

Telling a Better Story

2011 Synod Assembly
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

May 14-15, 2011
Madison, Wisconsin

The 2011 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America met at the Marriott West Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin on May 14-15, 2011.

The assembly began with worship, the Rev. Dr. David Lose preaching and Bishop Bruce Burnside presiding.

SESSION ONE

Bishop Burnside began the business portion of the assembly with a welcome. The Rev. Blake Rohrer, Assistant to the Bishop, also brought a note of welcome and explained some of the logistic details of the assembly and the hotel.

Bp. Burnside noted that synod secretary Mary DeYoung had been called away due to a family loss and the Rev. David Berggren had accepted the invitation to serve as recording secretary for the assembly.

Credentials

The Rev. Joel Bradtke brought the initial report of the Credentials Committee to the floor.

Lay Female	122
Lay Male	92
Clergy	110
Total Voting Members	324
Visitors	36
Total attendance	360

Preliminaries

David Moore, assembly parliamentarian spoke to the assembly regarding parliamentary procedure. He explained that procedures are to help and not hinder business. He offered that he was willing to be a resource for Voting Members with procedural questions.

Bp. Burnside drew the assembly's attention to the rules sections of the pre-assembly workbook.

SA11.05.01 Rules adopted

VOTED **The assembly approved the Rules of Organization and Procedure and the Rules Governing Resolutions and Memorials as printed in the pre-assembly workbook pages 6.5 - 6.15.**

ADOPTED

In bringing the assembly agenda to the floor, Bp. Burnside highlighted the Orders of the Day and portions which take precedence over all other business.

SA11.05.02 Agenda adopted

VOTED **The agenda for the 2011 Synod Assembly as printed in the pre-assembly workbook is approved.**

ADOPTED

SA11.05.03 Committees approved

VOTED **The assembly committees are accepted as presented in the pre-assembly workbook.**

ADOPTED

Resolutions Committee

Eric Peterson, chair of the Resolutions Committee, reported that the committee had met several times to work with five resolutions that had been submitted. More resolutions may be forthcoming, and the deadline for submitting resolutions is noon on the first day of the assembly. Mr. Peterson thanked the committee for its work

Nominations Committee

The Rev. Mary Froiland explained that the Nominations Committee sought to reach two goals in their search for qualified nominees. First, they wanted to have a good representation from the various geographical areas of the synod. Second, they hoped to have a least two candidates for every opening. Pr. Froiland explained that not every goal was met in every case.

Synod Council, Lay Female, vote for one

Hope Seeger

Betty Dygart

No further nominations

Synod Council, Youth, vote for one

Lily Zeich

Nomination from the floor: Anders Hanson

Synod Council, Lay Male, vote for two

Del Norland

Ryun M. Bibro

No further nominations

Synod Council, Clergy, vote for one
The Rev. Barry Hoerz
The Rev. Erik Jelinek
The Rev. Michael Short
No further nominations

Synod Treasurer
Bruce Hutler
No further nominations

Report of the Treasurer

Robert Gorsuch, Synod Treasurer, reported that an audit of the financial books had come back with a clean opinion. In his report he made the following points:

income for the synod was down in 2010;
of the 65 synods in the ELCA, three pass through over 55% of their income to the churchwide organization, ten (including this synod) are at 55%, and the rest are below; over the years, the synod's income has risen 0.1% annually while inflation has risen 2.74%; and
so far in 2011, income is 9% below last year (\$110,000).

SA11.05.04 Treasurer's report accepted

VOTED **The assembly accepted the report of the Synod Treasurer.**

APPROVED

The assembly recognized Mr. Gorsuch for his years of service to the synod. He was elected by the constituting convention for the synod in 1987 and is now stepping down from the treasurer's position. Bp. Burnside commented on how important Mr. Gorsuch has been to the synod and thanked him personally. Greetings were expressed from former bishops Jon Enslin and George Carlson. Connie Kilmark, Synod Vice President, presented Mr. Gorsuch with a gift from the synod and a heartfelt thank you.

The Spending Plan for the 2011-12 fiscal year was introduced.

Pr. Berggren along with several speakers from various areas of synod ministry presented the spending plan in a narrative form. The narrative broke the story of the synod's work into four parts: mission, leadership development, care for congregations, and ecumenical relationships. Glenace Smelcher, Anne Baldwin, and the Rev. Roger Eigenfeld aided in the story telling.

