

VOTED to receive the Report of the Bishop.

ADOPTED

Report of the Bishop Election Task Force

Vice President Jane Cahill-Wolfgram called the Rev. Tim Hansen (Our Saviors, Sun Prairie) as chair of the Bishop Election Task force to give the report of the task force. Rev. Hansen said that the task force was formed to review the process for electing a bishop in hopes that the process would include a way to get more people involved, for better ways for people in the synod to be informed, a way to go deeper and review potential candidates similar to what a congregational call committee would do, and to consider moving away from an ecclesiastical ballot to a nominating process. Rev. Hansen reminded the assembly the synod constitution give authority to the synod council to determined the process for electing a bishop. He thanked the task force, the writing group and the bishop call committee for their collective work.

Report of the Bishop Call Committee

Vice President Cahill-Wolfgram then welcomed Cindy Wuttke (Christ, Sharon) and Helen Sheahan (Good Shepherd, Madison/Verona) the co-chairs of the Bishop Call Committee. The full report of the call committee was posted to the synod website on May 15 and is included in the assembly book. The word-work of the call committee was to bring to the assembly the names of 4-6 individuals who would be well qualified to serve as synod bishop. The work was similar to that of a congregational call committee. The call committee received names from each of the 12 synod conferences; they interviewed 18 people, called references, read material, brought back 9 candidates for second interviews, and finally decided to recommend 5 individuals, though one later withdrew. We warmly recommend the four finalists for your consideration. The co-chairs thanked the Bishop Election task force, the synod council, Bishop Rogness and all the voting members of the assembly and those that participating in one of the pre-assembly gatherings.

Election Plenary I

Election of Bishop Process

Vice President Cahill-Wolfgram welcomed ELCA secretary, Deacon Sue Rothmeyer and turned the chair over to her. She addressed the assembly on the election procedure. She said that one of the most important responsibilities entrusted to a synod assembly is the election of a synod bishop. She reminded the assembly that though this is an election process, it is at the same time a call process. It involves more than our voting. It is a time of discernment on behalf of the whole synod. She hopes that we are all holding each other in prayer and that everyone in the ELCA is holding us in prayer as well.

She quoted Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book Life Together: "Bishops are those unpretentious persons who are sound and loyal in faith and life and who properly carry out their ministry to the community of faith. The authority of bishops lies in accomplishing the tasks of their service."

When considering the tasks of their service, Secretary Rothmeyer, mentioned the following: First, a bishop is a pastor. Second, a bishop is a servant. Third, a bishop reminds us of our unity in Christ and the one holy apostolic church. A bishop is accountable to the congregations of this synod, the synod as a whole, and to the ELCA. In addition, a bishop is the Executive office of the synod who oversees the work of the synod, staff, letters of call, installation and presides at all synod assemblies. Secretary Rothmeyer closed her report in prayer.

After her report, she gave an overview of the process for electing a bishop. The first ballot for bishop includes those four names that emerged in the bishop nominating process. Each will now give a five-minute introductory speech. Order of the speakers was drawn randomly. The nominees addressed the assembly: the Rev. Ramie Bakken, the Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, the Rev. Stacie Fidler, and the Rev. Naomi Garber.

Secretary Rothmeyer announced a ten-minute break.

Credentials Report #2

Helen Troutman presented the second report of the Credentials Committee.

Voting Members 346

Secretary Rothmeyer, welcomed the Rev. Jon Enslin, retired synod bishop who served 1991-2001, who led the assembly in prayer. After the prayer, the assembly was given two minutes to vote. Secretary Rothmeyer declared the first ballot for bishop closed.

Mission Moments #1 and #2

Throughout the assembly we will hear the work of various partner ministries. Lutherdale Bible Camp (Elkhorn, Wisconsin) provided an update on their ministry followed by LUAD – Lutherans United Assisting after Disaster.

Report of the First Ballot for the Bishop Election

The Rev. Tim Hansen brought forward the report of the first ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast: 337
Number of legal votes: 337
Number of invalid votes: 0
Number of votes required for election on this ballot (75%): 253

Results were:

Fidlar, Stacie	99
Bakken, Ramie	93
Mortensen-Wiebe, Joy	87
Garber, Naomi	58

Deacon Sue Rothmeyer declared there was no election. She informed the Assembly that the second ballot for bishop will take place as scheduled in the agenda, about two hours from now. The three candidates with the highest vote count will move ahead and will engage in a question and answer period in the next step of the election process.

