



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
2014 Synod Assembly**

The 2014 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was held May 3-4, 2014 at the Kalahari Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin under the theme, A GLOBAL GATHERING - MOVING TOGETHER: EXPLORING MISSION & MIGRATION.

Prelude music by Glocal musicians. Mission and Devotional Moment with reading and reflection led by Bishop Froiland

Assembly Session I

Bishop Froiland led the assembly in the Order of Service for the Opening of a Synod Assembly and called the Assembly to order.

Credentials Report #1

Carolyn Butts (St. John's, Evansville) presented the first report of the Credentials Committee. There are 309 Voting Members present.

Parliamentary Overview

Bishop Froiland informed the Assembly that David Moore was approved by the Synod Council to be the Synod attorney. Mr. Moore (St. John, Janesville) is also the Assembly parliamentarian. He provided a parliamentary overview and explained the importance of the rules used for good order at the Assembly. He stated that Robert's Rules of Order are used subject to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Synod.

Electronic Voting Introduction

Tanya DeMots, from Qwizdom, explained the use of the electronic voting devices.

Adoption of Rules of Organization and Procedure

Bishop Froiland introduced the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2014 Synod Assembly. She asked for any amendments or discussion.

SA14.05.01 Rules of Organization and Procedure Adopted

VOTED to adopt the Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Assembly.
ADOPTED

Approval of Assembly Agenda

Bishop Froiland presented the Assembly Agenda and asked for any amendments or discussion.

SA14.05.02 Assembly Agenda Approved

VOTED to approve the 2014 Assembly agenda.
ADOPTED

Ratification of Assembly Committees

Bishop Froiland brought the Assembly committees to the floor.

SA14.05.03 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. Charles Miller
Reference and Counsel Committee – The Rev. Brent Campbell
ADOPTED

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The Rev. Brent Campbell (Good Shepherd, Madison/Verona), 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 no resolutions submitted by the March 18, 2014 deadline. One resolution has been submitted since that time. Resolutions must be submitted by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Nominations

The Rev. Charles Miller (St. Peter, Fennimore) thanked the people who served with him on the Nominations Committee. He brought the slate of nominations to the Assembly.

Synod Council – Vice-President (1 position to be filled)
Robin Cherwinka (All Saints, Fitchburg)
Nancy Fulton Young (Bethel, Madison)

Synod Council – Secretary (1 position to be filled)
Mary DeYoung (Christ, Sharon)

Synod Council – Lay Female (1 position to be filled)
No Nominations

Synod Council – Lay Male (2 positions to be filled)
Rolfe Nervig (St. Stephens, Monona)
Donald Gehrke (Castle Rock, Fennimore)

Synod Council – Clergy Male (1 position to be filled)
The Rev. Robert Carlson (St. Matthew's New Life, Madison)
The Rev. Roger Elliott (St. Paul, Beloit)
The Rev. Michael Short (First English, Platteville)

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations from the floor for Synod Council Vice-President, Secretary, and Clergy Male. She stated that nominations for the lay positions would be held in the afternoon. The Rev. Matt Kruse (Redeemer, Rio) nominated the Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein (St. John's, Johnson Creek) for Synod Council Clergy Male. There were no further nominations. Bishop Froiland closed nominations for Synod Council Vice-President, Secretary, and Clergy Male. Voting members will have an opportunity to further nominate Council Lay People in the afternoon session. Elections will be held later in the day.

Mission Moment: Global Mission: Cairo, Egypt

The Rev. Kirsten Fryer talked with the Assembly about her mission work in Cairo. Bishop Froiland thanked Pastor Fryer for her mission work in Cairo.

Keynote 1 – Accompaniment

Bishop Froiland introduced The Rev. Kimber Ernos, Director of the Franklin Alliance for Rural Ministries (FARM) from the New England Synod of the ELCA, as the keynote speaker of the Synod Assembly. Sharing stories from the time he spent accompanying people who live on the borderland between Mexico and the U.S. as well as in the war-torn country of El Salvador. Pastor Ernos reminded the Assembly that our journeys together change us as they change the world because we have become companions with Christ.

Mission Moment: Refugee Resettlement Video

The Assembly viewed a refugee resettlement video produced by Anders Hansen a senior at McFarland Lutheran, McFarland.

