

•

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
2006 Synod Assembly**

The 2006 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was held May 5-6, 2006 at the Marriott West Hotel in Middleton, Wisconsin under the theme, *MARKED WITH THE CROSS OF CHRIST FOREVER, WE ARE CLAIMED, GATHERED, AND SENT FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD.*

Session #1

Bishop George Carlson led the assembly in the Order of Service for the Opening of a Synod Assembly.

The Rev. Jeff Jacobs, the Rev. Fred Rilling and Peli the Pelican greeted the members of the assembly and used a slide presentation to show the various facilities of the hotel that would be used by the assembly.

Connie Kilmark, the vice president of the synod, introduced several of the guests who were present at the assembly including Daniel Lehmann, the editor of *The Lutheran* and Christina Jackson-Skelton, the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

She also introduced the Synod Council and pointed out those whose terms were coming to a close: Betsy Baguhn, Barb Bartz, the Rev. David Berggren, the Rev. Mark Dressel, and the Rev. Ron Hanson.

Credentials #1

Jeanne Stansfield presented the first report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	133
Lay Female	138
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>100</u>
Voting Members	371
Visitors	43

Preliminary items

SA06.05.01 Agenda approved

VOTED to approve the assembly agenda.

ADOPTED

Pr. David Berggren brought the assembly committees to the floor.

SA06.05.02 Committees approved

VOTED to approve the assembly committees as presented with the following chairs:

**Credentials Committee - Jeanne Stansfield
Elections Committee - Jean Lincoln**

Resolutions Committee - the Rev. Shelley Bobb

ADOPTED

Pr. Shelly Bobb brought the initial report of the Resolutions Committee and stated that there were no resolutions at this time. She explained the process and rules for submitting resolutions for this assembly.

Pr. Berggren explained the privileges of the floor for voting members and for others who were afforded voice at the assembly.

SA06.05.03 Pr. Astudillo afforded privileges

VOTED **to extend voting member privileges to the Rev. Neddy Astudillo.**

ADOPTED

Pr. Astudillo is ordained in the Presbyterian Church with whom the ELCA has a working relationship. She ministers in the Latino community of Beloit along with Calvary Lutheran.

David Moore, the assembly parliamentarian explained the importance of the rules used for good order at the assembly.

Ms. Kilmark brought the assembly rules to the floor.

SA06.05.04 Assembly rules approved

VOTED **to approve the rules for the assembly as printed in the Assembly 2006 book.**

ADOPTED

Nominations

Bishop Carlson presided as Francine Rask brought nominations to the floor.

Synod Secretary

Mary DeYoung

David Moore

Synod Council

Women of the ELCA Representative

Sandy Knesting

Dane County Area Ministry - Male Lay

Nathan Timm

North Area Ministry - Clergy

The Rev. Geoffrey Hoy

Southeast Area Ministry - Clergy

The Rev. Mark Dressel

Consultation Committee

Female Laity - Vote for One

Pat Slagoski
Julie Horst
Francine Rask
Ellen Westlund

Male Laity - Vote for Two

Gary Bushland
Kevin Anderson
Harlan Baumgartner
Jim Harris
Alan Albers
Larry Schroeder

Clergy - Vote for Four

The Rev. Bruce Lowenhagen
The Rev. Tina Koenig Ray
The Rev. Kathy Jacobson
The Rev. Jeff VandenHeuvel
The Rev. Peter Narum
The Rev. Keith Anderson
The Rev. Jerald Wendt

Discipline Committee

Female Laity – Vote for One

Donna Ulteig
Jean Lincoln
Barb Kepler

Male Laity – Vote for One

Charles Thomley
Mike Ligman

Clergy - Vote for One

The Rev. Brent Campbell
The Rev. William Lehman
The Rev. Mark Mollidrem
The Rev. Mary Pharmer

ELCA Church Council

Female Laity - Vote for Three

Frances L. Grugel
Juanita Kielley-Dahlen
Muriel Arms
Susan Lux
Katherine Johnson-Becklin

Nomination from the floor:
Carolyn Butts

2007 Churchwide Assembly

Clergy

The Rev. Mary Kay Baum
The Rev. Erik Jelinek
The Rev. Kurt Handrich
The Rev. Denise M. Anderson
The Rev. Jeffrey Pederson
The Rev. Clint Schnekloth
The Rev. Kathy Jacobson
The Rev. Steve Ekblad
The Rev. Geoffrey Hoy
The Rev. Steve Kottke
The Rev. David Brandfass
The Rev. Jeff VandenHeuvel
The Rev. Bruce Burnside
The Rev. Ron Weber
The Rev. Brad Pohlman
The Rev. Elisa Brandt

Female Lay

Bernadette Caldwell
Margie Czechowicz
LaMay Nybrotten
Christine Gantz
Anna Lindquist
Lois O'Rourke
Gesela Kutzbach
Elizabeth Baguhn
Jean Lincoln
Barbara Bartz
Petra Ressler
Hannah Wallish
Frances L. Grugel
Bonnie J. Lee

Male Lay

Eric Peterson
Todd Fossum
Tom Martin-Erickson
Peter Boll
Paul Kaare
Timothy Mumm
Richard Johnston
V. Wayne Skattum

Jay R. Becklin

Person of Color or Primary Language Not English

Sandra Rivera
George Swamp
The Rev. Pedro Suarez
Dan Montgomery

Youth

Bethany Ensrude
Greg Post

Bishop Carlson declared nominations closed.

First renewal presentation

Kelly Fryer and A Renewal Enterprise made their first presentation: What in the *World* Is God Up To. . . .

Candidacy Committee

With a little time left before the lunch break, Bishop Carlson presented a recommended change in the size of the Candidacy Committee to the assembly. He explained that with 48 people in the candidacy process the present makeup of the committee was too small.

