Ekedahl, AiM (Janesville)
The Rev. Don Glanzer (St. Peter, Loganville)
Einstein Gonzalez-Leon, AiM (Comunidad Gracia de Dios, Janesville)
Nancy Raabe, AiM (Luther Memorial, Madison)
The Rev. Craig Simenson (Grace, Darlington)
The Rev. Andrew Twiton (Orfordville, Orfordville)

Full Communion Partners

The Rev. Janice Diefenthaler (Interim, St. John's, Beaver Dam)
The Rev. Lee Zortman (Interim, Immanuel, Waupun)

Seminarians Assigned to the Synod

Allison Cobb	Eleanor Siebert
Francine Rask	Anne Walsvik

Interns Serving the Synod

Stacy Gahlman-Schroeder (Zion, Madison)
Eric Hanson (Grace, Cambridge)
Robin Luckey (First English, Platteville)
Rebecca Morris (Our Savior's, Beloit)
Jasmine Tesdahl (Barneveld, Barneveld)

Ministry Partners

Representatives from the Synod's ministry partners were heard: Lutheran World Relief (Becca Tumm), Lutheran Social Services (Mary Flynn), and Portico Benefit Services (Tammy Devine). Bishop Froiland reported that to date the Synod has given out thirty-six wellness grants to rostered leaders for a total of \$3,500. Starting July 1, 2015 the Synod will have \$3,000 available for Congregational Wellness Initiative stipends of \$200 available.

Campaign for the ELCA

The Rev. David Berggren (Retired, Luther Memorial, Madison) presented the ELCA *Always Being Made New* campaign. The Rev. Matthew Poock (St. John, Evansville) shared information about the Ministry Expansion grant their congregation received from the ELCA.

Vicki Hanrahan made general announcements to the Assembly.

Bishop Froiland declared Session II closed and adjourned the Assembly for the evening.

Banquet and Rostered Leader Anniversary Recognitions

Rostered leader anniversary recognitions include:

25 th Anniversary of Commissioning (Associate in Ministry)	
Berkley Guse, AiM	Phyllis C. Wiederhoeft, AiM
50 th Anniversary of Commissioning (Associate in Ministry)	
Karen Isabella Mantey, AiM	
25 th Anniversary of Ordination	
The Rev. Kelli Fisher	The Rev. Kathy Gerking
The Rev. Robert Fisher	The Rev. James Melvin
The Rev. Scott Geister-Jones	The Rev. Terri Skildum
50 th Anniversary of Ordination	
The Rev. Joel Diemer	The Rev. William White
The Rev. John Finney, Jr.	

Session III

Bishop Froiland called Session III to Order.

Credentials Report #5

Helen Troutman presented the fifth report of the Credentials Committee. There are 361 voting members present.

The Rev. Anne Andert (Faith, Janesville) offered a prayer before the fourth ballot.

Report of the Elections – Ballot 3

The Rev. Jack Way brought forth the results of the third ballot (paper ballot)

Churchwide Voting Members – Clergy Males (vote for three)

322 votes cast (3 invalid) – 162 votes elect

The Rev. Jeffrey Pedersen	51
The Rev. Steve Kottke	146
The Rev. Scot Sorensen	68
The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein	107
The Rev. Blake Rohrer	131
The Rev. Rick Reitan	87
The Rev. David Berggren	69
The Rev. Jeff Jacobs	78
The Rev. Nick Utphall	84
The Rev. Michael Short	99
The Rev. Bob Moberg	38

Bishop Froiland declared no election for Churchwide Voting Member – Clergy Male. The top four vote getters will go forward on the next ballot in order of the number of votes they received.

Churchwide Assembly Voting Members – Lay Females

325 votes cast – 163 votes elects

Lindsay Reitan	195
Carolyn Butts	147
Debbie Short	136
Mary Nervig	154
Bonita Vize	83
Shannon Fleishfresser	160
Nancy Fulton Young	121
Sue Alseth	129
Jen Kooistra	103

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Lindsay Reitan for Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Female. The next top four vote getters will go forward on the next ballot in order of the number of votes they received.

Ballot #4

The Rev. Jack Way brought the fourth ballot to the floor of the Assembly. The fourth ballot includes the following elections:

Churchwide Voting Member – Clergy Male (vote for 3)

The Rev. Steve Kottke
The Rev. Blake Rohrer
The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein
The Rev. Michael Short

Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Female (vote for 3)

Shannon Fleishfresser
Mary Nervig
Carolyn Butts
Debbie Short

Report of the Elections – Ballot 4

Balloting was done electronically.