Business Plenary II

Greetings

Bishop Rogness welcomed Rev. Andrea DeGroot Nesdahl to give her greetings to the assembly. She was the first ordained woman to serve in this synod. She graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 1977 and was called as co-pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Madison. She went on to serve as synod bishop in South Dakota and headed up the ELCA malaria campaign. She brought greetings via video. Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women will be part of the 2021 synod assembly.

Report of the ELCA

Bishop Rogness shared a video greeting from Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton. She shared signs of thriving ministry in the ELCA and the assembly viewed a prerecorded video of the varied ministries of the ELCA.

Report of the Synod Vice-President

Bishop Rogness welcomed Jane Cahill-Wolfgang to bring her the report of the Office of the Vice-President to the Assembly. She shared many of the significant transitions and issues over the past 12 months both in the synod as well as in the world around us. Most of our challenges of the past year could not have been predicted. She encouraged us all to take time to listen to see where God is leading us. As a synod we have been praying and listening together. She hopes we can continue to build a better and healthy synod. She has been refreshed by many conversations with leaders throughout the synod. She hopes that together we can address needs in society and whether the pandemic will push us to see a new normal. She brought up the synod narrative budget and encouraged all to be familiar with it. Highlights from the past year include: additional emphasis and resources in Latino ministry, congregations addressing food insecurity issues, finding new ways of worshiping because of the pandemic, as well as youth ministry strategies for rural congregations. The synod council worked hard on a difficult leadership transition. She thanked the council for their work this past year. She also thanked all those who have worked on the bishop election process. She also praised Bishop Rogness for his leadership this past year and presented him with a gift of appreciation for his time walking with us during the transition.

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan moved acceptance of the Vice President's report. Seconded by the Carolyn Butts (St. John's, Evansville).

SA20.08.04 Reception of the Vice President's Report

VOTED to receive the Report of the synod Vice President

ADOPTED

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 reminded the assembly that a webinar was held last week to present the proposed spending plan. Over 100 people attended the webinar. He reported that congregational Mission Support for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2020. The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin gave forty-seven percent (47%) for Mission Support to the ELCA in the year ended. The churchwide average is 45.5% and the Region 5 average is 47.4%.

Region 5 Mission Support from all the synods in our region was \$8.8 million for fiscal year ending Jan 31, 2020, a decline of approximately \$50,000. Churchwide mission support from all synods was \$42.6 million, a decrease of about \$400,000 from the previous year. Mission support for our synod was \$1.405 million and increase of nearly \$111,000 from the previous year. He noted that mission support from the congregations in our synod will be reported later because of a reporting delay from the ELCA. Treasurer Hutler noted that direct mission support totaled \$725,000, Hunger and Poverty \$404,000, Fund for leaders \$166,700, ELCA disaster response \$64,000. Total ELCA churchwide support totaled \$1.44 million.

For the fiscal year ending, January 31, 2020, mission support totaled \$1.405 million, \$55,000 less than budgeted; expenses were \$10,800 less than budgeted, and we finished the year with a negative cash flow of \$12,000.

For first five months of this fiscal year (2020-2021), through June 30, mission support was \$494,000, which was \$4,000 less than budgeted in the current spending plan. Through five months we had a positive cash flow of \$19,000. Synod congregations are on target for mission support of \$1.4 million for the current fiscal year.

Carolyn Butts moved to receive the report of the treasurer. The Rev. Tim Hansen seconded the motion.

SA20.08.05 Reception of the Treasurer's Report

VOTED to receive the Report of the synod Treasurer

ADOPTED

2021-2022 Spending Plan

Mr. Hutler presented the Spending Plan for February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022. Income includes congregational Mission Support of \$1,300,000. While we are on track for 1.4 million this fiscal year, there are a number of uncertainties that would suggest it would be prudent to keep the proposed \$1,300,000 number. After a percentage of gifts are shared with our ministry partners, the net available for programs, staffing and office in the proposed spending plan is \$542,800. Much of the proposed numbers are similar to the current fiscal year, though with the uncertainty around the compensation needed for a new bishop and possibly different synod staff.

Treasurer Hutler moved the 2021-2022 spending plan. It needed no second as it came from the synod council.

SA20.08.06 Adoption of 2021-2022 Spending Plan

VOTED to adopt the 2021-2022 Synod Spending Plan.

