



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
2016 Regular Meeting of the Synod Assembly**

The 2016 Regular Meeting of the Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was held April 30-May 1 2016 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin under the theme, ONE STORY: ALWAYS REFORMING.

Prelude music by Ben Johnston-Urey with musicians and vocalists from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Madison and Verona). Worship, *We Gather*, was led by The Rev. Neddy Astuidillo (Parroquia Luterana San Jose, Beloit).

Assembly Session I

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

Introduction to Social Media During Assembly

Jessica Guido informed the Assembly that she would be using social media to share the Assembly. She invited others to share their own Assembly experience on their social media accounts via Twitter, Facebook, and InstaGram.

Care for God's Creation Team

Bishop Froiland introduced the Care for God's Creation Team, which is focusing its work on climate disruption and the effects it has on food production and water quality. Team members include: Eleanor Siebert, Chair, The Rev. Cindy Crane, Jane Harrison, Kyle Kretschmann, Bob Lindmeier, The Rev. Tom Loftus, The Rev. Craig Simenson, The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein, The Rev. Nick Uthphall, and the Rev. Mae Jean Zelle. Water bearers will be carrying the water jugs throughout the Assembly to reinforce that not everyone has access to clean water and many people have to travel far to find water.

Announcements

The Bishop introduced Vicki Hanrahan, AiM, Communications and Event Manager (Our Saviors, Sun Prairie). Ms. Hanrahan made general announcements and reviewed the contents of the Assembly bag. She also thanked Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin for the bagel break and to Faith Journeys and Groth Design Group for tonight's reception.

Credentials Report #1

Helen Troutman (Bethel, Madison) presented the first report of the Credentials Committee. There are 313 Voting Members present.

Parliamentary Overview

Bishop Froiland introduced David Moore 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.

Adoption of Master Agenda as Revised

Vice-president Robin Cherwinka presented the revised master agenda as printed and distributed at registration. She noted that if there are no objections, the agenda will be adopted as printed. There were no objections so the agenda was adopted.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

Mrs. Cherwinka presented the consent agenda as recommended for approval by the Synod Council. She explained that with a consent agenda there is no discussion so if any voting member wishes to discuss an item, they may request that it be extracted from the agenda for discussion later in the schedule. Mrs. Cherwinka asked the Assembly if there were any items that anyone wished to be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed individually. No items were removed.

SA16.04.01 Adoption of Consent Agenda

VOTED to adopt the Consent Agenda items: Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Assembly, Ratification of Assembly Committees, and the 2017 Compensation Guidelines.

ADOPTED

Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Assembly

Mrs. Cherwinka highlighted several rules for the Assembly. She reminded the Assembly that any amendments or motions should be written out and submitted via email to the Synod Secretary. Members who wish to move or speak to any motion should go to one of the three microphones and wait to be called on to speak. They should state their name, congregation, and city and have either their red or green card in hand to signal whether they are in favor of or opposition to the motion.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The Rev. Rebecca Ninke (Brooklyn Lutheran, Brooklyn), 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 six resolutions submitted. Resolutions must be submitted by 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Resolutions submitted during the Assembly require the signature of three voting members.

Nominations

The Rev. Jeff Jacobs (Springdale, Mt. Horeb and West Blue Mounds, Blue Mounds) thanked the people who served with him on the Nominations Committee. He reported that nominations and biographies are found in Section 7 pages 133-136 and one biography is in the Assembly bag.

The slate of nominees is:

Synod Council – Lay Female (3 year term, 1 position to be filled)
Jessica Guido (St. John Evangelical, Reedsburg)

Synod Council – Clergy Female (3 year term, 1 position to be filled)
The Rev. Kathy Jacobson (Peace-Bethlehem Parish, Cobb-Edmund & Castle Rock, Fennimore)

Synod Council – Lay Male (3 year term, 1 position to be filled)
Matthew Helmers (West Middleton, Verona)

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations from the floor for Synod Council – Lay Female. There were no further nominations. She declared Jessica Guido elected to Synod Council – Lay Female by acclamation.

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations from the floor for Synod Council – Lay Male. There were no further nominations. She declared Matthew Helmers elected to Synod Council – Lay Male by acclamation.

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations from the floor for Synod Council – Clergy Female. There were no further nominations. She declared The Rev. Kathy Jacobson elected to Synod Council – Clergy Female by acclamation.

Keynote: Called Forward Together in Christ

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, presented her keynote address on *Called Forward Together in Christ* a process to decide the ELCA's future directions. The process will be used to create a vision for the future ELCA – as a church with solid foundations sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and making a difference in the world locally and globally. A church that we can be proud to pass on to our children. In addition the ELCA wants to discover how we can continue to faithfully serve God's mission in the years ahead and reach a shared understanding among church leaders about the ministries that are most important. They also want to assess whether the structures that were set up for this church are right for the future, and as part of this consider how we use our resources in the best possible way.

Bishop Eaton asked the Assembly to talk in small groups to discuss the following questions: What is distinctive about our identity as a Lutheran Church? What kind of church do we believe God is calling us to become? How do we become a church that more people feel a part of? How do we become an inclusive, diverse church that is inspiring and relevant in different communities? What do we expect from our church leaders and how do we identify, prepare, and support them to lead us into the future?

Bishop Froiland introduced musician Jonathan Rundman who sang us into break and back into session. The Bishop introduced Synod Vice-President Robin Cherwinka (All Saint's, Fitchburg).