SA06.05.05 Candidacy Committee expanded

VOTED **amend S11.01.05 of the synod bylaws as follows:**

**The membership of the committee shall consist of ~~four~~
five rostered persons and ~~four~~ *five* non-rostered persons.**

ADOPTED

Credential #2 and balloting

Jeanne Stansfield presented the second report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	148
Lay Female	141
Lay Male	102
Voting Members	391
Visitors	46

The assembly completed the first ballot before recessing for lunch and workshops.

Session #2

Credentials #3

Jeanne Stansfield presented the third report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	152
Lay Female	141
Lay Male	104

Voting Members **397**

Visitors 46

Pr. Bobb reported that there had been two resolutions submitted to the resolutions committee. The Rev. Paul Anderson was recognized by Bishop Carlson. Pr. Anderson addressed his continuing frustration over the fact that the assembly is not dealing with some of the significant issues of the world and hoped that the future assemblies would find a way to do so.

Secretary's report

Pr. Berggren, the Synod Secretary brought his report to the assembly. He noted that his term as secretary was coming to an end. He thanked everyone who had made the experience such a rewarding one.

Treasurer's report

Robert Gorsuch, the Synod Treasurer commented that the most recent audit had returned in good shape. There is about \$200,000 in unrestricted funds in the synod, and most of that is part of the Synod Endowment Fund.

He lifted up the financial crunch of the budget, particularly as it applied to partnership ministries. The annual inflation rate in the 17 years of the synod's existence has been about 3.1%. However, the increase in giving to the synod by its congregations has been at 1.2%.

As for this year, Mr. Gorsuch explained that the synod's income is down about 2.7% from last year. The income is down about 7% over the last two years.

SA06.05.06 Treasurer's report accepted

VOTED **to accept the report of the treasurer.**

ADOPTED

Mr. Gorsuch presented the 2006-07 Spending Plan to the assembly. The adoption of the plan comes later in the agenda, but he reminded the members that nearly 60% of all benevolence income goes directly to the ministries of the churchwide organization of the ELCA. Therefore, to add one dollar to the spending abilities of the synod requires \$2.48 added to the income side.

Vice president's report

Ms. Kilmark addressed the members of the assembly by reminding them that they are voting members until the next assembly is seated. She requested that they leave their e-mail addresses for her on the forms provided on the tables in order to facilitate further conversation if needed.

She reminded the assembly that they would be considering some important basic changes in the way the synod is organized. She lifted up the needs of campus ministry organizations within the synod. She reiterated that the 2005 Churchwide Assembly strategized for a public voice for the Church and reminded the assembly that it is the role of voting members to bring issues to the gathering.

She explained that the coming year would include some work for the synod in helping to identify what qualities the synod is looking for in a new bishop who will be elected at the 2007 Synod Assembly.

Bishop's report

Ms. Kilmark presided as Bishop Carlson addressed the assembly by highlighting the very important ministries taking place within the synod.

- supporting leaders in congregations and the LEAD events
- the work of the Lay School of Ministry
 - the Rev. Jim Bailey spoke of the Center of Congregational Leadership and the Rev. Amy Engebose reminded the assembly of a Gifts for Leadership conference coming in the fall.
- there are presently 48 people in the candidacy process
- the Fund for Leaders in Mission has reached the \$46,000 mark thanks, in part, to a \$15,000 gift from St. John's, Prairie du Sac
- the opportunities for outreach continue in the synod
 - Latino ministries in Marshal, Beaver Dam, and Baraboo
 - new mission possibilities in Fitchburg, Janesville, and Baraboo
- Lutheran Campus Ministry sites exist on three University of Wisconsin campuses in the synod
- the Global Connections Ministry Team
 - Solveig Carlson and Meg Nielsen explained that the team is comprised of seven sub-groups and that they will continue to work for peace and justice in the world
- the Rev. Clint Schneklath continues fine work in the area of immigration
- thank you to all who have generously given to hunger and disaster relief in the last months

Second renewal presentation

Kelly Fryer and A Renewal Enterprise made their second presentation: What in *Our Community and Congregation* Is God Up To. . . .

Elections report

Bishop Carlson presided as the report from the first ballot was brought by Ms. Lincoln (names in bold are elected).

Synod Secretary

Mary DeYoung	179
David Moore	167

ELCA Church Council - three needed (337 ballots, 169 needed)

Frances L. Grugel	139
Juanita Kielley-Dahlen	158
Muriel Arms	163
Susan Lux	227
Katherine Johnson-Becklin	127
Carolyn Butts	170

Synod Council

Women of the ELCA	
Sandy Knesting	310
Dane County Area Ministry	
Nathan Timm	308
North Area Ministry	
Pr. Geoffrey Hoy	308

Southeast Area Ministry
Pr. Mark Dressel **309**

Discipline Committee (353 ballots, 177 needed)

Female Lay
Donna Ulteig 99
Jean Lincoln **182**
Barb Kepler 58

Male Lay
Charles Thomley **190**
Mike Ligman 147

Clergy
Pr. Brent Campbell 91
Pr. William Lehman 74
Pr. Mark Molldrem 75
Pr. Mary Pharmer 94

Ms. Lincoln explained that counting of the other ballots was not yet complete but that she would return as soon as possible.

ELCA churchwide organization representative

Christina Jackson-Skelton, the treasurer of the ELCA addressed the assembly after a brief video presentation featuring Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. Ms. Jackson-Skelton highlighted that we are an evangelical church. An evangelizing church may be evident in both expanding buildings and uniting congregations. The ELCA is committed to new starts, with 57 planned for this year.

She celebrated the generosity of the people of the church who gave \$37.7 million in the last year to disaster response, including \$25 million in response to Hurricane Katrina. Unrestricted giving to the churchwide organization dropped again, but only by 0.2%.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton highlighted some of the ways companion synods work together for mission around the world, and how the Church works with other organizations like Global Health Ministries to extend the loving hand of Jesus.