Worship

The Assembly participated in Worship.

Mission Moment: Lutherans Against Bullying

The Rev. Cindy Crane (St. John's, Madison) and The Rev. Matt Kruse shared with the Assembly the Synod's Lutherans Against Bullying ministry.

Vicki Hanrahan (Our Savior's, Sun Prairie) made general announcements to the Assembly.

The Rev Erik Jelinek (Our Savior, Beloit) led the Assembly in a table prayer and recessed the Assembly for lunch.

Session II

Bishop Froiland called Session II to Order.

Credentials Report #2

Carolyn Butts presented the second report of the Credentials Committee. There are 350 voting members present.

Ballot #1

Ryun Bibro (Central, Edgerton) led the Assembly in prayer before the first ballot.

The Rev. Emily Tveite (St. John's, Oregon) brought the first ballot to the floor of the Assembly. She reminded the Assembly that voting would take place electronically. She informed the Assembly the first vote would be for Synod Council Vice-President and instructed the Assembly to vote for one person. A majority vote is needed for election. At the completion of the electronic balloting, Bishop Froiland declared the ballot for Synod Vice-President closed. The results of the ballot were presented.

Synod Vice-President	
293 votes cast – 147 elects	
Robin Cherwinka	187
Nancy Fulton Young	106

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Robin Cherwinka as Synod Council Vice-President.

Bishop Froiland informed the Assembly that there was only one candidate for Synod Council secretary and vote would be by acclamation.

SA14.05.04 Synod Council Secretary Acclamation Vote

VOTED to approve by unanimous acclamation the election of Mary DeYoung for Synod Council Secretary. **ADOPTED**

The Bishop declared the election of Mary DeYoung for Synod Council Secretary.

Rev. Tveite presented the ballot for Synod Council Clergy Male and instructed the Assembly to vote for one person. A majority vote is needed for election. The Assembly was informed that if there was no election, the candidate with the fewest votes would be removed from the ballot and the three remaining nominees would go forward to the Second Ballot.

The Rev. Sarah Gillespie (Christ, DeForest) moved to postpone the Clergy Male election to the Second Ballot as the Assembly did not receive The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein's biographical information. Bishop Froiland noted that the other three candidates were nominated previously and there was no biographical information submitted for Rev. Smith-Laubenstein as he was nominated from the floor

MOVED to postpone the election of Synod Council Clergy Male to the Second Ballot. **DEFEATED**

MOVED to allow each Clergy Male candidate to address the Assembly. **FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND**

At the completion of the electronic balloting, Bishop Froiland declared the ballot for Synod Council Clergy Male closed.

The results of the ballot were presented.

Synod Council – Clergy Male

318 votes cast – 160 elects

The Rev. Rob Carlson	89
The Rev. Roger Elliott	62
The Rev. Michael Short	92
The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein	79

Bishop Froiland declared no election. The Rev. Michael Short, The Rev. Rob Carlson, and The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein will appear on the Second Ballot for Synod Council Clergy Male.

Bishop Froiland declared the balloting closed.

Mission Moment: LUAD

Michael Gorley (Bethel, Madison) talked with the Assembly about the work of Lutherans United, Assisting after Disasters.

Report of the Vice-President

Jim St. Vincent (Lake Edge, Madison) assisting with the duties of Synod Vice-President, brought the report of the Office of the Vice-President to the Assembly.

Report of the Secretary

Mary DeYoung, the Synod Secretary, brought the secretary's report to the assembly. The report includes the approved constitutional, policy, financial, and roster change actions of the Synod Council since the May 2013 Synod Assembly.

Constitutional Changes

Mary DeYoung introduced the non-required constitutional changes adopted by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. The Synod Council recommended the approval of the Synod constitutional changes enbloc.

