



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
 2019 Regular Meeting of the Synod Assembly**

The 2019 Regular Meeting of the Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was held May 4-5, 2019 at the Madison Alliant Center, Madison, Wisconsin under the theme, BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY: STRENGTHENING OUR SOULS FOR LEADERSHIP. Bishop Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld welcomed the assembly.

Assembly Session I

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld 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 at 9:45a.m..

Announcements

The Bishop welcomed the voting members and visitors and made several general announcements. Attendees were reminded to wear their name badges at all times to help the pages know that people are seated in the appropriate area as either a voting member or a visitor. The contents of the Assembly bag were reviewed. The Bishop thanked Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin for the bagel break, Portico Benefit Services and Groth Design Group for sponsoring all the coffee breaks, and the Mission Investment Fund for sponsoring the Sunday morning break.

Social Media

After a brief video, Jason Xiong (Lake Edge, Madison) provided an orientation to the social media to be used during the assembly including the app for the assembly guidebook.

Credentials Report #1

Helen Troutman (Bethel, Madison) presented the first report of the Credentials Committee.

Lay Male	95
Lay Female	126
<u>Clergy</u>	<u>103</u>
Voting Members	324
Visitors	36

Parliamentary Overview

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld introduced David Moore (St. John, Janesville) the Synod attorney. Mr. Moore 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

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld introduced Vice-President Jane Cahill Wolfram (Christ, Deforest) who presented the master agenda as printed on blue paper and distributed at registration. VP Cahill Wolfram noted that if there were no objections, the agenda would be adopted as printed. She asked for objections to the agenda. There were none.

SA19.05.01 Adoption of Revised Master Agenda

VOTED to adopt the revised Master Agenda.

ADOPTED

Adoption of Consent Agenda

Ms. Cahill Wolfram presented the consent agenda as recommended for approval by the Synod Council. She explained that since the Synod Council recommended the agenda it is moved and properly brought before the body. The consent agenda includes approval of the Rules of Organization and Procedure, Ratification of Assembly Committees, and the 2020 Compensation Guidelines. For 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. Ms. Cahill-Wolfram 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.

SA19.05.02 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 2020 Compensation Guidelines.

ADOPTED

Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Assembly

Ms. Cahill Wolfram highlighted several rules for the Assembly. She reminded the Assembly that any amendments or motions should be written out including the name, congregation, and town/city 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. As referenced in Rule #6, as much as possible during discussion a speaker on one side of the question shall be followed by a speaker on the other side. The rules included limiting speech length to two minutes and when three people have spoken on the same side of an issue and there are no further speakers on the opposing side, the question will be called. The white card is used to call the chair's attention to a point order and may be raised from a person's seat at any time.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld called on the Rev. Rich McLeer (Hope Lutheran, Mineral Point & Mineral Point United Church of Christ), chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee. He reported that for inclusion in the assembly booklet, proposed resolutions needed to have been submitted at least 60 days before the assembly. Later resolutions must be timely and/or germane to the business before the Assembly. Deadline for such submissions is noon on Saturday.

Nominations

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld called on Alan Hines (St. John's, Prairie du Sac) from the Nominating Committee to read the positions open and the names of the nominees received for that position. The Bishop will then call for nominations from the floor. This will be the only time that nominations will be accepted from the floor. If there are more nominations than positions open, voting on those positions will occur later in the Assembly.

Report of the Nominations Committee

Mr. Alan Hines brought the names of the nominees for Synod Council and two committees to the floor of the Assembly.

Synod Council

Mr. Hines reported that there is a position open on the Synod Council – Treasurer.

Synod Council – Treasurer (4-year term)

Bruce Hutler (Our Saviors, Sun Prairie).

