

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
2007 Synod Assembly**

The 2007 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was held May 3-5, 2007 at the Marriott West Hotel in Middleton, Wisconsin under the theme, LIVING IN GOD'S AMAZING GRACE: THANKS BE TO GOD!

Session #1

Opening worship was held at Luther Memorial. Bishop Carlson presided at the worship service with Rev. Lowell Almen, ELCA Churchwide Secretary, giving the reflection. After the opening worship, Bishop George Carlson led the assembly in the Order of Service for the Opening of a Synod Assembly.

Bishop Carlson called Session #1 to order.

Credentials Report #1

Jeanne Stansfield presented the first report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	150
Lay Female	150
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>113</u>
Voting Members	413
Visitors	34

Bishop Carlson introduced several of the guests who were present at the assembly including Rev. Lowell Almen, ELCA Churchwide Secretary and keynote speaker Rev. Duane Larson who is president of Wartburg Seminary. Bishop Carlson introduced two guests from our companion synod in India, Rev. Lucia Tudu and Rosemary Hembrom, principal from the Don Bosco School in India.

Preliminary Items

SA07.05.01 Agenda approved

VOTED to approve the assembly agenda with the addition of the Report of the Bishop Election Committee before the 10:15 a.m. break on Friday, May 4.

ADOPTED

Bishop Carlson brought the assembly committees to the floor.

SA07.05.02 Committees approved

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

**Credentials Committee - Jeanne Stansfield
Bishop's Elections Committee – Wayne Pinnow
General Elections Committee – Harold Kuehn
Resolutions Committee - the Rev. Laura Sutherland**

ADOPTED

Rev. Laura Sutherland brought the initial report of the Resolutions Committee and stated that there eight resolutions at this time as the resolution on Creation of a Synodical Commission on Human Sexuality had been withdrawn. She reported that three resolutions were received after the assembly book was printed. The committee declined to bring the resolutions forward as they did not meet the February 1, 2007 deadline. She explained the process and rules for submitting resolutions for this assembly.

Mary DeYoung explained the privileges of the floor for voting members and for others who are afforded voice at the

assembly.

SA07.05.03 Bishop Nominees Afforded Voice Privileges

VOTED to give voice to any bishop nominee from outside the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
ADOPTED

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

Bishop Carlson brought the assembly rules to the floor.

SA07.05.04 Assembly rules approved

VOTED to approve the rules for the assembly as printed in the Assembly 2007 book and the Rules for the Balloting for Bishop with the addition to the sentence "Each candidate will *be given up to two minutes to answer each question, with questions being answered in rotating order. The question and answer session will close at 9:30 p.m.*" and striking from the sentence "Because we want to know the questions and concerns of the assembled people, all voting members will be given a sheet on which to provide the questions they want answered ~~along with the first ballot~~ that may be turned in up until 7:30 on Thursday evening.

ADOPTED

Nominations

Vice-president Connie Kilmark brought nominations to the floor.

Synod Treasurer

Robert Gorsuch

Synod Council

Clergy

The Rev. Karen Locken

Lay Male

Jay R. Becklin

Lay Female

Rebecca Alwin

Discipline Committee

Clergy – Five-Year Term (Expires 2012) - Vote for One

The Rev. Tina Koenig Ray

Clergy – Six Year Term (Expires 2013) - Vote for Two

The Rev. Brent Campbell

The Rev. Elisa Brandt

Lay Female - Vote for One

Barbara Kepler

Lay Male – Vote for One

Alan Albers

Bishop Carlson asked for further nominations from the floor as none were brought forward he declared nominations closed.

Credentials Report #2

Jeanne Stansfield presented the second report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	150
Lay Female	150
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>113</u>
Voting Members	413
Visitors	34

Bishop Election Task Force

Rev. Karen Locken reviewed the work of the Bishop's Election Task Force.

Meditation on Role of Bishop

Rev. Lowell Almen provided a meditation on the role of the bishop.

Explanation of Bishop Election Process

Rev. Almen presented an explanation of the Ecclesiastical ballot process being used to elect the bishop. As the Synod is using a new process this year, he also explained to the assembly that they should either write in the name of any ordained pastor on the line or put a check mark next to one of the preprinted names on the ballot. The assembly was instructed to do one of these methods but not both or the ballot would be illegal.

Bishop Election – Ballot #1

Seventy-five percent of the legal votes cast are needed for electing a bishop on the first ballot. At the completion of the balloting, Rev. Almen declared the second vote closed.

Bishop Carlson recessed the assembly for dinner.

Session #2

Keynote Address

Rev. Dr. Duane Larson delivered the first keynote address on the theme *Living in God's Amazing Grace: Thanks Be to God!*

Bishop Carlson called session #2 to order. The Bishop turned the assembly over to Rev. Almen who called on Wayne Pinnow to report the results of the 1st ballot for bishop.

Report of the First Ballot by the Bishop Election Committee

Wayne Pinnow brought forward the report of the first ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:	410
Number of legal votes:	409
Number of illegal votes:	1
Number of votes required for election on this ballot (75%):	307

Individual results were:

David Berggren	64
Michael Rehak	55
Bruce Burnside	38
Dick Blomker	33
Steve Kottke	30

April Larson	28
Robert Carlson	28
William Lehman	26
James Glesne	21
Jeff Pedersen	18
James Stein	18
Geoffrey Hoy	17
Karen Locken	6
Jeff Wild	5
Mary Froiland	3
Bruce Loewenhagen	2
James Melvin	2
Brad Pohlman	2
Byron Bunge	1
Reggie Hansome	1
Jack Way	1
Sue Moline Larson	1
Gerry Petersen	1
Rachael Powell	1
Brian Metke	1
Kurt Billings	1
James Nestigen	1
Rod Hank	1
Mark Moller-Gunderson	1
Mark Moldrem	1
Jim Lindus	1

As there was no election, Rev. Almen declared there to be a ballot #2.

Responsive Prayer

The session ended with a responsive prayer service.

Session #3

The session began with a morning prayer service.

Bishop Carlson called Session #3 to order.

Credentials Report #3

Jeanne Stansfield presented the third report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	166
Lay Female	158
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>119</u>
Voting Members	442
Visitors	42

Bishop Election – Ballot #2

Bishop Carlson turned the balloting process over to Rev. Lowell Almen. Rev. Almen had the ushers distribute biographical information for two additional nominees. Instructions for the second ballot were given. Seventy-five

percent of the legal votes cast are needed for electing a bishop on the second ballot. At the completion of the balloting, Rev. Almen declared the second ballot closed.

Report of Resolutions Committee

Rev. Laura Sutherland reported that the resolutions committee received an additional resolution. She reminded the assembly that resolutions must be submitted by noon on Friday on the Synod resolution form.

SA07.05.05 Moving Forward of Resolution

VOTED to consider moving forward the resolution, A Memorial Responding to the Decision of the Discipline Hearing Committee.

ADOPTED

A challenge from the floor was brought as to the results of the voice vote. A card vote was taken with 245 votes in favor of moving the resolution forward and 90 votes in favor of not moving the resolution forward. Motion SA07.05.05 was adopted by card ballot.

Klover Schafer spoke on behalf of the Human Rights Team about moving forward this resolution which had previously been denied by the Resolutions Committee because it had not been submitted by the February 1 deadline. Ms. Schafer asked that the Synod memorialize this so Churchwide will discuss the issue this summer.

Rev. Jeff Wild spoke for the motion and asked the assembly to consider this resolution as the Human Rights Team had given this matter serious consideration before putting forth the resolution.

Rev. David Brandfass spoke against the motion stating that resolves had already been decided by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly. He also noted that there is still a process in place to discuss this at future Churchwide assemblies.

Tim Mumm, the Human Rights chair, spoke to the motion as to the importance of bringing this matter up at this time as the punishment phase for Rev. Bradley Schmeling begins August 15.

General Elections Unanimous Ballot

Bishop Carlson explained S7.32 of the Synod Constitution. According to S7.32 of the Synod Constitution, "Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly unless otherwise ordered by the assembly." The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order precludes casting a unanimous ballot by voice vote.

SA07.05.06 Authorization of Unanimous Ballot

VOTED to authorize the Synod Assembly to cast a unanimous voice ballot in uncontested elections, instead of using a paper ballot.