Report of the Vice-President

Robin Cherwinka (All Saints, Fitchburg) brought the report of the Office of the Vice-President to the Assembly. Her report included the organizational chart of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. She also reviewed the mission and vision statement of the ELCA and the mission of the Synod "*We care for, connect and equip our congregations to be the heart and hands of Jesus.*"

Recognition of Congregational Anniversaries

Mrs. Cherwinka recognized congregational anniversaries.

First Lutheran Church, Stoughton - 125th anniversary
St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Prairie Du Sac – 125th anniversary
Cooksville Lutheran Church, Evansville – 125th anniversary
St John Lutheran Church, Avoca – 125th anniversary
United in Christ Lutheran, Morrisonville – 125th anniversary

Introduction of Synod Council

Mrs. Cherwinka recognized Synod Council members.

Mary DeYoung – Secretary (Christ, Sharon)	Jason Poole (Bethel, Madison)
Bruce Hutler – Treasurer (Our Savior's, Sun Prairie)	Sarah Schultz – (St. John's - Oregon)
The Rev. Anne Andert (Faith, Janesville)	The Rev. Michael Short (First English, Platteville)
Carolyn Butts (St. John's, Evansville)	The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein (St. John's, Johnson Creek)
Jessica Guido (St. John Evangelical, Reedsburg)	Jim St. Vincent (Lake Edge, Madison)
Alan Hines (St. John's, Prairie du Sac)	Trevor Thom – Youth (Our Savior's, Iron Ridge)
The Rev. Lisa Nelson (Faith, Columbus)	
Rolfe Nervig (St. Stephen's, Monona)	
Additional Advisory members include:	
Lon Buss – Men in Mission (Burke, Madison)	
Helen Sheahan – Women of ELCA (Good Shepherd, Madison)	

Report of the Treasurer

Bruce Hutler (Our Savior, Sun Prairie), Synod Treasurer, brought the Treasurer's Report to the floor of the Assembly. He reported that congregational Mission Support was \$1,500,000 in fiscal 2015. This was a decrease of \$8,000 (-0.53%) from fiscal year 2014 and the second smallest fiscal year amount in Synod history. SCSW Mission Support to Churchwide was \$755,329 in fiscal 2015, which is a decrease of \$89,787 (-10.6%) from fiscal year 2014. SCSW contributes 55% of Mission Support to the ELCA. The Synod contributed \$121,474 for ELCA disaster response, vision for mission, and other ELCA campaigns.

Mr. Hutler also reported that Churchwide Mission Support for fiscal 2015 was \$47.1 million, a decline of 1.1 million (-2.3%). Region 5 Mission Support was \$9.7 million in fiscal 2015, a decline of \$431,000 (-4.2%). Region 5 has the highest Mission Support percentage at 51.9% with the average of all regions at 46.63%.

As of February 2016 Mr. Hutler reported that the Synod received Mission Support of \$991,287, a decrease of \$47,616 from last year-to-date (-4.6%). Mission Support is \$62,000 less than budgeted. Expenses are \$7,700 more than budgeted, but \$88,700 less than last year. The Synod has a positive Cash Flow of approximately \$7,200.

Introduction of the Spending Plan

Mr. Hutler presented the Spending Plan for July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Income includes congregational Mission Support of \$1,475,000, which is equal to last year's budget. Mission support is distributed as follows: ELCA Churchwide support of 52%, Seminaries of 6.2%, and Lutheran Campus Ministry of 6.2%. Other projected income includes personal donations and special gifts, rent income, and interest income for a total of \$5,000. Net income available for Synod operations is \$534,596.

Expenses include:

- Other Ministry Partners Benevolence – \$14,365
- Personnel Expenses – Portico went up +10%; COLA increase of 0.00% for full-time rostered staff (step increase only; 2% for non-rostered staff; travel, mileage and meals – \$391,600
- Leadership Support – Equal to last year's budget – \$10,000
- Committees – Candidacy is equal to last year's budget, Mission Tables increased to \$12,000
- Communication – equal to last year's budget
- Programmatic & Professional Leaders Education – Reduced to \$1,500
- Office – Most items equal to last year's budget – reduced rent to \$36,000 based on lower rent for new space; increase technology to \$12,000

The proposed spending plan is a balanced budget.

ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team Members

The Bishop introduced Theo Kooistra (Evangelical Lutheran, Mount Horeb) and Maddie Lee (First, Lodi) who were selected to serve for two-year terms on the ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team.

Youth Gathering Report Video

Shannon Fleischerfresser (First, Beaver Dam) introduced the video from the 2015 youth gathering *Rise Up* in Detroit, Michigan. In July 2015 over 500 youth and adults from the Synod traveled to Detroit to join 30,000 other Lutherans for the youth gathering. During the week our Synod had the opportunity to experience the gathering together through a day of service and justice work in the Detroit community. They experienced worship led by Bishop Froiland and our new Synod Youth Band. Several youth shared their experiences with the Assembly gathering.

Worship – We Reflect on the Word

Worship, *We Reflect on the Word*, was led by musician John Rundman and The Rev. Richard Johnson (All Saints, Fitchburg).

Bishop Froiland recessed the Assembly for lunch and Breakout Sessions.

Session II

Bishop Froiland called Session II to Order.

Credentials Report #2

Helen Troutman (Bethel, Madison) presented the second report of the Credentials Committee. There are 381 Voting Members present.

Elections Committee

Bishop Froiland introduced the co-chairs of the Elections Committee, The Rev. Jack Way (Luther Valley, Beloit) and The Rev. Emily Tveite (Lutheran Campus Ministry, Madison).