ADOPTED

Vice President Cahill-Wolgram presented the 2021 proposed synod compensation guidelines. The proposal includes the experience step increase of \$786 as well as a COLA of 1.6%. It also includes an updated housing cost chart and updates for Portico Benefit Services. Jane Cahill-Wolgram moved acceptance. No second was needed as it came from synod council.

Bruce Hutler offered a motion to increase by \$15 to each of the three recommended pulpit supply fees (\$165/\$190/\$215). Seconded by the Rev. Tim Hansen. Vote to approve the amendment to the proposed compensation guidelines passed.

The Rev. George Carlson (Covenant, Stoughton) offered a motion to instead increase the one service fee to \$175 and the other two by \$50 more (\$175/\$225/\$275). Seconded by Carolyn Butts. Vote to approve the amendment to the proposed compensation guidelines passed.

SA20.08.07 Adoption of 2021 Synod Compensation Guidelines

VOTED to adopt the 2021 Synod Compensation Guidelines with amendments.

ADOPTED

Report of the Nominations Committee

Carolyn Butts brought the names of the nominees for Synod Council and two synod committees to the floor of the Assembly.

Synod Council

Ms. Butts reported there are four positions open on the Synod Council. The slate of nominees are:

Synod Council – Lay Male (3-year term, 2 positions to be filled)

Juan Carlos Cabrera (Santa Maria, Madison)

Trevor Thom (Immanuel, Watertown)

Synod Council – Lay Female (3-year term, 1 position to be filled)
Sandra Ballestero (San Jose, Beloit)

Synod Council – Rostered Male (3-year term, 1 position to be filled)
The Rev. Andy Twiton (Trinity, Madison)

Consultation and Discipline Committees

Ms. Butts reported there are five positions for two synod committee available. The slate of nominees are:

Consultation Committee – Lay Male (6-year term, 1 position to be filled)
Ross Larson (Good Shepherd, Madison/Verona)

Consultation Committee – Rostered Female (6-year term, 1 position to be filled)
Rev. Holly Slater (St. Paul Liberty, Deerfield)

Consultation Committee – Rostered Male (6-year term, 1 position to be filled)
Rev. Matthew Pooch (St. John's, Evansville)

Discipline Committee – Rostered Male (6-year term, 2 positions to be filled)
Rev. Erik Jelinke (Central, Edgerton)
Rev. Rich McLeer (St. John's, Boscobel)

SA20.08.08 Elections

VOTED to elect the block of nominees for synod council, synod consultation committee and synod discipline committee.

ADOPTED

On behalf of the assembly and the synod council, Vice-President Cahill-Wolfgang and Treasurer Bruce Hutler thanked outgoing synod council member, Carolyn Butts, and presented her with a gift of appreciation.

Mission Moment #3

The ELCA Mission Investment Fund shared stories of their ministry.

Bishop Rogness announced a ten-minute break.

Election Plenary II

Bishop Rogness called Election Plenary 2 to order and turned the chair of the meeting over to Secretary Rothmeyer.

Secretary Rothmeyer welcomed to the podium the Rev. Sue Beadle (Christ, DeForest) a member of the Bishop Election Task Force who will be moderating the Question and Answer time with the three nominees. The Rev. Stacie Fidler, Rev. Ramie Bakken, and the Rev. Joy Mortinsen-Wiebe were invited to respond to 8 questions from the Bishop Election Task Force. Each candidate in turn is given the same 8 questions and has 15 minutes to answer. Only one candidate will be in the room at the same time and will not be able to hear the answers of the other candidates. Questions asked of each of the three candidates were:

1. What is the Bishop's role in giving shape to what the future of what our synod may look like?
2. What is the interplay between the role of the Office of Bishop and your unique gifts as an individual?
3. The ELCA is 96% white and Wisconsin is 81% white. What is the church's role in diversity and racial equity?
4. Do you see the administrative role of bishop as a task to be done or as a ministry? Why? Describe your experience as head of staff.
5. What would you expect to be the most difficult aspects of the role of Bishop? What gives you strength to face these tasks?
6. How do you determine when to take public stands on public issues?
7. How will you decide which responsibilities beyond the synod are important for you to be involved with and which ones you should not?
8. How will you maintain your core Lutheran principles while being open to new learnings and inviting others into those discussions?

