Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
2013 Special Meeting of the Synod Assembly

The 2013 Special Meeting of the Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was held September 27-28, 2013 at Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin under the theme, HOPE AND RENEWAL.

Bishop Jessica Crist, Montana Synod, presided and Bishop Hougen preached at the worship service.

Session 1
Bishop Hougen led the assembly in the Order of Service for the Opening of a Synod Assembly and called the Assembly to be in session.

Bishop Hougen thanked Bethel Lutheran Church for their generosity in allowing the Assembly to use their sanctuary. Bishop Hougen introduced guests from other synods:

Bishop Jessica Crist, Montana Synod	Bishop Jim Justman, East-Central Synod of WI
Bishop Jim Arends, LaCrosse Area Synod	Bishop Jeff Barrels, Greater Milwaukee Synod
Bishop Michael Burk, Southeastern Iowa Synod	Bishop Rick Hoyme, Northwest Synod of WI
Ms. Nan Dahlke, Vice-president, Chicago Metropolitan Synod	
Ramie Bakken, Region 5 Coordinator	

Credentials Report #1
Vice-president Eric Peterson presented the first report of the Credentials Committee.
> **Voting Members   371**

Parliamentary Introduction
Bishop Hougen introduced David Moore, the Assembly parliamentarian. Mr. Moore is an attorney in Janesville and a member of St. John, Janesville.

Adoption of Rules of Organization and Procedure
Bishop Hougen introduced the Rules of Organization and Procedures for the 2013 Special Meeting of the Synod Assembly. He asked for any amendments or discussion.

SA13.09.01 Rules of Organization and Procedure Adopted
VOTED   to adopt the **Rules of Organization and Procedure.**
                                                            ADOPTED

Adoption of Assembly Agenda
SA13.09.02 Assembly Agenda Approved
VOTED   to approve the **Agenda of the Special Meeting of the Synod Assembly.**
                                                            ADOPTED

Ratification of Assembly Committees
Bishop Hougen brought the Assembly committees to the floor.

SA13.09.03 Committees Ratified
VOTED   to ratify the Assembly Committees as presented with the following chairs:
> **Special Meeting of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee – The Rev. Alison Williams**
> **Bishop's Election Taskforce – The Rev. Matthew Kruse**
> **Credentials Committee – Carolyn Butts**
> **Elections Committee – The Rev. Jack Way and The Rev. Emily Tveite**
                                                            ADOPTED

Report of the Bishop's Election Taskforce
The Rev. Matthew Kruse thanked the taskforce members for their service, Mary DeYoung, Christ, Sharon, The Rev. Karen Hofstad, St. Paul's, Baraboo, and Stephanie Saager-Bourret, First English, Platteville. Pastor Kruse expressed his gratitude to the eleven nominees for taking the time and effort to provide biographical information, answer questions about their leadership and need of our Synod, and for participating in the pre-assembly forums.

Pastor Kruse explained the rules established by the Synod Council for the election of a bishop. The first ballot is a nominating ballot and votes may be cast for any ordained ELCA pastor including those served outside the Synod. The first ballot requires a three-fourths vote of the legal votes cast. If there is no election, this ballot will be the nominating ballot. The names of all twenty-five pastors nominated through the pre-assembly process in June will also go forward to the second ballot unless they choose to withdraw their names prior to Saturday's 8:30 a.m. withdrawal deadline.

The second ballot also requires a three-fourths of legal votes cast. The third ballot is limited to the top seven vote getters including ties. Prior to the third ballot, there will be an opportunity to hear five-minute speeches from each of the nominees on the ballots. In order to be elected, a nominee must receive two-thirds of the legal votes cast. The fourth ballot will be limited to the top three vote getters and ties. Prior to the casting of the fourth ballot, there will be a question and answer session with the nominees. A pastor must receive sixty percent of legal votes cast in order to be elected bishop on the fourth ballot. The fifth and final ballot will be held between the top two nominees who received the most votes on the fourth ballot, including any ties. A majority of legal votes cast will result in the election of a bishop.

Bishop Hougen turned the chair over to David Swartling, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Reflections of the Role of the Bishop
David Swartling spoke with the Assembly about the election process for a synod bishop and how it is much more than an election. The decision-making process is also a call process because the action of the Assembly calls a pastor, a servant of God and of God's people to carry out ministry and service in the office of bishop. Electing a bishop involves individual and communal discernment through prayer, Bible study, reflection, conversation, self-assessment, and the Holy Spirit to be with us, inspire us, and guide us in our work.

