



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
**South-Central Synod of Wisconsin**  
**2013 Synod Assembly**

The 2013 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was held May 4-5, 2013 at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Middleton, Wisconsin under the theme, ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW.

Worship

Bishop Hougen, interim bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, led the Assembly in a Conversation on Our Life Together in the Community of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin.

**Assembly Session I**

Bishop Hougen led the assembly in the Order of Service for the Opening of a Synod Assembly and called the Assembly to order. Bishop Hougen turned the chair over to vice-president Eric Peterson who called the Assembly to order.

**Credentials Report #1**

Carolyn Butts presented the first report of the Credentials Committee.

Lay Female	158
Lay Male	107
Clergy	<u>152</u>
<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>417</b>
Visitors	74

**Parliamentary Overview**

David Moore, the Assembly parliamentarian, explained the general polity of the Synod and gave an overview of the Constitution. He also provided a parliamentary overview and explained the importance of the rules used for good order at the Assembly.

**Electronic Voting Introduction**

Jean Knight, from Qwizdom, explained the use of the electronic voting devices.

**Adoption of Rules of Organization and Procedure**

Vice-President Eric Peterson introduced the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Synod Assembly. He asked for any amendments or discussion.

SA13.05.01 Rules of Organization and Procedure Adopted

**VOTED to adopt the Rules of Organization and Procedure.**

**ADOPTED**

**Approval of Preliminary Assembly Agenda**

Eric Peterson presented the preliminary agenda that guides the Assembly through Resolution 8.

SA13.05.02 Preliminary Assembly Agenda Approved

**VOTED to approve the Preliminary Assembly agenda.**

**ADOPTED**

**Ratification of Assembly Committees**

Eric Peterson brought the Assembly committees to the floor.

SA13.05.03 Committees Ratified

**VOTED to ratify the Assembly Committees as presented with the following chairs:**

**Credentials Committee – Carolyn Butts**

**Elections Committee – The Rev. Jack Way and The Rev. Emily Tveite**

**Nominations Committee – The Rev. Chuck Miller**  
**Reference and Counsel Committee – The Rev. Brent Campbell**  
**ADOPTED**

Nominations

The Rev. Charles Miller brought the slate of nominations to the Assembly. Eric Peterson asked for further nominations from the floor as none were brought forward he declared nominations closed. The slate of nominees is:

Synod Council – Lay Female (1 position to be filled)  
Bev Anderson  
Lily Zeich  
Elaine Kroeger

Synod Council – Lay Male (1 position to be filled)  
Jim St. Vincent

Synod Council – Clergy Female (1 position to be filled)  
The Rev. Anne Andert

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

Consultation Committee – Clergy Female (1 position to be filled)  
The Rev. Heather Lampert  
The Rev. Rebecca Ninke  
The Rev. Connie Matye

Discipline Committee – Clergy Female (1 position to be filled)  
The Rev. Beth Schultz-Brynes

Discipline Committee – Clergy Male (1 position to be filled)  
The Rev. Barry Hoerz

Discipline Committee – Lay Female (1 position to be filled)  
Carolyn Lien

Discipline Committee – Lay Male (1 position to be filled)  
Timothy Ewing

Vice-president Eric Peterson turned the chair over to Bishop Hougen.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The Rev. Brent Campbell, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, brought the initial report of the Reference and Counsel Committee to the floor and stated that there were eight resolutions submitted at this time. The Committee recommends approval of all resolutions. The Synod Assembly will take up the resolutions in the following order: eight, six, 2014 Compensation Guidelines, seven, four, five, one, two, and three. Resolutions must be submitted by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Rev. Campbell presented Resolution 8, Postpone the Election of Bishop in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, to the Assembly.

Postpone the Election of Bishop in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

MOVED WHEREAS, Bishop Bruce Burnside was involved in a tragic automobile accident on April 7, 2013, that resulted in the death of Maureen Mengelt, and he has been charged with multiple felonies in connection with the accident; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Burnside's term will expire on June 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Blake Rohrer has been appointed acting bishop in accordance with constitutional provision +S.8.58; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council of the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, in consultation with ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, has determined that Bruce Burnside is unable to continue to serve as bishop and, in accordance with constitutional provision +S.8.54, has appointed Bishop Phil Hougen to serve as interim bishop in order to assist the synod with grieving and healing; and

WHEREAS, upon prayerful consideration, the Synod Council has concluded that it is in the best interest of the synod to defer the election of a bishop until a special meeting of the Synod Assembly in the fall of 2013, and for the interim bishop to serve from the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly until the term of the newly elected bishop begins; and

WHEREAS, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin utilized a pre-assembly process to raise up names for nomination of a bishop in 2007, and a task force in 2008 recommended use of such a process in future elections, and the Synod Council recommends use of such a process for the election of a new bishop at the special meeting of the Synod Assembly in 2013; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the election for bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin be postponed to a special meeting of the Synod Assembly to take place in the fall of 2013 at a time and place to be determined by the Synod Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the process leading to and including the nomination and election of the bishop shall be modeled after the process used in 2007 and endorsed by the bishop election task force in 2008, and the Synod Council is directed to modify the process as necessary to conduct a bishop election at the special meeting of the Synod Assembly in the fall of 2013.

Bishop Hougen led a discussion on the resolution and opened the floor for debate. Eric Peterson, Synod Council vice-president, explained to the Assembly the Synod Council decision for postponing the Bishop election. That discussion included whether we postpone, what do we do during the time it is postponed, who are we as a synod, and where is God calling us. The Council also talked about giving candidates time to discern whether or not they want to consider being bishop of the Synod. Mr. Peterson explained that the Council is looking at a Fall election that would be held at Bethel, Madison. A pre-assembly process would be used for the Bishop election.

The Rev. David Andert, Faith, Janesville, asked for a brief description of the pre-assembly process that was used in 2007. Eric Peterson explained that candidates had their names lifted up and then forums were held around the Synod so people could get to know the candidates. Candidate profiles and statements were posted on the Synod website. Even with the pre-assembly process the first ballot was still an Ecclesiastical ballot. The ELCA has developed guidelines for having a pre-assembly process.