Further introductions

Bishop Carlson made some further introductions to the assembly. First he named all those rostered leaders who are new to the synod:

- the Rev. Karla Brekke
- the Rev. Martha Butzier
- the Rev. David Froemming
- the Rev. Kenneth Halstead
- the Rev. Peter Heide
- the Rev. James Johnson
- the Rev. W. Carol Johnson

the Rev. Peter Jonas
the Rev. Michael Lee
the Rev. Connie Matye
the Rev. James McClurg
the Rev. Margaret Nielsen
the Rev. Amie Barsch Odahl
the Rev. Edward Paape
the Rev. Dean Phillips
the Rev. Robert Reitz
the Rev. Laura Sutherland

He introduced Sally Mitchell and Rob Nelson who are seminarians from this synod. He then introduced the interns doing ministry within the synod: Nicole Espe, Sylvia Lee Thompson, Sue Shanks, and Erica Adams.

The bishop asked everyone to fill out the Outreach Committee Survey that was on the assembly tables. He then introduced the Rev. Brent Christianson, the campus pastor with the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Clusters to come

The Rev. Jeff Wild took the stage to briefly outline the process involved in reaching the recommendations for organizational change that would come to the assembly later in the agenda. Pr. Wild outlined the thoroughness of the process, the listening involved, and the work of many people to reach a new look to organization.

Compensation guidelines

Bishop Carlson brought before the assembly the 2007 Compensation Guidelines.

MOVED to approve the 2007 Compensation Guidelines

The Rev. Bob Garbrecht expressed his deep concern that the steadily increasing costs of supply pastors is making it difficult for smaller congregations to get help during pastoral vacations.

The Rev. Ron Mach brought the following amendment noting that the supply pastor numbers had actually decreased from the previous year.

VOTED to amend the 2007 Compensation Guidelines so that the guidelines for supply pastors is the same as in 2006.

ADOPTED

Bob Robey suggested that clergy who wish to help out smaller congregations are welcome to donate back all or a portion of their compensation.

Barb Bartz moved the following amendment

**VOTED to amend the wording under the Mileage/Automobile section of the guidelines:
c) Reimburse the pastor/lay minister on a per mile driven basis *at the most current IRS allowable rate.* ~~The current IRS allowable rate (2005) is 44.5¢ per mile.~~ This option is the most equitable.**

ADOPTED

SA06.05.07 Compensation Guidelines adopted

VOTED to approve the 2007 Compensation Guidelines as presented with the following changes:

1) amend so that the guidelines for supply pastors is the same as in 2006;

2) to the wording under the Mileage/Automobile section of the guidelines:

c) Reimburse the pastor/lay minister on a per mile driven basis *at the most current IRS allowable rate.* ~~The current IRS allowable rate (2005) is 44.5¢ per mile.~~ This option is the most equitable.

ADOPTED

Resolution to study CWA voting

Pr. Bobb returned with a resolution that had been submitted in the morning.

SA06.05.08 Study of CWA voting

VOTED Whereas the ELCA seeks to be inclusive of all persons without regard to race, age, economic status, and sexual orientation; be it

Resolved, that the Synod Council and the Nominating Committee of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin study, and, if the way be clear, change its bylaws to eliminate the category “Persons of Color or Primary Language Other than English” in the election process, and have both clergy and lay categories include persons of color and diversity; be it further

Resolved, that if the category “Persons of Color or Primary Language Other than English” is required by the churchwide organization, that only lay persons be designated in this category.

ADOPTED

The Rev. Shirley Funk spoke to the resolution saying that it may not be the solution but it is a beginning to look for a solution. Other speakers wondered why there has to be this category at all. Rebecca Alwin suggested that we should not even have to ask about race.

Remainder of ballot #1

Jean Lincoln brought forth the results of ballot #1 not previously reported.

Consultation Committee (360 ballots, 181 needed)

Female Lay

Pat Slagoski	33
Julie Horst	131
Francine Rask	100
Ellen Westlund	72

Male Laity - two needed

Gary Bushland	54
---------------	----

Kevin Anderson	171
Harlan Baumgartner	99
Jim Harris	106
Alan Albers	87
Larry Schroeder	89

Clergy - four needed

Pr. Bruce Lowenhagen	210
Pr. Tina Koenig Ray	188
Pr. Kathy Jacobson	216
Pr. Jeff VandenHeuvel	162
Pr. Peter Narum	163
Pr. Keith Anderson	172
Pr. Jerald Wendt	199

2007 Churchwide Assembly (371 ballots, 186 needed)

Clergy (seven needed)

Pr. Mary Kay Baum	191
Pr. Erik Jelinek	136
Pr. Kurt Handrich	144
Pr. Denise M. Anderson	143
Pr. Jeffrey Pederson	114
Pr. Clint Schnekloth	158
Pr. Kathy Jacobson	162
Pr. Steve Ekblad	100
Pr. Geoffrey Hoy	116
Pr. Steve Kottke	122
Pr. David Brandfass	154
Pr. Jeff VandenHeuvel	130
Pr. Bruce Burnside	208
Pr. Ron Weber	111
Pr. Brad Pohlman	169
Pr. Elisa Brandt	168

Person of Color or Primary Language Not English

Sandra Rivera	189
George Swamp	78
Pr. Pedro Suarez	234
Dan Montgomery	138

Youth

Bethany Ensrude	202
Greg Post	130

2007 Churchwide Assembly (345 ballots, 173 needed)

Female Lay (six needed)

Bernadette Caldwell	113
---------------------	-----

Margie Czechowicz	124
LaMay Nybroten	150
Christine Gantz	151
Anna Lindquist	202
Lois O'Rourke	122
Gesela Kutzbach	107
Elizabeth Baguhn	143
Jean Lincoln	190
Barbara Bartz	132
Petra Ressler	104
Hannah Wallish	162
Frances L. Grugel	91
Bonnie J. Lee	149

Male Lay (seven needed)

Eric Peterson	250
Todd Fossum	265
Tom Martin-Erickson	233
Peter Boll	252
Paul Kaare	230
Timothy Mumm	256
Richard Johnston	194
V. Wayne Skattum	212
Jay R. Becklin	230

The second ballot was distributed, and the assembly adjourned for the evening.