Mr. Swartling shared some thoughts on the office of the bishop. Ne noted that the bishop is a pastor, a servant leader, and an evangelist, who also exemplifies and reflects the unity that we have in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The bishop is the CEO of the synod and in that role must lead as an example, a role model, the public voice of the church in the synod and the world.

Explanation of the Ecclesiastical Ballot
David Swartling provided additional information regarding the bishop election process. Before each vote he will explain the process and ask for questions.

Ballot #1 – Explanation and Voting
Mr. Swartling reminded the Assembly that on the first ballot, the name of any rostered clergy person could be placed in nomination. Voting members may write down the name of any person who is a rostered clergy person in the ELCA whether or not they were nominated in the pre-assembly process. If a nominee receives seventy-five (75) percent of the legal votes cast on the first ballot, he or she will be elected. Mr. Swartling noted that if there is no election on the first ballot, persons nominated might choose to withdraw from consideration. This must be done in writing before the deadline at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. The only opportunity to withdraw is after the first ballot.

Mr. Swartling gave instructions for the first ballot. When instructed, voting members will write in the name of anyone of the clergy roster of the ELCA whether active, retired, or on leave from call. The nomination of someone who is not on the clergy roster will be an invalid vote.

Credentials Report #2
Carolyn Butts presented the second report of the Credentials Committee.
                    Voting Members   371

Bishop Election – Ballot #1
David Swartling provided a time for silent reflection and prayer before offering a prayer before the first ballot. David Swartling brought the first ballot to the floor of the Assembly. Seventy-five percent of the legal votes cast is needed for electing a bishop on the first ballot. At the completion of the balloting, David Swartling declared the first vote closed.

At the conclusion of the balloting, Mr. Swartling turned the chair over to Bishop Hougen who recessed the Assembly for a break.

Session II
Bishop Hougen called the Assembly to order. He introduced The Rev. Scot Sorensen who welcomed the Synod Assembly to Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison.

Bishop Hougen called on Andrea Arey from Portico Benefit Services. Ms. Arey, the regional representative for customer outreach at Portico Benefit Services, explained some of the health care reform changes.

Bishop Hougen introduced Dr. Kenneth Inskeep, Director of Research and Evaluation for the ELCA. Dr. Inskeep attended the May Synod Assembly when he partnered with the Assembly to help research and discern the future of the synod. He shared the results from our synod's survey on "Where is God Calling Us."

Bishop Hougen welcomed Bishop Jessica Crist from the Montana Synod of the ELCA and chair of the Conference of Bishops. Bishop Crist joined the Assembly to share insight on Leadership in the Church.

Bishop Hougen recessed the Assembly for a break.

Session III
Bishop Hougen called the Assembly to order and asked David Swartling to resume the chair. Mr. Swartling called on The Rev. Matthew Kruse to report the results of the first ballot for bishop.

Report of the First Ballot by the Bishop Election Committee
The Rev. Matthew Kruse brought forward the report of the first ballot for bishop.
     Number of votes cast: 358
     Number of legal votes: 356
     Number of invalid votes: 2
     Number of votes required for election on this ballot (75%):   267

     Individual results were:

Mary Froiland	79
Blake Rohrer	53
Jeff Wild	34
Steve Kottke	31
Bryan Engfer	27
Robert Carlson	23
Pedro Suarez	23
Paul Markquart	15
Jeff Pedersen	11
Michael Short	11
Chad Christensen	8
Anne Andert	7
Mark Hanson	6
T. Brent Walsworth	3

Andrea Degroot-Nesdahl	2
Dick Inglett	2
Michael Rehak	2
Peter Narum	2
Peter Marty	2
Katie Baardseth	1
Rick Bliese	1
Brent Campbell	1
Tim Dean	1
Rick Fry	1
Phil Hougen	1
Brent Christianson	1
Darrell Morton	1
Eric Jelinek	1
Stephen Marsh	1
Nick Utphall	1
Jonathan Strandjord	1
Robert Neubert	1
Ron Mach	1
Chris Lee-Thompson	1