SA14.05.05 Constitutional Changes

VOTEDENBLOC 2013 Churchwide Assembly Non Required Constitutional Changes

CHAPTER 7 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

S7.23. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall ~~also~~ have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~mission settings formed with the intent of becoming recognized~~ congregations under development and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

ADOPTED

Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Bruce Hutler (Our Savior's, Sun Prairie) reported to the Assembly. 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, 2014 with \$48,300,000 in mission support, which is a decrease of \$1,500,000 or 3.1% from the previous year. Region 5, of which the South-Central Synod is part of, provides \$10.6 million for mission support. This is a decrease of \$359,000 or a 3.4% decrease from the previous year. Region 5 gives 52.6% as mission support to Churchwide. Out of the twelve synods in Region 5, the South-Central Synod is one of four synods that increased their 2013 mission support to the ELCA. In 2013 the SCSW contributed \$841,308 to mission support, which reflects an increase of \$10,792 or 1.3%.

Mr. Hutler provided a Treasurer's Report through February 2014. The total funds available in the Synod's checking, saving, and investment accounts is approximately \$300,000. Of this amount approximately \$180,000 is in restricted funds

leaving approximately \$120,000 available to fund shortfall or contingency issues. Mission support through February of \$994,000 has been received. This is a decrease of \$5,600 from last year-to-date. Mission support is \$60,000 less than what was budgeted in the Spending Plan. Expenses are \$57,000 less than budget but \$18,000 more than last year. We currently have a negative cash flow of \$26,500.

Introduction of the Spending Plan

Mr. Hutler introduced the Spending Plan for July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 and highlighted several areas. The proposed Spending Plan assumes the same level of mission support as the prior Spending Plan. Personnel expenses of \$350,000 are consistent with the prior year's Spending Plan. Programmatic and office expenses of \$165,000 are also consistent with the prior year's Spending Plan. The proposed Spending Plan is a "balanced budget." Mr. Hutler reminded the Assembly that the spending plan would be discussed on Sunday.

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Video

Bishop Froiland introduced a video telling the story of our shared ministry in the Kingdom of God in this place and at this time. The Bishop's message focused on *Being Grounded in Grace, Freed to Say "YES!"* Ministries highlighted in the video message included: *God's Work. Our Hands.* Sugar Creek, Elkhorn; *LEAD: Leadership Education & Development Day*, SCSW; and *Off the Square Club*, Lutheran Social Services and St. John's, Madison.

Introductions

Bishop Froiland introduced and thanked the Synod Staff.

The Rev. Kathy Gerking	Linda Freitag
The Rev. Erik Jelinek	Vicki Hanrahan
The Rev. Steve Kottke	Karen Kretschmann

Bishop Froiland introduced new rostered leaders to our Synod.

The Rev. Edward Anderson - Mendota Mental Health, Madison
The Rev. Joe Brosious - Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison
The Rev. Antonio Cabello - Latino Ministry, Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison
The Rev. Jeffery Davis - St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Hustisford
The Rev. Thomas Dowling - St. John's Lutheran Church, Richland Center
The Rev. Kelli Fisher - Perry Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb
The Rev. Nancy McClurg - retired clergy
The Rev. Paul Petersen - Bethel Horizons, Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison
The Rev. Holly Slater - St. Paul's Liberty Lutheran Church, Deerfield
The Rev. Garrett Struessel - Hope Lutheran Church, Milton
Ms. Lisa Huber, AiM, Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison

Bishop Froiland introduced the Synod's first call candidates.

Kirsten Curtis - Wartburg Seminary	Peg Ekedahl - Associate in Ministry
Donald Glanzer - Wartburg Seminary	Barb Kepler - Associate in Ministry
Andy Twiton - Luther Seminary	

The Bishop reported that the Synod has several interns this year and asked them to stand to be recognized. The interns are Doug Dill, Carl Sirotzki, and Ann Walsvik.

The Bishop lifted up our youth and young adult voting members. Our youngest voting member is Johannes Haakenson from Cooksville Lutheran Church, Cooksville.

Recognition of Congregational Anniversaries

Jim St. Vincent recognized congregational anniversaries.

Barneveld Lutheran, Barneveld - 100th anniversary
Bethany English Evangelical Lutheran, Wisconsin Dells - 75th anniversary

Introduction of Synod Council

Jim St. Vincent recognized Synod Council members.