After the completion of the question and answer forum, the Rev. Sue Beadle returned the chair back to Secretary Rothmeyer. Secretary Rothmeyer called for a ten-minute break.

Credentials Report #3

Helen Troutman presented the third report of the Credentials Committee.

Voting Members 347

Secretary Rothmeyer, welcomed the Rev. Anne Andert co-dean of the retired rostered ministers of the synod, who led the assembly in prayer. After the prayer, the assembly was given two minutes to vote. Secretary Rothmeyer declared the second ballot for bishop closed.

Mission Moments #4 and #5

Portico Benefit Services and the synodical Women of the ELCA shared stories their work and ministry with the assembly.

Report of the Second Ballot for the Bishop Election

The Rev. Tim Hansen brought forward the report of the first ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast: 337
Number of legal votes: 337
Number of invalid votes: 0
Number of votes required for election on this ballot (60%): 202

Results were:

Fidlar, Stacie	114
Bakken, Ramie	85
Mortensen-Wiebe, Joy	137

Secretary Sue Rothmeyer declared there was no election. She informed the Assembly that the third ballot for bishop will occur as scheduled in the agenda. The two candidates above with the most votes will appear on the third ballot. She then returned the chair to Bishop Rogness.

Business Plenary III

Mission Moment #6

The synod Reconciled In Christ team and the synod Racial Equity Team gave a presentations on their respective ministries.

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 2019 regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. It also includes proposed changes to the synod constitution as recommended by the 2019 churchwide assembly and the synod council.

The Rev. Brad Pohlman moved the approval of the 2019 assembly minutes. As it came from the synod council, it needed no second.

SA20.08.09 Approval of Minutes

VOTED to approve the minutes from the May 4-5, 2019 synod assembly meeting and the minutes from the November 2, 2019 special synod assembly.

ADOPTED

SA20.08.10 Approval of Synod Constitution Changes

VOTED to approve the changes to the Synod Constitution as recommended by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

ADOPTED

SA20.08.11 Reception of the Secretary's Report

VOTED to receive the Report of the synod Secretary

ADOPTED

Reception of Congregation

Vice President Cahill-Wolfgram informed the assembly that a new congregation was formed on August 16, 2020. Common Ground Church is located in Lodi, Wisconsin and has asked for congregational reception into the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA. This congregation was born out of the closure of First Lutheran Church in Lodi.

Jane moved the resolves on behalf of the synod council. Needs no second.

SA20.08.12 Reception of Common Ground Church.

VOTED to approve the following resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Common Ground Church shall be, and hereby is, recognized and received into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bishop of this Synod shall report the adoption of this Resolution to the Secretary of the ELCA for the purpose of adding Common Ground Church to the roster of congregations.

ADOPTED

Anniversary Recognition

Bishop Rogness recognized the congregational anniversaries as well as anniversaries of Ministers of Word & Sacrament and Ministers of Word & Service.

Congregational Anniversaries

- 50th Anniversary
 - Faith Lutheran, Columbus
- 75th Anniversary
 - Christ Lutheran, Lancaster
- 125th Anniversary
 - Peace Lutheran, Cobb
- 175th Anniversary
 - Christ Evangelical Lutheran, Sharon

Rostered leader Anniversaries – Word and Sacrament

- 10th Anniversary
 - The Rev. Brenda Lovick
 - The Rev. Holly Slater
 - The Rev. Kalen Barkholtz
 - The Rev. Thomas Dowling
 - The Rev. Peder Johanson
 - The Rev. Gloria Stubitsch
- 15th Anniversary
 - The Rev. Jennifer Johnson
 - The Rev. Jim Hearne
 - The Rev. T Brent Walsworth
 - The Rev. Connie Matye
 - The Rev. David Froemming
- 20th Anniversary
 - The Rev. Nami Garber
 - The Rev. Chad Christensen
 - The Rev. Jennifer Jelinek
 - The Rev. Suzanne Burke
 - The Rev. Anne Andert
 - The Rev. Mary Key Baum
- 25th Anniversary
 - The Rev. JoAnn Fabie
 - The Rev. Kurt Handrich
 - The Rev. Bond Haldeman
 - The Rev. Eric Bakken
 - The Rev. Timothy Dean
 - The Rev. Sarah Ehrets
- 30th Anniversary
 - The Rev. Robert Fisher
 - The Rev. Kelli Fisher
 - The Rev. Terri Jo Skildum
 - The Rev. James Melvin