Mr. Swartling declared there was no election. He informed the Assembly that the second ballot for bishop would be held on Saturday. He reminded nominees that if they wish to withdraw it must be in writing before 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Mr. Swartling returned the chair to Bishop Hougen. Bishop Hougen offered a closing prayer and recessed the Assembly until Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

Session IV
Bishop Hougen called the Assembly to order. Ms. Ann Walsvik, Wartburg Seminarian, and Mr. Hans Becklin, Advent Lutheran Church member and Luther College student, lead the Assembly in Morning Prayer. Bishop Hougen returned to the chair. He thanked Gary Lewis, Bethel organist, and The Rev. Eric Jones for his work on the drums. The Bishop turned the chair over to David Swartling.

Mr. Swartling reviewed the process for voting on the second ballot. On the second ballot seventy-five (75) percent of the legal ballots cast are necessary for election. If there is no election, the third ballot will contain the names of the seven nominees plus ties that received the most legal votes on the second ballot. The report of the second ballot is scheduled for 10:25 a.m. Mr. Swartling called upon Carolyn Butts to present the report of the Credentials Committee.

Credentials Report #3
Carolyn Butts presented the third report of the Credentials Committee.
Voting Members   402

Bishop Election – Ballot #2
David Swartling provided a time for silent reflection and prayer before the vote. Lily Zeich, Luther Valley, Beloit offered a prayer before the second ballot.   At the completion of the balloting, David Swartling declared the second vote closed.

Mr. Swartling returned the chair to Bishop Hougen. The Bishop invited Bishop Jessica Crist, Montana Synod and chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, to the lectern to continue to share her thoughts on "Leadership in the Church".

Bishop Hougen returned the chair back to David Swartling. Mr. Swartling called on The Rev. Matthew Kruse to report the results of the second ballot.

Report of the Second Ballot by the Bishop Election Committee
The Rev. Matthew Kruse brought forward the report of the second ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:	377	
Number of legal votes:	377	
Number of invalid votes:	0	
Number of votes required for election on this ballot (75%):		283

Individual results were:

Mary Froiland	93
Blake Rohrer	72
Jeff Wild	53
Steve Kottke	41
Pedro Suarez	37
Bryan Engfer	34
Jeff Pedersen	14
Anne Andert	13
Michael Short	8
Erik Jelinek	5
Dick Inglett	4
Darrell Morton	2
Nick Utphall	1
Clint Schnekloth	0
Ron Mach	0

Mr. Swartling declared there was no election. He reported that the following seven nominees would appear on the third ballot: Mary Froiland, Blake Rohrer, Jeff Wild, Steve Kottke, Pedro Suarez, Bryan Engfer, and Jeff Pedersen. He informed the Assembly that the third ballot for bishop would be held at 12:20 p.m. He reminded the Assembly that they would hear presentations from the nominees at 11:30 a.m. Nominees will speak on the theme "What is your principle priority for this Synod and what will you do to address it?"

Interim Bishop Report
Mr. Swartling called on Interim Bishop Hougen for his report.

Bishop Hougen thanked the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin for the opportunity to serve the Synod. He also thanked the Synod staff and Council for their work in the Synod. The Bishop shared a sense that his time in the Synod was too brief and there was not sufficient time to deal with all issues in the depth that they needed to be handled. The Bishop shared losses that the Synod has not yet had time to heal: the Maureen Mengelt family and the Sun Prairie community; the leadership of Bruce Burnside; and the Church as people know it and how it may not be what it used to be for people. We have to recognize the ways in which we are grieving. There is a lot to grieve but there is also comfort, which Jesus can give to us. The Bishop encouraged people to find a prayer partner to share honestly about their grief and be comforted by each other.

Mr. Swartling returned the chair to Bishop Hougen.

Vice-President's Report
The Bishop called on Eric Peterson, Bethel, Madison, for the vice-president's report. Eric Peterson offered God's peace, blessings, and love to the Assembly in the name of our beautiful savior and brother Jesus Christ. Mr. Peterson shared the scripture from Luke 10: 1-3 that the Synod Council has used for Dwelling in the Word for the last year: "After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves."

Mr. Peterson told the Assembly that what stood out in that passage for him was that Jesus doesn't ask us if we are ready to go, he just sends us. People of God are not baptized to be ready, but are baptized to go and make disciples. God himself, through the spirit he has sent us, gives us the strength to take up his work with our hands.