Mary DeYoung - Secretary (Christ, Sharon)	The Rev. Steven Kottke - (Grace, Dodgeville)
Bruce Hutler - Treasurer (Our Savior's, Sun Prairie)	The Rev. Margo Martens - (Burke, Madison)

The Rev. Anne Andert – (Faith, Janesville)
Ryun Bibro - (Central, Edgerton)
The Rev. Karen Hofstad – (St. Paul’s, Baraboo)
Alan Hines - (St. John’s, Prairie du Sac)
The Rev. Roger Elliott – (St. Paul, Beloit)
Additional Advisory members include:
Lon Buss – Men in Mission (Burke, Madison)
Polly Carter – Women of ELCA (Good Shepherd, Madison)

Delvere Norland – (Wiota, South Wayne)
Hope Seeger – (Jefferson Prairie, Poplar Grove, IL)
Eleanor Seibert – (Five Points, Blue River)
Miriam Valley –(Our Saviors, Sun Prairie)
Lily Zeich – (Luther Valley, Beloit)

Resolutions

Bishop Froiland called on The Rev. Brent Campbell, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee. Rev. Campbell reported there were two resolutions requiring Assembly action: Resolution 1 –Minimum Wage and Our Call to Serve the Least and Resolution 2 - 2015 Compensation Guidelines. The Committee recommends adoption of both resolutions.

Nominations

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations for the Synod Council Lay Female position. The nomination of Carolyn Butts was received after the March 18, 2014 deadline so her name did not appear in the previous nomination report. The Rev. Elizabeth Lee (Immanuel, Waupun) nominated Lois Falksen (Immanuel, Waupun). The Bishop asked for further nominations. No nominations were received. The Bishop declared nominations for Synod Council Lay Female closed.

Vicki Hanrahan made general announcements to the Assembly.

Bishop Froiland recessed the Assembly to attend the breakout sessions.

Session III

Bishop Froiland called Session III to Order.

Credentials Report #3

Carolyn Butts presented the third report of the Credentials Committee. There are 353 voting members present.

Mission Moment: Malaria Video

The Assembly saw a video on malaria. Bishop Froiland informed the Assembly about the ELCA Malaria Campaign to raise fifteen million dollars by 2015. The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin has a goal to raise \$250,000 by 2015 and so far has raised \$162,000.

Ballot #2

Hope Seeger offered a prayer before Ballot 2.

The Rev. Emily Tveite informed the Assembly there were two positions for Synod Council Lay Male and two candidates nominated for the positions. Bishop Froiland informed the Assembly that the vote would be by acclamation.

SA14.05.06 Synod Council Lay Male Acclamation Vote

VOTED to approve by unanimous acclamation the election of Rolfe Nervig and Donald Gehrke for Synod Council Lay Male.

ADOPTED

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Rolfe Nervig and Donald Gehrke for Synod Council Lay Male.

Rev. Tveite presented the ballot for Synod Council Lay Female and instructed the Assembly to vote for one person. A majority vote is needed for election. The Assembly was informed that if there was no election, the candidate with the fewest votes would be removed from the ballot and the two remaining nominees would go forward to the Third Ballot At the completion of the electronic balloting, Bishop Froiland declared the ballot for Synod Council Lay Female closed. The results of the ballot were presented.

Synod Council – Lay Female
271 votes cast – 136 elects

Carolyn Butts	138
Nancy Fulton Young	86
Lois Falksen	47

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Carolyn Butts for Synod Council Lay Female.

Rev. Tveite presented the ballot for Synod Council Clergy Male and instructed the Assembly to vote for one person. A majority vote is needed for election. The Assembly was informed that if there was no election, the candidate with the fewest votes would be removed from the ballot and the two remaining nominees would go forward to the Third Ballot. At the completion of the electronic balloting, Bishop Froiland declared the ballot for Synod Council Clergy Male closed. The results of the ballot were presented.

Synod Council – Clergy Male
274 votes cast – 138 elects

The Rev. Michael Short	83
The Rev. Rob Carlson	55
The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein	136

Bishop Froiland declared no election. The Rev. Michael Short and The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein will appear on the Third Ballot for Synod Council Clergy Male.

The Bishop declared the balloting closed.

Mission Moment: WCC Video

Bishop Froiland introduced a video about the ministry of the Wisconsin Council of Churches and introduced The Rev. Scott Anderson, the Executive Director.

Recognition of Specialized Ministries

Bishop Froiland recognized individuals who are involved with specialized ministries and thanked them for their ministry.