Churchwide Voting Member – Clergy Male (vote for 3)

270 votes cast – top three vote getters will be elected

The Rev. Steve Kottke	226
The Rev. Blake Rohrer	202
The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein	192
The Rev. Michael Short	168

Bishop Froiland declared the election of The Rev. Steve Kottke, The Rev. Blake Rohrer, and The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein.

Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Female

280 votes cast – top three vote getters will be elected

Shannon Fleischfresser	227
Mary Nervig	234
Carolyn Butts	198
Debbie Short	162

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Shannon Fleischfresser, Mary Nervig, and Carolyn Butts.

Report of ELCA

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman, ELCA Director for Congregational and Synodical Mission, recognized the Synod for their efforts on the Malaria Campaign, the new mission starts occurring in the Synod, and their work on the Always Being Made New Campaign. Rev. Bouman share a video message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

ELCA Malaria Campaign Report

Eleanor Siebert, chair of the Synod’s Malaria Campaign, reported the Synod has raised \$234,831 toward the ELCA Malaria Campaign and nationally over \$14 million has been raised. The campaign ends in January 2016.

Discussion of Spending Plan

Treasurer Bruce Hutler returned the Spending Plan to the floor of the Assembly.

Alan Hines (St. John, Prairie du Sac) offered a prayer before voting on the adoption of the 2015-15 Spending Plan.

Adoption of the Spending Plan

Bishop Froiland reported to the Assembly that the Spending Plan has been recommended by the Synod Council and therefore is moved and properly brought before the body.

SA15.05.02 2015-16 Spending Plan

VOTED to approve the 2015-16 Spending Plan.

ADOPTED

Bishop Froiland recessed the Assembly to attend the breakout sessions.

Session IV

The Bishop called Session IV to order.

Credentials Report #6

Helen Troutman presented the sixth report of the Credentials Committee. There are 361 voting members present.

Resolutions

Bishop Froiland called on Vice-President Robin Cherwinka to present Resolution 1 – Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA.

Resolution 1 –Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA

The Synod Council recommended adoption of Resolution 1.

SA15.05.03 Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA

VOTED

WHEREAS, the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America approved a five-year \$198 million fund raising campaign titled *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*; and

WHEREAS the aim of the campaign is to strengthen the church’s witness now and in the future particularly in the areas of congregations, leadership, hunger and poverty, and global church; and

WHEREAS the goal for the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin in this campaign is \$5 million;
THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin invites every member to make a positive and generous financial response to *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* by January 31, 2019.

ADOPTED

Bishop Froiland called on Kristen Curtis, the co-chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee to present Resolution 2 – Church’s Response to Climate Disruption.

Resolution 2 –Church’s Response to Climate Disruption

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption of Resolution 2.

Reference Notes: The 2013 SCSW Assembly adopted a resolution entitled “A Faithful Response to Global Climate Change” and the 2008 SCSW Assembly “Energy Stewardship” resolution memorialized the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reduce carbon footprints and promote energy stewardship in a variety of ways. In 1993, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted the social statement “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice.” The proposed resolution is consistent with the responses encouraged and taken in these preceding actions.

The Rev. Sue Schneider (Trinity, Madison) informed the Assembly that her congregation installed solar panels on their church and would be more than happy to share information with any other congregation looking to do the same. Don Fisher (Luther Memorial, Delavan) spoke in opposition not to the idea of the resolution but to the wording that was used in the resolution. He reminded the Assembly that we need to be inclusive and make sure we have a dialogue with those who don’t believe the same way we do. Loren Johnson, one of the authors of the resolution, noted that this resolution is not a mandate but offers the opportunity to start a discussion. The Rev. Anne Andert (Faith, Janesville) stated that in her sermon on Earth Day she challenged her congregation to start a Green Team as another way to care for Gods’ world.

SA15.05.04 Church’s Response to Climate Disruption

VOTED

WHEREAS, the significant and sudden increase in global warming is overwhelmingly scientifically accepted to be derived from human activity and is an existential problem that challenges all life on earth, and is an urgent matter because the procrastination penalty for inaction is huge; and

WHEREAS global warming is immoral and unethical in that we betray future generations by leaving them with a diminished and despoiled planet; and responding with urgency is a matter of social justice in that the poor and disenfranchised suffer disproportionately for a problem they have done little to create; and

WHEREAS global warming is an example of how our way of life has damaged God's creation; an example of failed stewardship (the moral language we use to describe our covenantal relationship with nature) caused by our disconnection from and failed relationship with earth; and