Mr. Hines reported there are four positions open on the Synod Council. The slate of nominees is:

Synod Council – Lay Male (3-year term, 1 position to be filled)

Eric Knueve (Bethel, Madison)

Synod Council – Lay Female (3-year term, 1 position to be filled)

Mary Nervig (St. Stephens, Monona)

Synod Council – Rostered Female (3-year term, 1 position to be filled)

The Rev. Naomi Garber (Interim, First, Platteville)

Synod Council – Youth (2-year term, 1 position to be filled)

Lauren Glos (Christ, Sharon)

Emily Sullivan (Grace, Dodgeville)

Consultation Committee (6-year term, 1 position to be filled)

Rev. Karen Hofstad (St. Paul, Baraboo)

Discipline Committee (6-year term, 4 positions to be filled)

Rolfe Nervig (St. Stephens, Monona)

Rev. David Nelsestuen (Trinity, Edgerton)

Carolyn Butts (St. John, Evansville)

Rev. Ann Walsvik (Redeemer, Rio)

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld asked for nominations from the floor for each position on Synod Council, Consultation Committee and Discipline Committee. There were no further nominations. Nominations were closed.

Report of the Treasurer

Mr. Bruce Hutler (Our Savior's, Sun Prairie), Synod Treasurer, brought the Treasurer's Report to the floor of the Assembly. He reported that congregational Mission Support for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 decreased \$71,000. And for the for the seven month fiscal period of July, 2018 to February 2019 mission support declined \$84,000. The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin gives fifty-two percent (52%) for Mission Support to the ELCA.

Region 5 Mission Support from all the synods in region 5 was \$43 million for fiscal year ending Jan 31, 2019, a decline of \$1.4 million. Region 5 is above average for Mission Support percentage at 48.4%. Currently our synod is at 52%.

As of February 2019 Mr. Hutler reported that the Synod received Mission Support of \$758,000, \$94,000 less than budgeted in the spending plan. As of this date, the Synod had a negative cash flow of approximately \$46,000.

For first two months of this fiscal year (2019-2020), mission support was \$190,000, which was \$58,000 less than budgeted. Through two months we had negative cash flow of \$15,000. Congregations are target for mission support of \$1.29 million for the current fiscal year.

Introduction of the Spending Plan

Mr. Hutler presented the Spending Plan for February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. Income includes congregational Mission Support of \$1,300,000. Even with the proposed decrease in mission support, the proposed spending plan is in a deficit position. Mr. Hutler mentioned that both the Finance Committee and the Synod Council supported the idea of bringing the spending plan to the assembly for a vote in the fall. Before a vote is taken members of the assembly may convene in person or remotely through conferences or other appropriate means to discuss the budget.

After a percentage of gifts are shared with our ministry partners and after staff expenses, the net available for programs and office in the proposed spending plan is \$103,800. Office expenses total approximately \$94,000, plus \$2,000 for committees, \$10,000 for leadership support, professional leaders education \$1,000, leaving a deficit of \$18,900. This excludes \$10,000 for CVENT. All events such as LEAD, Synod Assembly, and the Bishop's Convocation are break-even events that require registration fees to cover the cost of the event other than the cost of CVENT which is covered by the spending plan as passing this expense on to attendees could make the cost prohibitive for some congregations.

Ms. Jane Cahill-Wolfgram spoke about approving the 2020-2021 spending plan at a special synod assembly sometime this fall.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld presented her report to the Assembly. She talked about her first year serving as bishop of the synod. The Bishop highlighted several areas of ministry this year including a number of initiatives. One initiative is the STAR (Small Town and Rural) ministry. Another initiative is LatinX which seeks to develop and welcome outreach to this community and are developing a comprehensive and strategic plan to accompaniment with our siblings of Latin heritage. The Bishop also spoke of the diversity of new rostered leaders in our synod.

The Bishop spoke about strengthening our global partnerships both with our companion synod – the church of Northern India as well as our two partner ELCA synods – the Caribbean Synod and the Slovak-Zion Synod.

Report of the Vice-President

Jane Cahill Wolfgram (Christ, Deforest) brought the report of the Office of the Vice-President to the Assembly. She spoke about her first year serving as vice-president of the synod. She shared a proverb – to go fast it is best to go alone; to go far, it is best to go together. She shared the work of the synod council including the synod's work on strategic planning including four areas of focus: Equipping the saints; Building a bigger table; Generosity; and Celebrating our shared work. The next phase of the process will include the involvement of conferences, congregations and ministry groups. All to discern God's will for our lives. Ms. Cahill Wolfgram also talked of the work related to the closing of Bethel,

Poynette and the sale of that property. She also talked briefly about the possibility of a mutually beneficial stewardship program for both the synod and congregations. More information to follow.