Synod Rostered Leaders Under Specialized Call

The Rev. Suzanne Burke	Augsburg Fortress	Madison WI
The Rev. Brent Christianson	Lutheran Campus Center	Madison WI
The Rev. Rich Collier	Interim Ministry	Cross Plains WI
The Rev. Cindy Crane	Lutheran Office for Public Policy	Madison WI
The Rev. Dan Feaster	Samaritan Counseling Center	Madison WI
The Rev. John Froiland	St. Mary's Hospital	Janesville WI
The Rev. Mary Froiland	South-Central Synod of WI	Madison WI
The Rev. Kirsten Fryer	ELCA: Global Mission	Cairo, Egypt
Christine Gantz, AiM	New-Expressions.net	Madison WI
The Rev. Todd Iverson	Military Chaplaincy	Afghanistan
The Rev. Erik Jelinek	ELCA DEM South-Central Synod of WI	Madison WI
The Rev. James Koza	Skaalen Nursing Facility	Stoughton WI
Susan Lux, AiM	Oakwood Lutheran Homes	Madison WI
The Rev. John Mix	Lutheran Council Jail Ministry	Madison WI
The Rev. Martha Nack	Oakwood Lutheran Homes	Madison WI
Robert Pfenning, Diaconal	UW Hospitals & Clinics	Madison WI
The Rev. Michael Rehak	Interim Ministry	Cambridge WI
The Rev. Ulrich Rosenhagen	UW-Madison Lubar Institute for the Study of Abrahamic Religions	Madison WI
The Rev. Gwen Saylor	Wartburg Seminary	Dubuque IA
The Rev. Kenneth Schaub	Interim Ministry	As Needed
The Rev. Carolyn Schneider	ELCA: Global Mission	Hong Kong, China
The Rev. Jonathan Strandjord	ELCA-Churchwide	Chicago IL
The Rev. Mark Teslik	Columbia Correctional Institution	Portage WI
Phyllis Wiederhoeft, AiM	Association of Lutheran Development Executives	Verona WI

ELCA Rostered Leaders Serving in Full Communion Settings

The Rev. Marc Ehrets	First Presbyterian Church	Waunakee WI
Berkley Guse, AiM	Grace Episcopal Church	Madison WI
David Schipper, AiM	Windsor United Church of Christ	Windsor WI

Full Communion Leaders in ELCA Settings

Episcopal

Father Oscar Rozo Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry Whitewater WI

Presbyterian Church USA

Neddy Astudillo San Jose Beloit WI
Ramona Orton Trinity Parish of Highland Highland WI

Bishop's Report

Bishop Froiland talked with the Assembly about where and who we are as a Synod. She noted that things have changed not only in our personal lives but in the Synod as well. A year ago we were a Synod in shock and grief following Bruce Burnside's car accident and Maureen Mengelt's death. As the trial date approaches Bruce, the Mengelt family, and our church will once again be front and center in the media which will bring a lot of pain, frustration, anger, but mostly deep, deep sadness. The repercussions of April 7 are not all behind us and they never will be as we were all affected and will always be so. We are learning to move forward as we continue to pray for peace, comfort, healing, and understanding. We are learning to be part of Christ's church.

Bishop Froiland told the Assembly that these events do not define us. Instead we are defined as ELCA Lutherans. She noted that there are many rumors that the role of the church is declining and is not relevant. The Bishop does not believe this. She told the Assembly that her "road" led her off the roster for nine years when she was not a church person and did not consider herself a Christian. The "road" led her home and she fell back in love with Jesus.

The Bishop emphasized that this church is changing and holds God's vision for the world. The world needs an alternative from the one that is most prevalent today. We need a vision of love, acceptance, community and belonging. She strongly believes that as a church we hold that vision of hope, possibilities, and new beginnings. We hold the Resurrection vision. This is what it means to be Christ's church. We exist to hold that vision, to carry on, and to be that vision. We can do that better together than we can alone. She concluded that in spite of ourselves we are Christ's church and we are equipped to hold and bring forth God's vision for the world. It is good work to do.

Vicki Hanrahan made general announcements to the Assembly.

Bishop Froiland declared Session III closed and adjourned the Assembly for the evening.

Session IV

Worship and Installation of Synod Staff: The Rev. Erik Jelinek and The Rev. Steve Kottke.