Enrique Lopez, Sugar Creek, Elkhorn, stated the importance of knowing as much as possible about the candidates prior to an election. Paul Markquart, St. John's, Oregon, reported that he was at the Synod Assembly that asked for a pre-assembly process every six years whether or not there was an incumbent. He asked why the Synod Council decided not to have a pre-assembly process this year. Bishop Hougen ruled that the question was not germane to the motion on the floor. Eric Peterson did note that the Synod Council had many discussions about this and made the decision that if an incumbent bishop was willing to run for a second term then a pre-assembly process would not be used. He noted that the Synod Council would be revisiting this decision.

The Rev. Michael Rehak, interim ministry, spoke about the importance of using a pre-assembly process when electing a bishop as it is vitally important to see the process as much more than an election. It must be seen as a discernment process. There is a need to understand what the Synod is about and what we can expect from a bishop before we elect one. Prior to electing a bishop, Rev. Rehak stressed the need to define the mission and vision of the Synod and the discernment of what kind of bishop the Synod needs. He is in favor of taking time for discernment

The Rev. Jeannette Strandjord, Williams Bay Lutheran, Williams Bay, spoke in favor of an interim bishop and in favor of postponing the election but questioned why the election would be held in the Fall. She stated that in order to have true discernment the election should be postponed for a year. The Rev. Joan Wittrock, Bonnet Prairie, Rio, asked whether or not the Synod has an incumbent bishop. Bishop Hougen explained that Bruce Burnside is the elected bishop until his term expires on June 30, 2013. Rev. Burnside is unable to serve as bishop so Bishop Hougen is functioning as the interim bishop until a new bishop is elected.

Karen Julesberg, All Saints, Fitchburg agreed that a Fall bishop election is too short of a time to discern everything that has happened and to develop a mission and vision for the Synod. The Rev. Robert Moberg, Faith, Columbus asked about the constitutional provision about voting members. Parliamentarian David Moore explained that this is a meeting of the Synod Assembly, which is the legislative body. As such the 2013 Synod Assembly must elect the bishop and the interpretation is that a bishop must be elected before the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. That means that a bishop can be elected at this meeting or at a special meeting of the Synod Assembly. Since the 2013 Synod Assembly is the legislative body responsible for the election of a bishop it cannot pass the election on to the 2014 Synod Assembly.

Eric Peterson explained that the decision to hold the bishop election in the Fall was made so the newly elected bishop could attend the Conference of Bishops held in October. This conference serves as guidance and training for new bishops. The Rev. Jeannette Strandjord asked the Assembly to not rush this election as no Synod has suffered this type of trauma and we need time to sort through everything that has happened. She expressed the need to be thoughtful in the next election and encouraged a postponement longer than four months.

Jon Lang, Our Savior's, Beloit, stated that the purpose of the ecclesiastical ballot is to vote how the Holy Spirit moves us. He acknowledged that the situation with Bishop Burnside was a tragedy but God's mission is to sow the seeds of love. Mr. Lang stated that he understood the purpose of discernment but felt the Synod could move in a forward motion instead of dwelling on the tragedy. Larry Engel, Five Points, Blue River, agreed that the election should be postponed and that it should be later than September.

SA13.05.04 Call the Question  
**VOTED** to close debate.

**ADOPTED**

Lon Buss offered a prayer before the vote

Bishop Hougen declared the voice vote indecisive and asked the Assembly to vote electronically. He explained to vote yes to postpone the bishop election or to vote no to not postpone the election. The results were: Yes – 285 and No – 111. Bishop Hougen reported that Resolution 8 – Postpone the Election of Bishop in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was adopted.

SA13.05.05 Postpone the Election of Bishop in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin  
**VOTED** WHEREAS, Bishop Bruce Burnside was involved in a tragic automobile accident on April 7, 2013, that resulted in the death of Maureen Mengelt, and he has been charged with multiple felonies in connection with the accident; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Burnside's term will expire on June 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Blake Rohrer has been appointed acting bishop in accordance with constitutional provision +S.8.58; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council of the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, in consultation with ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, has determined that Bruce Burnside is unable to continue to serve as bishop and, in accordance with constitutional provision +S.8.54, has appointed Bishop Phil Hougen to serve as interim bishop in order to assist the synod with grieving and healing; and

WHEREAS, upon prayerful consideration, the Synod Council has concluded that it is in the best interest of the synod to defer the election of a bishop until a special meeting of the Synod Assembly in the fall of 2013, and for the interim bishop to serve from the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly until the term of the newly elected bishop begins; and

WHEREAS, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin utilized a pre-assembly process to raise up names for nomination of a bishop in 2007, and a task force in 2008 recommended use of such a process in future elections, and the Synod Council recommends use of such a process for the election of a new bishop at the special meeting of the Synod Assembly in 2013; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, that the election for bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin be postponed to a special meeting of the Synod Assembly to take place in the fall of 2013 at a time and place to be determined by the Synod Council; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the process leading to and including the nomination and election of the bishop shall be modeled after the process used in 2007 and endorsed by the bishop election task force in 2008, and the Synod Council is directed to modify the process as necessary to conduct a bishop election at the special meeting of the Synod Assembly in the fall of 2013.**

**ADOPTED**

Bishop Hougen turned the chair over to vice-president Eric Peterson.

Approval of Continuing Agenda

Eric Peterson presented Agenda 1 – No Bishop Election.

SA13.05.06 Agenda 1 Approved

**VOTED to approve the Assembly Agenda 1 – No Bishop Election.**

**ADOPTED**

The Assembly viewed a video of the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Keynote 1 – Being Jesus

The Rev. Blake Rohrer introduced Sara Miles, founder of The Food Pantry and Director of Ministry at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco, as the keynote speaker of the Synod Assembly.