The Rev. Scott Geister-Jones
 The Rev. Carol Baumgartner
 The Rev. Michael Mueller
 The Rev. Susan Beadle
 35th Anniversary
 The Rev. Sue Moline Larson
 40th Anniversary
 The Rev. Jeffrey Wild
 The Rev. Linda Schumacher
 The Rev. Loren Schumacher
 45th Anniversary
 The Rev. Jerry Olson
 The Rev. Michael Rehak
 The Rev. Daniel Odden
 The Rev. Donald Wendt
 The Rev. Jon Nelson
 The Rev. Duane Lokken
 50th Anniversary
 The Rev. Roy Poltrock
 The Rev. Charles Peterson
 The Rev. George Bauman
 The Rev. Terry Peterson
 55th Anniversary
 The Rev. John Finney
 60th Anniversary
 The Rev. David Keeseey-Berg
 The Rev. O. Rolf Olson
 The Rev. Jerome Pribbenow
 The Rev. Gilbert Splett
 The Rev. Thomas Loftus
 65th Anniversary
 The Rev. Eldor Fruehling
 70th Anniversary
 The Rev. Ralph Baumbach

Rostered leader Anniversaries – Word and Service

15th Anniversary
 Deacon Judy Bergeson
 30th Anniversary
 Deacon Phyllis Wiederhoeft
 Deacon Berkley Guse
 35th Anniversary
 Deacon Bonita Vize

Announcements

Bishop Rogness made a number of announcements. He informed the assembly that the installation of the Bishop-elect will occur on October 11, 2020 with Bishop Elizabeth Eaton presiding. Watch for further information. Offering from the assembly worship totaled about \$1,500 to be split between our two Latino ministries in the synod and our partner synod in the Caribbean. Financial gifts to offset the cost of the assembly totaled about \$1,200. Over 2,000 Global health ministry kits were prepared. Bishop Rogness thanked the staff of Good Shepherd, Madison/Verona, Lumi and Studio Gear, MIF and Groth Design Group for financial support. Finally, a word of thanks for all the leaders – prayers, worship, reports, help desk, David Moore, and mission moments. Also thanks to Sue Rothmeyer and to Vicki Hanrahan, as well as all the synod staff, for their collective work on the assembly.

Mission Moment #7

This mission moment comes from Church Mutual Insurance, which in addition to sharing their work, they helped financially underwrite some of the expenses of this assembly.

Bishop Election Plenary III

Bishop Rogness turned the chair over to Secretary Sue Rothmeyer. Secretary Rothmeyer told the assembly that the two finalists will now address the assembly for 5 minutes each. The two final candidates addressed the assembly.

Credentials Report #4

Helen Troutman presented the fourth and final report of the Credentials Committee.

Voting Members 347

Secretary Rothmeyer, welcomed the Rev. George Carlson (Covenant, Stoughton) retired pastor and former synod bishop who served 2001-2007; he led the assembly in prayer. After the prayer, the assembly was given two minutes to vote. Secretary Rothmeyer declared the third ballot for bishop closed.

Final Plenary

Mission Moment #8

The last mission moment came from our synod Diakonia educational program.

Bishop Rogness turned the chair over to Secretary Sue Rothmeyer.

Report of the Third Ballot for the Bishop Election

The Rev. Tim Hansen brought forward the report of the first ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:	331
Number of legal votes:	331
Number of invalid votes:	0
Number of votes required for election on this ballot (50%):	166

Results were:

Mortensen-Wiebe, Joy	166
Fidlar, Stacie	165

Secretary Sue Rothmeyer declared was an election. The Rev. Joy Mortinsen-Wiebe has been elected as synod bishop. Secretary Rothmeyer closed by offering words of support to the Bishop elect.

Closing Remarks by Bishop Rogness

Bishop Rogness offered words of support for the Bishop elect and mentioned that once he too had been elected by one vote.

Remarks by the Bishop-Elect

Bishop elect Mortensen-Wiebe thanked the assembly for their support and looks forward to working with the synod as Bishop. She also thanked Bishop Rogness for his leadership over the past year.

Closing of the Assembly

Bishop Rogness closed the Assembly at 3:17pm with the Order for Closing of an Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Brad Pohlman, Secretary
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Protocol Documents
2020 Synod Assembly Book
Credential Reports