The Bishop called Session IV to order.

Mission Moment: Men in Mission

Bishop Froiland introduced Lon Buss who informed the Assembly about the Men in Mission ministry.

Credentials Report #4

Carolyn Butts presented the fourth report of the Credentials Committee. There are 356 voting members present.

Ballot #3

The Rev. Karen Hofstad offered a prayer before Ballot 3.

Rev. Tveite presented the ballot for Synod Council Clergy Male and instructed the Assembly to vote for one person. A majority vote is needed for election. At the completion of the electronic balloting, Bishop Froiland declared the ballot for

Synod Council Clergy Male closed. The results of the ballot were presented.

Synod Council – Clergy Male
261 votes cast – 132 elects

The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein	159
The Rev. Michael Short	102

Bishop Froiland declared the election of The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein for Synod Council Clergy Male.

The Bishop declared the balloting closed. She thanked co-chairs The Rev. Emily Tveite and The Rev. Jack Way and the Elections Committee for their work.

Keynote 2 – Domestic Migration and Immigration

Bishop Froiland introduced The Rev. David Vasquez, campus pastor at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, as the keynote speaker of the Synod Assembly. Rev. Vasquez reminded the Assembly of the (rail)roads that have been important in local history, even in the founding of Wisconsin Dells. People have always been on the move "following the trade." Stories of Sarah and Abraham, Joseph and his brothers, Ruth and Naomi remind us of the economic drivers that are still operative in our world today. If we look at the labels in the clothing we wear or on the food we consume, we are reminded that we are dependent on the labor of others and can honor that.

Vicki Hanrahan made general announcements to the Assembly.

Bishop Froiland recessed the Assembly to attend the breakout sessions.

Session V

The Bishop called Session V to order.

Mission Moment: Military Chaplaincy

Bishop Froiland introduced The Rev. Todd Iverson (Immanuel, Watertown) who talked with the Assembly about military chaplaincy from his deployment in the Naval Reserves in Afghanistan. The Assembly gave Rev. Iverson a standing ovation for his service to our military men and women.

Vicki Hanrahan made general announcements to the Assembly.

The Rev. Kathy Gerking offered a table prayer and recessed the Assembly for lunch.

Session VI

The Bishop called Session VI to order. She thanked the Glocal Musicians for their music during the Assembly. She reported that the Assembly provided 438 hospice kits and 442 newborn kits.

Report of ELCA Churchwide Representative

Bishop Froiland introduced Jodi Slattery, from the ELCA Office of the Presiding Bishop, who brought greetings from the ELCA and thanked the Synod for our generosity to ELCA mission support as well as our global and local ministries. Ms. Slattery focused her message on one of the four key ELCA strategic statements "We are Church Together." She explored how together we can grow, evangelize, educate women, serve globally, end hunger, overcome malaria, send missionaries, and form new leaders. She showed the Assembly a message from the Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Ms. Slattery introduced the Assembly to the ELCA campaign *Always Being Made New*.

Mission Moment: Memory

Bishop Froiland introduced The Rev. Mary Kay Baum (Grace, Dodgeville) who spoke with the Assembly about the Synod's work in the area of Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and other related cognitive health challenges.

Credentials Report #5

Carolyn Butts presented the fifth and final report of the Credentials Committee. There are 356 voting members present.

Clergy	131
Lay Female	128
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>97</u>
Voting Members	356
Visitors	74

Discussion of Spending Plan

Treasurer Bruce Hutler returned the Spending Plan to the floor of the Assembly. He reiterated the following: revenue for mission support \$1,580,000 with 55% going to the ELCA (\$869,000) and 6.2% to seminaries and campus ministry. Personnel expenses are \$350,000.

Mr. Hutler asked for questions from the Assembly. He reported that a question was raised about the Synod office rent and lease situation. Mr. Hutler responded that the Synod office lease ends on November 30, 2015. The Synod Council will be seeking feedback from congregations about the future location of the Synod office. At the present time we pay \$70,000 for rent and receive \$10,000 in revenue from leasing office space. The Rev. Ron Strobel (Norway Grove, DeForest) expressed his appreciation for all the work that took place in the Synod over the last year and noted that Vicki Hanrahan and Karen Kretschmann did additional work in order to serve our Synod. Rev. Strobel asked if they were financially rewarded for going above and beyond their normal work responsibilities. Mr. Hutler responded that the Synod Council talked about the contributions of all the staff members and noted that they were recognized for their contributions. The Rev. Joan Whitrock (Bonnet Prairie, Rio) asked if we gave the office staff a raise. Mr. Hutler responded that they did receive raises.