Report of the Secretary

Eric Peterson stood in for Mary DeYoung. He highlighted several constitution changes that would be part of the voting process later on in the assembly.

Credentials report

Pr. Bradtke announced the second set of attendance numbers.

Lay Female	126
Lay Male	95
Clergy	120
Total Voting Members	341
Visitors	39
Total attendance	380

Ballot #1

Bp. Burnside announced that the first ballot was ready. He asked that the assembly elect those in uncontested races by acclamation thus saving trees and time.

SA11.05.05 Elections by unanimous acclamation

VOTED to elect by unanimous acclamation the following people who are uncontested nominees:

Synod Council, Lay Male
Del Norland
Ryun M. Bibro

Synod Treasurer
Bruce Hutler

ADOPTED

The Rev. Anne Andert led the assembly in prayer before the vote was taken.

After a break, the assembly returned for a time of centering and devotion. They then viewed the video from presiding Bishop Mark Hanson entitled *It Gets Better*.

Report of the Vice President

Ms. Kilmark returned to the podium with an address she aimed particularly at lay people. Noting that the church is made up of mostly lay people, she urged them not to think of themselves as unqualified or unprofessional in the Kingdom of God. That means it is also their responsibility to share the good news of Jesus.

Ms. Kilmark expressed her gratitude to the synod council, congregations with whom she has worked, Bp. Burnside, Robert Gorsuch, and the entire synod staff. She asked the council members who were completing their terms to present themselves on the stage. Bp. Burnside gifted each with a leather bound copy of *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

Congregations celebrating significant anniversaries were recognized:

Five Points, Blue River	150 years
St. James, Verona	125 years
St. John, Evansville	75 years
East Koshkonong, Cambridge	50 years

Recognitions

Bp. Burnside called the Rev. Pedro Suarez forward. Pr. Suarez has been serving in the synod office for several years and has recently taken on a full time position at Bethel, Madison. Bp. Burnside thanked him for his leadership and vision that have proven so valuable to the synod.

Bp. Burnside introduced rostered leaders who are new to the synod since the last assembly. He also recognized seminarians who have been assigned to this synod and interns serving in the synod. The bishop called attention to those young voting members who have been especially lifted up in the synod.

Report of the Bishop

Ms. Kilmark presided. Bp. Burnside addressed the assembly and included the following points:

we must always be about the task of telling the old story in new ways;
things the synod does that are about Jesus

Book of Faith,
Call Committee process which talks about Jesus before worrying about a call,
Campus Ministry and its desire to be passionate and vibrant,
seminaries that are all about Jesus, and
ecumenical relationships.

Pr. Rohrer explained a little about his position on the synod staff as Director of Ecumenical Mission. The Rev. Sara Yotter related how her call to ministry is rooted in a desire to connect people to Jesus, and she meshed that desire with her role as Synod Stewardship Specialist.

Bp. Burnside highlighted some items that are not about Jesus:

dissension and discord,
defining ourselves by what we are against,
when we are captivated by fear,
when we get into a survival mode,
when we are not a place that is safe, and
when we don't tell the story of Jesus.

India Youth Exchange

Cory Hamilton, Assistant to the Bishop, reported on the experience of several synod youth who had participated in a youth exchange with the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church of India. The young people who had experienced the trip each took a moment to reflect for the assembly on their travels. Mr. Hamilton invited congregations to invite the participating youth to make presentations and think of others who may want to participate in the future.

Alie Edwards, the president of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Platteville lead the assembly in prayer before breaking for lunch.

SESSION TWO

Elections report

Bp. Burnside invited Pr. Froiland to report on the results of the first ballot.

Synod Council, Lay Female, vote for one

Hope Seeger **181**

Betty Dygart 139

Synod Council, Youth, vote for one

Lily Zeich **183**

Anders Hanson 132

Synod Council, Clergy, vote for one

The Rev. Barry Hoertz 96

The Rev. Erik Jelinek 142

The Rev. Michael Short 84

Bp. Burnside declared Hope Seeger and Lily Zeich elected.

Lutheran Social Services

The Rev. David Larson thanked the synod for its partnership with Lutheran Social Services even in difficult times. He also said that one out of three people in helping professions is facing burnout. He encouraged the church to an awareness that it is making a difference in the world.

Key Note address

Pr. David Lose, Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Luther Seminary presented *Seeing God* to the assembly.

