



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
2017 Regular Meeting of the Synod Assembly

The 2017 Regular Meeting of the Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was held April 29-30, 2017 at the Madison Marriott West, Middleton, Wisconsin under the theme, NOW WHAT? THE NEXT 500 YEARS.

Bishop Mary Froiland offered a morning prayer.

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 (St. John Evangelical, Reedsburg) 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, InstaGram, and Snapchat. Ms. Guido asked the Assembly to participate in the selfie booth with a goal of getting 500 selfies.

Steeple to Steeple

Jon Nelson rode into the Assembly to promote the second annual Steeple to Steeple Ride for Hunger on June 24, 2017. Last year over forty people rode and raised over \$2,000. The goal is to get every congregation to participate either through riding or sponsoring a rider.

Announcements

The Bishop introduced Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Synod Communications and Event Manager (Our Savior's, 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, Portico Benefit Services and Groth Design Group for sponsoring the afternoon coffee break, and Mission Investment Fund for the appetizer reception before tonight's dinner.

Credentials Report #1

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

Clergy	98
Lay Female	122
Lay Male	<u>91</u>
Voting Members	311
Visitors	44

Parliamentary Overview

Bishop Froiland 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

Vice-president Robin Cherwinka (All Saints, Fitchburg) presented the master agenda as printed and distributed at registration. She noted that if there were no objections, the agenda would be adopted as printed. She asked for objections to the agenda. The Rev. Tim Hanson (Our Savior's, Sun Prairie) noted that the Spending Plan was scheduled at the end of the 11:00 a.m. session and asked if it could be moved to the beginning of the session. Ms. Cherwinka noted that it could be moved but cautioned that if a second ballot was needed it would occur before the Spending Plan.

SA17.04.01 Adoption of Revised Master Agenda

VOTED to adopt the revised Master Agenda with the time change for the Spending Plan discussion and adoption.

ADOPTED

Adoption of Consent Agenda

Mrs. Cherwinka 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. 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. 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.

SA17.04.02 Adoption of Consent Agenda

VOTED to adopt the Consent Agenda items: Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Assembly, Ratification of Assembly Committees, the 2018 Compensation Guidelines, and the Constitutional Amendments.

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. 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 changing the 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.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The Rev. Rich McLeer (Hope Lutheran, Mineral Point), acting chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, brought the initial report of the Reference and Counsel Committee to the floor and stated that there were eight resolutions submitted. Resolution 5 revised, Resolution 7, and Resolution 8 were handed out at registration. He reported that the resolution deadline has passed and any further resolutions must be timely and germane to the business before the Assembly. Instructions for presenting a resolution at Assembly can be found in rule 21 on page 115 of the Assembly book.

Nominations

The Rev. Jeff Jacobs (Springdale, Mt. Horeb and West Blue Mounds, Blue Mound) thanked the people who served with him on the Nominations Committee. He reported that nominations and biographies are found in Nominations pages 139-144 and two biographies in the registration packet.

The slate of nominees is:

Synod Council – Youth Male or Female (1 position to be filled)

Caitlin Brown (First English, Platteville)

Natalie Shema (Our Savior's, Sun Prairie)

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

Carolyn Butts (St. John's, Evansville)

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

Rolfe Nervig (St. Stephens, Monona)

Jason Poole-Xiong (Bethel, Madison)

Trevor Thom (Our Savior's, Iron Ridge)

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

The Rev. Andy Twiton (Orfordville Lutheran, Orfordville)

The Rev. Brent Walsworth (United in Christ, Morrisonville)

The Rev. Chris Enstad (Good Shepherd, Madison)

Consultation Committee – (1 lay female (term ending 2021) and 3 lay males to be filled)

No nominations at this time

Discipline Committee – (1 clergy female and 1 lay male)

No nominations at this time

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations from the floor for Synod Council – youth male or female. There is one position with two nominations. There were no further nominations. Nominations were closed.

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations from the floor for Synod Council – Lay Female. There is one position with one nomination. There were no further nominations. **The Bishop declared Carolyn Butts elected by acclamation.**

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations from the floor for Synod Council – Lay Male. There are two positions and three nominations. There were no further nominations. Nominations were closed.

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations from the floor for Synod Council – Clergy Male. There is one position with three nominations. There were no further nominations. Nominations were closed.

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations from the floor for the Consultation Committee. There are four positions, three lay male and one lay female. Steve Timm (All Saints, Fitchburg), Dick Larson (Our Savior's, Beloit), and Gary Dahlgaard (Our Savior's, Sun Prairie) were nominated for the lay males. Jane Cahill Wolfgram (Christ, DeForest) was nominated for the lay female. **The Bishop declared Steve Timm, Dick Larson, Gary Dahlgaard, and Jane Cahill Wolfgram elected by acclamation.**

Bishop Froiland asked for nominations from the floor for the Discipline Committee. There is one position for clergy female and one position for clergy male. The Rev. Mae Jean Zelle (Christ, Spring Green) and The Rev. Katie Baardseth (Midvale Community, Madison) were nominated for clergy female. There were no nominations for clergy male. Nominations were closed.