ADOPTED

SA07.05.07 Cast Unanimous Ballot

VOTED to cast a unanimous ballot for the following slate of candidates:

Synod Treasurer – Robert Gorsuch

Synod Council-

Clergy - The Rev. Karen Locken

Lay Male - Jay R. Becklin

Lay Female - Rebecca Alwin

Discipline Committee -

Clergy – Five-Year Term (Expires 2012) - The Rev. Tina Koenig Ray

Clergy – Six Year Term (Expires 2013) - The Rev. Brent Campbell and

The Rev. Elisa Brandt
Lay Female - Barbara Kepler
Lay Male - Alan Albers

ADOPTED

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. Durwood Buchheim	the Rev. Robert Nelson
the Rev. Marcia Carrier	Mr. Robert Pfennig (Diaconal Minister)
the Rev. Sandra Olson Decker	the Rev. Grant Quever
the Rev. Marc Ehrets	the Rev. Ulrich Rosenhagen
the Rev. Lawrence Engel	the Rev. Robert Schaefer
Ms. Anita Grue (AIM)	the Rev. John Shep
the Rev. Bond Haldeman	the Rev. Michael Short
the Rev. Nancy Hoelter	the Rev. Marsha Swenson
Ms. Erin Kuehl (AIM)	the Rev. John Twiton
the Rev. Richard Lund	the Rev. Kenneth West
the Rev. Sally Mitchell	

Bishop Carlson introduced Lawrence Engel, Anita Grue, Erin Kuehl, Sylvia Lee-Thompson, and Dustin Lenz who are seminarians from this synod.

Secretary's Report

Mary DeYoung, the Synod Secretary brought her report to the assembly. There was one correction on action SC07.02.05 which should have been to replace David Moore on the Endowment Committee not Sally Lee. She reminded congregations that are going to make changes to their constitutions to get them to her prior to presenting them to their congregations for approval.

Constitution Changes

Mary DeYoung introduced the Constitution changes. These changes had their first reading at the 2006 Synod Assembly and can not be amended. Bishop Carlson told the assembly that the changes would be taken *en bloc* unless someone had a desire to do each one separately. No one requested a separation.

SA07.05.08 Constitution Amendments (requires a 2/3 vote)

VOTED

To approve the following constitution amendments.

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.

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of six members.

S11.05. 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 †S6.04., 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.

ADOPTED

Compensation Guidelines

Mary DeYoung brought before the assembly the 2008 Compensation Guidelines.

MOVED to approve the 2008 Compensation Guidelines.

SA07.05.09 2008 Compensation Guidelines

VOTED to approve the 2008 Compensation Guidelines as presented.

ADOPTED

Report of Study Group on Fund Appeal

Rev. Geoff Hoy, the chair of the Study Group on Fund Appeal, presented his report. At this time the fund appeal task force is not ready to make a recommendation as they would like more time to complete the task.

Treasurer's Report

Robert Gorsuch, the Synod Treasurer, explained that our spending plan covers the period from July 1 to June 30. Each year we have a certified audit of our Synod financial records. We received what is called an unqualified opinion, which in essence means there were no material adjustments to our accounting records.

Mr. Gorsuch reported that revenues were down 1.7% from last year and 7% from two years ago. Revenues have been down for the last three years in a row. The Synod is ten months into the current fiscal year and revenues are approximately \$50,000 behind last year. There are currently 1 ½ months of operational costs in reserve.

SA07.05.10 Treasurer's Report Accepted

VOTED to accept the report of the treasurer.

ADOPTED

Bible Study

Rev. Dr. Duane Larson delivered the first bible study on the theme *Living in God's Amazing Grace: Thanks Be to God!*

Bishop Carlson turned the assembly over to Rev. Almen who called on Wayne Pinnow to report the results of the second ballot for bishop.

Report of the Second Ballot by the Bishop Election Committee

Wayne Pinnow brought forward the report of the second ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast: 417
Number of legal votes: 417
Number of illegal votes: 0

Number of votes required for election on this ballot (75%): 312

Individual results were:

David Berggren	80
Michael Rehak	71
Bruce Burnside	40
April Larson	38
Dick Blomker	31
Steve Kottke	26
Karen Locken	24

William Lehman	23
Robert Carlson	22
James Glesne	17
Geoffrey Hoy	14
James Stein	13
Jeff Pedersen	12
James Nestigen	3
Brian Metke	2
Reggie Hansome	1
Jim Lindus	0

As there was no election, Rev. Almen declared there to be a ballot #3. Rev. Almen explained that the seven people receiving the greatest number of votes would be on the third ballot. The assembly would hear from the seven nominees at 1:30 p.m. on Friday. The third ballot would take place at 4:05 p.m.

The assembly was in recess for a break.

Session 4

Bishop Carlson called Session #4 to order. The session began by finishing the agenda items from Session #3.

Bob. Gorsuch presented the 2007-08 Spending Plan to the assembly. The adoption of the plan comes later in the agenda.

Vice-President's Report

Ms. Kilmark addressed the members of the assembly. She reported to the assembly that since Rev. Karen Locken was one of the seven nominees for bishop she, Connie, would be replacing Rev. Locken as chair of the Bishop's Election Task Force. Ms. Kilmark thanked the Synod staff for the work they do. She reported that the cluster system to develop collegiality of clergy was working very well. She asked voting members to make sure they submit any questions they have for the bishop forum on Friday night by the end of this session.

Bishop's Report

Ms. Kilmark presided as Bishop Carlson addressed the assembly by highlighting important ministries taking place within the synod. He called on members of the various ministries to highlight their activities for the past year. The members and the ministries included:

- Kay Enslin spoke about Leadership Development.
- The Rev. Jim Bailey spoke about the Center of Congregational Leadership's goal to foster an ethos of life-long learning for rostered and lay leaders in the Synod. In 2008 it will be the tenth anniversary of the Lay School of Ministry. The Wisconsin Council of Churches is planning a day event to bring ecumenical lay school leaders and ministers together.
- Sue Lux spoke about the Candidacy Committee, which works to ensure that each candidate receives the assistance they need as they discern their call. She thanked the people and congregations who contributed to the Seminarians Assistance Fund.
- Laurie Veendendal, a seminarian at Wartburg from our Synod, spoke about her call to ministry and her time at seminary.
- The Rev. Brent Christianson talked about the Lutheran Campus Ministry programs on the UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, and the UW-Whitewater campuses. The Bishop's Appeal for Lutheran Campus Ministry has a goal to raise \$100,000 over the next two years. Currently, over \$12,000 has been received.

- The Rev. Pedro Suarez talked about the Latino ministry programs. There is a program at Bethel Lutheran in Madison. The Espiritu de Esperanza is currently being developed in Beloit in partnership with four Lutheran and one Presbyterian Church. Holy Trinity in Marshall has received an ELCA grant to help with the development of a Latino ministry to help encourage mutual support and advocacy for Latinos.
- Pastor Barb Simmers from Peace Lutheran Church in Slidell, Louisiana spoke about Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Lutheran Disaster Response has provided over 3,000 volunteers and over \$3,000,000 of volunteer hours for Hurricane Katrina mission trips.
- The Rev. Dan Odden and Meg Nielsen reported on the work of the Global Connections Ministry team. The Rev. Lucia Tudu from the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church in India and Ms. Rosemary Hembrom, the principal of the Don Bosco School, thanked the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin for their financial and prayer support. The Synod has provided over \$9,000 to help with the Don Bosco School. Bishop Carlson presented Rev. Tudu and Ms. Hembrom with a fruit basket and a handmade woven basket. The Bishop reported that the Synod was helping Ms. Sanchita Kisku with scholarship support to help pay her costs for studying at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. The cost is \$32,500 a year and together with ELCA Global Mission, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin would help share 50/50 in scholarship support.
- Michael Watson from The Lutheran Magazine reported that the magazine, which is designed to be a communication vehicle, is celebrating its twentieth anniversary.

Bishop Carlson reported that the Synod faces challenges in communication and mission support. He thanked all the people who have worked hard this past year on the various ministries in the Synod. He also thanked the Synod staff and his wife, Solveig, for their support.