Following the address, Bp. Burnside encouraged members to attend the workshops which were part of the afternoon's agenda. He took time to present Bishop Steve Ullestad of the Northeastern Iowa Synod who would lead a workshop on *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* which is a social statement to come before a Churchwide Assembly.

Various items

The assembly returned from workshops to another brief time of devotion and reflection.

Ms. Kilmark introduced the *It Gets Better* video by Bp. Burnside, and the assembly viewed the offering.

The report of the Synod Endowment Committee included a short video of Einstein Gonzalez who is part of the San Jose ministry in Beloit.

The Rev. Brenda Smith, Program Director for Faith Practices and Missional Leadership of the ELCA did a presentation on the theme *Amen* and included a video from presiding Bishop Mark Hanson.

Cory Hamilton and Brett Christensen spoke to the assembly about upcoming CrossTraining events that are designed to help congregations in their work with youth.

Resolutions

Mr. Peterson returned to the podium to present the various constitution changes and resolutions that needed to come before the assembly.

SA11.05.06 Constitution changes

VOTED

Election of Synodical Officers

S9.05. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least ~~two~~ *one* persons for vice-president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S9.06. The Synod Council shall nominate *at least one* ~~two~~ persons for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Chapter 7. Synod Assembly

S7.17. The synod bishop shall appoint a ~~resolutions~~ *reference and counsel* committee for each meeting of the Synod Assembly. All resolutions not previously received for inclusion on the meeting agenda shall be introduced to the Synod Assembly for inclusion on the agenda and referred to this committee. The committee shall put resolutions in proper form, eliminate duplication where similar resolutions are offered, and insure that all resolutions relating to a specific subject will be offered in logical sequence. The Synod Assembly shall approve these appointments.

S7.17.01. The ~~resolutions~~ *reference and counsel* committee may make substantive alterations in a resolution, but only with the sponsor's consent. The committee may make recommendations to the assembly regarding any resolution.

ADOPTED

SA11.05.07 Compensation guidelines

VOTED

to approve the 2012 Compensation Guidelines as presented in the pre-assembly workbook.

ADOPTED

SA11.05.08 Memorial on Energy Stewardship

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 saw all of creation to be very good [Genesis 1:31]; and

Whereas, the 1993 ELCA Social Statement, Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice, affirms that, "we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth," by protecting creation's fruitfulness and viability and the sustainability of human communities; and

Whereas, contrary to this faithful vocation, our consumption of energy and resources is unsustainable and unfair to those in the developing world; and

Whereas, there are already significant scientific reports of environmental degradation, global climate change, record rates of species extinction, and depletion of non-renewable resources; and

Whereas, our human activity appears to be a critical driver in causing such harm to God's creation and exacerbating the already difficult situations for millions living with poverty and hunger, particularly as weather extremes such as flood and drought increase; and

Whereas, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recognizing the gravity of these threats, has long been committed to addressing environmental issues as part of our call to justice, sustainability, and solidarity with affected communities and, along with our partners in the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief, is committed to working to alleviate hunger, poverty, and unsustainable living conditions globally; and

Whereas, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin assembled in 2007 adopted a resolution on "A Faithful Response to Global Climate Change" that called our synod to action and was the first to memorialize an ELCA Churchwide Assembly on this issue; and

Whereas, although the crisis has become more apparent since that time, there are also more resources available now to help us to respond faithfully; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that individuals and institutions throughout this synod be encouraged to offer a public witness of their care for creation by making a commitment to reduce their "ecological footprint" through stewardship measures to decrease energy consumption in various ways, including the use of the new synod energy collaborative of congregations, the "Cool Congregations" program from Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light,

www.LutheransRestoringCreation.org and more; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this synod memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to challenge all expressions of the ELCA to reduce their energy-related carbon emissions by at least 5 percent per year, with an ultimate goal by 2020 of reducing our overall emissions by 25-40 percent below current levels, and to publicize this commitment and steps taken to achieve it through official publications and communication channels of this church.

ADOPTED

The Rev. Nicholas Uptall reported that in 2007 the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was the first to pass such a resolution. This resolution includes some goals that were not part of the earlier work.