Session #3

The Saturday morning session began with the report of the credentials committee.

Clergy	161
Lay Female	141
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>106</u>
Voting Members	408
Visitors	46

Elections report

Ms. Lincoln reported on the second ballot.

Consultation Committee (289 ballots, 146 needed)

Female Lay

Julie Horst	157
Francine Rask	128

Male Laity - two needed

Kevin Anderson	142
Harlan Baumgartner	93
Jim Harris	88
Larry Schroeder	59

Discipline Committee (292 ballots, 147 needed)

Clergy

Pr. Brent Campbell	125
Pr. Mary Pharmer	167

ELCA Church Council (283 ballots, 142 needed)

Female Lay

Juanita Kielly-Dahlen	155
Muriel Arms	128

2007 Churchwide Assembly (*two needed) (263 ballots, 132 needed)

Female Lay

Margie Czechowicz	105	
LaMay Nybrotten	122	
Christine Gantz		155
Lois O'Rourke	111	
* Elizabeth Baguhn	134	
* Barbara Bartz	140	
Hannah Wallish	147	
Bonnie J. Lee	131	

(*Note: A Female Lay person was elected in both the Youth and Person of Color or Whose Primary Language Is Other than English categories. Therefore these nominees have the required number of votes, but the need for voting members of this category is decreased.)

2007 Churchwide Assembly (280 ballots, 141 needed)

Clergy (four needed)

Pr. Erik Jelinek	98
Pr. Kurt Handrich	109
Pr. Denise Anderson	134
Pr. Clint Schnekloth	128
Pr. Kathy Jacobson	165
Pr. Steve Kottke	132
Pr. David Brandfass	131
Pr. Jeff VandenHeuvel	135
Pr. Brad Pohlman	135
Pr. Elisa Brandt	134

The assembly cast their third ballot.

Third renewal presentation

Kelly Fryer and A Renewal Enterprise made their third presentation: What in *Our Synod* Is God Up To. . . .

The second resolution to be generated at the assembly concerned the death penalty. The legislators of the State of Wisconsin recently allowed the question of the death penalty to be put to the public in November of 2006. The Resolutions Committee strongly endorsed the resolution.

Resolution on the Death Penalty

MOVED WHEREAS criminal and terrorist acts of violence sadden, frighten, and anger us and we believe that those who engage in such acts must be held accountable.

WHEREAS there are many reasons for our opposition to the death penalty. Some of them are based on beliefs and values widely shared by Believers and non-Believers alike. Others derive from our specifically Christian identity and beliefs.

Among the first are the following:

1. There is no proof that the death penalty deters crime.
2. There is no way to make the death penalty fair. Poor people, who have no resources with which to defend themselves, are more likely to be executed than people of means, especially if they are also people of color. Unless and until poverty and prejudice are completely eliminated from our society, the death penalty will continue to be applied in unfair ways. And although the death penalty is not unique in this regard, since poor people are disadvantaged in every way, it is in a category by itself, because it deprives the condemned person of life itself.
3. In spite of new technological developments like DNA tests, unless we develop a perfect system it is inevitable that sooner or later an innocent person will be convicted and executed. Perfection in any human system seems beyond possibility.
4. At the ELCA Social Statement on Capital Punishment says, "The death penalty...deforms our response to violence...It perpetuates cycles of violence."

WHEREAS important as these practical reasons for opposing the death penalty are, several beliefs that are at the heart of our Christian identity are for us more important still. They include the following:

1. God created human beings in the divine image and likeness. We interpret this to mean that human life is sacred in the eyes of God as it should be in our eyes.
2. As Lutheran Christians, we emphasize that our status as image and likeness of God based on grace, not works. Just as there is nothing we can do to earn our status as image of God, so also there is nothing we can do to destroy it, although sin, including acts of violence, certainly mars and distorts it.
3. As Christians, we aspire to be disciples of and to follow Jesus of Nazareth, who taught us to love our enemies, to pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44) and to forgive our enemies not 7 but 70 times 7.

WHEREAS we are convinced that support of the death penalty is contrary to these central Christian beliefs. At the same time, we recognize that there are fellow Christians who affirm these beliefs as strongly as we do yet who come to a different conclusion with regard to the death penalty. They believe that is it precisely for the sake of love of neighbor that we need the death penalty. This argument seems to us unconvincing, especially in our time, when there are so many alternatives to the death penalty that are equally effective in providing the safety we all desire. Be it

RESOLVED that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, meeting in Assembly on May 5 and 6, 2006, oppose the death penalty and its reintroduction into Wisconsin. Be it further

RESOLVED that this Assembly urge all congregations of the Synod to study and discuss the ELCA's Social Statement on The Death Penalty and give serious consideration to this statement as they prepare to vote on the November Advisory Referendum on the death penalty.

Bishop Carlson explained that the first part of the debate would be limited to the "resolve" sections. Speaking to the resolution, the Rev. Bruce Burnside averred that Christians are people called to speak of mercy and not retribution. One does not find safety, peace, or a future in retribution.

Bruce Fisher, speaking against the resolution, explained that in Philemon, St. Paul does not speak out against the death penalty, a penalty that may rightly be handed down to the runaway slave. He declared that the resolution is about politics and not the Church. This resolution has nothing to do with equipping the saints.

Another speaker expressed that to take life is to miss the understanding of salvation. To put someone to death interferes with the possibility of parole, and killing in any form dehumanizes us all.

The Rev. Jerry Folk added that the essential issue is exactly about Jesus Christ. He confessed that his relationship with Jesus requires him to say "no" to death.

The Rev. Dick Blomker reminded the assembly that God comes to us, the arrow always points down so that we may act as Christ in the world. The Rev. David Froemming asked, "Should we stay out of the civil realm?" The second use of the law is for it to be used in the civil realm. We have a legitimate place in the political world.

The Rev. Kathleen Kasper said that she would vote against the resolution. The government wields the sword for us. She offered that more Christians should be attached to prison ministries so that they can bring the good news to those behind razor wire.