Report of the ELCA Churchwide Representative

The Rev. Lowell Almen, ELCA Churchwide Secretary, brought greetings from Bishop Hanson and the ELCA. Rev. Almen talked about WWII and how Lutherans were committed to efforts of relief and reconciliation when peace came to Germany and the occupied countries. He noted that our Lutheran forbears offer us a model for the 21st century; a model of both generosity and commitment to reconciliation, relief, and renewal. He reported that last year set a new record of \$20 million for contributions to Hunger Appeal.

The 2003 Churchwide Assembly embrace a mission statement that reads: “Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.” This statement is reflective of the six purposes of the ELCA: to proclaim God’s saving Gospel; to carry out Christ’s Great Commission; to worship God; to nurture members in the Word of God; to serve in response to God’s love in meeting human needs; and to manifest the unity given to God’s people.

Rev. Almen went on to explain the emblem of the church which portrays our commitment to these six purposes. At the center of the emblem is the cross of Christ. This cross is placed upon the world, the setting of our service. The emblem of our church not only depicts the world but in each quadrant there is also a cross. The cross points to Christ’s commission to go into all the world with the glad news of salvation and to reach the four corners of the world with the Gospel of forgiveness and reconciliation. As followers of Jesus, we seek to show God’s love in striving to meet human need and we are summoned to manifest that unity that is given to the people of God. We are reminded that even the four corners of the world are held together by the cross.

We have been marked with the cross of Christ forever. We have been sent for crucial work through our congregations, through this Synod and through our whole church. Thanks be to God for the mission set before us, before our congregations, before this Synod, before the whole church in our time.

Rev. Almen concluded his report with a video presentation from Bishop Mark Hanson. Bishop Carlson recessed the assembly.

Session #5

Bishop Carlson called Session #5 to order.

Credentials Report #4

Jeanne Stansfield presented the fourth report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	173
Lay Female	165
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>123</u>
Voting Members	461
Visitors	46

Resolutions

Bishop Carlson explained that the first part of the debate on each resolution would be limited to the “resolved” sections. After the resolved sections are completed then the whereas sections can be debated.

Resolution – Recognition of Lutheran Campus Ministry’s Centennial in 2007

Rev. Laura Sutherland presented the resolution regarding Recognition of Lutheran Campus Ministry’s Centennial in 2007. The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption.

MOVED Recognition of Lutheran Campus Ministry’s Centennial in 2007

SA07.05.11 Recognition of Lutheran Campus Ministry’s Centennial in 2007

VOTED

Whereas, Lutheran Campus Ministry will be celebrating its Centennial throughout the ELCA in 2007; and

Whereas, Lutheran Campus Ministry began with the call of Rev. Howard Gold to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1907; and

Whereas, Lutheran Campus Ministry in Madison, Whitewater and Platteville continue to be an active presence and important part of the life of Lutheran students attending our university campuses; therefore be it

Resolved, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin recognize 2007 as the year to celebrate the 100-year heritage of Lutheran Campus Ministry, and be it further

Resolved, that congregations be encouraged to make known the value of Lutheran Campus Ministry to their members and college-bound students; and be it further

Resolved, that congregations support Lutheran Campus Ministry, staff, students and faculty through prayer, visits, care packages and invitations to campus ministry staff and student groups to participate in Sunday worship services; and be it further

Resolved, that all interested persons be encouraged to participate and attend the Centennial Celebration Festive Worship and Evening Banquet at the Monona Terrace in Madison, WI on

Saturday, June 30, 2007, with ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and Professor Martin E. Marty; and be it further

Resolved, that Sunday, October 7, 2007, be designated as Lutheran Campus Ministry Centennial Sunday in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin.

ADOPTED

Rev. Brent Christianson from Lutheran Campus Ministry encouraged support of this resolution.

Resolution - In Support of Synod Lutheran Campus Ministry

Rev. Laura Sutherland presented the resolution regarding Support of Synod Lutheran Campus Ministry. The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption.

MOVED In Support Of Synod Lutheran Campus Ministry

SA07.05.12 In Support of Synod Lutheran Campus Ministry

VOTED

Whereas the young people in our congregations are both a treasure to our communities and our congregation's gift to the future of our Church, and
Whereas the great majority of these young people are attending institutions of higher learning, many of them living away from home, and
Whereas it is imperative that congregations provide spiritual nurture to these young members of the community wherever they may be. Therefore be it

Resolved that the 2007 Synod Assembly encourage every congregation in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin to establish a Campus Ministry Support Team of no less than two members whose duties shall be:

- 1. To encourage and facilitate the Synod Fund for Campus Ministry.**
- 2. To gather the names of all students in the congregation who are attending institutions of higher learning and forward those names and campus addresses to campus ministry sites and congregations in their new locale.**
- 3. To assist congregational staff in the development of a "Sending Service" in early August of each year.**
- 4. To maintain a loving contact with all students by soliciting the support of groups within the congregation to send each student a care package at least once a year.**

ADOPTED

Resolution – A Faithful Response to Global Climate Change

Rev. Laura Sutherland presented the resolution regarding A Faithful Response to Global Climate Change. The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption.

MOVED A Faithful Response to Global Climate Change

SA07.05.13 A Faithful Response to Global Climate Change

VOTED

Whereas, God has created us and all that exists, given and preserved our bodies and all necessities for life, and protected us "out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy" [The First Article: On Creation, Luther's Small Catechism] and God has declared all of creation to be "very good" [Genesis 1:31]; and

Whereas God has called us to be faithful stewards, and we have understood our vocations to *Care for Creation with Vision, Hope, and Justice* [1993 ELCA social statement], in ways that protect the fruitfulness and viability of the Earth and the sustainability of human communities; and

Whereas, scientific consensus warns that humankind's deep dependence on the use of fossil fuels contributes to and is accelerating global climate change and global warming that is expected to cause severe and disruptive changes to all of creation through more frequent extreme weather events, rising sea levels, more frequent deadly heat waves, increasing extinction of species, spread of tropical diseases, and displacement of human communities; and

Whereas, faithful members of caring Lutheran congregations who take action now to reduce the use of fossil fuels and emissions of carbon dioxide can help to mitigate and lessen the ultimate severity of the effects of global warming and provide a more hopeful future for our children and our children's children, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the leaders, congregations, and members of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin become informed of the problem of global warming and respond by taking advantage of available educational resources such as the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago/Greater Milwaukee Synod's manual for a Green Congregation Program, and the Wisconsin Climate and Energy Campaign/Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin's "Climate CAFÉ" discussion and action kit, and be it further

Resolved, that we will undertake actions, individually, and in our congregations, to reduce and improve our use of energy through the increased use of energy efficient lights, appliances, heating/cooling systems, and vehicles, and be it further

Resolved, that we will utilize programs such as the Wisconsin Climate and Energy Campaign's "Energy Collaborative" and the state of Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program that assist congregations to become better and more efficient energy stewards through retrofitting and conservation, and programs to offset carbon emissions, and be it further

Resolved, that we will advocate for policies in the state of Wisconsin and in Washington, DC, that assist the state and nation's transition to clean, renewable, and efficient energy use, and be it further

Resolved, that this synod memorialize the 2007 Churchwide Assembly to take action so that the ELCA offices and national church work toward eliminating their carbon footprint and increasing awareness of the ways to reduce global warming among members, congregations, and synods of the ELCA.

ADOPTED

Peter Bakken and Rev. Sue Moline-Larson spoke in favor of this resolution. Rev. Jeff Wild spoke in favor of this resolution and shared how his church, Advent Lutheran in Madison, has reduced their energy use by forty percent.

Resolution – Resolution Against Torture

Rev. Laura Sutherland presented the resolution regarding Resolution Against Torture. The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption.