Introduction of Synod Staff

The Bishop recognized the gifted people in the Synod office. She expressed the joy and privilege it has been to serve with the staff.

Rev. Steve Kottke, Assistant to the Bishop for leadership support
Rev. Walter Baires, Assistant to the Bishop and director for evangelical mission
Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Assistant to the Bishop for synodical life
Robyn Zimmerman, Director of operations and executive assistant to the bishop

Introduction of Conference Deans

The Bishop recognized the conference deans.

Rev. John Twiton (Evangelical, Mt Horeb), West Dane
Rev. Holy Slater (St Paul's, Deerfield), Southeast Dane
Rev. Emily Tveite, (UW Campus Ministry) Central/West Madison
Rev. Beth Schultz-Burnes (Hope, McFarland) East Madison
Rev. Robert Nuebert (Burke, Madison), Northeast Dane / North Madison
Rev. Tom Dowling (Williams Bay, Williams Bay), S Jefferson/Walworth
Rev. Jack Way (Luther Valley, Beloit), South Rock
Rev. Collette Gould (Hope, Milton), North Rock / Specialized
Rev. Jasmine Tesdahl (Faith, Cuba City), W Green/Grant/Lafayette and Iowa/Richland/Grant
Rev. Michael Lee (First, Lodi) and Rev. Karen Hofstad (St Paul's, Baraboo) Sauk/Columbia
Rev. Rob Kosky (St Paul, Waterloo), Columbia/Dodge/North Jefferson
Rev. George Carlson (retired), Retired Rostered Leaders

Introduction to youth and young adult voting members

Bishop recognized all those youth and young adult voting members at the assembly.

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld recessed the Assembly for a break.

Session II

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld called Session II to Order.

ELCA Report

Judith Roberts brought greetings from Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton. Ms. Roberts serves the ELCA as Program Director for Racial Justice Ministries. A video from Bishop Eaton was shown. Ms. Roberts then shared updates on the work and ministry of the ELCA including World Hunger, Campus Ministry, Lutheran Disaster Responses, Fund for Leaders, as well as the ELCA support for local congregations and new mission

starts. Ms. Roberts talked about International Leadership Development and a recent academy that brought together women leaders from 12 companion churches and institutions. She reminded the assembly that the 2019 Churchwide assembly will take place in Milwaukee in August.

Blessing of the Backpacks Report

Rev. Brenda Lovick (East Koshkonong, Cambridge) reported to the assembly on a hunger ministry. Blessing of the Backpacks is a ministry working to address school aged children suffering from hunger. In our synod, we have five communities working on this ministry. During the assembly, there is a food packing event. Assembly attendees are invited to assist in the packing and the goal is to pack 1,000 bags as well as to provide financial support.

Keynote: Strengthening our Souls for Leadership / Leading Transforming Churches

The keynote speaker at this years' assembly was Dr. Ruth Haley Barton is the Founder and President of the Transforming Center, in Wheaton, IL. She is a seasoned spiritual director, teacher and retreat leader. She has served on staff at a number of congregations and has written several books and resources on spiritual formation.

The Bishop adjourned the Assembly for lunch.

Session III

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld called Session III to Order.

Mission Moments

Mission moments were shared by Lutherans United Assisting after Disasters (LUAD), Mission Investment Fund (MIF) and Portico Benefits.

Communications and Synodical Life

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan reviewed synod communications and synodical life with the assembly including *What Matters* and the Speaker's Bureau. 2019 Bishop's convocation will be held October 6-8 in a new location – Grand River Center in Dubuque, IA.

Credentials Report #2

Helen Troutman presented the third report of the Credentials Committee.

Lay Male	102
Lay Female	134
<u>Clergy</u>	<u>120</u>
Voting Members	356
Visitors	47

As there were no nominations from the floor for positions on the synod council, discipline committee and consultation committee, **the Bishop declared Bruce Hutler Synod Council – Treasurer; Eric Knueve Synod Council – male lay; Mary Nervig Synod Council – female lay; Rev. Naomi Garber Synod Council – female rostered; Rev. Karen Hofstad – Consultation Committee; Rolfe Nervig, Rev. David Nelsestuen, Carolyn Butts, Rev. Ann Walsvik – Discipline Committee elected by acclamation.**

General Ballot #1

The Bishop presented general ballot #1 – Synod Council.