SA11.05.09 Memorial Calling Church to Speak Against Bullying

VOTED

Whereas, "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." (1Cor. 12:26); and

Whereas, in the ELCA Social Statement on Education (2007) we declared, "The ELCA expects communities of learning and teaching to be safe places. We recognize that school safety is an issue for all students, staff, and teachers. Unfortunately, incidents of bullying, intimidation, and other forms of violence are not unusual. We affirm that personal safety and security are essential for optional teaching and learning"; and

Whereas, research indicates children with disabilities or special needs are at a higher risk of being bullied than others (Rigby, K., 2002, *New Perspective on Bullying*. London. Jessica Kingsley Publications); and has concluded that "Bullying around issues of sexual orientation, non-conforming gender behaviors, and dress was the most common form of bullying, second only to issues of appearance (e.g., body size and disability)." (The National School Climate Survey, conducted in 2005); and

Whereas, in the ELCA Social Statement on Sexuality: Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009) we declared, "Likewise, it will attend to the particular needs of children and the families of those with actual or perceived differences in sexual orientation or gender identity because they are especially vulnerable to verbal, physical, emotional, spiritual, psychological, and sexual abuse."; and

Whereas, increased media attention has made us acutely aware of tragic consequences (including youth suicide) if steps are not taken to prevent bullying, harassment, and other related forms of violence; and

Whereas, the voice of the church addressing the intersection of race, economic status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and physical ability is a powerful witness to the healing and life affirming Gospel promise; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin encourages new partnerships among our congregations, the synods, the Churchwide Organization, outdoor ministries, campus ministries, Lutheran School Associations, Lutherans Concerned/North America, Lutheran Social Services organizations, public schools, counseling centers and other governmental organizations in order to support and offer preventative programs addressing bullying, harassment, and other related violence, especially with higher risk populations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these partnerships be encouraged to create or join with existing preventative programs which:

**utilize positive, inclusive, empowering and developmentally appropriate materials,
raise participant's awareness about the issue,
focus on prevention,
seek to change bystander behavior into ally behavior,
create partnerships between youth and adults,**

and; be it further

RESOLVED, that these partnerships seek funding for these efforts from a combination of existing funds and new funding sources not otherwise accessible individually such as foundation grants, synod and other Lutheran organizational grants (for example, Thrivent, Wheat Ridge Ministries, Women of the ELCA, etc), private and governmental funding sources, and; be it further

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin memorializes the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage, support, and publicize new partnerships in ministry that emerge in our church addressing the prevention of bullying, harassment, and related forms of violence.

ADOPTED

SA11.05.10 For the Protection of Collective Bargaining

VOTED

Whereas, the 1999 ELCA Social Statement Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All states, "We commit ourselves as a church to cultivate participatory workplaces, support the rights of employees to engage in collective bargaining, and speak against the undercutting of union organizing activities."; and

Whereas, the collective bargaining rights of public sector workers in Wisconsin and other states have now come under attack in Wisconsin's budget repair bill and

other bills; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin shall commit itself to make every effort to defend and restore the collective bargaining rights of public sector workers and shall express this position to the Legislature, Governor, and Congressional delegation of Wisconsin.

ADOPTED

The Rev. David Froemming spoke in favor of the resolution. He called attention to the ELCA social statement *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*.

SA11.05.11 Calling the Church to Implement the Message on Disabilities

VOTED

Whereas, the ELCA recognizes that "all people with disabilities are created in God's image and share the gift of freedom for relationship and its dignity regardless of their particular disabilities or range of capacity to respond to God and others;" and

Whereas, "whether intended or not, [attitudes and actions that regard or treat those with a disability as less fully human, that patronize, and that treat unfairly] demean and harm those who have disabilities and, in fact, impoverish the lives of all"; and

Whereas, "these views and attitudes, actions and outcomes, must be named for what they are, expressions of sin; and

Whereas, being "congregations gathered around word and sacrament bear crucial responsibilities in the life of this church as centers for evangelical mission with doors open to all, including those living with physical and sensory, intellectual, mental, and developmental disabilities," the goal is that all people, including those with disabilities, may participate fully in the assembly of God's people and may experience together being the body of Christ; and

Whereas, "when the Word of God is preached and the sacraments administered without the presence of all believers among us as the church, including people who are disabled, we are less than the whole people of God"; and

Whereas, "we are less than we could be in the absence of [the] experiences, interests, skills, and abilities [of those with disabilities] to contribute to God's work of mission and ministry"; and

Whereas, The ELCA has created and ratified in the churchwide council the social message "People Living with Disabilities"; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, in its offices, congregations, organizations, clusters, and councils, will study, reflect, and implement, as they are able, our call to wholeness outlined in the ELCA social message "People Living with Disabilities".