MOVED Resolution Against Torture

Whereas, all human beings are created in the image of God and therefore have the inalienable right to be treated with dignity;

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States prohibits the infliction of cruel and unusual punishment;

Whereas, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

Whereas, voluminous and credible reports in the media and by human rights organizations verify that officials of the United States have engaged in torture and other cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo, and in secret prisons elsewhere, therefore, be it

Resolved by this Assembly of the South Central Synod that we strongly renounce the use of torture at any time, in any place, and under any circumstances and call upon every US government official to end this despicable practice; and be it further

Resolved that this Assembly calls for the establishment of a bi-partisan, independent commission (similar to the 9-11 commission) which will investigate allegations of torture and insure that those who ordered or engaged in torture are brought to justice; and be it further

Resolved that the practice of extraordinary rendition (“outsourcing” torture to another country) be ended immediately; and be it further

Resolved that the more than 430 remaining “enemy combatants” some of whom have been held prisoner for five years at Guantanamo, Cuba be afforded due process rights including notice of the charge against them, legal representation, and a fair trial: and be it further

Resolved that the Bishop send this resolution to the President, Vice-President, and Secretary of Defense, all members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, to the ELCA bishops of Wisconsin, and to all congregations of the South Central Synod; and be it further

Resolved that congregations of this Synod be encouraged to discuss the issue of torture and make their own beliefs known to their elected representatives; and be it further

Resolved that the GCM Peace Through Nonviolent Action Team be requested to report on the implementation of this resolution at the 2008 Synod Assembly.

The Rev. Nicholas Utphall spoke in support of this resolution. Further discussion on this resolution was set aside for Session #8.

Bishop Carlson turned the assembly over to Rev. Lowell Almen for the bishop candidate presentations. Connie Kilmark randomly drew the names of the nominees for the order of their presentations. Rev. Almen called on the nominees in the order: Michael Rehak, Bruce Burnside, Karen Locken, David Berggren, April Larson, Dick Blomker, and Steve Kottke.

After the bishop candidate presentations, Rev. Almen reminded the assembly that the casting of the third ballot would take place at 4:05 p.m. Rev. Almen turned the assembly back over to Bishop Carlson who called the assembly in recess until 4:00 p.m.

Session #6

Bishop Carlson called Session #6 of the assembly to order. He reported that 1,158 midwife kits, 1,138 hospice kits, and 3,000 cancer bandages were received at the assembly. This is a sixty percent increase from last year. They also received donations of \$521.51 to help with delivery costs.

Credentials Report #5

Jeanne Stansfield presented the fifth report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	173
Lay Female	165
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>123</u>
Voting Members	461
Visitors	46

Bishop Election – Ballot #3

Bishop Carlson turned the balloting process over to Rev. Lowell Almen. Instructions for the third ballot were given. Two-thirds of the legal votes cast are needed for electing a bishop on the third ballot. At the completion of the balloting, Rev. Almen declared the third ballot closed.

Second Bible Study

Rev. Dr. Duane Larson delivered the second bible study on the theme *Living in God's Amazing Grace: Thanks Be to God!*

Bishop Carlson turned the assembly over to Rev. Almen who called on Wayne Pinnow to report the results of the third ballot for bishop.

Report of the Third Ballot by the Bishop Election Committee

Wayne Pinnow brought forward the report of the third ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:	438
Number of legal votes:	438
Number of illegal votes:	0
Number of votes required for election on this ballot (two-thirds):	292

Individual results were:

Bruce Burnside	102
Michael Rehak	82
David Berggren	81
April Larson	60
Dick Blomker	48
Karen Locken	37
Steve Kottke	28

As there was no election, Rev. Almen declared there to be a ballot #4. Rev. Almen informed the assembly that the fourth ballot would be held in Session #8. The persons with the top three votes will move forward to the fourth ballot.

Rev. Almen turned the assembly back over to Bishop Carlson who recessed the assembly for dinner.

Session #7

Bishop Carlson called Session #7 of the assembly to order. The assembly interview of the remaining three bishop candidates was held.

Session #8

Bishop Carlson called Session #8 of the assembly to order.

Credentials Report #6

Jeanne Stansfield presented the sixth report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	168
Lay Female	166
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>122</u>
Voting Members	456
Visitors	46

Bishop Election - Ballot #4

Bishop Carlson turned the balloting process over to Rev. Lowell Almen. Instructions for the fourth ballot were given. Sixty percent of the legal votes cast are needed for electing a bishop on the fourth ballot. At the completion of the balloting, Rev. Almen declared the fourth ballot closed.

Resolutions

Resolution – Resolution Against Torture

The Resolution Against Torture was reread by Rev. Laura Sutherland for the Assembly.

Steve Biederman spoke in opposition to this resolution. He stated that torture is not part of the military means and questioned why we were advocating this through the assembly. He reminded the assembly that we are at war with terrorists and this is different from previous wars. He felt that if we adopt this resolution we are showing a lack of faith in our leaders. He asked the assembly to honor those individuals who have served in hostile actions.

The Rev. Sue Moline Larson talked about the chaplaincy in the US military and the disturbing lack of observance of guidelines about how to treat people. She stated that the Geneva Convention rules have not been carried out in the Iraq War.

The Bishop asked the assembly to bring either their red or green card with them when they spoke on an issue so he could keep a balance in the speeches. He also asked the assembly that we impose a two minute time limit per speaker and if there were no objections it would be the order of the house. There were no objections to the two minute time limit per speaker.

MOVED by Joel Bradtke to amend the second resolve section by striking the words *and insure that those who ordered or engaged in torture are brought to justice*. The motion was seconded.

Joel Bradtke spoke to the motion to amend the resolve section. He stated that as a Christian he could not abide by torture in any form. He was conflicted by the last part of the sentence in resolve #2 and has moved to strike it from the resolve as he doesn't believe the assembly should get in the business of insuring that everyone is brought to justice.

VOTED

to amend resolved section 2 to read:

Resolved that this Assembly calls for the establishment of a bi-partisan, independent commission (similar to the 9-11 commission) which will

investigate allegations of torture; and be it further
ADOPTED

VOTED to call the question on the resolution.

ADOPTED

SA07.05.14 Resolution Against Torture

VOTED

Whereas, all human beings are created in the image of God and therefore have the inalienable right to be treated with dignity;

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States prohibits the infliction of cruel and unusual punishment;

Whereas, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

Whereas, voluminous and credible reports in the media and by human rights organizations verify that officials of the United States have engaged in torture and other cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo, and in secret prisons elsewhere, therefore, be it

Resolved by this Assembly of the South Central Synod that we strongly renounce the use of torture at any time, in any place, and under any circumstances and call upon every US government official to end this despicable practice; and be it further

Resolved that this Assembly calls for the establishment of a bi-partisan, independent commission (similar to the 9-11 commission) which will investigate allegations of torture; and be it further

Resolved that the practice of extraordinary rendition (“outsourcing” torture to another country) be ended immediately; and be it further

Resolved that the more than 430 remaining “enemy combatants” some of whom have been held prisoner for five years at Guantanamo, Cuba be afforded due process rights including notice of the charge against them, legal representation, and a fair trial: and be it further

Resolved that the Bishop send this resolution to the President, Vice-President, and Secretary of Defense, all members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, to the ELCA bishops of Wisconsin, and to all congregations of the South Central Synod; and be it further

Resolved that congregations of this Synod be encouraged to discuss the issue of torture and make their own beliefs known to their elected representatives; and be it further

Resolved that the GCM Peace Through Nonviolent Action Team be requested to report on the implementation of this resolution at the 2008 Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

Resolution – Resolution on Peace and Justice in Palestine

Rev. Laura Sutherland presented the resolution regarding Peace and Justice in Palestine. The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption.

MOVED Resolution on Peace and Justice in Palestine

Whereas, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its 2005 Churchwide Assembly urged

synods, congregations and institutions of the Church to participate in the ELCA campaign *Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land*; and

Whereas, the humanitarian catastrophe among Palestinian people has continued to grow at an alarming rate as a result of the building of Israel's Separation Wall; and

Whereas, nearly 70% of the Palestinian population is living below the poverty level and malnutrition is rapidly becoming a crisis; and

Whereas, the Christian population in the Holy Land, the birthplace of Jesus and the center of his earthly ministry is steadily decreasing under the pressure of the Israeli military Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza; and

Whereas, the work of the Lutheran World Federation at Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem is increasingly threatened; and

Whereas, the plight of Palestinian people is not well understood; and

Whereas, Jesus calls his Church to stand with the poor and oppressed and raise a voice against injustice; and

Whereas, the Church of Jesus Christ is in a unique position to provide a witness of healing and reconciliation; be it

Resolved that congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin be encouraged to regularly and deliberately pray for peace and justice in the Middle East; and be it further

Resolved that congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin avail themselves of opportunities to learn about the plight of the Palestinian people; and be it further

Resolved that congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin consider ways to support the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) in Palestine and the work of the Lutheran World Federation and Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem; and be it further

Resolved that congregations of the Synod be encouraged to advocate on behalf of a US Middle East policy based on commitment to human rights, justice and economic well-being for Palestinians and support for Israeli and Palestinian groups and individuals involved in nonviolent struggle for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine.