Report of the Treasurer

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 was \$1,523,000 in fiscal 2016. This was an increase of \$23,000 (1.53%) from fiscal year 2015. SCSW Mission Support to Churchwide was \$843,000 in fiscal 2016, which is an increase of \$88,000 from fiscal year 2015. The Synod also contributed \$299,000 to ELCA World Hunger. Our total support to the ELCA totaled \$1,388,000.

Mr. Hutler also reported that Churchwide Mission Support for fiscal 2016 was \$45.2 million, a decline of 1.9 million. Region 5 Mission Support was \$9.7 million in fiscal 2016, a decline of \$18,000. Region 5 is above average for Mission Support percentage at fifty-two percent (52%).

As of February 2017 Mr. Hutler reported that the Synod received Mission Support of \$906,000, a decrease of \$85,000 from last year-to-date (-9.4%). Mission Support is \$77,000 less than budgeted. Expenses are \$1,000 less than budgeted. The Synod has a negative Cash Flow of approximately \$30,000.

Introduction of the Spending Plan

Mr. Hutler presented the Spending Plan for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. 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 \$10,000. Net income available for Synod operations is \$535,000.

Expenses include:

- Other Ministry Partners Benevolence – \$14,000
- Personnel Expenses – COLA increase of 0.02% plus step increase, and Portico increase for full-time rostered staff; 2% for non-rostered staff plus Portico increase; travel, mileage and meals – \$405,000
- Leadership Support – Equal to last year's budget – \$10,000
- Committees – \$12,000
- Professional Leaders Education & Programmatic – \$1,500
- Office – \$94,000

The proposed spending plan is a balanced budget.

Bishop Froiland recessed the Assembly for attending the hearings for the resolutions.

Session II

Bishop Froiland called Session II to Order.

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.*” The vision statement for the Synod is “*We **Care** for the people of this church to grow together in the love of Christ; We **Connect** the people of this church so that they might be the church together in the world; We **Equip** the people of this church to live out the gospel for the sake of the world.*”

Introduction of Synod Council

Mrs. Cherwinka recognized Synod Council members.

The Rev. Mary Froiland – Bishop, (Central, Edgerton)
Mary DeYoung – Secretary (Christ, Sharon)
Bruce Hutler – Treasurer (Our Savior’s, Sun Prairie)
Alan Hines – Executive Committee (St. John’s, Prairie du Sac)
Carolyn Butts – Executive Committee (St. John’s, Evansville)
Jessica Guido (St. John Evangelical, Reedsburg)
Matthew Helmers (West Middleton, Verona)
The Rev. Kathy Jacobson (Peace, Cobb, Bethlehem, Edmund, and Castle Rock, Fennimore)
The Rev. Theodore Lindquist (West Middleton, Verona)
The Rev. Lisa Nelson (Faith, Columbus)
Rolfe Nervig (St. Stephen’s, Monona)
Jason Poole-Xiong (Bethel, Madison)
The Rev. Rick Reiten (Bristol, Sun Prairie)
Sarah Schultz – (St. John’s, Oregon)
The Rev. Michael Short (First English, Platteville)
Trevor Thom – Youth (Our Savior’s, Iron Ridge)
Additional Advisory members include:
Lon Buss – Men in Mission (Burke, Madison)
Helen Sheahan – Women of ELCA (Good Shepherd, Madison)

Bishop’s Report

Bishop Froiland presented her report to the Assembly. She noted that the Synod is the bridge between congregations and the larger church. Once a year all the congregations of the Synod are under one roof to share in our partnership for the church beyond. Through this experience we get a deeper understanding of what we do together. The Synod is grateful for the partnerships we share with our congregations and Churchwide. This year we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the protestant reformation. We look back to how things got started and where we are going. We are grounded in Jesus and the gospel. We are formed by our past and now we dream into our future. Last year we were called forward for Christ and one of the priorities emerging is the need to raise up leaders for this church. As part of that priority, theological education has been getting a lot of attention. Many of our seminaries are entering into new partnerships with each other or with other educational institutions. All are redesigning curriculum to address the reality that the “traditional” seminary student is no longer the norm. In addition, congregations are being asked to be intentional about lifting up the call to ministry among their people.