Always Being Made New #1

The Rev. Sara Yotter asked the Assembly to share conversation about a tradition or program that has a long history of renewing your congregation or community.

Greetings from the Slovak-Zion Synod

Bishop Hougen introduced Bishop Wilma Kucharek from the Slovak-Zion Synod. Bishop Kucharek brought greetings and prayers to the Assembly.

Practiced Discipleship

Brenda Goble, Director of Child, Youth and Family Ministry, Midvale, Madison, talked with the Assembly about the Practice Discipleship Initiative. The purpose of this initiative will train leadership to accompany young people on their faith journey, develop partnerships to strengthen faith formation opportunities with young people, and gather leaders for mutual support and encouragement in ministry.

**Session II**

Vice-president Eric Peterson called Session II to Order.

Portico Half Minute

Mark Foster, Portico, presented an update on Portico benefit services.

Always Being Made New #2

The Rev. Sara Yotter asked the Assembly to share conversation about something happening right now at your congregation celebrating our work in Christ.

### Report of the Vice-President

Eric Peterson, the Synod Vice-President, brought the vice-president's report to the assembly.

### Recognition of Congregational Anniversaries

Eric Peterson recognized congregational anniversaries.

Holy Trinity, Marshall - 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Bethlehem, Brodhead – 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Bethlehem, Portage – 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Faith, Cuba City – 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
St. Paul's, Potosi – 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

### Introduction of Synod Council

Eric Peterson recognized Synod Council members.

The Rev. Anne Andert	Bruce Hutler	Eric Peterson
Ryun Bibro	The Rev. Erik Jelinek	Hope Seeger
Mary DeYoung	The Rev. Steve Kottke	Eleanor Siebert
The Rev. Mary Froiland	Elaine Kroeger	Jim St. Vincent
The Rev. Kirsten Fryer	Delvere Norland	Lily Zeich
Alan Hines		
Lon Buss – Lutheran Men in Mission	Carolyn Lien – Women of the ELCA	

### Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Bruce Hutler reported to the Assembly. He thanked Rebecca Johnson, Brodhead, for being the financial consultant for the Synod. Mr. Hutler gave the Assembly an overview of mission support at Churchwide, Region 5, and the Synod. The ELCA fiscal year ended on January 31, 2013 with \$49,872,000 in mission support, which is a decrease of \$550,000 or 1.1% from the previous year. Region 5, of which the South-Central Synod is part of, provides \$10.6 million or 21% of the total mission support to Churchwide. This is an increase of \$100,000 or a 1% increase from the previous year. Region 5 gives 52.5% as mission support to Churchwide. Out of the twelve synods in Region 5, the South-Central Synod is the sixth largest provider of mission support at \$830,000, which is an increase of \$15,000 or 1.8% from the previous year. Mr. Hutler reported that all Wisconsin synods give 55% for mission support.

Each year the Synod's financial records are audited. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, our audit firm once again issued an unqualified opinion that indicates there were no material adjustments to the Synod's accounting records. Current assets include checking, savings, and investments funds of approximately \$350,000. Of this amount \$220,000 is restricted for specific purposes, such as the Endowment Fund. The Synod has a net \$130,000 in liquid assets. Our expenditures were less than revenue received thus the balance sheet is in good financial order.

### Introduction of the Spending Plan

Mr. Hutler introduced the spending plan and highlighted several areas. The proposed spending plan includes \$1,580,000 for mission support an increase of \$20,000 or 2.8% over the current year's spending plan. This figure is based on a detailed review of congregational intents, historical trends, and discussions throughout the Synod. The proposed spending plan includes ELCA Churchwide mission support of 55% and support of ministry partners of 12% with approximately 33% available for Synod activities.

Proposed expenditures have not changed dramatically. Salary, housing, and fringe benefits will increase 2.9%. The proposed spending plan includes funding of Lay School for Ministry of \$5,000 and funding of a Youth Coordinator position for only six months of the year. This assumes that a qualified candidate will not be able to be found immediately. While the proposed spending plan is presented as a "balanced" budget, it is important to understand that once the Youth Coordinator is in place for an entire year, either income would need to increase, or expense would need to decrease in other budgeted areas in order to avoid a negative cash flow. Mr. Hutler reminded the Assembly that the spending plan would be discussed on Sunday.

### Introductions

Bishop Hougen introduced and thanked the Synod Staff. Eric Peterson presented a gift certificate to each staff member.

The Rev. Blake Rohrer	Vicki Hanrahan
The Rev. Sara Yotter	Karen Kretschmann

The Rev. Blake Rohrer and The Rev. Sara Yotter introduced rostered leaders new to the Synod  
 Rev. Jaime Dubon from Salvadoran Lutheran Church to Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison  
 Rev. Rick Fry from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to Adams/Argyle Churches, Argyle  
 Rev. Dominic Guido from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to St. John Church, Reedsburg  
 Rev. Karen Hofstad from Northwest Synod of WI to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Baraboo  
 Rev. Todd Iverson from Northwest Synod of WI to Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Watertown  
 Rev. Brian Konkol from East Central Synod of WI to Lake Edge Lutheran Church, Madison  
 Rev. Mike Mannisto from Northern Great Lakes Synod to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Rome/Sullivan  
 Rev. Rich McLeer from Wartburg Seminary to Hope Lutheran Church, Mineral Point  
 Rev. David Nelsestuen from Wartburg Seminary to East Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cambridge  
 Rev. Katya Ouchakof from McFarland Lutheran Church to Cooksville Lutheran Church, Evansville  
 Rev. Richard Reiten from Northwestern Minnesota Synod to Bristol Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie  
 Rev. Ryan Rouse from Grand Canyon Synod to Dekorra Lutheran Church, Poynette  
 Rev. Kelli Schmit from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to McFarland Church, McFarland  
 Rev. Dara Schuller-Hanson Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago to Good Shepherd, Madison  
 Rev. Alison Williams from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to Bethel, Madison  
 Mr. Brett Christensen from candidacy to AiM, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie

The Rev. Blake Rohrer and The Rev. Sara Yotter introduced the seminarians assigned to the Synod.