MOVED to add the words *and Israeli* in the second resolved section after the word Palestinian.

VOTED

to amend resolved section 2 to read:

Resolved that congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin avail themselves of opportunities to learn about the plight of the Palestinian and Israeli people, and be it further

ADOPTED

Rev. Jim Bailey spoke in favor to the main motion. He stated that as a Synod we need to be involved in these issues. We have to be pro peace.

MOVED to add the words *and Israelis* in the fourth resolved section after the word Palestinians.

VOTED

to amend resolved section 4 to read:

Resolved that congregations of the Synod be encouraged to advocate on behalf of a US Middle East policy based on commitment to human rights,

justice and economic well-being for Palestinians and Israelis and support for Israeli and Palestinian groups and individuals involved in nonviolent struggle for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine.

ADOPTED

MOVED by Rev. Bill Beyer to amend the second whereas section by striking the words *as a result of the building of Israel's Separation Wall* and to amend the fourth whereas section by striking the words *under the pressure of the Israeli military Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza*. The motion was seconded.

A point of order was raised questioning if the assembly could only make motions dealing with the resolved sections and not the whereas sections of a resolution. Parliamentarian David Moore stated that when a resolution has not been adopted you can make changes to the whereas sections.

Rev. Beyer stated that as a church we talk about building bridges and taking down walls. He didn't think that it was appropriate to blame just the Israelis and not the Palestinian leaders as well. He felt that this was a very complex issue.

Rev. Clint Schnekloth was concerned that this amendment to the whereas sections would erode the intention of the resolution.

Rev. Jim Bailey spoke against the amendment to the whereas sections. He state that the Separation Wall includes twenty-five percent of the West Bank and the International Court ruled against the Wall as it intrudes on Palestinian land. He felt that if you eliminate the occupation language you eliminate what has been happening there.

VOTED

to amend whereas section 2 to read:

Whereas the humanitarian catastrophe among Palestinian people has continued to grow at an alarming rate, and

and to amend whereas section 4 to read:

Whereas, the Christian population in the Holy Land, the birthplace of Jesus ad the center of his earthly ministry is steadily decreasing, and

DEFEATED

SA07.05.15 Resolution on Peace and Justice in Palestine

VOTED

Whereas, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its 2005 Churchwide Assembly urged synods, congregations and institutions of the Church to participate in the ELCA campaign *Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land*; and

Whereas, the humanitarian catastrophe among Palestinian people has continued to grow at an alarming rate as a result of the building of Israel's Separation Wall; and

Whereas, nearly 70% of the Palestinian population is living below the poverty level and malnutrition is rapidly becoming a crisis; and

Whereas, the Christian population in the Holy Land, the birthplace of Jesus and the center of his earthly ministry is steadily decreasing under the pressure of the Israeli military Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza; and

Whereas, the work of the Lutheran World Federation at Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem is increasingly threatened; and

Whereas, the plight of Palestinian people is not well understood; and

Whereas, Jesus calls his Church to stand with the poor and oppressed and raise a voice against injustice; and

Whereas, the Church of Jesus Christ is in a unique position to provide a witness of healing and reconciliation; be it

Resolved that congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin be encouraged to regularly and deliberately pray for peace and justice in the Middle East; and be it further

Resolved that congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin avail themselves of opportunities to learn about the plight of the Palestinian and Israeli people; and be it further

Resolved that congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin consider ways to support the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) in Palestine and the work of the Lutheran World Federation and Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem; and be it further

Resolved that congregations of the Synod be encouraged to advocate on behalf of a US Middle East policy based on commitment to human rights, justice and economic well-being for Palestinians and Israelis and support for Israeli and Palestinian groups and individuals involved in nonviolent struggle for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine.

ADOPTED

Resolution – Resolution on the Iraq War

Rev. Laura Sutherland presented the resolution regarding the Iraq War. There is one correction on the resolution in the second resolve section the word immediately should be replaced with the words by the end of this calendar year. The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption.

MOVED Resolution on the Iraq War

Whereas our faith teaches us to value and respect all human life and to see in each human being the image of God for whom Jesus Christ died, and

Whereas, taking this teaching seriously and seeking to live it out requires us to advocate that the earth's resources be used to support and nurture human life, not destroy it, and

Whereas, war inflicts great suffering on human beings and destroys both human life and the earth on which human beings depend for sustenance, and

Whereas, the history of the 20th century has proven that there powerful and less destructive alternatives to war that have proven their effectiveness by overthrowing dictatorial regimes, liberating oppressed groups and furthering the cause of justice and truth, and

Whereas, following the horrors of World War II the human community created the international institutions that are a part of the United Nations system to deal with problems that could no longer be solved by individual nation states, therefore be it

Resolved that this Assembly oppose any escalation of the Iraq war; and be it further

Resolved that this Assembly urge the US government to begin reducing the number of US forces in Iraq by the end of this calendar year with the goal of complete withdrawal as soon as possible; and be it further

Resolved that this Assembly urge the government of the United States to take a repentant stance and

work in concert with the international community and the United Nations to support peacemaking and nation-building operations in Iraq; and be it further

Resolved that this Assembly urge the government of the United States to provide generous support to this international effort; and be it further

Resolved that this Assembly memorialize the ELCA to take similar action on the war in Iraq, and be it further

Resolved that the Bishop be requested to communicate this resolution to all members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, to the ELCA bishops of Wisconsin, and to all congregations of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved that congregations of the Synod be encouraged to discuss the points made in this resolution, share arguments for and against them, and make their opinion known to their congressional representative and senators; and be it further

Resolved that the Peace Through Nonviolent Action committee be requested to report on the implementation of this resolution at the 2008 Synod Assembly.

Larry Everson spoke against this resolution as he feels this is a political resolution supported by Anti-Bush newspapers and TV media. He said this was a divisive resolution and demoralizes our troops. He was concerned how soldiers in our churches would react when they were told to pull out and quit. He is in favor of urging the US government to begin reducing the number of US troops.

Rev. Nick Utphall spoke for the resolution and did not feel that this would be demoralizing to our troops as they would know that we are concerned about their safety and want to bring them home. He did agree that this is a divisive issue.

MOVED by Steve Biederman to remove the second and third resolves sections from the resolution. The motion was seconded.

Steve Biederman spoke to the motion. He believes that the second resolved section assumes this assembly knows more than the generals who are in the field. The third resolved section talks about a repentance stance and he feels that is what our forces are doing now with their peacemaking and nation building.

Doug Haag feels the resolved sections are secular political beliefs that don't belong.

Rev. Jon Enslin pointed out that if you remove resolved sections two and three then there is nothing between resolved sections one and four that make sense.

Rebecca Alwin suggested eliminating the second resolved section and keeping the third resolved section. She recommended that we take a stance thoroughly informed by our Christian beliefs. She does believe that we need to take a repentance stance.

Bishop Carlson made a friendly suggestion to divide the question and vote on removal of the two resolved sections separately. The assembly was agreeable to this suggestion.

Rev. Nick Utphall spoke against removing the resolves as to say God's work only happens in church is only part of the story. We take our faith out into the world.

VOTED **to delete resolved section 2**

ADOPTED

A vote could not be determined by voice so Bishop Carlson asked the assembly to use their cards to vote. The vote was: 175 in favor of deleting resolved section 2 and 152 opposed to deleting resolved section 2.

VOTED to delete resolved section 3

DEFEATED

MOVED by John Ruppenthal to strike the words *to take a repentant stance and* from the third resolve of the resolution. The motion was seconded.

John Ruppenthal believes that it is an empty stance to urge the government to take a repentant stance.

VOTED to amend resolved section 3 to read:

Resolved that this Assembly urge the government of the United States work in concert with the international community and the United Nations to support peacemaking and nation-building operations in Iraq; and be it further

ADOPTED

MOVED to move the previous question.