One speaker noted that we should not be in the business of taking peoples lives. She expressed concern, however, over the exceptions in the ELCA's abortion statement.

Rev. Bruce Lowenhagen told the assembly that each one has to vote according to conscience, but we can, as a people of God, still be involved with the world.

VOTED **to call the question on the debate on the "resolve" sections.**
ADOPTED

The assembly took up the "whereas" sections.

VOTED

to amend the motion's second "whereas":

Among the first are the following:

1. There is no proof that the death penalty deters crime.
2. There is no way to make the death penalty fair. Poor people, who have ~~no~~ *very little* resources with which to defend themselves, are more likely to be executed than people of means, especially if they are also people of color. . . .

ADOPTED

MOVED

to amend the motion by adding another "whereas" section:

DEFEATED

The assembly moved on to the main motion.

SA06.05.08 Opposing the Wisconsin death penalty

VOTED

WHEREAS criminal and terrorist acts of violence sadden, frighten, and anger us and we believe that those who engage in such acts must be held accountable.

Whereas there are many reasons for our opposition to the death penalty. Some of them are based on beliefs and values widely shared by Believers and non-Believers alike. Others derive from our specifically Christian identity and beliefs.

Among the first are the following:

1. There is no proof that the death penalty deters crime.
2. There is no way to make the death penalty fair. Poor people, who have very little resources with which to defend themselves, are more likely to be executed than people of means, especially if they are also people of color. Unless and until poverty and prejudice are completely eliminated from our society, the death penalty will continue to be applied in unfair ways. And although the death penalty is not unique in this regard, since poor people are disadvantaged in every way, it is in a category by itself, because it deprives the condemned person of life itself.
3. In spite of new technological developments like DNA tests, unless we develop a perfect system it is inevitable that sooner or later an innocent person will be convicted and executed. Perfection in any human system seems beyond possibility.
4. At the ELCA Social Statement on Capital Punishment says, "The death penalty...deforms our response to violence...It perpetuates cycles of violence."

Whereas important as these practical reasons for opposing the death penalty are, several beliefs that are at the heart of our Christian identity are for us more important still. They include the following:

1. God created human beings in the divine image and likeness. We interpret this to mean that human life is sacred in the eyes of God as it should be in our eyes.
2. As Lutheran Christians, we emphasize that our status as image and likeness of God based on grace, not works. Just as there is nothing we can do to earn our status as image of God, so also there is nothing we can do to destroy it, although sin, including acts of violence, certainly mars and distorts it.
3. As Christians, we aspire to be disciples of and to follow Jesus of Nazareth, who taught us to love our enemies, to pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44) and to forgive our enemies not 7 but 70 times 7.

Whereas we are convinced that support of the death penalty is contrary to these central Christian beliefs. At the same time, we recognize that there are fellow Christians who affirm these beliefs as strongly as we do yet who come to a different conclusion with regard to the death penalty. They believe that is it precisely for the sake of love of neighbor that we need the death penalty. This argument seems to us unconvincing, especially in our time, when there are so many alternatives to the death penalty that are equally effective in providing the safety we all desire. Be it

RESOLVED that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, meeting in Assembly on May 5 and 6, 2006, oppose the death penalty and its reintroduction into Wisconsin. Be it further

RESOLVED that this Assembly urge all congregations of the Synod to study and discuss the ELCA's Social Statement on The Death Penalty and give serious consideration to this statement as they prepare to vote on the November Advisory Referendum on the death penalty.

ADOPTED

Elections report #3

Ms. Lincoln told the members that there would be one more ballot necessary. She reported the results of the last ballot.

2007 Churchwide Assembly (280 ballots, 141 needed)

Clergy (*three needed)	
Pr. Kurt Handrich	110
Pr. Denise Anderson	178
Pr. Clint Schnekloth	110
Pr. Steve Kottke	131
Pr. David Brandfass	80
Pr. Jeff VandenHeuvel	170
Pr. Brad Pohlman	173
* Pr. Elisa Brandt	160

(*Note: A Clergy person was elected in both the Person of Color or Whose Primary Language Is Other than English category. Therefore these nominees have the required number of votes, but the need for voting members of this

category is decreased.)

Consultation Committee (157 ballots, 128 needed)

Male Laity - two needed

Kevin Anderson	181
Harlan Baumgartner	98
Jim Harris	111
Larry Schroeder	94

Constitution changes

Pr. Berggren introduced a lengthy number of constitution changes stemming from the elimination of Area Ministries. He explained the numbering system and the differences between constitution provisions and bylaws. He also explained the different processes required for various amendments. Bishop Carlson told the assembly that the changes would be taken *en bloc* unless someone had a desire to remove one for special consideration. No one requested a separation.

SA06.05.09 Constitution and bylaw amendments

VOTED

To amend this non-required provision of the Synod Constitution adopted by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of *mission settings formed with the intent of becoming chartered congregations and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. Such authorized* Authorized worshipping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures of the ELCA Division for Outreach and approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

Further, to amend the following bylaws as noted.

S7.22.01. All retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod ~~in attendance at the Synod Assembly~~ shall caucus prior to the first business session and elect up to 10 % of their number on the roster of this synod to be voting members of the Synod Assembly; all others shall be advisory members with voice but not vote. Those elected to be voting members under this section shall be counted as clergy members of the Synod Assembly, and not as lay persons, for purposes of †S7.21.

~~S9-03-01 The Nominating Committee shall consist of the elected Dean and the Area Ministry Chair from each Area Ministry be elected by the Synod Council to three year terms. Service is limited to two full terms.~~

~~S10-01-02. Nominees for the youth member position must be members of~~

~~the Lutheran Youth Organization and confirmed members of congregations of this synod and must not have reached their 19th birthdays. The term of office shall be two year.~~

S10-03-01 Should a vacancy occur on the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall fill such position by an interim appointment of a person who meets the qualifications for the vacated position. ~~The Synod Council shall seek nominations for appointment from the organization or Area Ministry represented by the vacating member.~~ The appointee shall serve out the remainder of the term of the individual vacating the position. For the purpose of determining re-electability of an individual filling a vacating position, the individual shall be deemed to have been elected once if less than half of the unexpired term has expired at the time of appointment.