Alan D. Dreyer—Wartburg Seminary  
 Lisa Konzen—Wartburg Seminary  
 Abigail Letsinger—Wartburg Seminary  
 Youngshim Mason—Wartburg Seminary

Credentials Report #2

Carolyn Butts presented the second report of the Credentials Committee.

Lay Female	161
Lay Male	111
<u>Clergy</u>	<u>157</u>
<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>429</b>
Visitors	80

Ballot #1

The Rev. Jack Way and The Rev. Emily Tveite brought the first ballot to the floor of the Assembly. Eric Peterson asked the Assembly to approve by unanimous acclamation the Synod Council – Lay Male, Lay Female-Youth, and Clergy; and Discipline Committee – Lay Female, Lay Male, Clergy Female, and Clergy Male.

The Rev. Kirsten Fryer led the Assembly in prayer.

SA13.05.07 Acclamation Vote

**VOTED to approve by unanimous acclamation the election of the following:**  
**Synod Council – Lay Male – Jim St. Vincent**  
**Synod Council – Clergy – The Rev. Anne Andert**  
**Synod Council – Lay Female Youth – Miriam Valley**  
**Discipline Committee – Clergy Female – The Rev. Beth Schultz=Brynes**  
**Discipline Committee – Clergy Male – The Rev. Barry Hoerz**  
**Discipline Committee - Lay Female - Carolyn Lien**  
**Discipline Committee – Lay Male - Timothy Ewing**  
**ADOPTED**

Electronic voting for the Consultation Committee – Clergy Female and the Synod Council – Lay Female will be moved to the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot on Sunday.

Report of the Secretary

Mary DeYoung, the Synod Secretary, brought the secretary's report to the assembly.

Ratify ELCA Church Council Nominees

SA13.05.08 Ratification of ELCA Church Council Nominees

**VOTED** to ratify **The Rev. David Berggren, Our Saviors, Sun Prairie and The Rev. Peder Johanson, Bethlehem, Brodhead as ELCA Church Council Clergy Male nominees.**  
**ADOPTED**

Eric Peterson recessed the Assembly to attend the workshops.

**Session III**

Eric Peterson called Session III to Order.

God's Work Our Hands: Always being Made New

Dr. Abe Caceres, Executive Director of World House Music, led the Assembly in a song based on John 13:34-35: God's Work. Our Hands. Always Made New.

People Talk, Lutherans Listen: The Church We Are Called to Be

Dr. Kenneth Inskip, Director of Research and Evaluation for the ELCA, talked with the Assembly about congregational vitality and the factors that contribute to it.

Resolutions

Eric Peterson turned the floor over to The Rev. Brent Campbell, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee. Eric Peterson reminded the Assembly of the three-minute time limit to debate.

Resolution 6 – Resolution in Support of Participation by the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin in the ELCA Malaria Campaign  
The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption of resolution 6.

Eric Peterson asked for discussion from the Assembly on the resolution. Eleanor Siebert, chair of the Synod Malaria Committee, stated that ninety percent of malaria deaths occur in Africa and could be prevented. Betsy Baguhn, Evangelical Lutheran, Mt. Horeb, asked if the Synod would be responsible for the \$250,000 if it was not raised by 2015. Eric Peterson responded that the malaria campaign was a separate initiative and would not impact the Synod budget.

SA13.05.09 Resolution in Support of Participation by the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin in the ELCA Malaria Campaign

**VOTED** WHEREAS, malaria is a disease that kills over 800,000 people a year and is the leading cause of death for children under the age of five in Africa:

WHEREAS, the ELCA has announced the ELCA Malaria Campaign, an effort to work directly with our companion churches in Africa to prevent and treat malaria and to contain the number of deaths in Africa related to malaria through prayer, advocacy, education and fundraising:

WHEREAS, the ELCA has pledged itself to raise \$15 million dollars toward this campaign by the year 2015: and

WHEREAS, seeing the need that exists to help save lives, especially the lives of the children and pregnant mothers, while also realizing the abundance that God has given to us: now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED, that we, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, commit ourselves as Individuals and congregations to raise \$250,000 toward this ELCA Malaria Campaign by 2015; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that each of the congregations of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin will be encouraged to participate in this healing ministry of Jesus through prayer, advocacy, education and generosity.**

**ADOPTED**

Resolution – Compensation Guidelines

The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption of this resolution.

MOVED BE IT RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA), meeting in Assembly, approves the 2014 Compensation Guidelines as found in Appendix 11.0 of the printed Assembly materials.

Eric Peterson asked for discussion from the Assembly on the resolution. The Rev. Matt Kruse, Redeemer, Rio, stated that the 2013 Compensation Guidelines had four levels of health insurance support and asked if that could be considered for 2014. Eric Peterson responded that this could be brought back to the Compensation committee. The Rev. Barry Hoerz, St. Paul, Mayville, asked if there was data about the number of congregations paying under guidelines and if so could congregations be encouraged to adhere to guidelines. Eric Peterson responded that the Synod did not keep data on this.

SA13.05.10 Compensation Guidelines

**VOTED** BE IT RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA), meeting in Assembly, approves the 2014 Compensation Guidelines as found in Appendix 11.0 of the printed Assembly materials.

**ADOPTED**

Resolution 7 – Stand for Welcome Sunday

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption of resolution 7.

Eric Peterson asked for discussion from the Assembly on the resolution. The Rev. George Carlson, retired clergy, wants the Synod to uplift this and help congregations implement it in their local communities.