Report of the Secretary

Mary DeYoung (Christ, Sharon), 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 2015 regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Mission Moments

Mission moments from ministry partners were given by The Rev. Larry Westfield and Tim Knutson, Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin; Jennifer Prinz, Portico; and The Rev. David Wangaard, Lutheran World Relief.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Mary Froiland began her report by showing the Synod Assembly DVD message sent to all congregations. She talked with the gathering about the gospel story of God's love for the world through one person, Jesus Christ. We are a church of God's story and a church of reformation and we need to make the story relevant in an ever-changing context. We can do this by focusing on the basics of God's word and Jesus's love. The mission in the Synod office is to care for, connect, and equip the congregations of the Synod.

Bishop Froiland introduced and thanked the Synod Staff for the work they do in caring for, connecting, and equipping our congregations.

The Rev. Steve Kottke, Assistant to the Bishop
The Rev. Erik Jelinek, Director for Evangelical Mission
Vicki Hanrahan, AiM, Communications and Event Manager
Rhonda Marten, Executive Administrative Assistant
Linda Freitag, Receptionist and Office Assistant

The Bishop reported on Synod action from two resolutions adopted by the 2015 Assembly. On the racism resolution the Bishop reported that the Synod office is encouraging and leading discussions about race within the synod. One discussion was held at this year's LEAD event. Many congregations have been engaging in conversations and studies about racism. In addition the Assembly evaluation includes three questions about what congregation have done to address racism, what resources might be needed, and what resources congregations have to share with others.

In response to the climate resolution the Synod developed a Care and Creation Team. A survey has been created to find out what other congregations have done to address climate concerns, what resources might be needed, and what resources congregations have to share with others.

The Bishop reported on a 2013 memorial the Synod sent to Churchwide regarding ministering to same gender couples and families. An ELCA working group was formed to encourage conversation and lift up resources for same gender couples and families. The ELCA working group recommendations included rereading the ELCA social statement on human sexuality, encouraging ongoing respectful conversation with same gender families, and providing resources for leaders and congregations. The Bishop stated that individual congregations are having ongoing conversations and discernment about same gender couples and families and it is healthy to do so. We are a church in the world and these issues impact us.

The Bishop valued that each congregation is different and as such they need to discern how they work with same gender issues. She noted that pastors and congregations will have to come to consensus about whether or not they will perform same gender marriages. The Synod office would become a clearinghouse for same gender resources. The intent is to create and encourage a culture of ministry by referral so congregations who can't provide resources to same gender couples and families will be able to refer them to other congregations who can provide the resources.

Endowment Grant Recipients

The Bishop invited The Rev. Erik Jelinek to introduce the new ministries in the Synod that are being funded by Endowment Fund Grants.

St. John, Madison	Community Ministry
First, Lodi	"Table of Joy" Food Truck
Parroquia Santa Maria, Fitchburg	Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community

Introductions

Bishop Froiland introduced and recognized the following:

First Call Candidates

Mr. Einstein Gonzalez-Leon, AiM (Synod Latino Ministry, Janesville)
Ms. Vicki Hanrahan, AiM (Synod Staff)
Ms. Francine Rask, AiM (New Heights, Black Earth)
The Rev. Carl Sirtozki (Christ Lutheran, Sharon)
The Rev. Jasmine Tesdahl (First English, Platteville, and Faith Lutheran, Cuba City)
The Rev. Ann Walsvik (Redeemer, Rio)

New Rostered Leaders to Our Synod

New Moves into Synod
The Rev. Susan Beadle (Christ Lutheran, DeForest)
The Rev. Michelle Elfers (New Hope, Blanchardville)
The Rev. James Hearne (Barneveld Lutheran, Barneveld)
The Rev. Lawrence Henning (retired)
The Rev. Judith Huseh (retired)
The Rev. Bryan Lagerstam (St. John's Lutheran, Beaver Dam)
The Rev. Jeffrey Miller (retired)
The Rev. Jeffrey Niela (Immanuel Lutheran, Waupun)
The Rev. Lynn Peterson (retired)
The Rev. Mark Williamson (Grace Lutheran, Dodgeville)
The Rev. William Zanton (retired)
The Rev. Mae Jean Zelle (Interim, Wiota Lutheran, South Wayne)

Seminarians Assigned to the Synod

Stacy Gahlman-Schroeder

Interns Serving the Synod

Dale Vlastnik (Our Saviors, Beloit)
Marlow Carrels (St. John's, Prairie du Sac)
Steven Neal (First English and Campus Ministry)
Pat Schutz (First, Beaver Dam)
Christa Fisher (Interim, Lake Edge, Madison and Dane County Jail Ministries)

ELCA Church Council Members

Hans Becklin
The Rev. Peder Johanson

Mission Moments

Mission moments were given by Dr. Phyllis Castens Wiederhoeft, Campaign of the ELCA-World Hunger; The Rev. Michael Short (UW-Platteville) and The Rev. Emily Tveite (UW-Madison), Campus Ministry; The Rev. Todd Iverson, ELCA Centurion; and The Rev. James Holmberg, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

Resolution 1 – Establishment of an Annual Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Sunday

The Rev. Rebecca Ninke brought for the Resolution 1 – Establishment of an Annual Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Sunday. The Synod Council recommended adoption of Resolution 1.

The Bishop asked for any discussion. There was no discussion and the Bishop called for the vote. Trevor Thom offered a prayer before the vote on the resolution.