S10-07-02. The Synod Council shall consist of 17 members; ~~including the four officers of this synod and the youth member. One member shall be a member of the Women of the ELCA, and one member shall be a member of Lutheran Men in Mission. The remaining ten members shall be five clergy and five lay members, with one clergy and one lay member to be from each of the five area ministries existing under Chapter 12 of the constitution and by-laws. the four officers of the synod, 12 at-large members, and one youth member. Advisory seats are designated for representatives of the synodical components of the Women of the ELCA, the Lutheran Youth Organization, and Men in Mission.~~

~~*S10-07-05* The Lutheran Youth Organization may nominate one or more persons to serve as the youth member, and additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Synod Assembly~~

~~*S10-07-06* The Women of the ELCA may nominate one or more persons to fill the position of the member of the Synod Council designated to be a member of the Women of the ELCA under S10-07-02. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Synod Assembly.~~

~~*S10-07-07* Lutheran Men in Mission may nominate one or more persons to fill the position of the member of the Synod Council designated to be a member of Lutheran Men in Mission~~

~~under S10-07-02. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Synod Assembly.~~

~~S10-07-08 The Executive Committee of each Area Ministry may nominate one or more persons to fill the clergy and lay positions on the Synod Council designated for that Area Ministry under S10-07-02. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Synod Assembly.~~

~~S12-01-01 Creation of Area Ministries:~~

~~a. This synod shall be composed of 5 Area Ministries as follows: Dane County Area Ministry: Our Saviour's, Black Earth; St. John's, Black Earth; Vermont, Black Earth; Brooklyn, Brooklyn; East Koshkonong, Cambridge; Grace, Cambridge; Rockdale, Rockdale; Cooksville, Cooksville; St. Martin's, Cross Plains; Deerfield, Deerfield; St. Paul's Liberty, Deerfield; Christ, DeForest; Norway Grove Memorial, DeForest; Spring Prairie, DeForest; St. John's, Evansville; Trinity, Lake Mills; Burke, Madison; Holy Trinity, Marshall; St. John-Berry, Mazomanie; St. Paul-Marxville, Mazomanie; Immanuel, Mount Horeb; Evangelical, Mount Horeb; Springdale, Mount Horeb; United in Christ, Morrisonville; St. John's, Oregon; Christ, Stoughton; Covenant, Stoughton; First, Stoughton; West Koshkonong, Stoughton; Bristol, Sun Prairie; Our Savior's, Sun Prairie; West Middleton, Verona; and Peace, Waunakee.~~

~~Metro Madison Area Ministry: All Saints, Fitchburg; Advent, Madison; Bethel, Madison; Good Shepherd, Madison; Hope, Madison; Lake Edge, Madison; Lakeview, Madison; Luther Memorial, Madison; McFarland, McFarland; Messiah, Madison; Midvale Community, Madison; St. John's, Madison; St. Mark's, Madison; St. Matthew's, Madison; Trinity, Madison; Zion, Madison; St. Luke's, Middleton; St. Stephen's, Monona; and St. James, Verona.~~

~~North Area Ministry: Trinity, Arkdale; St. Paul's, Baraboo; First, Beaver Dam; St. John's, Beaver Dam; Faith, Columbus; Zion, Horicon; St. Michael's, Hustisford; Our Savior's, Iron Ridge; First, Lodi; St. Peter's, Loganville; County Line, Markesan; St. Paul's, Mayville; Immanuel, Merrimac; St. John-Leland, North Freedom; Bethlehem, Portage; Bethel, Poynette; Dekorra, Poynette; St. John's, Prairie du Sac; St. John's, Reedsburg; Bonnet~~

~~Prairie, Rio; Redeemer, Rio; Zion, Rock Springs; St. Paul's, Sugar Island; Immanuel, Watertown; Immanuel of Lebanon, Watertown; Immanuel, Waupun and Bethany, Wisconsin Dells.~~

~~Southeast Area Ministry: Atonement, Beloit; Calvary, Beloit; Luther Valley, Beloit; Our Savior's, Beloit; St. Paul's, Beloit; Jefferson Prairie, Clinton; Pella, Clinton; Luther Memorial, Delavan; Central, Edgerton; Trinity, Edgerton; St. John's, Elkhorn; Sugar Creek, Elkhorn; Trinity, Fort Atkinson; Faith, Janesville; First, Janesville; Good Shepherd, Janesville; St. John, Janesville; St. Peter's, Janesville; St. Mark's, Jefferson; St. John's, Johnson Creek; Immanuel, Lake Geneva; Hope, Milton; Orfordville, Orfordville; Trinity, Pell Lake; Christ, Sharon; St. Luke's, Sullivan; Faith, Walworth; St. Paul's, Waterloo; First English, Whitewater and Williams Bay, Williams Bay.~~

~~Southwest Area Ministry: Albany, Albany; Adams, Argyle; Apple Grove, Argyle; Argyle, Argyle; Yellowstone, Argyle; St. John's, Avoca; Zion, Bagley; Barneveld, Barneveld; West Blue Mounds, Blue Mounds; Peace, Belmont; Primrose, Belleville; Blanchardville, Blanchardville; Trinity, Blanchardville; York Memorial, Blanchardville; Five Points, Blue River; St. John's, Boscobel; Bethlehem, Brodhead; St. Peter's, Cassville; Bethlehem, Edmund; Peace, Cobb; Faith, Cuba City; Grace, Darlington; Grace, Dodgeville; Castle Rock, Fennimore; St. Peter's, Fennimore; Fairview, Avoca; Otter Creek, Highland; Hollandale, Hollandale; Christ, Lancaster; First, Lone Rock; Hope, Mineral Point; Grace, Monroe; Perry, Mount Horeb; Shepherd of the Hills; New Glarus; First English, Platteville; Lutheran Church of Peace, Platteville; St. Paul's, Potosi; St. John's, Richland Center; Jordan, Browntown; Our Savior's, South Wayne; Wiota, South Wayne and Christ, Spring Green.~~