SA13.05.11 Stand for Welcome Sunday

**VOTED** WHEREAS, our faith community has for millennia experienced both living as immigrants and receiving new immigrants in our midst, and

WHEREAS, scripture calls us to welcome the stranger [“You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 22:21); “...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”(Matthew 25:35); “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2)], and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), a collaborative ministry of three national Lutheran church bodies—the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LC-MS, and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LELCA)—has a Vision (All migrants and refugees are protected, embraced and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities) that informs its Mission (Witnessing to God’s love for all people, we stand with and advocate for migrants and refugees, transforming communities through ministries of service and justice.), and

WHEREAS, LIRS serves as resource to congregations to both increase awareness of immigration issues and to connect people to action; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin endorse the LIRS call for “Stand for Welcome Sunday”, and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin strongly encourage congregations in this synod to designate one Sunday as “Stand for Welcome” Sunday with emphasis in worship and/or study time to explore immigrations issues and speak up for migrants through faith-based advocacy and prayer, and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to avail themselves of the many resources prepared by LIRS to support congregations in their ministries of welcome and advocacy (see other side of this sheet and/or go to [www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org)).**

**ADOPTED**

Resolution 4 – Raising Awareness for Alzheimer’s Disease, Dementia, and Other Related Cognitive Health Challenges  
The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption of resolution 4.

Eric Peterson asked for discussion from the Assembly on the resolution. The Rev. Mary Kay Baum, Grace, Dodgeville, spoke about cognitive health challenges and the need to support people who are facing these challenges as well as uplift their strengths.

SA13.05.12 Raising Awareness for Alzheimer’s Disease, Dementia, and Other Related Cognitive Health Challenges  
**VOTED** WHEREAS, as congregations we “bear crucial responsibilities in the life of this church as centers for evangelical mission with doors open to all, including those living with ... disabilities” (ELCA social message on Disabilities); and

WHEREAS, “we are less than we could be in the absence of experiences, interests, skills, and abilities [of those with disabilities] to contribute to God’s work”; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one in three families has a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease, the actual numbers are increasing due to the baby boom, and no family is immune; and

WHEREAS, the stigma and fear associated with Alzheimer’s disease or other cognitive changes reinforces depression, hopelessness, and delay in treatment among those affected; and

WHEREAS, cognitive and memory decline is a public health issue that is often exacerbated by isolation, environmental hazards, and lack of general preventive healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the church in its ministries seeks to strengthen the body of Christ by accompanying individuals and families who face health challenges of all kinds; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED, that the South Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA declares July 2013 through June 2014 as its year specifically dedicated to Raising Awareness for Alzheimer’s Disease, Dementia, and Other Related Cognitive Health Challenges; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that local congregations be encouraged to work with the Alzheimer’s & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin and with for Memory, Inc. (a network of persons affected by early cognitive changes) by hosting adult education programs and cross-generational activities, by planning community showings of The Hope of Alzheimer’s documentary, and by supporting the “Time for Us” camp at Lutherdale Bible Camp; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that Synod congregations and Synod partners will lead transformation across health, family, marriage, youth, fellowship, worship, and social justice ministries toward effectively accompanying more families who face Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, or other related cognitive health challenges.**

**ADOPTED**

Resolution 5 – Resolution on Fossil Fuel Investment

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption of resolution 5.

Eric Peterson asked for discussion from the Assembly on the resolution. The Rev. Nick Utpfall, St. Stephens’, Monona, spoke to the resolution and informed the Assembly that if the resolution is passed it would be submitted to the ELCA as a memorial to be looked at by the Churchwide Assembly in August.

Ted Sehmer, Christ, Stoughton stated that at last year’s Assembly their congregation submitted a resolution that was denied as it was deemed to be political and he believes this resolution is also political. Sue Schneider, Trinity, Madison, spoke in favor of the resolution and noted that financially the pension fund might take a hit, but the ELCA has to take a lead on these issues. The Rev. Jerry Wendt, retired clergy, used to serve on the Board of Pensions and noted that they have a Social Purpose Fund that deals with issues such as this. He stated that if the ELCA disinvests itself from all companies that deal

with fossil fuels it could have a financial impact on other areas of ministry. The Rev. Jerry Folk, retired clergy, stated that clergy have the option to choose how they want their money to be invested and can choose social purpose funds or unscreened funds.

The Rev. Mark Mollrem, First, Beaver Dam, spoke in opposition to the resolution. He cautioned the Assembly to act carefully with this kind of resolution and to not just throw the whole churches weight against this. The Rev. Nick Utphall clarified that this resolution was in line with other corporate screens such as tobacco, alcohol, and gambling. Jane Cahill Wolfgram, Christ, DeForest, told the Assembly that she worked for oil and electric companies and they are working more every day on these types of issues. She cautioned that policies such as this have the ability to harm local jobs and the cost of products. She also stated that we can't afford to build enough renewable energy sources to meet all of our power needs.

Amend Line 42

MOVED RESOLVED, that this synod memorialize the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to direct the Corporate Social Responsibility associated staff person or review team to develop guidelines for the ELCA, separately incorporated entities of the ELCA (including Portico Benefit Services), and others that will screen out investments in the Social Purpose Funds for fossil fuel companies and holdings.

Eric Peterson asked for discussion on the amendment. Ron Strobel, Norway Grove Memorial, DeForest, told the Assembly that this resolution is a conversation of privilege talking about pensions. He noted that younger people do not have the opportunity to earn pensions and to talk about pensions being more important than other issues around the world does not seem appropriate. The Rev. Nick Utphall spoke against the amendment, as he believed the resolution already did that.

SA13.05.13 Call the Question

VOTED to close debate.

ADOPTED

MOVED RESOLVED, that this synod memorialize the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to direct the Corporate Social Responsibility associated staff person or review team to develop guidelines for the ELCA, separately incorporated entities of the ELCA (including Portico Benefit Services), and others that will screen out investments in the Social Purpose Funds for fossil fuel companies and holdings.

DEFEATED

SA13.05.14 Call the Question

VOTED to close debate.