SA16.04.02 Establishment of an Annual Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Sunday

VOTED

WHEREAS, the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chapter Four, STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, states that, “to participate in God’s mission, this church shall... establish, support, and recognize institutions and agencies that minister to people in spiritual and temporal needs” (C4.03.m); and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS) traces its origin to 1882, when Pastor E. J. Homme opened a home for orphaned children in Wittenberg, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, LSS currently operates over 260 programs in 115 communities throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan; and

WHEREAS, in the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, LSS offers several programs, including refugee resettlement, counseling offices, housing services, children’s long-term waiver support, adult day program for adults with disabilities, day drop-in center for individuals with mental illness (Off The Square Club in Madison), foster care, adoption and pregnancy services, runaway and homeless youth (RAYS), youth residential treatment (Beaver Dam); and

WHEREAS, the partnership between congregations of this synod and LSS, as exhibited through prayer, volunteers, in-kind donations of space and resources, and financial support, is invaluable in meeting the needs of the over 100,000 people impacted by LSS each year; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, by the South Central Synod of Wisconsin that congregations of this synod are encouraged to observe an annual Lutheran Social Services Sunday where this ministry of the church is remembered in prayer, information on the breadth and scope of services shared, and an opportunity for financial support made available.

ADOPTED

Resolution 5 – Establishment of a Synod-Wide Observance in Support of Lutheran Campus Ministries

Rev. Ninke brought forth Resolution 5 – Establishment of a Synod-Wide Observance in Support of Lutheran Campus Ministries. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

The Bishop asked for discussion on the resolution. The Rev. Katya Ouchakof (Lake Edge, Madison) spoke about the intent of the resolution to inform congregations about the amazing work of campus ministry and wanting congregations to know more about the ministry and be engaged in it.

There was no further discussion so the Bishop called for a vote. Sarah Schultz offered a prayer before the vote on Resolution 5.

SA16.04.03 Establishment of a Synod-Wide Observance in Support of Lutheran Campus Ministries

VOTED

WHEREAS, the ministries of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin include three Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) sites (UW-Madison, UW-Whitewater, UW-Platteville) within its borders; and

WHEREAS, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin welcomes and encourages participation from its members under the age of 30 at synod events; and,

WHEREAS, the LCM sites serve as places of worship and spaces of respite during anxious times for young adults exploring how to live faithfully; and,

WHEREAS, LCM sites are places of contact between the church and young adults where they may explore vocation with guidance from peers and campus ministers; and,

WHEREAS, LCM serves hundreds of young adults each week with opportunities of worship, fellowship as they share a meal, and engaging activities as they build lifelong relationships; and,

WHEREAS, the Synod Campus Ministry Oversight Team is charged with promoting LCM within the synod; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Sunday, September 25, 2016 be designated *Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday* within the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; and be it further

RESOLVED, that on *Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday*, congregations are encouraged to receive a special offering to be forwarded to the synod in support of LCM in the synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged on that day to offer special prayers, to lift up LCM during worship, to share information about LCM, and to encourage their young adults to engage in LCM wherever they attend college or university; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged to become a partner congregation with the LCM site closest to them, working with the campus minister to increase awareness of campus ministries, and to include LCM in their annual budgets.

ADOPTED

Resolution 6 – In Support of Military Personnel, Veterans, and Their Families

Rev. Ninke brought forth Resolution 6 – In Support of Military Personnel, Veterans, and Their Families. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

The Bishop asked for discussion. Bonnie Block (St. John, Madison) stated that the best way to support our troops is to bring them home. She noted that as a country we need to get our priorities in order so we are no longer involved in wars. The Rev. Jasmine Tesdahl (First English, Platteville and Faith, Cuba City) told the gathering that she was an Air Force chaplain. She stated that the ELCA is in a unique situation for caring for people in the military. The Church is open and willing to help people when other denominations are not. She stated that we need to support and care for military personnel before they go and while they are deployed. We also need to support families of military personnel while they are deployed and to support our military when they return home.

The Rev. Rich McLeer (Hope, Mineral Point) agreed with the intent of the resolution but felt the language was poorly chosen and should be rewritten. The Rev. Susan Schneider (Trinity, Madison) wondered if it was intentional not to offer care for conscientious objectors. She stated that she would like to include conscientious objectors in the resolution. The Bishop informed the gathering that a motion to postpone action on the resolution would be needed. A motion and second was made by Luanne Lunde (St. Paul, Liberty) and Bonnie Block (St. John, Madison).

MOVED To postpone voting on Resolution 6.
DEFEATED

The Bishop asked for any further discussion on the resolution. Jerry Gibbons (Christ, Sharon) told the gathering that he was a veteran of the Vietnam War and his dad was a World War II veteran. Their service to this country was the reason we could assemble here today. Another individual told the gathering that his son was being deployed and it was important for military personnel to know that their community supports them. The Rev. Rebecca Iverson (Agrace Hospice, Madison) told the gathering that when her husband, The Rev. Todd Iverson, was deployed to Afghanistan their daughter was five months old. She stated that this resolution was not about being a conscientious objector or even being pro peace. It was about supporting our military personnel and their families. She noted that she got through her husband's deployment because she had a church that surrounded her. She hoped that this church could surround the rest of our military, as there is a need for protestant mainline pastors to become chaplains.

There was no further discussion so the Bishop called for a vote. Rolfe Nervig offered a prayer before the vote on the resolution.