Adoption of the Spending Plan

Jim St. Vincent offered a prayer before adoption of the spending plan.

Bishop Froiland reported to the Assembly that the Spending Plan has been recommended by the Synod Council and therefore is moved and properly brought before the body.

SA14.05.07 2014-15 Spending Plan

VOTED to approve the 2014-15 Spending Plan.

ADOPTED

India Delegation

Bishop Froiland announced that a delegation from the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church in India will be coming to our Synod is late June.

Resolutions

Bishop Froiland called on the Reference and Council Committee to present the resolutions. As there were no members of the Committee present at this session, The Rev. Kathy Gerking (Synod Staff) presented the resolutions on behalf of the Committee.

Resolution 1 –Minimum Wage and our Call to Serve the Least

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption of Resolution 1.

SA14.05.08 Minimum Wage and our Call to Serve the Least

VOTED WHEREAS, Jesus cared for and ministered to the poor and those who struggled for daily bread;

WHEREAS, our Lord commends to us that same ministry of care and advocacy, reminding us that “just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40); and

WHEREAS, the God of the Bible desires to be known as a God of justice, “a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress” (Isaiah 25:4), and this God continues calling us through prophetic voices to do justice and live rightly by supporting, protecting, and identifying with the vulnerable and marginalized; and,

WHEREAS, Martin Luther's discussion of the 10 Commandments in his Large Catechism confesses that stealing can include "taking advantage of our neighbor in any sort of dealing that results in loss to him [or her] . . . wherever business is transacted and money is exchanged for goods or labor" and that "you shall not covet" can mean "God does not wish you to deprive your neighbor of anything that is [theirs], letting [them] suffer loss while you gratify your greed;" and

WHEREAS, the 1991 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America social statement "Church in Society" says, "God works through the family, education, the economy, the state, and other structures necessary for life in the present age. God institutes governing authorities, for example, to serve the good of society. This church respects the God-given integrity and tasks of governing authorities and other worldly structures, while holding them accountable to God;" and

WHEREAS, our 1999 social statement "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All" calls for satisfying and dignified vocations and proclaims that "we call for . . . a minimum wage level that balances employees' need for sufficient income with what would be significant negative effects on overall employment;" and

WHEREAS, our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton sent a letter on April 8 to all United States Senators, stating that "in addition to the economic benefits it will bring to the entire economy, increasing the federal minimum wage affirms both the value of work and the value to society of those who engage in it. Increasing the federal minimum wage will remove barriers that make it more difficult for many to pursue education, training, and/or to attend to the needs of their families—the vast majority of whom are women and persons of color. More desperately for some, an increase will contribute to improved physical health for themselves and their families;" and

WHEREAS, congregations in our synod have seen in their communities a decrease in food and housing security even while demand for social safety net programs is increasing; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the 2014 Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin support raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 this year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Bishop Mary Froiland communicates this to the members of Congress who represent areas of our synod.

ADOPTED

Resolution 2 – 2015 Compensation Guidelines

The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption of resolution 2.

The Rev. Ron Strobel informed the Assembly that people under the age of forty give more of their income away to charity but unfortunately if isn't given to the church. He stated that the Synod needs meaningful conversation about what it means to give a living wage to our church workers .

SA14.05.09 Compensation Guidelines

VOTED BE IT RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA), meeting in Assembly, approves the 2015 Compensation Guidelines.

ADOPTED

There were no further resolutions.

Recognize Synod Council Members

Bishop Froiland recognized Ryun Bibro, Del Norland, The Rev. Roger Elliot, Hope Seeger, and Mary DeYoung and thanked them for their service and work on the Synod Council. She gave a special recognition to Jim St. Vincent for fulfilling the duties of the Office of Vice-President during this last year.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary DeYoung, Secretary
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Protocol Documents

2014 Synod Assembly Book
Rules Governing Elections
Credential Reports
Resolutions