Synod Council - Youth (vote for 1)

Lauren Glos

Emily Sullivan

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld declared Session III closed and adjourned the Assembly for afternoon workshops.

Session IV

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld called Session IV to Order.

Resolutions

The Rev. Rich McLeer (Hope Lutheran, Mineral Point & Mineral Point United Church of Christ), chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, brought resolutions #1-#5 to the floor of the assembly.

Resolution #1

Resolved that the 2019 South-Central Wisconsin Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA Assembly memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to adopt the recommended proposed social statement Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action; and be it further

Resolved that congregations of the South-Central Wisconsin Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA be encouraged to pray, advocate, and work for justice for all who are affected by sexism and patriarchy.

SA19.05.03 Adoption of Resolution

VOTED to adopt resolution #1.

ADOPTED

Resolution #2 - Diakonia

Resolved that every congregation of the South-Central Synod be encouraged to support the South-Central Synod diakonia™ program by the following actions:

- a. Making congregational members aware of the benefits of diakonia™ through bulletin announcements, Web site links, and newsletters,
- b. Supporting members who may be seeking to learn more about their faith,
- c. Hosting South Central Synod diakonia™ graduates for temple talks and/or presentations to congregational groups,
- d. Providing financial support for members to participate in diakonia™,
- e. Encouraging congregational leaders to participate in diakonia™

Resolved All voting members of this Synod Assembly covenant together to support lay education through their prayers and actions, and This synod celebrates and continue to support and strengthen graduates in recognition of the faith that they have exhibited in and through their dedication to the study of God's Word and their willingness to serve God.

SA19.05.04 Adoption of Resolution

VOTED **to adopt resolution #2 - Diakonia.**

ADOPTED

Resolution #3 – Memorial on Carbon Free & Dividend

Resolved that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to join our efforts to continue learning about, supporting, and advocating for a national strategy of Carbon Fee & Dividend.

SA19.05.05 Adoption of Resolution

VOTED **to adopt resolution #3 – Memorial on Carbon Free & Dividend.**

ADOPTED

Resolution #4 – Faith and Society Forums for the 21st Century

Resolved that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin will hold one or more forums in each of several set regional locations of the synod over the course of the next three years (May 2019-April 2022), in order to present, listen, and dialogue on social justice issues identified by the Churchwide organization and/or of concern within our local contexts; and be it further

Resolved that said forums will cover the social situation presented through theological reflection for the sake of the Gospel in the 21st century.

SA19.05.06 Adoption of Resolution

VOTED **to adopt resolution #4 – Faith and Society Forums for the 21st century.**

ADOPTED

Resolution #5 – Supporting Refugee Children

Resolved, that the 2019 assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin condemns the separation of migrant children from their families; and be it further

Resolved, that this lament and condemnation be communicated to the congressional delegation representing the area of this synod as an expectation of better work for justice and wellbeing on behalf of vulnerable children; and be it finally

Resolved, that this assembly encourages congregations and members of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin to engage in the ELCA's AMMPARO strategy of advocacy, accompaniment, and awareness building and becoming welcoming congregations by using the resources at www.ELCA.org/ammparo.

SA19.05.07 Adoption of Resolution

VOTED **to adopt resolution #5 – Supporting Refugee Children.**

ADOPTED

Report of ballot #1

Synod Council - Youth (304 ballots cast; majority needed for election)

Lauren Glos 119

Emily Sullivan 185

The Bishop declared Emily Sullivan elected to the synod council - Youth.

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld declared Session IV closed and adjourned the Assembly for the evening banquet.