SA16.04.04

In Support of Military Personnel, Veterans, and Their Families

VOTED

WHEREAS, 1.3 million Americans are currently serving in the US Armed Forces and about 22 million men and woman are military veterans; and

WHEREAS, the burdens of war are spread disproportionately to military personnel who have returned home with wounded bodies, minds, and hearts; and

WHEREAS, injuries of the mind, spirit, and relationships are not as evident as physical injuries, that not all honorably discharged veterans transition well, and that veterans who have not been honorably discharged due to behavioral and disciplinary problems associated with undiagnosed and untreated Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, military sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, etc., may find themselves incarcerated, homeless, or in psychiatric crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs has estimated that 22 veterans of all generations complete suicide every day; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to ministry among those in military uniform who have faithfully and often sacrificially served this nation and their families;
THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly encourage congregations of the synod to offer gratitude and support for all military personnel, veterans, and their family and friends with tangible expressions of care and encouragement by regularly praying for those who serve, have served, and families of those who have been wounded or killed in the line of duty; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to utilize and share resources for learning and support such as the ELCA's "Care for Returning Veterans" Workshop and the "Prayer Book for the Armed Services;" and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to make special efforts through existing prison, homelessness, or mental health ministries to advocate for and seek out veterans in need; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to offer rituals of healing and reconciliation for active duty members, reservists, and members of the National Guard upon their return from deployment or special duty; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to learn about the vital ministry of military chaplains and to contribute to the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Fund for Leaders Endowment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations consider focusing one Sunday each year to especially remember those in military uniform, the veterans who have served, the wounded and their families in their recovery and in their coping, and the families of those who have lost their lives in service who live with pain and loss; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly express our gratefulness to ELCA Churchwide partners for the resources that have been developed for support, care, and encouragement of veterans and their families and encourage continued focus on these concerns.

ADOPTED

Announcements

Vicki Hanrahan made general announcements to the Assembly.

Worship – Sent are Sent to Serve

Worship, *We are Sent to Serve*, was led by musician John Rundman.

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

Banquet and Rostered Leader Anniversary Recognitions

Rostered leader anniversary recognitions include:

- 25th Anniversary of Ordination
 - The Rev. Karla Brekke
 - The Rev. Paul Markquart
 - The Rev. John Tabaka
- 50th Anniversary of Ordination
 - The Rev. Roger Eigenfeld
 - The Rev. Ronald Nybrotten
- 60th Anniversary of Ordination
 - The Rev. Durwood (Bud) Buchheim
 - The Rev. Cyril Jandrev
 - The Rev. Kenneth Tansor
- 70th Anniversary of Ordination
 - The Rev. Stanley Christensen

Session III

Worship

Worship was held with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preaching and music provided by Ben Johnston-Urey with musicians and vocalists from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Madison and Verona). Vicki Hanrahan, AiM, was installed as the Communications and Event Manager for the Synod.

Recognition of Outgoing Synod Council Members

Robin Cherwinka recognized The Rev. Anne Andert, The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein, and Jim St. Vincent and thanked them for their service and work on the Synod Council.

Installation of Newly Elected and Appointed Synod Council Members

Bishop Froiland installed newly elected and appointed Synod Council members. Jessica Guido, Matthew Helmers, and The Rev. Kathy Jacobson were newly elected. The Rev. Rick Reiten was appointed to complete the term for The Rev. Matthew Smith-Laubenstein beginning at the close of the Assembly.

Bishop Froiland recessed the Assembly for Breakout Sessions.

Session IV

John Rundman provided prelude music.

The Bishop called Session IV to order.

Credentials Report #3

Helen Troutman presented the third report of the Credentials Committee. There are 382 voting members present.

ELCA Report

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton presented a report from the ELCA. Bishop Eaton talked about her four strategic statements of emphasis: We are church; We are Lutheran; We are church together; and We are church for the sake of the world. In 2015 the offerings at ELCA congregations totaled nearly 1.8 billion. Mission support for the ELCA comes from three sources: synods 51 million, Churchwide 47 million, and congregations 1.8 billion. Sixty-two new congregations were started this year and we have accompanied eighty companion churches around the world. The ELCA supported 235 students at eight ELCA seminaries and offered six international college scholarships for promising young women. The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin provided mission support for the ELCA of 55% or \$755,329.

This year the Churchwide Assembly will be asked to consider a strategy to accompany migrant minors – Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities (AMMPARO). The goals of AMMPARO are to: uphold and guarantee basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families; address the root causes of migration in countries; work toward just and humane policies; and engage as a church body with all of its companions and affiliates. In addition there will be a Grace Gathering for those not attending the Assembly. The theme is Freed & Renewed in Christ: 500 years of God's Grace in Action.

Bishop Eaton also talked about other Churchwide initiatives: God's Work. Our Hands.; Confronting Racism: A Holy Yearning; ELCAVotes; and the Always Being Made New – The Campaign for the ELCA.

Discussion of Spending Plan

Treasurer Bruce Hutler (Our Savior, Sun Prairie) returned the Spending Plan to the floor of the Assembly. He invited questions from the Assembly. The Rev. Todd Iverson (Immanuel, Watertown) stated that Churchwide sets a percentage of mission support and asked what percentage the Synod is required to give to Churchwide. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (Chicago) noted that it is not set in stone to be a 55-45 percent. Bishop Froiland reposted that she has contacted Victoria Flood, the Director of Mission Support at the ELCA, to meet with the Synod Council about our mission support.