ADOPTED

In presenting this resolution, Mr. Peterson explained that the original resolution that had been submitted was split into two sections. Resolution SA11.05.11 is the second part of the split.

The Rev. Peter Heide spoke in favor of the resolution. The Rev. Robert Castro wondered why it was necessary to split the resolution, and the Rev. Fred Rilling allowed that the writer of the resolution had approved the division. Ted Zeiffer (Christ, Stoughton) encouraged the assembly to consider disabilities that were other than physical.

SA11.05.12 Referral of Disabilities Resolution

VOTED RESOLVED, to refer the below resolved clauses from the original resolution 6 to the Synod Council with directions to conform any recommendations to the principles of the ELCA Message, "People Living with Disabilities".

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Synod Council be directed to designate a place on its roster of voting members, at least one person with disabilities, at the Churchwide Assemblies and give that person the support needed in order to actively participate in those assembly proceedings beginning in 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin set a goal of a minimum of one person among the voting members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units be disabled and the Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal.

ADOPTED

Before adjourning for the evening, the assembly viewed Bp. Burnside's video message *Telling a Better Story*.

The evening's dinner included the recognition of service anniversaries. All for 25 years:

The Rev. Daniel Bohlman
Jeanette Pranke. AIM
The Rev. John Twiton
The Rev. Jeffrey Vanden Heuvel
The Rev. Craig Wolfgram

SESSION THREE

The assembly returned to worship and workshops on Sunday morning.

Bp. Burnside reported that 2,043 health kits had been contributed by congregations and that an offering of \$8,766 had been collected for our partnership with the NELC and World Hunger.

Credentials report

Pr. Bradtke brought one last attendance report to the assembly.

Lay Female	131
Lay Male	100
Clergy	136
Total Voting Members	367
Visitors	56
Total attendance	423

Carolyn Lien led the assembly in prayer as they prepared to cast another ballot.

What if. . . .

With Connie Kilmark presiding, Bp. Burnside explained to the assembly that he had asked rostered leaders to join him in visioning a future for the synod and ministry around the theme of What if. . . we had all the resources we needed. He reported that there had been an overwhelming response to the question. The energy and willingness of the synod to go the extra mile is clear. He reported that he will gather the responses and broadly share them. Together we will look for patterns and possibilities.

The bishop shuffled the responses into three categories.

1. Guiding principles
2. Raised up challenges
- 3 specific ideas

There is more to come, he noted. There is now a What if. . . fund that has already been gifted several times.

Spending Plan

John Fabie brought the 2011-12 Spending Plan to the floor. He highlighted that it was a balanced plan, that it included staff salary increases for the first time in three years, and that our sharing with our campus ministry partners and seminaries will be based on a percentage of income rather than a set amount.

Eric Carlson said that the budget was developed in such a way that it represents the challenges

and choices before the synod. He related that percentage resource sharing with partners mirrors the way we share with the churchwide organization. Prodded by the Rev. Katya Ouchakof, the assembly observed that when numbers in the budget are off very slightly, it is because of rounding.

Anders Hansen expressed his concern for programmatic cuts especially in the area of youth ministry. Ms. Kilmark responded with a reminder that many of the resources in this area come by way of fees.

Bp. Burnside responded to a question by the Rev. Rob Koske regarding salaries by noting that the position vacated by Pr. Suarez was not being filled. He also responded to a question from the Rev. David Brandfass on multi-cultural ministries with an assurance that the synod is committed to keep this ministry area alive and well.

Tom Matson asked about the interest income line of the plan and why is it decreasing. Mr. Fabie replied that there is less grant money invested than earlier budgets. Pr. Yotter noted that interest rates are also much lower.

SA11.05.13 2011-12 Spending Plan

VOTED to approve the 2011-12 Spending Plan as presented in the pre-assembly workbook pp. 6.25 - 6.26.

ADOPTED

Macedonia Project

Pr. Yotter explained that the synod had received a grant from the churchwide organization to address stewardship and sharing issues with young adults. This is one of three synods in the ELCA to receive a \$15,000 grant. The name Macedonia Project comes from 2 Corinthians 8. The project in our synod may include an education event, leadership coaching, community building, electronic giving options, and more.