Banquet and Congregational and Rostered Leader Anniversary Recognitions

Congregational Anniversaries

125th Anniversary

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Middleton

150th Anniversary

Dekorra Lutheran Church, Poynette

175th Anniversary

Luther Valley Lutheran Church, Beloit

Jefferson Prairie Lutheran Church, Poplar Grove, IL

First Lutheran Church, Lone Rock

West Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Stoughton

East Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cambridge

Wiota Lutheran Church, South Wayne

Rostered leader anniversary recognitions include:

25th Anniversary of Ordination

The Rev. Karen L Locken

The Rev. Douglas K Locken

The Rev. Walter A Baires

The Rev. John O Swanson

The Rev. Mae Jean Zelle

The Rev. Margo M Martens

50th Anniversary of Ordination

The Rev. Charles P Larson

The Rev. Rolf F Amundsen

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld introduced and recognized the following:

New Rostered Ministers in the Synod

First Call since last synod assembly

Rev. Tim Knipfer (Bristol, Sun Prairie)

Rev. Gus Barnes (Luther Memorial, Delevan)

Deacon Elizabeth Faith (Grace, Monroe)

Deacon Magi Wehner (LaCroix Hospice, Platteville)

New Moves into Synod

Deacon Judy Bergeson, retired from Delaware Maryland Synod

Rev. Reinhold Marquart, retired from North/West Lower Michigan Synod

Rev. Colette Gould (Interim, Hope, Milton) from Southwestern Washington Synod

Rev. Peter Beeson (St John, Madison) from New Jersey Synod

Rev. Jacqueline Halverstine, retired from southwestern Minnesota Synod

Rev. Ivan Gunderman, retired from Metropolitan New York Synod

Rev. Robin Luckey (Peace, Belmont) from Northeastern Iowa Synod

Rev. Jerry Buss on-leave from call from Northwest Washington Synod

Rev. Sharon Kelly (Interim, First, Janesville) from Lower Susquehanna Synod

Rev. Carol Baumgartner (Interim, New Hope, Blanchardville) from Greater Milwaukee Synod

Rev. Tina Koenig Ray (Agrace Hospice, Fitchburg) from East-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Rev. Walter Baires (Synod staff) from Greater Milwaukee Synod

Seminarians Assigned to the Synod

Maggie Anderson Peterson, Luther Seminary

Claire Ackley, Wartburg Seminary

Interns Serving in the Synod

Maria Bonine (St. John, Evansville)

Jonathan Dolan (First, Platteville)

Elisabeth Himmelman (St. John, Prairie du Sac)

Kate Kieckhafer (Grace, Dodgeville)

Sterling Lynk (Trinity, Lake Mills)

Jason Xiong (Evangelical, Mt Horeb)

Session V

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld called Session V to Order after morning worship.

Credentials Report #3

Helen Troutman presented the third report of the Credentials Committee.

Lay Male	102
Lay Female	135
<u>Clergy</u>	<u>122</u>
Voting Members	359
Visitors	47

Recognition of Outgoing Synod Council Members

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld Jane Cahill Wolfgram recognized Caitlin Brown, Gary Engelke, Matthew Helmers, Elisabeth Himmelman, Rev. Kathy Jacobson, Rev. Lisa Nelson and Jason Xiong and thanked them for their service and work on the Synod Council.

Installation of Newly Elected Synod Council members

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld installed newly elected and appointed Synod Council members: Rev. Naomi Garber, Lauren Glos, Bruce Hutler, Eric Kneueve, and Mary Nervig.

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld recessed the Assembly for morning workshops.

Session VI

Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld called Session VI to Order.

Credentials Report #4

Helen Troutman presented the fourth report of the Credentials Committee.

Lay Male	102
Lay Female	135
<u>Clergy</u>	<u>123</u>
Voting Members	360
Visitors	48

Report of the Secretary

The Rev. Brad Pohlman (Luther Memorial, Madison), Synod Secretary, brought the secretary's report to the assembly. The report included the constitutional, policy, financial, and roster change actions of the Synod Council since the May 2018 regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

SA19.05.08 Approval of Minutes

VOTED **to approve the minutes from the May 5-6, 2018 synod assembly meeting.**

ADOPTED

Resolutions

The Rev. Rich McLeer (Hope Lutheran, Mineral Point & Mineral Point United Church of Christ), chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, brought to the floor of the assembly resolution #6 and resolution #7 with an amendment from the sponsors of resolution #7.