The Rev. Garrett Struessel (Hope, Milton) asked for clarification that the difference from last year to this year's budget is \$105,000 less. Mr. Hutler indicated that he was accurate. Rev. Struessel asked what specific ministries the Synod would not be doing since the budget was less than last year. Mr. Hutler noted that there isn't any specific ministry that we would not be doing. He explained that over the last several years our income has been less but we continue to pass on our 55% to Churchwide even when we could not afford to do so. In previous years mission support was taken from capital reserves but we can no longer afford to do that, as previous years have been deficit years. He explained that staffing expenses are flat from last year, as the 2016 compensation guidelines had a zero cost of living increase. Staff will get a step increase for an additional year of service.

Rev. Struessel stated that he would not support a cut in our budget, as he wants us to be a church that grows and expands our ministries. He would like to see the Synod move forward in faith that we will meet our expenses and challenged the Assembly and congregations to increase their giving.

The Rev. Paul Markquart (St. John's, Oregon) stated that it breaks his heart to have to have this conversation. He noted that the Synod has a long-term history about not challenging our congregations. The budgets have been so programmed and we no longer fund ministries like we used to do. Congregations also struggle with the rising cost of clergy compensation and health care. Rev. Markquart stated that reducing our budget to mission support does not encourage people to give more. He stated that we need to be growing and we can't do that by decreasing our mission support. We need to start saying mission support is important.

Mr. Hutler reminded the Assembly that they could put forth any amendments they want concerning the budget. He noted that discretionary areas of our spending are few and far between as the majority of costs in the budget are fixed. Rev. Markquart told the Assembly that he speaks in favor of the budget but it breaks his heart that we have to deal with this and hopes to have a different story next year.

Carolyn Butts (St. John's, Evansville) reported that she sits on the Synod Council and at every meeting when we receive the financial statements mission support is less than what is needed to meet our expense needs. She also doesn't want to reduce our mission support but noted that the Synod could not continue to take money from reserves. She is in favor of the spending plan as it is the practical thing to do.

The Rev. Todd Iverson (Immanuel, Watertown) asked if the Synod had a plan in place if we received more money in mission support above the budgeted amount. Mr. Hutler reported that there is no plan in place if we end the year with a surplus. The Rev. Todd Iverson and Todd Long (Bethlehem, Brodhead) made an amendment to the spending plan.

MOVED **To amend the spending plan to include that any surplus in mission support above and beyond the 52% mission support approved in the spending plan will be sent to ELCA mission support up to the 55%.**
APPROVED

There was no further discussion so the Bishop called for a vote. Jim St. Vincent (All Saints, Fitchburg) offered a prayer before voting on the adoption of the 2016-17 Spending Plan.

Adoption of the Spending Plan

SA16.05.01 2016-17 Spending Plan

VOTED **to adopt the 2016-17 Spending Plan as presented and to include that any surplus in mission support above and beyond the 52% mission support approved in the spending plan will be sent to ELCA mission support up to the 55%.**

ADOPTED

Resolution 2 – U.S. Aid to State of Israel as a Tool for Peace

Rev. Ninke brought forth Resolution 2 – U.S. Aid to State of Israel as a Tool for Peace. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

Bishop Froiland asked for discussion on this resolution. The Rev. Blake Rohrer (Midvale Community, Madison) stated this resolution seeks to give us ways to be partners in encouraging peace in the Holy Land – a just peace that creates two secure and viable states. He noted that each year at Christmas we remember the little town of Bethlehem where Jesus, the Prince of Peace, was born. Pastor Mitri Raheb, of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, hopes and prays we remember the little town of Bethlehem as it exists today as well. Rev. Rohrer told the Assembly that Bethlehem is enclosed on three sides by a concrete separation wall that reaches to 25 feet high. Members of Pastor Raheb’s congregation daily wonder if they will be able to make it to work, school, medical appointments, and church, and if they are able to make it, how long it will take. He told the story of one of the members at Bethlehem, Daoud Nasser, who lives on a farm just outside of Bethlehem, and can prove his family’s ownership of this land through deeds dating back to the time of the Ottoman Empire. However, his land is under constant threat of confiscation by Israel. He is not allowed to build any structures on the land and his orchards were recently bulldozed.

Rev. Rohrer informed the Assembly that our presiding bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, joined Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, at a summit in Atlanta, which brought together an unprecedented collection of all the main Christian churches in the U.S. and the Holy Land. The concluding document of the summit called for churches to work together to protect the existing and future presence of Christians in the Holy Land through a just peace that ends the occupation and the settlements. The Christian population has now dwindled to less than 2% because of people leaving the difficult living conditions there.

Rev. Rohrer stated that as Americans we have a unique position to effect change through our foreign aid to Israel – more than \$3 billion annually. This resolution asks that our government apply equally and fairly its foreign aid laws to Israel as it does to the rest of the world, and asks Israel to abide by international law. He related the story of a man he met when he led a group from his congregation to the Holy Land. They met Yigal, an Israeli Jew, who lost his sister at the age of 14 to a Palestinian suicide bomber and with Iasha, a Palestinian, who lost a brother as a bystander to a stray bullet from an Israeli soldier. Both men are part of a group that is seeking to end the conflict so that the legacy of the deaths of their sister and brother is not vengeance or retribution or more death, but peace. When the congregation members asked what they could do, they were asked to advocate for an end to the occupation and settlements. Yigal told them that as a Jew in Israel, this is not anti-Semitic but pro-humanity and pro-peace, as U.S. tax dollars are complicit in the ongoing cycle of conflict exacerbated by extreme views on both sides, Palestinian and Israeli.