VOTED to move the previous question

ADOPTED

SA07.05.16 Resolution on the Iraq War

VOTED

Whereas our faith teaches us to value and respect all human life and to see in each human being the image of God for whom Jesus Christ died, and

Whereas, taking this teaching seriously and seeking to live it out requires us to advocate that the earth's resources be used to support and nurture human life, not destroy it, and

Whereas, war inflicts great suffering on human beings and destroys both human life and the earth on which human beings depend for sustenance, and

Whereas, the history of the 20th century has proven that there powerful and less destructive alternatives to war that have proven their effectiveness by overthrowing dictatorial regimes, liberating oppressed groups and furthering the cause of justice and truth, and

Whereas, following the horrors of World War II the human community created the international institutions that are a part of the United Nations system to deal with problems that could no longer be solved by individual nation states, therefore be it

Resolved that this Assembly oppose any escalation of the Iraq war; and be it further

Resolved that this Assembly urge the government of the United States work in concert with the international community and the United Nations to support peacemaking and nation-building operations in Iraq; and be it further

Resolved that this Assembly urge the government of the United States to provide generous support to this international effort; and be it further

Resolved that this Assembly memorialize the ELCA to take similar action on the war in Iraq, and be it further

Resolved that the Bishop be requested to communicate this resolution to all members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, to the ELCA bishops of Wisconsin, and to all congregations of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved that congregations of the Synod be encouraged to discuss the points made in this resolution, share arguments for and against them, and make their opinion known to their congressional representative and senators; and be it further

Resolved that the Peace Through Nonviolent Action committee be requested to report on the implementation of this resolution at the 2008 Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

Bishop Carlson turned the assembly over to Rev. Almen who called on Wayne Pinnow to report the results of the 4th ballot for bishop.

Report of the Fourth Ballot by the Bishop Election Committee

Wayne Pinnow brought forward the report of the fourth ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:	401
Number of legal votes:	401
Number of illegal votes:	0
Number of votes required for election on this ballot (60%):	241

Individual results were:

Bruce Burnside	209
Michael Rehak	117
David Berggren	75

As there was no election, Rev. Almen declared there to be a ballot #5.

Bishop Carlson proposed an order of the day to take a fifteen minute break and reconvene at 9:40 a.m.

Session #9

Bishop Carlson called Session #9 of the assembly to order. He thanked Jay and Kathryn Becklin for their generous gift of \$20,000. The donation will be divided among various ministries: \$5,000 for the SCSW Endowment Fund; \$3,000 for Leaders in Mission; \$3,000 for Lutheran Campus Ministry; \$4,000 for the Scholarship Fund for Ms. Sanchita Kisku; and \$5,000 for the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church, our companion Synod in India.

Bishop Election - Ballot #5

Bishop Carlson turned the balloting process over to Rev. Lowell Almen. Instructions for the fifth ballot were given. A majority of the legal votes cast are needed for electing a bishop on the fifth ballot. At the completion of the balloting, Rev. Almen declared the fifth ballot closed.

Resolution – Resolution on Ex-Offender Employment

Rev. Laura Sutherland presented the resolution regarding Ex-Offender Employment. The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption.

MOVED Resolution on Ex-Offender Employment

Whereas, in the last decade the prison population in Wisconsin has more than doubled, growing from 11,000 inmates to nearly 23,000, primarily due to legislation that has increased penalties for

non-violent offenses and proscribed harsh maximum sentences for use or possession of small amounts of controlled substances and for addiction-related offenses, and

Whereas, the growth in the numbers of people incarcerated in Wisconsin results in thousands of people reentering their communities each year bearing the label of ex-felons, stigmatized for serving a year or more in prison and mandated by parole guidelines to locate housing and find gainful employment, and

Whereas, even the most motivated ex-offender job seekers find it very difficult to find any type of work much less stable employment which would meet the financial obligations of supporting themselves or a family and of paying restitution costs and fees to the state, and

Whereas, despite Wisconsin law barring employers from considering criminal records for offenses substantially unrelated to the specific requirements of a job, few employers call back or offer jobs to applicants with criminal records, especially if they are African-American, Hispanic, or Native American, and

Whereas, the ELCA social statement, "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture," states that: "From age to age, the Church proclaims Christ, who was crucified for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25), and "This church will support legislation, ordinances, and resolutions that guarantee to all persons equally:

- civil rights, including full protection of the law and redress under the law of discriminatory practices;
- opportunity for employment with fair compensation, and possibilities for job training and
- access to public transportation and accommodation,"; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin encourage its business owner and operator members to comply with state employment law and give fair consideration to former offenders in hiring decisions; and be it further

Resolved, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and member congregations recognize business owner and operator members who employ former felons and honor them as members of a Christian Employers Honor Role and recognize them as community leaders who hire offenders and provide job training and opportunities for skill-building and advancement; and be it further

Resolved, that the bishop, members and congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin advocate with state and federal officials for expansion of educational opportunities and job training within jails and prisons and tuition assistance for those who have completed their sentences so that former offenders have reasons to hope as they work to rebuild their lives and vocations.

Bishop Carlson asked the committee to explain what the Christian Employers Honor Role was. Rev. Sue Moline Larson explained that there currently isn't such a program but the recommendation is to develop one.

Rev. Sue Moline Larson spoke in favor of this resolution. She talked about the C-Cap website which lists people who have been arrested. The use of this website by employers makes it more difficult for felons to find jobs and houses and because of that they often end up back in the jail system.

Tim Mumm said that it is a huge problem for people who want to move in the right direction and can't find meaningful employment. The lack of meaningful employment may lead to other crimes. In addition employment is often a condition of their parole.

Bishop Carlson yielded the chair to Connie Kilmark.

MOVED by Rev. George Carlson to add to resolved section 3 after the word bishop *advocate and that* and to add after the word *Wisconsin be encouraged to*. The motion was seconded.

VOTED

to amend resolved section 3 to read:

Resolved, that the bishop advocate and that members and congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin be encouraged to advocate with state and federal officials for expansion of educational opportunities and job training within jails and prisons and tuition assistance for those who have completed their sentences so that former offenders have reasons to hope as they work to rebuild their lives and vocations.

ADOPTED

Further discussion was asked for on the resolution.

MOVED to call the question.

VOTED

to call the question

ADOPTED

SA07.05.17 Resolution on Ex-Offender Employment

VOTED

Whereas, in the last decade the prison population in Wisconsin has more than doubled, growing from 11,000 inmates to nearly 23,000, primarily due to legislation that has increased penalties for non-violent offenses and proscribed harsh maximum sentences for use or possession of small amounts of controlled substances and for addiction-related offenses, and

Whereas, the growth in the numbers of people incarcerated in Wisconsin results in thousands of people reentering their communities each year bearing the label of ex-felons, stigmatized for serving a year or more in prison and mandated by parole guidelines to locate housing and find gainful employment, and

Whereas, even the most motivated ex-offender job seekers find it very difficult to find any type of work much less stable employment which would meet the financial obligations of supporting themselves or a family and of paying restitution costs and fees to the state, and

Whereas, despite Wisconsin law barring employers from considering criminal records for offenses substantially unrelated to the specific requirements of a job, few employers call back or offer jobs to applicants with criminal records, especially if they are African-American, Hispanic, or Native American, and

Whereas, the ELCA social statement, "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture," states that: "From age to age, the Church proclaims Christ, who was crucified for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25), and "This church will support legislation, ordinances, and resolutions that guarantee to all persons equally:

- civil rights, including full protection of the law and redress under the law of discriminatory practices;
- opportunity for employment with fair compensation, and possibilities for job training and
- access to public transportation and accommodation,"; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin encourage its business owner and operator members to comply with state employment law and give fair consideration to former offenders in hiring decisions; and be it further

Resolved, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and member congregations recognize business owner and operator members who employ former felons and honor them as members of a Christian Employers Honor Role and recognize them as community leaders who hire offenders and provide job training and opportunities for skill-building and advancement; and be it further

Resolved, that the bishop advocate and that members and congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin be encouraged to advocate with state and federal officials for expansion of educational opportunities and job training within jails and prisons and tuition assistance for those who have completed their sentences so that former offenders have reasons to hope as they work to rebuild their lives and vocations.

ADOPTED

Connie Kilmark returned the chair to Bishop Carlson.