WHEREAS global warming shows a disregard of our most basic task to care for God’s creation and is therefore sinful, and as God's children we are all complicit in this sin and in need of redemption; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we as God's children strive to be better informed of the consequences of our lifestyle choices, and more aware of the distress signals Earth is sending us, and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations of the South Central Synod of Wisconsin take measurable steps to reduce our carbon footprint to sustainable levels, both individually and collectively, through energy efficiency, conservation, and adaptation of renewable forms of energy whenever feasible, and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin join with our ecumenical partners to foster education and dialog on creation care, understanding that human well being is derived from and dependent on the health of the planet, and that our theology include elements of ecology, defined as the science of how we live in right relationship with nature; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin encourage a renewed effort, to address this most pressing challenge understanding that the church has a role in this discussion for it is religion and culture that teach us how to value our gift of creation.

ADOPTED

Resolution 3 –Racism Conversations

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption of Resolution 3.

MOVED WHEREAS, Christ Jesus “has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us” (Ephesians 2:14); and

WHEREAS, we continue to live into the kingdom of God, striving to love our neighbor while also confessing our individual and corporate sin; and

WHEREAS, the 1993 ELCA Social Statement “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture” first recognizes that racism “infects and affects everyone. It deforms relationships between and within racial, ethnic, or cultural groups. It undermines the promise of community” and then therefore calls us to do justice through “public leadership, public witness, public deliberation, and advocacy”; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 ELCA Social Statement “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries” notes that “While racial disparities at any one particular point in the [criminal justice] sequence may be small, and intentional discrimination may even be absent, the cumulative effects of bias in the system as a whole have led to intolerably destructive and long-term effects on minority communities”; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families “Race to Results” report chronicles that Wisconsin ranked worst among states for child well-being and achievement gap for black students; and

WHEREAS, our brokenness within the geographic area of this synod has been dramatically evidenced by Tony Robinson’s death and the response to it; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Council of Churches is offering resources and encouraging dialogue among our ecumenical partner congregations through faithful conversations; and

WHEREAS, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton issued a message on racial justice in response to tragic recent event, reminding us that “As a church called to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we must continue to listen deeply, to speak out about racial equity and inclusion, to respect and uplift the dignity and humanity of every person and to join with others in organizing for change”; and

WHEREAS, although church resources like Evangelical Lutheran Worship have expanded to include more multicultural resources, the Rev. Martin Luther King’s observation nevertheless remains too sadly true that the hour of worship on Sunday mornings is the most segregated hour in American culture; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the bishop and staff of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin will lead us in how to discuss these issues publicly and advocate to our elected officials; and be it further

RESOLVED, that our congregations will utilize available resources to engage in conversations and actions raising awareness on racism, privilege, and organizing for change; and be it further

RESOLVED, for follow-up and accountability the synod office devise a way to ask how our congregations have responded.

The Rev. Nick Uphall reported to the Assembly that the East Conference of Madison in response to Tony Robinson’s death drafted the resolution. Rev. Uphall participated in a gathering with high school students after the Tony Robinson shooting and heard from students that they are nervous about the police due to who they are. Larry Waller (Trinity, Fort Atkinson) expressed concern with the wording of paragraph six related to the brokenness and response. Beth Ehler (Grace, Cambridge) spoke in support of the resolution and noted that work being done in the community through faith-based organizations is very important.

MOVED **RESOLVED, that our congregations ~~will~~ be encouraged to utilize available resources to engage in conversations and actions raising awareness on racism, privilege, and organizing for change;**

ADOPTED

MOVED **WHEREAS, our brokenness within the geographic area of this synod has been dramatically evidenced by the community’s response to Tony Robinson’s death and the response to it; and**

ADOPTED

SA15.05.05
VOTED

Racism Conversations

WHEREAS, Christ Jesus “has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us” (Ephesians 2:14); and

WHEREAS, we continue to live into the kingdom of God, striving to love our neighbor while also confessing our individual and corporate sin; and

WHEREAS, the 1993 ELCA Social Statement “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture” first recognizes that racism “infects and affects everyone. It deforms relationships between and within racial, ethnic, or cultural groups. It undermines the promise of community” and then therefore calls us to do justice through “public leadership, public witness, public deliberation, and advocacy”; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 ELCA Social Statement “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries” notes that “While racial disparities at any one particular point in the [criminal justice] sequence may be small, and intentional discrimination may even be absent, the cumulative effects of bias in the system as a whole have led to intolerably destructive and long-term effects on minority communities”; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families “Race to Results” report chronicles that Wisconsin ranked worst among states for child well-being and achievement gap for black students; and