Rev. Rohrer concluded that we have the ability to be a different voice, a voice for peace. We can: Pray for peace. Pray for Israelis. Pray for Palestinians. He noted that all of us could learn more about the situation and if possible travel there. He finished by saying that if the Assembly approves the resolution we send a word of hope and accompaniment to our Lutheran sisters and brothers in the Holy Land and take a step toward peace for all.

The Rev. Timothy Dean (McFarland, McFarland) expressed his support for the resolution but raised a concern about how this will be perceived from national and local Jewish communities. The Rev. Nick Uthall (Advent, Madison) told the Assembly that when we associate too closely with Israel it is not synonymous with Jewish practices here. He stated that this resolution is in line with Jewish communities.

There was no further discussion so the Bishop called for a vote. The Rev. Anne Andert (Faith, Janesville) offered a prayer before voting on the resolution.

SA16.05.02 U.S. Aid to State of Israel as a Tool for Peace

VOTED

WHEREAS, the continued occupation of the Palestinian Territories by the State of Israel, the ongoing building of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories, and other activities associated with this occupation and settlement deny the fundamental human rights of Palestinians, hamper efforts to create a just and lasting peace, jeopardize a two-state solution and violate international law as set forth in the United Nations Charter, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted “Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land,” a strategy that advocates for equal human dignity and rights for all people in the Holy Land, an end to Israeli settlement building and the occupation of Palestinian land, and a viable two-state solution; and

WHEREAS, Palestinian Christians, in the 2009 Statement “Kairos Palestine,” supported by leaders of thirteen churches in the Holy Land, including Catholic, Orthodox and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land called on churches of the world to “stand alongside the oppressed” and work to end “the sin of occupation imposed upon us;” and,

WHEREAS, the Foreign Assistance Act requires that a country receiving U.S. financial aid not engage in consistent violation of human rights of people under its governance and the Arms Export Control Act requires that a country receiving U.S. military arms not use weapons for oppression of another people; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin ELCA Assembly ask the bishop of this synod to urge the members of Wisconsin’s Congressional delegation who serve citizens living in our synod to make U.S. financial and military aid for the State of Israel conditional on the halting of settlement building and the halting of the expansion of existing settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and to follow the directives of the Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act, which require that a country receiving U.S. financial aid and military arms not engage in human-rights violations of another people; and be it further

RESOLVED, that South-Central Synod of Wisconsin ELCA Assembly, seeking a just peace for Israel and Palestine, encourage this synod’s congregations and members to pray for Israelis and Palestinians, to learn about the current situation in the Holy Land, to read the “Kairos Palestine” document, and to advocate the aforementioned conditions on U.S. aid to Israel to their Congressional representatives.

ADOPTED

Resolution 3 – Memorial to the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Regarding U.S. Aid to the State of Israel

Rev. Ninke brought forth Resolution 3 – Memorial to the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Regarding U.S. Aid to the State of Israel. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

Bishop Froiland asked for discussion on this resolution. There was no discussion and the Bishop called for the vote. Alan Hines offered a prayer before voting on the resolution.

SA16.05.03

Memorial to the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Regarding U.S. Aid to the State of Israel

VOTED

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin ELCA Assembly memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to ask the United States Congress to follow the directives of the *Foreign Assistance Act* and the *Arms Export Control Act*, which require that a country receiving U.S. financial aid and military arms not engage in human-rights violations of another people and to urge congressional action requiring that, to continue receiving U.S. financial and military aid, Israel must stop settlement building and the expansion of existing settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

ADOPTED

Resolution 4 – Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment

Rev. Ninke brought forth Resolution 4 – Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

Bishop Froiland asked for discussion on this resolution. The Rev. Julie Krahn (Bethlehem, Portage) spoke about what the occupation has done to the Palestinian people from her own experience. She stated that a group of Americans walked through a checkpoint and as they walked through they made the metal detectors beep. They showed their American passports and were allowed to go through. A Muslim woman with her two children made the metal detectors beep and she was forced to take off pieces of clothing until she could walk successfully through the detectors. She stated that this type of harassment and humiliation takes place all the time. She supports approval of this resolution.

Bonnie Block (St. John, Madison) told the Assembly that she saw this as a paired resolution to the ones already passed. She stated that the United Nations has vetoed many resolutions to require Israel to abide by international laws and we need to divest from companies that make money off the occupation.

Brent Odell (McFarland, McFarland) asked why this resolution singled out only these particular corporations when there are many other corporations involved in child labor and human rights concerns. He stated that divesting should be done in a socially responsible and more comprehensive way than just the corporations listed in the resolution. The Rev. Joan Wittrock (Bonnet Prairie, Rio) and Sandy Hall (McFarland, McFarland) moved to amend the resolution.

MOVED To amend the first resolved lines 31-32 to read “companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, and the second resolved line 41-44 to read “or complicit in, human rights violations, arising from the occupation, such as Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola 42 Solutions, and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit 43 from the occupation or cease operations in the illegal settlements.

Kia Conrad (Trinity, Madison) spoke in favor of the amendment, as we should take a stand that we are against all companies that violate human rights. The Rev. Blake Rohrer (Midvale Community, Madison) spoke against the amendment informing the Assembly that since the resolution has been drafted, one of the companies listed, G4S, will be leaving this area. The Rev. Susan Schneider (Trinity, Madison) spoke against the amendments as the resolution makes a clear statement about how our dollars are stewarded and that we won't invest in companies that continue to operate in these areas.

There was no further discussion so Bishop Froiland called for a vote on the amendment.