Resolution - An Affirmation of Welcome and Inclusion of All People

Rev. Laura Sutherland presented the resolution regarding An Affirmation of Welcome and Inclusion of All People. The Resolutions Committee recommended rejection of this resolution as the welcome statement is not in accord with the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as they chose not to recognize same sex relationships and gay/lesbian clergy.

MOVED An Affirmation of Welcome and Inclusion of All People

Whereas, Scripture records that no label or human distinction divides the members of the body of Christ as witnessed by St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians, “*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*” (3:28 NRSV), and

Whereas, Lutheran confessions and doctrine bear testimony to the truth that all people are called to the hearing of the word and partaking of the sacraments to receive God’s grace; “*For Christ, in whom we are chosen, offers his grace to all people in the Word and holy sacraments, and he earnestly desires that people should hear it.*” (Formula of Concord, Article II: Free Will), and

Whereas, the ELCA adopted a Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity, & Culture (Churchwide Assembly, 1993) declaring, “*We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have recognized ourselves to be in mission and ministry in a multicultural society, and have committed ourselves to welcome cultural diversity.*”, and

Whereas, there is a growth of ministry to minority groups, identified by racial distinction, disability, gender, family status, and sexual orientation, among others, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and these groups will continue to be a part of the ministry and mission of this church, and

Whereas, many congregations, clergy, and lay members of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin have expressed a deep concern for inclusion of all people in the life of the church, therefore, be it Resolved, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America adopt the following Affirmation of Welcome and Inclusion as an official statement of the mind and belief of the church:

“The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA) welcomes all people without regard to race, family, or economic status, gender, disability, age, or sexual orientation and invites and encourages all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its expressions.”; and be it further,

Resolved, that this statement be given prominent recognition in all Synodical communications, and periodical republishing to the membership of the synod; and be it further,

Resolved, that this statement be circulated to the congregations of this synod by pastoral letter of the Bishop wherein congregations are asked to study and carefully consider adoption of similar statements as an avenue of ministry.

Eric Peterson told the assembly that it was not the intention of the Human Rights Team to change the policy of the church. The statement is intended to welcome all people as part of the church.

MOVED by Rev. David Brandfass to add to the welcome statement of resolved section 1 after the word expressions, *in accordance with all ELCA policies, procedures, and publications*. The motion was seconded.

VOTED

to amend the welcome statement of resolved section 1 to read:

“The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA) welcomes all people without regard to race, family, or economic status, gender, disability, age, or sexual orientation and invites and encourages all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its expressions.”, in accordance with all ELCA policies, procedures, and publications, and be it further

ADOPTED

(A vote could not be determined by voice so Bishop Carlson asked the assembly to use their cards to vote.)

Tim Mumm told the assembly that he is a gay man and he went to the workshop on the sexuality study. He heard a pastor make the comment, “Oh, no. Not another gay thing.” This comment deterred him from speaking out at the workshop. He feels that if we don’t have a statement of welcome then anti-statements will take precedence.

Rebecca Alwin spoke against the resolution. She spoke of how she values Tim’s talents but she is concerned that a welcome statement that has to be legalistic isn’t a welcome.

MOVED by Rev. Nick Utphall to add to the welcome statement of resolved section 1 the word *through* before the word the and to add *Jesus Christ* after (ELCA). The motion was seconded.

Rev. Robert Schaefer is against the amendment as the sentence does not make sense.

Rev. Robert Castro spoke against as he sees this as a divisive issue in our church and is concerned about labeling of different sides.

VOTED

to amend the welcome statement in resolved section 1 to read:

“Through the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA) Jesus Christ welcomes all people without regard to race, family, or economic status, gender, disability, age, or sexual orientation and invites and encourages all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its expressions.”, in accordance with all ELCA policies, procedures, and publications, and be it further

DEFEATED

Moved by John Ruppenthal to strike the words *and its expressions* from the welcome statement in resolved section 1. The motion was seconded.

A point of order was asked whether we could strike language when the resolved was just voted on. Bishop Carlson consulted with Parliamentarian David Moore to uphold the point of order and that it is inappropriate to strike language that has just been added.

MOVED to call the question.

VOTED

to call the question

ADOPTED

SA07.05.18 An Affirmation of Welcome and Inclusion of All People

VOTED

Whereas, Scripture records that no label or human distinction divides the members of the body of Christ as witnessed by St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians, “*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*” (3:28 NRSV), and

Whereas, Lutheran confessions and doctrine bear testimony to the truth that all people are called to the hearing of the word and partaking of the sacraments to receive God’s grace; “*For Christ, in whom we are chosen, offers his grace to all people in the Word and holy sacraments, and he earnestly desires that people should hear it.*” (*Formula of Concord, Article II: Free Will*), and

Whereas, the ELCA adopted a Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity, & Culture (Churchwide Assembly, 1993) declaring, “*We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have recognized ourselves to be in mission and ministry in a multicultural society, and have committed ourselves to welcome cultural diversity.*”, and

Whereas, there is a growth of ministry to minority groups, identified by racial distinction, disability, gender, family status, and sexual orientation, among others, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and these groups will continue to be a part of the ministry and mission of this church, and

Whereas, many congregations, clergy, and lay members of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin have expressed a deep concern for inclusion of all people in the life of the church, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America adopt the following Affirmation of Welcome and Inclusion as an official statement of the mind and belief of the church:

“The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA) welcomes all people without regard to race, family, or economic status, gender, disability, age, or sexual orientation and invites and encourages all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its expressions.”, in accordance with all ELCA policies, procedures, and publications; and be it further,

Resolved, that this statement be given prominent recognition in all Synodical communications, and periodical republishing to the membership of the synod; and be it further,

Resolved, that this statement be circulated to the congregations of this synod by pastoral letter of the Bishop wherein congregations are asked to study and carefully consider adoption of similar statements as an avenue of ministry.

ADOPTED

Due to time constraints Bishop Carlson asked for a ten minute time limit on the next resolution.

SA07.05.19 Time Limit

VOTED

to limit the debate on the next resolution to ten minutes.

ADOPTED

Resolution – A Memorial Responding to the Decision of the Discipline Hearing Committee

Rev. Laura Sutherland presented the resolution regarding A Memorial Responding to the Decision of the Discipline Hearing Committee. The Resolutions Committee recommended neither adoption nor rejection.

MOVED A Memorial Responding To The Decision Of The Discipline Hearing Committee

SA07.05.20 A Memorial Responding to the Decision of the Discipline Hearing Committee

A vote could not be determined by voice so Bishop Carlson asked the assembly to use their cards to vote.

VOTED

Whereas, the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly urged every part of the ELCA to “concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements, recognizing the God-given mission and communion that we share as members of the body of Christ”: and

Whereas, the discipline hearing committee constituted to consider charges against Pr. Bradley E. Schmeling suggested that synod assemblies memorialize the 2007 Churchwide Assembly to request that the Committee on Appeals reconsider and revise the document *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* and that the appropriate Churchwide unit reconsider and revise the document *Visions and Expectations* and the policy on reinstatement to the rosters of this church (Decision of the Discipline Hearing Committee, p. 13); and

Whereas, if permitted to decide the case only under the standards in chapters 7 and 20 of the ELCA Constitution, the discipline hearing committee “would find almost unanimously that Pastor Schmeling is not engaged in conduct that is incompatible with the ministerial office, and would find with near unanimity that no discipline of any sort should be imposed against him” (Decision of the Discipline Hearing Committee, p. 12); and

Whereas, the documents known as *Definitions and Guidelines*¹ may be amended by the Committee on Appeals, subject to approval by the Church Council, while the documents known as *Vision and Education*,² as well as the policies on reinstatement to the rosters of this church,³ may be amended by the Vocation and Education unit, with review by the Conference of Bishops and adoption by the Church Council; and

Whereas, the Churchwide Assembly, as the highest legislative authority of the ELCA, can “request or direct” that the steps be taken for the development by the Committee on Appeals and adoption by the Church Council of an amendment to *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*; and for the development by the appropriate churchwide unit, review by the Conference of Bishops, and adoption by the Church Council of an amendment to *Vision and Expectations* (ELCA Church Council, Minutes of April 9-11, 2006, p. 90, explanation by Secretary Almen): now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that this Synod Assembly submit the following memorial for consideration by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and be it further