WHEREAS, our brokenness within the geographic area of this synod has been dramatically evidenced by the community’s response to Tony Robinson’s death; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Council of Churches is offering resources and encouraging dialogue among our ecumenical partner congregations through faithful conversations; and

WHEREAS, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton issued a message on racial justice in response to tragic recent events, reminding us that “As a church called to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we must continue to listen deeply, to speak out about racial equity and inclusion, to respect and uplift the dignity and humanity of every person and to join with others in organizing for change”; and

WHEREAS, although church resources like Evangelical Lutheran Worship have expanded to include more multicultural resources, the Rev. Martin Luther King’s observation nevertheless remains too sadly true that the hour of worship on Sunday mornings is the most segregated hour in American culture; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the bishop and staff of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin will lead us in how to discuss these issues publicly and advocate to our elected officials; and be it further

RESOLVED, that our congregations be encouraged to utilize available resources to engage in conversations and actions raising awareness on racism, privilege, and organizing for change; and be it further

RESOLVED, for follow-up and accountability the synod office devise a way to ask how our congregations have responded.

ADOPTED

Resolution 4 – Assembly Thanks and Appreciation

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended unanimous adoption of Resolution 4.

SA15.05.06 Assembly Thanks and Appreciation

VOTED

WHEREAS, at the 2015 annual meeting of the Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin we have been invited to the Open Table: Always Room for One More; and

WHEREAS, through worship, music, testimony, discussion, and breaking bread together, our minds have been enriched and our hearts have been stirred to God’s mission around the world and the partnership we each have in it; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 2015 Assembly hereby express its thanks and appreciation to:

- **Bishop Mary Froiland for faithfully carrying out the responsibilities and duties of the Office of Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and who has put a call before each of us to speak "Jesus" as we love and do good, and to Chaplain John Froiland for his care and support for our of Bishop;**
- **Assistants to the Bishop, The Rev. Steve Kottke and The Rev. Erik Jelinek; Synod Event Manager Vicki Hanrahan, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop Carla Fears, Administrative Assistant Linda Freitag, and Table Coordinator Karen Kretschmann for their work as a team to model the partnership in ministry we all share;**
- **The Rev. Stephen L. Bouman, ELCA Representative, who lifted up the breadth of the tables we share with companions within and beyond our borders, encouraging us to provoke one another to love;**
- **The Rev. Todd Iverson and The Rev. Kirsten Fryer for setting our luncheon table with a rich awareness of the people with whom they have served in Afghanistan and Egypt;**
- **Hans Becklin, for opening a window into the work of the ELCA Church Council;**
- **The Rev. Philippe Lozada-Mantanez and his wife Ana for gracing us with their presence at the tables of this Assembly;**
- **All leaders of Assembly worship, including presiding ministers, assisting ministers, lectors, servers, and worship planners;**
- **Musicians of assembly worship, including River's Voice Richard and Trish Bruxvoort Colligan, Ben Johnston-Urey and the Good Shepherd Lutheran Orchestra and Choir for sharing their talents and calling us to the table of grace;**
- **Vice President Robin Cherwinka, Secretary Mary DeYoung and Treasurer Bruce Hutler for their ongoing service to the synod;**

- **Synod Council members, committees, task forces, partners and related support personnel for serving the Synod in its ongoing mission, with special thanks to outgoing Synod Council members The Rev. Karen Hofstad, The Rev. Margo Martens, and Eleanor Siebert;**
- **Parliamentarian David Moore for his ongoing support of the work of the Assembly;**
- **Assembly Planning Committee for their creative planning for this Assembly; and the Committees of Credentials, Elections, Nominating and Reference and Counsel for their diligent service;**
- **The men and women of the Marriott staff who have prepared and served the tables we have enjoyed whose work may go unnoticed but is not unappreciated; and**
- **The many other volunteers who helped in planning and managing the details for this Assembly, registration assistants, ushers and pages, those submitting resolutions, those offering to serve through the nomination process, workshop presenters, and all who have not neglected to meet together but have faithfully filled a place at these tables, knowing there's always room for one more.**

ADOPTED

Recognize Synod Council Members

Bishop Froiland recognized The Rev. Karen Hofstad, The Rev. Margo Martens, and Eleanor Siebert and thanked them for their service and work on the Synod Council.

The Assembly concluded with the installation of newly elected Synod Council members, committee members, and Churchwide Assembly voting members.

The Bishop closed the Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary DeYoung, Secretary
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Protocol Documents
2015 Synod Assembly Book
Credential Reports
Resolutions