Mr. Peterson stated that the synod would never forget the scars of April 7th, of the loss of a beautiful child of God, Maureen Mengelt, the anguish we have felt over out brother and beloved friend, Bruce Burnside, the sadness of congregational conflicts, and the pain of discipline of our own. He told the Assembly that we are not meant to live in those days forever. Rather God has confidence in us to live boldly and powerfully for the sake of the Gospel in every day of our lives together. He told the Assembly that every one has a role and he has confidence that God has prepared them to be leaders in the coming days. He is convinced that there are no endings with God, only new beginnings. Today is not an ending it is a beginning.

Treasurer's Report
Bishop Hougen called on Bruce Hutler, Our Savior's, Sun Prairie, for the treasurer's report. Mr. Hutler reported on the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013. The 2013 Mission Support totaled $1,534,178, which was $26,000 less than the budget and $70,000 less than fiscal year 2012. Operating expenses totaled $576,000, which was $16,000 less than the budget and $64,000 less than fiscal year 2012. The Synod has unrestricted net assets of $133,392 available to fund shortfall/ contingency issues.

Mr. Hutler reported on the first two months of the 2014 fiscal year. For the month ended August 31, 2013 Mission Support received was $174,000, which is $4,000 more than fiscal year 2014. Actual giving equals fifty-two percent of Intents for calendar year 2013. Operating expenses totaled $91,000, which is $12,000 less than budget and $3,000 more than fiscal year 2013. At the end of August 2013 there was a cash flow deficit of $17,000. The Synod has unrestricted net assets of $121,000 available to fund shortfall/contingency issues.

Bishop Hougen thanked Mr. Hutler and asked the Assembly to view a video narrated by Presiding Bishop Mark Hansen concerning violence and our commitment to be peacemakers.

Bishop Hougen recessed the Assembly for a break.

Session V
Bishop Hougen called the Assembly to order.

Introduction to Voting Machines
Bishop Hougen called on Jean Knight from Quizdom to do a demonstration to practice using the voting machines. At the completion of the demonstration, the Bishop turned the chair over to David Swartling.

Five-Minute Statements by Top Seven Nominees
Mr. Swartling introduced the ground rules for the five-minute statements. A computer generated random list was used to determine the order of the nominees' statements. Under the rules developed by the Bishop's Election Task Force the nominees have been asked to frame their comments around the theme "What is your principle priority for this Synod and what will you do to address it?"

The nominees presented in the following order: Blake Rohrer, Bryan Engfer, Jeff Wild, Pedro Suarez, Jeff Pedersen, Steve Kottke, and Mary Froiland. David Swartling asked the Assembly to express thanks to the seven nominees for their presentations.

Third Ballot Instructions
David Swartling informed the Assembly that in accordance with constitutional provision S9.04 and the process determined by the Synod Council, the seven nominees who received the most legal votes on the second ballot would appear on the third ballot. On the third ballot two-thirds of the legal votes cast are necessary for election. If there is not an election, the names of the three persons who receive the most legal votes plus ties on the third ballot will appear on the fourth ballot. The nominees who appear on the fourth ballot will participate in a question and answer period after lunch. Voting will take place using the electronic voting machines by pressing the number corresponding to the person for whom you wish to vote. Mr. Swartling called on Carolyn Butts for the Credentials Committee report.

Credentials Report #4
Carolyn Butts presented the fourth report of the Credentials Committee.
Voting Members   406

Bishop Election – Ballot #3
David Swartling provided a time for silent reflection and prayer before the vote. Hope Seeger, Jefferson Prairie, Poplar Grove, IL, offered a prayer before the third ballot.   At the completion of the balloting, David Swartling declared the third vote closed. The Assembly watched a video while the electronic votes were verified.

Mr. Swartling called on The Rev. Matthew Kruse to report the results of the third ballot.

Report of the Third Ballot by the Bishop Election Committee
The Rev. Matthew Kruse brought forward the report of the third ballot for bishop.