MOVED To amend the first resolved lines 31-32 to read “companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, and the second resolved line 41-44 to read “or complicit in, human rights violations, arising from the occupation, such as Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola 42 Solutions, and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit 43 from the occupation or cease operations in the illegal settlements.

DEFEATED

Jim Wiederhoeft (Good Shepherd, Madison) stated that he thought the intent of the resolution was admirable and supports the intent to put pressure on these companies to reform their policies. He noted that divesting from these companies takes away any power to change their policies. Instead he encouraged people to become active stockholders and go to the stockholder meetings in order to work toward changing the policies of the company. He is in full support if we boycott products of these companies or work toward changing their policies, but divesting in these corporations doesn't have the same impact.

There was no further discussion on this resolution so Bishop Froiland brought it for a vote. Jason Poole-Xiong offered a prayer before voting on the resolution.

SA16.05.04

Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment

VOTED

WHEREAS, the continued occupation of the Palestinian Territories by the State of Israel, the ongoing building of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories, and other activities associated with this occupation and settlement deny the fundamental human rights of Palestinians, and violate international law as set forth in the United Nations Charter, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's "Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land," strategy advocates for human rights for all people in the Holy Land and an end to Israeli settlement building and the occupation of Palestinian land; and

WHEREAS, Palestinian Christians, in "Kairos Palestine," called on churches of the world to "stand alongside the oppressed" and work to end "the sin of occupation imposed upon us;" and

WHEREAS, multiple sources, including the American Friends Service Committee's investment screening database, confirm that certain multinational corporations, including Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S have been complicit in the occupation and its associated human rights abuses; and

WHEREAS, three of the ELCA's full communion partners - the Presbyterian Church USA, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church - have each voted within the past two years to divest funds from these and other companies and banks that profit from or are complicit in human rights violations arising from the occupation; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin ELCA Assembly request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America direct the Corporate Social Responsibility Team to develop guidelines that will screen out investments in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, , and provide a report with possible recommendations to the November 2016 meeting of the ELCA Church Council, and forward the guidelines to the separately incorporated ministries, agencies, and institutions of the ELCA for implementation as appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin ELCA Assembly encourage its members and congregations to learn about their own investments and to intentionally invest in ways that are consistent with their faith and goals, including examining divestment from companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, such as Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation or cease operations in the illegal settlements

ADOPTED

Resolution 7 – Resolution Requesting Changes to On Leave From Call Policy for Rostered Leaders

Rev. Ninke brought forth Resolution 7 – Resolution Requesting Changes to On Leave From Call Policy for Rostered Leaders. The Reference and Counsel Committee did not make a recommendation on this resolution.

The Bishop asked for discussion on this resolution. The Rev. Joan Wittrock (Bonnet Prairie, Rio) told the Assembly that she authored the resolution, as sometimes it is necessary to take on leave from call status for extended periods of time. She noted that not every synod handles on leave from call in the same manner and policies that are consistent across the whole church are needed for all rostered leaders. The Rev. Paul Markquart (St. John's, Oregon) stated that as a clergy couple his wife needed an extended on leave from call status and because of this lost her rostered status.

There was no further discussion so the Bishop called for a vote. Carolyn Butts (St. Johns, Evansville) offered a prayer before voting on the resolution.

SA16.05.05 Resolution Requesting Changes to On Leave From Call Policy for Rostered Leaders

VOTED

WHEREAS, the call to ordained ministry, though expressed through congregations and other church bodies, must be understood as coming from God and may come in different forms; and

WHEREAS, those called by the Holy Spirit into the ministry of Word and Sacrament are not ordained by a specific congregation, institution, synod or other entity of the Church; but are called and ordained by the Church as a whole to serve the Church in its entirety; and

WHEREAS, life situations may call rostered leaders out of a call for longer than the current rules of On Leave From Call status allow; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, the South-Central Synod Assembly memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to propose necessary changes to the On Leave From Call status from the Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters and any other necessary documents to acknowledge the differing needs of Rostered Leaders and their families to create greater accommodation of On Leave From Call needs in the interest of supporting God's call to the ministry of the church wherever possible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod Assembly memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to direct the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit in consultation from the Conference of Bishops to develop uniform guidelines to be consistently applied across all synods relating to On Leave From Call status.

ADOPTED

Unfinished Business

Bishop Froiland recognized and blessed the 2016 Churchwide Voting Members.

Carolyn Butts

The Rev. Antonio Cabello

Robin Cherwinka

Andre Fisher

Shannon Fleischfresser

Bishop Mary Froiland
Jessica Helmers (Youth & Young Adult)
Matthew Helmers
The Rev. Steve Kottke
The Rev. Sylvia Lee-Thompson
The Rev. Stephen Marsh
Mary Nervig
The Rev. Katya Ouchakof
Jason Poole-Xiong
Lindsey Reiten
The Rev. Blake Rohrer
Sarah Schultz (Youth & Young Adult)
The Rev. Michael Short
Trevor Thom (Youth & Young Adult)
The Rev. Emily Tveite

Announcements

Bishop Froiland announced that thirty congregations participated in the Global Health Ministries. Contributions this year topped last year's generosity with 722 hospice kits, 544 newborn kits, 91 blankets, and 3,249 rolled bandages. The Synod Assembly offering was \$7,041.67 that will be divided between the Synod's Endowment Fund and the Always Made New Campaign for the ELCA emphasis, ELCA World Hunger & Poverty.

Closing of the Assembly

The Bishop closed the Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary DeYoung, Secretary
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Protocol Documents

2016 Synod Assembly Book
Credential Reports
Resolutions