~~b. A congregation may seek to alter the area ministry structure set forth in SI2.01.01-a, by petitioning the Synod Assembly for such change, which may occur upon a majority vote of the Synod Assembly.~~

~~S12.01.02 Purposes of Area Ministries:~~

~~The purposes of the Area Ministries are as follows:~~

- ~~a. To strengthen and assist each congregation in its setting~~
- ~~b. To facilitate cooperation between congregations~~
- ~~c. To connect congregations with synod and churchwide resources~~
- ~~d. To establish and implement goals for joint ministry within the Area Ministry~~
- ~~e. To equip laity and rostered leaders for ministry~~
- ~~f. To strengthen the care and nurture of rostered persons and their families.~~

~~S12.01.03 Area Ministry Meetings:~~

- ~~a. Required Meetings: Each Area Ministry shall meet at least once in the Fall of each year and once in the Spring of each year. Area Ministries may choose to meet more frequently. Any confirmed member of a congregation within the Area Ministry may participate in the Area Ministry meetings.~~
- ~~b. Fall Meeting: At the fall meeting the Area Ministry shall undertake area mission planning and any other business.~~
- ~~c. Spring Meeting: At the spring meeting, the Area Ministry shall elect members of the Executive Committee set forth in S12.01.04, and undertake pre-synod assembly business.~~

~~Synod Staff: A synod staff person will be assigned to each Area Ministry.~~

~~S12.01.04 The Executive Committee~~

- ~~a. Membership: Each Area Ministry shall have an Executive Committee composed of two Area Deans, the Area Ministry Chair and two Synod Council Members.~~
- ~~b. Duties: The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the following duties:
 - ~~1) leading the Area Ministry in developing and accomplishing goals;~~
 - ~~2) planning and implementing Area Ministry meetings;~~
 - ~~3) developing a plan to strengthen pastoral care for rostered persons and their families~~~~

- ~~in consultation with the Bishop; and~~
~~4) filling any vacancies on the Executive Committee until the next Spring Area Ministry meeting.~~

~~S12-01-05 The Area Ministry Deans~~

- ~~1 Selection: There shall be two Area Ministry Deans for each Area Ministry. One will be elected at the Spring meeting and one will be appointed by the Bishop.~~
- ~~b. Eligibility: Each Area Ministry Dean shall be an ordained pastor on the roster of this synod and a member of a congregation in the Area Ministry.~~
- ~~c. Terms: Each term shall be for three years. No Dean can serve for more than two consecutive terms. The terms of the elected Dean and appointed Dean shall be co-terminus.~~
- ~~d. Duties: The responsibilities of the Deans shall include the following: communicating with the Bishop concerning pastoral care needs and emergencies among rostered persons and their families within the Area Ministries; establishing means to encourage collegiality among rostered persons; serving on the Area Ministry Executive Committee; serving as a member of the synod's Nominating Committee; and serving as a presence of the synod at the request of the Bishop.~~
- ~~e. Meetings: The Deans shall meet at least quarterly with the Bishop and other Deans.~~
- ~~f. Vacancy: Should a vacancy occur, the bishop shall fill such position by an interim appointment of a person who meets the qualifications of the vacated position. (If the vacancy is of the Dean appointed by the bishop, then the interim appointee shall serve out the remainder of that term. If the vacancy is of the Dean elected by the Area Ministry, then the interim appointee shall serve until the next Spring Area Ministry meeting at which time an election will occur to select a Dean to fill~~

~~out the remainder of the term.) For the purpose of determining re-electability of an individual filling a vacating position, the individual shall be deemed to have been elected once if less than half of the unexpired term has expired at the time of the interim appointment.~~

~~S12-01-06 The Area Ministry Chair~~

- ~~a. Election: The Area Ministry chair shall be elected at the Spring meeting of the Area Ministry.~~
- ~~b. Eligibility: The Chair shall be a lay person and a member of a congregation in the Area Ministry.~~
- ~~c. Term: The election shall be for a three year term. No Chair can serve for more than two consecutive terms.~~
- ~~d. Duties: The responsibilities of the Chair shall include: convening and presiding at Area Ministry Executive committee meetings; convening and presiding at Area Ministry meetings; serving on the Area Ministry Executive Committee; and serving as a member of the synod's Nominating Committee.~~
- ~~e. Vacancy: Should a vacancy occur in the Area Ministry Chair, the remaining Area Ministry Executive Committee members shall fill such position by an interim appointment of a person who meets the qualifications of the vacated position. The appointee shall serve out the remainder of the term of the individual vacating the position. For the purpose of determining re-electability of an individual filling a vacating position, the individual shall be deemed to have been elected once if less than half of the unexpired term has expired at the time of the appointment.~~

~~S12-01-07 Area Ministry Synod Council Members~~

- ~~a. Election: Area Ministry Synod Council Members shall be nominated by the Area Ministry at the Spring meeting and elected by the Synod Assembly according to the requirements of the Synod Constitution under Chapter 10.~~
- ~~b. Eligibility: Area Ministry Synod Council Members shall consist of two persons, one clergy and one layperson. They must be members of a congregation in the Area Ministry.~~

- ~~c. Term: Area Ministry Synod Council Members will serve three year terms.~~
- ~~d. Duties: Area Ministry Synod Council Member responsibilities include: Serving as a member of the Synod Council as set forth in Chapter 10; reporting the actions and concerns of the Synod Council to the Area Ministry; reporting the actions and concerns of the Area Ministry to the synod council; and serving on the Area Ministry Executive Committee.~~

512-01-087 Congregations may form geographical groupings which shall be known as clusters for such purposes as the congregations may deem appropriate. The formation of clusters does not require the approval of this synod.