ADOPTED

Resolution on Fossil Fuel Investment

MOVED WHEREAS, as congregations we “bear crucial responsibilities in the life of this church as centers for evangelical mission with doors open to all, including those living with ... disabilities” (ELCA social message on Disabilities); and WHEREAS, God has created us and all that exists, [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;” and

WHEREAS, in *Caring for Creation* this church declares that “As congregations and other expressions of this church, we will seek to incorporate the principles of sufficiency and sustainability in our life.... We will, in our budgeting and investment of church funds, demonstrate our care for creation;” and

WHEREAS, in the 1999 ELCA Social Statement *Economic Life: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*, this church declares that “We call for appropriate policies and regulations that

help reverse environmental destruction; ending subsidies for economic activities that use up non-renewable natural resources; [and] companies to pay more fully for the wider social and environmental costs of what they produce;” and

WHEREAS, we in the United States are especially complicit in the problems recognized in *Economic Life*, that “Too often the earth has been treated as a waste receptacle and a limitless storehouse of raw materials to be used up for the sake of economic growth, rather than as a finite, fragile ecological system upon which human and all other life depends;” and

WHEREAS, in 1993 with *Caring for Creation* we realized the urgency was already “widespread and serious, according to the preponderance of evidence from scientists worldwide [of] dangerous global warming, caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide” from the burning of fossil fuels, and that “action to counter degradation, especially within this decade, is essential to the future of our children and our children’s children. Time is very short;” and

WHEREAS, time has gotten shorter, with domestic droughts and superstorms linked to climate change and many of this church’s global partner organizations, such as Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran World Federation, reporting that climate change is affecting their work, disproportionately impacting those in places and situations who are least responsible and least able to withstand and adapt to changes—those in poverty, children and the elderly, and others of God’s creatures; and

WHEREAS, striving for justice, compassion, and caring stewardship, this church has made many decisions regarding investments and corporate social responsibility, and has an environmental screen among its social criteria for investments; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this synod memorialize the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to direct the Corporate Social Responsibility associated staff person or review team to develop guidelines for the ELCA, separately incorporated entities of the ELCA (including Portico Benefit Services), and others that will screen out investments for fossil fuel companies and holdings.

DEFEATED

Resolution 1 – Memorial Calling for Conversations About Ministering to Same-Gender Couples and Families

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption of resolution 1.

Eric Peterson asked for discussion from the Assembly on the resolution. The Rev. Nick Utphall, St. Stephens, Monona, stated that this resolution if passed would be sent as a memorial resolution to the Churchwide Assembly. The Rev. Robert Neubert, Christ, Sharon told the Assembly that this resolution finds ways for congregations to minister to same gender relationships and their families. He reported that ten states have approved marriage of same gender couples. Betsy Baguhn, Evangelical, Mt. Horeb, proposed an amendment to the resolution.

Amend Line 39

**VOTED RESOLVED, that South Central Synod of Wisconsin memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:**

- A. to invite and encourage conversations among this church’s congregations, rostered leaders, and the Conference of Bishops about how the ELCA can respond to the needs of the neighbor, in ways that would be most helpful (for example sharing of resources) for those wishing to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, and questioning individuals and couples and their families as we seek to grow into this new reality.**

ADOPTED

SA13.05.15  
**VOTED**

Memorial Calling for Conversations about Ministering to Same-Gender Couples and Families  
WHEREAS, the ELCA, meeting in Assembly (2009) resolved to “commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships;” and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Social Statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009) states that “the ELCA recognizes that it has a pastoral responsibility to all children of God.” (p. 19)  
“supports legislation and policies to protect civil rights” for all and has also “called upon congregations and members of this church to welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples and their families and to advocate for their legal protection.” (p. 19, emphasis added)  
“will attend to the need for equal protection, equal opportunities, and equal responsibilities under the law” for all (p. 33);

WHEREAS, marriage has been recognized for same-gender couples in nine states and the District of Columbia and within the territory of twelve synods of the ELCA, which together minister to over 650,000 Lutherans (about 15% of total ELCA membership);

WHEREAS, seven additional states (Illinois, Minnesota, Delaware, Rhode Island, Hawaii, Oregon, and New Jersey) are widely expected to consider legislation recognizing marriage for same-gender couples between 2013 and 2015, encompassing twelve additional synods that minister to over 1.1 million Lutherans (about 25% of total ELCA membership);

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States is currently considering whether to declare two laws unconstitutional: the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California’s Proposition 8, both of which restrict the individual and family protections afforded by marriage.

WHEREAS, individuals, congregations, and pastors have requested advice and resources to assist in their mission to support same-gender couples and their families; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, that the South Central Synod of Wisconsin memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:**

- A. to invite and encourage conversations among this church’s congregations, rostered leaders, and the Conference of Bishops about how the ELCA can respond to the needs of the neighbor, in ways that would be most helpful (for example sharing of resources) for those wishing to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning individuals and couples and their families as we seek to grow into this new reality.**
- B. to invite and encourage conversations among this church’s congregations, rostered leaders, and the Conference of Bishops regarding ways that this church can advocate for equal protection under the law for same-gender couples and their families;**
- C. to invite and encourage the ELCA Church Council and the Churchwide organization to make provision for Voting Members to engage in these conversations at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, as the church continues to discern its ministry in the emerging context.**

**ADOPTED**

Resolution 2 – Memorial in Support of Legislation Prohibiting Employment Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption of resolution 2.

Eric Peterson asked for discussion from the Assembly on the resolution. The Rev. Robert Neubert, Christ, Sharon told the Assembly that the ELCA expressed support of the nondiscrimination act and this memorial is consistent with that. The memorial asks for workplace protection for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals and asks the ELCA to take active support in passing federal legislation.