       Number of votes cast: 383
       Number of legal votes: 383
       Number of invalid votes: 0
       Number of votes required for election on this ballot (66.7%):   256

       Individual results were:

Mary Froiland	163
Blake Rohrer	53
Bryan Engfer	42
Pedro Suarez	41
Steve Kottke	40
Jeff Wild	28
Jeff Pedersen	16

Mr. Swartling declared there was no election. He reported that the following three nominees would appear on the fourth ballot: Mary Froiland, Blake Rohrer, and Bryan Engfer. He reminded the Assembly there would be a question and answer session with the top three nominees at 1:45 p.m. Mr. Swartling returned the chair to Bishop Hougen.

Bishop Hougen offered a table pray and dismissed the Assembly for lunch.

Session VI
Bishop Hougen called the Assembly to order and returned the chair to David Swartling.

Question and Answer with Top Three Nominees
Mr. Swartling introduced the format for the question and answer session with the top three nominees. Each nominee will answer five questions with two minutes allocated per question. Nominees will remain sequestered until it is his/her turn to answer. The same five questions, determined by the Bishop's Election Task Force, will be asked in the same order to each nominee. The questions were:

(1) Share a favorite Bible story and how it would inform your ministry as bishop?
(2) There are many retired clergy in this synod who have a wealth of information and experience to draw from. How would you engage them?
(3) Tell us about a time you experienced conflict and how you dealt with it?
(4) As a bishop, how would you help congregations care for creation and address climate change; and
(5) How would you reach out to youth and young adults (those under 30) to engage them in the church and its leadership?

Mr. Swartling thanked the Assembly for submitting questions. He reported that unused questions would be given to the bishop-elect so they may be responded to over time in the Synod newsletter. The nominees presented in the following order: Blake Rohrer, Mary Froiland, and Bryan Engfer.

David Swartling thanked the nominees for their responses. He also thanked all of the bishop nominees for putting their names forward and their participation.

Credentials Report #5
Carolyn Butts presented the fifth report of the Credentials Committee.

Lay Females	**149**
Lay Males	**103**
Clergy	**154**
Voting Members	**406**

Bishop Election – Ballot #4
David Swartling provided a time for silent reflection and prayer before the vote. Miriam Valley, Our Saviors, Sun Prairie, offered a prayer before the fourth ballot. At the completion of the balloting, David Swartling declared the fourth ballot closed. The Assembly watched a video while the electronic votes were verified.

Mr. Swartling called on The Rev. Matthew Kruse to report the results of the fourth ballot.

Report of the Fourth Ballot by the Bishop Election Committee
The Rev. Matthew Kruse brought forward the report of the fourth ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:　　370
Number of legal votes:　　370
Number of invalid votes:　　0
Number of votes required for election on this ballot (60%):　　222

Individual results were:

Mary Froiland	145
Bryan Engfer	133
Blake Rohrer	92

Mr. Swartling declared there was no election. He reported that the following two nominees would appear on the fifth ballot: Mary Froiland and Bryan Engfer. Mr. Swartling returned the chair to Bishop Hougen.

Bishop Hougen recessed the Assembly for a break.

Session VII
Bishop Hougen called the Assembly to order and returned the chair to David Swartling.

Ballot #5
David Swartling provided a time for silent reflection and prayer before the vote. Eric Peterson, Bethel, Madison, offered a prayer before the fifth ballot. At the completion of the balloting, David Swartling declared the fifth ballot closed. The electronic votes were verified.

Report of the Fifth Ballot by the Bishop Election Committee
The Rev. Matthew Kruse brought forward the report of the fifth ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:　　377
Number of legal votes:　　377
Number of invalid votes:　　0

Number of votes required for election on this ballot (majority): 190

Individual results were:

Mary Froiland	200
Bryan Engfer	177

Based upon the results of the fifth ballot, Mr. Swartling declared The Rev. Mary Froiland elected bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. He called on bishop-elect Froiland to respond and to address the Assembly.

Mr. Swartling expressed appreciation to all who were nominees in the bishop election process. He also thanked the bishop's election committee and the Synod staff for their hard work. He thanked Bishop Hougen for his service as interim bishop in the Synod. He returned the chair to Bishop Hougen. The Bishop thanked David Swartling for his service at the Assembly.

Bishop Hougen declared the Special Meeting of the Synod Assembly adjourned in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary DeYoung, Secretary
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Protocol Documents
        2013 Special Meeting of the Synod Assembly Book
        Credential Reports