512-01-092 Congregations may form groups of congregations which have common interests other than geographical location. A grouping of congregations for this purpose shall be known as a coalition. A coalition may petition this synod for official recognition by presenting such petition to the synod assembly. Such recognition shall be given upon majority vote of the Synod Assembly and, in such event, funding for such coalition may be included within this synod's budget.

512-01-03 Every congregation of this synod shall have members involved in at least one cluster group based upon an affinity of interest. These clusters may be formed on the basis of geographic area, vision for mission, size, calling, passions, needs, or special interests. The synod shall establish processes, policies, and guidelines for the formation and accountability of cluster groups.

Further, to approve the following continuing resolutions:

59-03-A06 The members of the Nominating Committee shall be the same in 2007 as in 2006 except that resignations may be replaced by the bishop.

59-03-B06 The initial terms of the Nominating Committee shall be such as to achieve a staggered rotation of terms with two terms ending each year. 59-03-01 shall not go into effect until the final ratification of 59-03.

Further, to approve the following constitution amendments and bylaws dependent upon those amendments as a first reading:

- S8.24 The vice president shall be a voting member of the Churchwide Assembly. If the vice president is unable to attend, the position shall be filled using the normal election process for the Churchwide Assembly.*
- 59-03- There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of ~~ten~~ six members.*
- 511-05- The synod may establish ministry teams with the primary objective of serving the synod and its congregations in the areas of mission and ministry. For the purposes of 156-04, each ministry team will consist of six core members serving three-year terms who are appointed by the Synod Council. Each ministry team is encouraged to add serving members as needed.*
- 511-05-01 There shall be a Worship and Arts Ministry Team. The task of the Worship and Arts Committee shall include:*
- 1) Planning worship for those synod functions that are appropriate to meetings where simple devotions are inadequate. This includes the synod assembly.*
 - 2) Communicating worship ideas to congregations by facilitating the exchange of ideas and commending resources from the churchwide organization and Augsburg-Fortress Press.*
 - 3) Facilitating the public recognition and appreciation for the fine arts, especially within Christian themes. This includes both performance and media based art.*
- 511-05-02 There shall be a Stewardship and Resource Ministry Team. The task of the Stewardship and Resource Ministry Team shall include:*
- 1) Communicating the needs of the synod, both financial and volunteer, and to challenge congregations to respond with spirit and generosity.*
 - 2) Facilitating the exchange of ideas between congregations.*
 - 3) Uplifting the synod's endowment fund and emphasizing*

foundational giving

511-05-03 There shall be a Global Connections Ministry Team

ADOPTED

The Rev. Douglas Demlow asked if the makeup of the Synod Council would still be representative of the geographic and cultural diversity of the synod. Pr. Berggren assured the assembly that it will be a priority of the Nominating Committee to develop a method for assuring diversity and that the assembly itself always has an opportunity to nominate to the council.

Spending plan

Mr. Gorsuch returned the spending plan to the floor and explained a little of how it is built on actual experience.

VOTED to approve the 2006-07 Spending Plan as presented.

ADOPTED

In discussing the plan, the Rev. Shirley Funk expressed her concern for cuts to the Wisconsin Conference of Churches.

The voting member from Cambridge decried the cut in funding for colleges and quoted Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson on the importance of church colleges. Mr. Gorsuch advised that if the income exceeds expectations during the coming year, funding may be restored to this year's amounts.

The Rev. David Keesey-Berg offered the following amendment in noting that colleges had many different sources of income and Lutheran Campus Ministry does not.

MOVED to amend the spending plan by removing the \$6000 from the colleges line and adding it to Lutheran Campus Ministry.

DEFEATED

In speaking against the amendment, the Rev. Dennis O'Brien asked that we not cut all our relationships with our church colleges. Even a token amount expresses the church's pride in colleges and the roots they have in congregational life. The Rev. Jeanette Stranjord also spoke against the amendment noting our historic strong connection to church colleges.

In returning back to debate on the main motion, Pr. O'Brien suggested that we need to challenge ourselves to be better stewards and contributors to the ministries of the synod. The Rev. Peter Heide recommended that we begin now in the process of looking at ways to better fund our partnerships in anticipation of the 2007-06 Spending Plan.

The Rev. Sue Larson, in noting the reduction in funding for the Lutheran Office of Public Policy (LOPP), advised the assembly that organizations like the LOPP are not allowed to fund raise on their own to individual congregations unless they have an official exclusion. Larry Everson told the members that congregations need to more clearly hear the needs of the synod and the ELCA.

Following the affirmative vote on the spending plan, Pr. Hoy brought the following resolution.

SA06.0510 Funding for higher education

VOTED to recommend that the Synod Council study the feasibility of a major fund raising appeal for ministry in higher education and explore other options for increased stewardship of the synod, and to report back at the next assembly.

ADOPTED

In the debate on the motion Pr. O'Brien was concerned about endless fund raising when the larger issue is the way we support the church as a whole. Pr. Burnside said that such an appeal, though helpful, is only a part of what must be a bigger stewardship and benevolence picture.

Partnership restrictions

SA06.05.11 Partnership restrictions lifted

VOTED to lift restrictions on partnership ministries in the synod on fund raising through individual congregations.

ADOPTED

Several members spoke in favor of the resolution including Pr. Wild and Pr. Pharmer. Klover Schafer reminded that there are also ecumenical partnerships that are limited in their ability to do fund raising.

Final elections report

Ms. Lincoln came with one last report.

Consultation Committee (272 ballots, 137 needed)

Male Laity - one needed

Harlan Baumgartner 106

Jim Harris 166

Before closing with worship, Bishop Carlson expressed his thanks for all those who helped the assembly run smoothly. He particularly lifted up Kelly Fryer, Sue Mehlert, the Rev. Michael Rehak, the Rev. Blake Rohrer, David Moore, and the Synod Council.

The assembly adjourned with worship and the Order for Closing an Assembly.

Signed,

David J. Berggren, Secretary
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Protocol Documents

2006 Synod Assembly Book

Outreach Committee survey

Treasurer's report

Nominations sheet