SA13.05.16

Memorial in Support of Legislation Prohibiting Employment Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

**VOTED**

WHEREAS, it is currently legal in 29 states to discriminate in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation, and in 34 states on the basis of gender identity; and

WHEREAS, employees should be judged on the quality of their work and nothing more; and

WHEREAS, legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity while providing for a broad religious exemption, has been introduced in every Congress since 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 1397/S. 812) is an example of such legislation;

WHEREAS, the ELCA's Social Statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust states that "While Lutherans hold various convictions regarding lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, this church is united on many critical issues" (p. 19). This church:

- 1) "supports legislation and policies to protect civil rights and to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public services." (p. 19)
- 2) "has called upon congregations and members of this church to welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples and their families and to advocate for their legal protection." (p. 19)
- 3) "will advocate for public policies that support and protect families." (p. 24)
- 4) "will attend to the need for equal protection, equal opportunities, and equal responsibilities under the law, and just treatment for those with varied sexual orientation and gender identity. Such individuals are disproportionately and negatively affected by patterns of stigma, discrimination, and abuse."

WHEREAS, the 1997 ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed a memorial by approximately an 80% majority to endorse the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and to affirm advocacy "in support of laws barring discrimination against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation" (see CWA resolution CA97.06.29); now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED, that the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call upon Congress to take up and pass legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity while providing for religious exemptions; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, to urge the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, synodical bishops, clergy, and other church leaders to speak publicly in support of legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity while providing for religious exemptions; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to urge lay leaders to make this Assembly's position and the ELCA's position known to their Members of Congress in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate.**

**ADOPTED**

Resolution 3 – Memorial in Support of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA)  
The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption of resolution 3.

Eric Peterson asked for discussion from the Assembly on the resolution. The Rev. Nick Utphall, St. Stephens, Monona, told the assembly that Lutherans have a great tradition of supporting immigrants and this resolution is a component of comprehensive immigration reform that would help support immigrant families.

SA13.05.17  
**VOTED**

Memorial in Support of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA)

WHEREAS, under current U.S. immigration law, a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident is permitted to sponsor his or her spouse, child, or parent for permanent resident status; and

WHEREAS, U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents are not permitted to sponsor their same-gender partners for permanent resident status; and

WHEREAS, twenty-five other countries allow their citizens to sponsor their same-gender partners in the immigration process; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 36,000 bi-national, same-gender families in the U.S.; and

Whereas, 35% of male bi-national couples and 39% of female bi-national couples are raising more than 17,000 children; and

WHEREAS, due to the inability of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to sponsor their same-gender partners, they can be forced to live abroad, thus uprooting their children, disrupting their careers, and breaking ties with their families, communities, and places of worship; and

WHEREAS, current immigration law does not provide for equal justice and equal protection for gay and lesbian citizens and legal permanent residents; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA has a long-standing commitment to calling for comprehensive federal immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, a bill called the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) has been introduced in the Federal legislature to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in immigration by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and of lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and of lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, that the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, in Assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call upon President Obama and elected officials in Congress to support and to press for passage of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) or its equivalent as a component of comprehensive immigration reform; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that if a bill for comprehensive immigration reform is passed before the start of the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, and if the bill does not include UAFA or its equivalent, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin meeting in assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call for the reintroduction of UAFA in the U.S. legislature; and be it further;**

**RESOLVED, that the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, meeting in assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to commend**

**Bishop Thomas M. Aitken, Northeastern Minnesota Synod,  
Bishop James A. Arends, La Crosse Area Synod,  
Bishop David H. Brauer-Rieke, Oregon Synod,  
Bishop Bruce H. Burnside, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin,  
Bishop Jessica R. Crist, Montana Synod,  
Bishop H. Julian Gordy, Southeastern Synod,  
Bishop Richard H. Graham, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod,  
Bishop Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, Delaware-Maryland Synod,  
Bishop Mark W. Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod,  
Bishop Felipe Lozada-Montañez, Caribbean Synod,**

**Bishop Dean W. Nelson, Southwest California Synod,  
 Bishop Margaret Payne, New England Synod,  
 Bishop Robert A. Rimbo, Metropolitan New York Synod,  
 Bishop Michael Rinehart, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod,  
 Bishop Stephen S. Talmage, Grand Canyon Synod, and  
 Bishop Martin D. Wells, Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod**  
**for their courageous witness and their stand for justice in adding their names to the Faith Coalition  
 for UAFA (1); and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, meeting in assembly, memorializes the  
 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage the clergy and other leaders of congregations in  
 this church to support the Uniting American Families Act by communicating with their elected  
 representatives, encouraging them to co-sponsor and to support a just, comprehensive reform of  
 U.S. immigration law that includes the principles of UAFA.**

**ADOPTED**

Eric Peterson declared Session IV closed and adjourned the Assembly for the evening.

**Session IV**

Worship

Vice-president Eric Peterson called Session IV to order.

Keynote 2 – Being Jesus

Sara Miles talked with the Assembly about Being Made New.

Credentials Report #3

Carolyn Butts presented the third report of the Credentials Committee.

Lay Female	162
Lay Male	112
<u>Clergy</u>	<u>158</u>
<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>432</b>
Visitors	83

Ballot #2

The Rev. Anne Andert offered a prayer before Ballot 2.

The Rev. Jack Way presented the ballot for the Consultation Committee and instructed the Assembly to vote for one person. At the completion of the electronic balloting, Eric Peterson declared the ballot for the Consultation Committee closed. The results of the ballot were presented.

Consultation Committee – Clergy Female	
331 votes cast – 166 elects	
The Rev. Rebecca Ninke	126
The Rev. Heather Lampert	100
The Rev. Connie Matye	105

Eric Peterson declared no election.

The Rev. Jack Way presented the ballot for the Synod Council – Lay Female and instructed the Assembly to vote for one person. At the completion of the electronic balloting, Eric Peterson declared the ballot for the Synod Council – Lay Female closed. The results of the ballot were presented.

Synod Council – Lay Female	
327 votes cast – 164 elects	
Bev Anderson	74

Eric Peterson declared the election of Lily Zeich.