Resolution #6 – No way to treat a child: Protecting the human rights of Palestinian children

Resolved, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to urge this church's members, congregations, synods, agencies and presiding bishop to call on their U.S. Representatives, Senators, the U.S. President and the U.S. Department of State to: urge the State of Israel to comply with the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly in regard to Palestinian children, by guaranteeing basic due process and juvenile justice rights and by ensuring the prohibition of torture and abuse; and to fully implement and enforce the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act by monitoring Israeli military actions for human rights violations, especially in regard to Palestinian children, and by enacting into law a requirement that the Secretary of State certify that United States foreign aid does not support human rights violations, including military detention, abuse or other treatment of Palestinian children that violates international

40 human rights standards.

SA19.05.09 Adoption of Resolution

VOTED **to adopt resolution #6 – No way to treat a child: protecting the human rights of Palestinian children.**

ADOPTED

Resolution #7 – Immigration reform and refugee task team

Resolved that the 2019 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod –ELCA affirms principles for comprehensive immigration reform articulated by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services <https://www.lirs.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/LIRS-Principles-for-Comprehensive-Immigration-Reform.pdf>. Provide an earned pathway to lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship for undocumented immigrants and their families; Ensure the humane and just enforcement of U.S. immigration laws, specifically by reducing the use of immigration detention and expanding the use of community support programs for immigrants who do not need to be detained; Protect families from separation and ensure an adequate supply of visas for families seeking to reunite; Provide adequate resources and protections to ensure the successful integration of refugees, asylees, survivors of torture and trafficking, unaccompanied minors, and other vulnerable migrants; and be it further

Resolved the 2019 Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA call on all member congregations to

- 1) Provide opportunities for their members to learn about the issues and needs for comprehensive immigration reform (many resources are available at <https://www.lirs.org/refugee-sunday/>) and
- 2) Encourage their members to contact elected representatives, especially at in-person listening sessions but also through letters, phone calls, and social media, to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform based on the principles of LIRS, and

3) Encourage their members to welcome newcomers to their communities and to help them find their new home in our society. And be it further

Resolved that the south-Central synod of Wisconsin synod council will form an immigration reform and refugee task team under the leadership of synod staff, a task team chairperson, and interested task team members in order to

- 1) Make use of the guiding documents of the ELCA on immigration to develop strategies for synod ministry with immigrants and refugees, and
- 2) When appropriate, partner with LSS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to aid refugee support services in ways that provide a gracious welcome and ongoing support for refugees, and
- 3) Encourage and assist congregations to access educational and advocacy resources to help respond to the need for immigration reform and increased refugee admissions.

SA19.05.10 Adoption of Resolution

VOTED **to adopt resolution #7 – Immigration reform and refugee task team, with amendments.**

ADOPTED

Mission Moments

Mission moments were shared by the Rev. Char Rachuy-Cox from Wartburg Seminary who brought greetings from the ELCA seminaries and from Hector Colon who brought greetings from Lutheran Social Services (LSS).

Announcements

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan thanked the assembly for their generosity. \$4,059.68 was received from the Sunday offering and is designated for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. After a brief video, Deacon Hanrahan informed the assembly about the kits assembled at this assembly. They will be driven to Minneapolis after the assembly.

Blessing of Backpacks Report

The Rev. Brenda Lovick informed the assembly that a bit over 1,000 backpacks were assembled and packed by 3:30 pm yesterday. They will now be delivered to communities in our synod. Donations are still being accepted to reach a \$2,900 goal. Currently we are about halfway there.

Commissioning of all attendees

Bishop Thomas- Breitfeld led a commissioning of all those in attendance at the assembly.

Recognition

The Bishop thanked the Synod Assembly planning team, worship planning team, worship assistants, assembly committees, pages and all others who helped lead this assembly for all their work. She also thanked our sponsors for their support of the assembly. The Bishop thanked the current and outgoing synod council members as well as thanking all those in attendance.

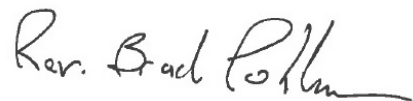
Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Closing of the Assembly

The Bishop closed the Assembly at 12:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Brad Pohlman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Rev. Brad Pohlman, Secretary

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Protocol Documents

2019 Synod Assembly Book

Credential Reports