SA11.05.14 Macedonia Project Spiritual Discipline

VOTED Whereas, the Mission Support Table of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin gives thanks for the large number of congregations of the synod that accepted and acted on the "Doing What Matters" challenge to increase their mission support for 2011 by 1 percent in these challenging economic times; and

Whereas, the grace of God was evident when the Macedonian Church gave to the saints in Jerusalem during a "severe test of affliction," not out of compulsion, but out of joy in order to have the "privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints" (2 Corinthians 8:4b); and

Whereas, synod ministry partners (ELCA Churchwide, Region 5, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Campus Ministry at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and UW-Whitewater, ELCA Seminaries, Wisconsin Council of Churches, Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Wisconsin, and Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin)

have suffered financial affliction due to decreased mission support from congregations; and

Whereas, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin has received an ELCA Macedonia Project Grant to connect God's people, and particularly young adults, more deeply to Christ through all three expressions of the church: growing as disciples, increasing their personal generosity, and their congregation's mission support; and

Whereas, the three expressions of this church through partnership in the name of Jesus are wonderfully rich with shared mission and ministry that are making a difference in the world that bears witness to God's faithful and living giving Spirit; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, all voting members of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin 2011 Assembly challenge themselves to a "Macedonian Spiritual Discipline" of increasing their personal financial generosity "according to their means and even beyond their means" (2 Corinthians 8:3), and to strive for a biblical discipline of giving at least 10 percent of their income to the ministries of their congregations in order to model the generous lifestyle to which Christians have "the privilege of sharing" (2 Corinthians 8:4b); and, be it further

RESOLVED, that voting members of the SCSW 2011 Synod Assembly ask their congregational councils to strive for a "Macedonian Spiritual Discipline" of increasing their congregational mission support "according to their means and even beyond their means" (2 Corinthians 8:3), and to lead the congregation to strive for a biblical discipline of giving at least 10 percent of their regular giving by members to support the mission of Christ through the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and ELCA ministries in order to model the generous lifestyle to which Christian communities have "the privilege of sharing" (2 Corinthians 8:4b); and, be it further

RESOLVED, that voting members of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin 2011 Synod Assembly ask their congregations to strive for a "Macedonian Spiritual Discipline" of using major gifts and bequests for the sake of the mission of Christ's work in the world "according to their means and even beyond their means" (2 Corinthians 8:3) giving at least 10 percent of these gifts to the work of the greater church in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and ELCA in order to model the generous lifestyle to which Christians communities have "the privilege of sharing" (2 Corinthians 8: 4b); and, be it further

RESOLVED, that voting members of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin 2011 Synod Assembly ask their congregations to participate in the initiatives

of The Macedonia Project which will include education events, leadership coaching and equipping, telling the story through social media and other venues, community building, electronic giving and mission funding; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Synod Council review and report the generous efforts of congregations in their mission support throughout the coming year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that from all the above efforts, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Synod Council "according to their means and even beyond their means" (2 Corinthians 8:3) model the generous lifestyle to which Christian communities have "the privilege of sharing" (2 Corinthians 8: 4b) by recommending at the 2012 Synod Assembly, an increase to ministry partners by at least 1 percent, from 67 percent of the 2012 total spending plan to 68 percent.

ADOPTED

SA11.05.15 Resolution of Thanksgiving

VOTED

Whereas, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America graciously accepted \$1,454,470 in mission support in 2010; and

Whereas, such generosity came at a time of deep and abiding economic concerns in our nation that threatened the financial well-being of many people; and

Whereas, many of the congregations of our synod prayerfully made difficult decisions in prioritizing their mission locally, synodically and churchwide; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod thanks and praises our God for the shared resources that help extend the mission of Jesus Christ; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we thank all the congregations who shared so generously of their resources; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we will lift up the mission of Christ through the synod and churchwide organization as a priority for our congregations in prayer, conversation and financial support.

ADOPTED

Election results

Pr. Froiland came back with the final election result.

Synod Council, Clergy

The Rev. Barry Hoertz 76

The Rev. Erik Jelinek 161

Bp. Burnside declared the Rev. Eric Jelinek elected.

Installation

Bp. Burnside thanked the synod staff for all their contributions that make this synod active in serving Christ. Carolynn Butts seconded that gratitude on behalf of the entire synod.

Pr. Heide thanked the staff and the entire synod for their prayers during his struggles with his sight.

The assembly concluded its work with public installation of those newly elected to positions of leadership who were present: the Rev. Eric Jelinek, Bruce Hutler, and Del Norland.

The 2011 Synod Assembly adjourned.

Signed,

David J. Berggren

Assembly Recording Secretary