#### Where Is God Calling Us? Reflecting Together About the Future

Dr. Ken Inskeep presented four questions for the Assembly to discuss in small groups. The questions were:

What two things do you believe God is calling this Synod as a synod to be and do over the next two years in the territory of South-Central Wisconsin?

In light of God's calling, what are your three primary expectations of the next bishop of the Synod? He/she will...

What two things should the bishop expect of the pastors and lay leaders of the Synod?

Three years from now, what is the most important change the local community will see in your congregation?

#### Daring to Be Lifelong Disciples – Lay Learning Communities

The Rev. Blake Rohrer spoke about the Lay School of Ministry. Lay School began in 1992 and helps individuals to become more equipped to share their faith and be leaders in the church. The Synod reconsidered how to offer more lifelong learning that is accessible to people across the Synod and made changes in multiple locations, shorter time commitments, and a variety of learning experiences. The Rev. Gwen Sayler, Wartburg Seminary, and Christine Melland, Covenant, Stoughton, will share responsibility for the lay learning communities.

The Rev. Blake Rohrer offered a table prayer. Eric Peterson recessed Session IV for lunch.

#### **Session V**

Eric Peterson called Session V to order. He reported that the Special Assembly for the bishop election would be held on Friday, September 26 and Saturday, September 27 at Bethel Lutheran, Madison.

#### Always Being Made New #3

The Rev. Sara Yotter asked the Assembly to share with a neighbor, "As you look into the future, the next 25 years, how is God calling you to always be made new?"

#### ELCA Churchwide Report

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson spoke to the Assembly.

#### Discussion of Spending Plan

Treasurer Bruce Hutler returned the Spending Plan to the floor of the Assembly. The Spending Plan was presented on page 6.35 of the Assembly materials. Eric Peterson invited members to come forward for questions related to the Spending Plan.

MOVED Approval of the Spending Plan

Todd Iverson, Immanuel, Watertown asked about the significant increase in the ELCA Shared Staff Subsidy. Mr. Hutler explained that the ELCA was contributing more funds to the Director of Evangelical Mission and that is reflected in the expenses. There was also a questions about the differences between last year's and this year' spending plan. Mr. Hutler explained that income will increase by \$20,000, personnel expenses will increase 2.9%, lay school expense increases from \$1,000 to \$5,000, a new database has been contracted for which will cost \$2,700, and rent will increase per the contracted amount. Connie Kilmark, St. Stephen's, Monona, requested that the Synod Council establish a coherent way to determine the new bishop's salary. Eric Peterson replied that The Rev. Steve Kottke provided the Transition Team with a compensation plan for determining the bishop's salary. Ms. Kilmark stated that the bishop's compensation should be made in line with experience and not just inherited from the last bishop. Mr. Hutler replied that the finance committee is looking at a salary model that includes experience, comparables from other synods, and other relevant factors. Cara Argus, Immanuel, Watertown, informed the Assembly that the money going to Lutheran Campus Ministry is being used in wondrous ways and the use of the centers has grown. She thanked the Assembly for their support.

Ryun Bibro offered a prayer before voting on the Spending Plan.

SA13.05.18 Approve 2013-14 Spending Plan  
**VOTED** to approve the 2013-14 spending plan as presented.

**ADOPTED**

Ballot #3

Eric Peterson offered a prayer before Ballot 3.

The Rev. Emily Tveite presented the ballot for the Consultation Committee and instructed the Assembly to vote for one person. At the completion of the electronic balloting, Eric Peterson declared the ballot for the Consultation Committee - Clergy Female closed. The results of the ballot were presented.

Consultation Committee – Clergy Female

272 votes cast – 137 elects

**The Rev. Rebecca Ninke**                      **167**

The Rev. Connie Matye                      105

Eric Peterson declared the election of The Rev. Rebecca Ninke.

Eric Peterson declared the end of the balloting.

India Youth Exchange

The youth and adults who participated in the India Youth Exchange shared their remarkable experiences with the Assembly.

Resolution 10 – Resolution for Retaining a Healing Professional for Our Synod

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption of resolution 10.

Eric Peterson asked for discussion from the Assembly on the resolution. The Rev. Michael Rehak, interim ministry, stated that this resolution speaks to the discernment that was talked about at Saturday's Assembly. He stated that this Synod is known for its lack of clergy collegiality, support, and text study among its pastors. He stated that the Synod needs someone to help guide us as to who we are. The Rev. Mary Froiland, Luther Valley, Beloit, spoke about pastor collegiality and her positive experience of support and collegiality. The Rev. Karen Locken, Peace, Waunakee, stated that in 1987 there was a lot of pastoral competitiveness in the Synod but since that time the degree of collegiality and support has increased. The Rev. Rebecca Ninke, Brooklyn Lutheran, Brooklyn, stated that it seemed redundant to have this resolution as the Assist Program and other resources are available.

Resolution for Retaining a Healing Professional for Our Synod

**MOVED** WHEREAS, the Bishop's office is a pastoral office in ministry of relationships; relationships with Jesus Christ; relationships with all the members of the synod, clergy and lay; relationships with the congregations; relationships with the members of the broader world; and

WHEREAS, our synod has been wounded by the brokenness of human leaders, exposing our need for open and honest discussion to facilitate healing in our synod; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Synod Council is encouraged to consult with a care professional who will walk along side our Interim Bishop, intentionally guiding a process of understanding, healing, and hope as we move through our discernment process in preparation for electing our next Bishop.

DEFEATED

The results from the electronic voting were: Yes – 121 and No -140. The resolution is not adopted.

There were no further resolutions.

Eric Peterson recognized Elaine Kroeger and The Rev. Kirsten Fryer and thanked them for their service and work on the Synod Council.

Eric turned the Assembly over to Bishop Hougen for the installation of those elected at this assembly.

The Assembly concluded with the installation of newly elected leaders and a blessing by the Bishop. The Bishop adjourned the Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary DeYoung, Secretary  
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Protocol Documents  
2013 Synod Assembly Book  
Rules Governing Elections  
Credential Reports  
Resolutions