Resolved, that the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly direct the Committee on Appeals to develop an amendment to the documents known as *Definitions and Guidelines* that removes provisions precluding “practicing homosexual persons” from the rosters of this church; and be it further

Resolved, that this Churchwide Assembly direct the Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, to develop an amendment to the documents known as *Vision and Expectations* that removes provisions requiring persons who are “homosexual in their self-understanding” to “abstain from homosexual sexual relationships”; and be it further

Resolved, that this Churchwide Assembly direct the Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, to develop an amendment to the policies on reinstatement to the rosters of this church that permits the reinstatement, without the usual requirement of five consecutive years without call, of persons who have resigned or been removed from the rosters solely because they are in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed

1 See provisions 20.71.11. and 20.71.12. of the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*.

2 See provisions 7.31.11., 7.31.13., 7.51.03.b., and 16.12.C05.d.2).

3 See provisions 7.31.15., 7.52.13, and 16.12.C05.d.2).

same-gender relationship; and be it finally

Resolved, that this Churchwide Assembly direct the Church Council to take the actions necessary to amend Definitions and Guidelines, Vision and Expectations, and the policies on reinstatement to the rosters of this church in conformity with the amendments developed (pursuant to the preceding directions) by the Committee on Appeals and Vocation and Education unit.

ADOPTED

Eric Peterson spoke of the many cases involving the removal of pastors in same sex chaste and faithful relationships. The discipline hearing committee ruled that Rev. Bradley Schmeling was in violation of the policy but ruled that it was time to discuss the issue. The resolution would create a discussion at the Churchwide Assembly to see if we need to deal faithfully with people who are denied their call because of their same-sex relationships.

Rev. Marlayne Jacobson spoke in opposition to the resolution as he believes it is premature. There is a task force preparing a report for the 2009 ELCA Assembly. He state there have been three studies on sexuality and discussion at the last Churchwide Assembly and we need a break from it. He stated that Rev. Schmeling knew the rules and agreed to them when he was ordained and he has to be willing to pay the consequences for breaking the rules.

A point of clarification was asked as to what a memorial resolution meant. Bishop Carlson explained that it is a way of asking the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to take up an issue.

Rev. Gwen Sayler spoke in favor of the resolution. She teaches at Wartburg Theological Seminary and knows the struggles these students go through. The students have heard the Call of Christ and want to pursue their call. They are being asked to serve in God's church and promise that they will never have an intimate relationship with another human being.

Thomas Andreas spoke against the resolution as there have been many discussions through the years and the issue will be taken care of at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Tim Mumm told the assembly that now is the time as Rev. Schmeling's discipline will be implemented on August 15. The August deadline specifically gives Churchwide time to address the issue at the July assembly.

Spending Plan

Bob Gorsuch returned the Spending Plan to the floor. He explained how the plan was based on three factors. The first factor is a desire to minimally restore partnership ministry funding to the 2005-06 levels. The second factor is a desire to maintain the Synod level of commitment of 59.6% to the greater church-at-large for national and global partnership ministries. The third factor is a desire to minimally support the work of our staff at synod guidelines. In order to accomplish this, the Synod would need to take \$42,338 from our reserve. Our constitution allows us to maintain cash reserves up to sixteen percent of our annual operating budget, which is two months of our Synod's operating expenses. Using the reserve, we would be able to meet the proposed Spending Plan. Mr. Gorsuch reminded the assembly that dipping into reserves to meet current expenses is not good financial stewardship. This would only be a one-time solution to our financial problem.

MOVED to approve 2007-08 spending plan.

The assembly viewed a video that talks about the Synod and our role in ministry within the Synod and Churchwide. Bishop Carlson thanked Rev. Karen Locken for her work on the video and for the volunteers, especially Bonnie Lunde, who produced the video at no charge to the Synod.

MOVED by Kendra Frederickson to increase the campus ministry budget by \$30,000. The motion was seconded.

Kendra Frederickson spoke to the motion. She talked about equity among the UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, and the

UW-Whitewater campuses. Currently UW-Whitewater has more students than UW-Platteville yet the campus minister is only ten hours a week at Whitewater and thirty hours a week at Platteville. At this time campus ministry is not willing to reduce the Platteville and Madison programs in order to meet the needs being experienced on the Whitewater campus.

Rev. Jeff Wild spoke against the motion. He expressed a concern about already taking \$42,338 from reserve without taking an additional \$30,000. He did not feel that they Synod should be taking over \$70,000 from reserve. He said we need to look at other ways to support campus ministry.

Sandy Knesting spoke to the assembly about having faith in what we need and what we are going to do. She suggested that members of the assembly take this back to their congregations and see what individual congregations could do.

Rev. Sue Moline Larson reminded the assembly that last year we cut money from several partnership organizations and it is important to remember that all ministries were cut. She expressed concern that it was dangerous to hold up one ministry over the others. We need to find a balance in how we treat all partnership ministries.

Kendra Frederickson told the assembly that we need to do long term planning to bring young people into the church. She suggested that the \$30,000 come from the Bishop's fund raising appeal for campus ministry.

MOVED to call the question.

VOTED **to call the question**

ADOPTED

VOTED **to increase the campus ministry budget for 2007-08 by \$30,000**

DEFEATED

MOVED by Rev. William Lehman to delegate to the Synod Council to adjust only the expense side of the proposed budget so that the entire budget balances, and that its decisions be communicated with the congregations of our Synod by June 30, 2007 and if, at the end of the Synod's fiscal year, actual receipts exceed anticipated receipts, the Synod Council can restore some or all of the adjustments that were made to the budget at its discretion by the amount of excess receipts. The motion was seconded

Rev. Lehman spoke to the motion. He explained to the assembly that it is difficult to meet expenses because of declining mission support. To approve a budget with deficit spending would put a new bishop into a difficult position when he did not have anything to do with planning the budget. Also a deficit spending plan is poor fiscal planning, is poor modeling for congregations, and results in less interest revenue from the reserve fund.

Bob Gorsuch reported to the assembly that the finance committee recommended a balanced budget to the Synod Council.

Connie Kilmark responded that the Synod Council proposed a deficit spending plan in an effort to respond to last year's assembly which cut funding to our partnership ministries. The Council was attempting to respond to the needs of the partnership ministries.

The question was asked about several partnership ministries being increased over their 2006-07 levels. Bishop Carlson responded that the funding for partnership ministries was cut in the 2006-07 spending plan and this was an attempt to bring them up to their 2005-06 funding levels.

MOVED to call the question.

VOTED **to call the question**

ADOPTED

SA07.05.21 Delegate Spending Plan to Synod Council

VOTED

to delegate to the Synod Council to adjust only the expense side of the proposed budget so that the entire budget balances, and that its decisions be communicated with the congregations of our Synod by June 30, 2007 and if, at the end of the Synod's fiscal year, actual receipts exceed anticipated receipts, the Synod Council can restore some or all of the adjustments that were made to the budget at its discretion by the amount of excess receipts.

ADOPTED

Bishop Carlson turned the assembly over to Rev. Almen. Rev. Almen reminded the assembly that this ballot would elect a new bishop. He spoke about this being a time to come together and to give our prayers and support to the bishop-elect. Rev. Almen encouraged the assembly to express their gratitude to those who have been part of the process. There are no winners or losers, only servants of Christ. Rev. Almen called on Wayne Pinnow to report the results of the 5th ballot for bishop.

Report of the Fifth Ballot by the Bishop Election Committee

Wayne Pinnow brought forward the report of the fifth ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:	412
Number of legal votes:	412
Number of illegal votes:	0
Number of votes required for election on this ballot:	207

Individual results were:

Bruce Burnside	253
Michael Rehak	159

Rev. Almen introduced bishop-elect, Bruce Burnside, to the assembly. Bishop-elect Burnside addressed the assembly through scripture reading and prayer.

The assembly adjourned with the Order for Closing an Assembly followed by closing Eucharist with Rev. Lowell Almen presiding and Bishop Carlson preaching.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary DeYoung, Secretary
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Protocol Documents

- 2007 Synod Assembly Book
- Rules for Balloting for Bishop
- Credential Reports
- Report of Ballot Results for Bishop Election
- Report of the ELCA Churchwide Representative (The Rev. Lowell Almen)