Introductions

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
Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Communications and Event Manager
Rhonda Marten, Executive Administrative Assistant
Linda Freitag, Receptionist and Office Assistant

Bishop Froiland introduced and recognized the following:

First Call Candidates

The Rev. Peter Clark (Christ, DeForest)
The Rev. Stacy Gahlman-Schroeder (Norway Grove, DeForest)
Deacon Judith Nolde (Triangle Community Ministry)

The Rev. Christa Fisher (Chaplain, Dane County Jail)
New Rostered Leaders to Our Synod
New Moves into Synod
The Rev. Roger Black (Interim, Hope, Milton)
The Rev. Martha Butzier (Interim, Immanuel, Lake Geneva)
The Rev. Christoper Enstad (Good Shepherd, Madison)
The Rev. Bruce Falksen (County Line, Markesan)
The Rev. Jennifer Kuhnert (Adams, Argyle)
The Rev. Charles Larson (retired)
The Rev. Gaylor Nelson (Interim, St. Michaels, Hustisford)
The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe (Interim St. Paul's, Mayville)
The Rev. Paul Svigen (Interim, Bethel, Madison)
The Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld (Interim, St. Paul, Beloit)
The Rev. Kristi Ursin (St. Peter, Fennimore)
The Rev. Amy Waelchli (Trinity English, Fort Atkinson)
The Rev. John Worzala-Dumke (Luther Memorial, Madison)

Seminarians Assigned to the Synod
Dale Vlastnik

Interns Serving the Synod
Halcyon Bjornstad, (St. John's, Prairie du Sac)
Tim Knipfer (First, Beaver Dam)

ELCA Church Council Members
Hans Becklin (LSTC)
The Rev. Peder Johanson (Bethlehem, Brodhead)
Bishop Mary Froiland

Report of the Director of Evangelical Mission

The Rev. Erik Jelinek, Director of Evangelical Mission, (Grace, Cambridge) shared highlights this year including the launching of a new Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC) Comunidad de Todos los Santos. This Spanish-speaking ministry is a joint ELCA-Episcopal ministry in Watertown and is served by Father Oscar Rozo. In the fall we launched CONNECT, a two-year renewal process designed to help congregations grow spiritually, discern their assets, and find ways to use their assets to share the gospel message in their community. The first cohort has completed their first year, and this fall the second cohort will start.

Moving Deeper in Mission Together is the theme of three workshops held throughout the year. In the fall the workshop is focused on worship and Richard Bruxford-Colligan was the main presenter. In the winter the focus is on stewardship, and this summer we will be focusing on the Nuts and Bolts of Congregational Leadership. These events are designed to highlight many of the ministries in our Synod and ways we can partner together.

Campaign for the ELCA – Update

In 2014 the ELCA began a five-year fundraising campaign to raise 198 million dollars. The Synod goal is to raise five million dollars. The two previous campaigns were for malaria and world hunger. This year's campaign is global ministries. Lily Zeich (Lutherdale) shared her experience as an ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission to a Zulu community in South Africa. Bishop Froiland introduced the Synod's \$1 a day Million Dollar Mission Jar Challenge. If twenty people in each of the Synod's congregations contributed \$1 a day for a year the Synod will raise one million dollars.

Synod Communicator Report

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan reported to the Assembly that this year is the seventh anniversary of the weekly e-news What Matters. Congregations are also encouraged to republish the articles in their own newsletters. The Synod believes that these communications are vital to our shared work together and this year the Heart and Hands Award was developed to recognize congregations that have gone the extra mile to help their congregational members to stay connected to Synod led and congregational led events and ministry opportunities. The recipients of this year's Heart and Hands Award are West Middleton Lutheran, Middleton and All Saints, Fitchburg. The Synod also host's a Speaker's Bureau that makes available people in our Synod who are topic experts and are willing to come to your congregation to lead adult forums, retreats, confirmation classes, and more.

Bishop Froiland recessed the Assembly for lunch.

Session III

Bishop Froiland called Session III to Order.

Keynote: Shift: Three Big Moves for the Church

The Rev. Mark Tidsworth's keynote addressed the shifts the church needs to make from member to disciple identity and from being attractional churches to missional churches. He presented *Three Big Moves for the 21st Century Church*: Member Identity to Disciple Identity, Attractional Church to Missional Church, and Consumer Culture to Sacred Partnering. Rev. Tidsworth began by defining the today's context that includes: the pace of change is exponentially faster now, loyalty to organizations is declining, distrust for organizations is on the rise, low tolerance for meaningless activities, political change, global economy, leadership competencies and models are shifting, the "place" of clergy and congregations in society is growing peripheral, raised spiritual sensitivity, and the strong desire to make a meaningful difference.

In addition he noted that America's religious landscape is changing. The dilemma we are facing is we are leading Modern Period Institutions in a Postmodern World. What this means for us is the cultural assumptions our churches are built upon are no longer in play. We continue on working our former church model, applying more effort, will heighten frustration. He presented the Assembly with three challenging questions: What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to be a gathered community of Christ followers? and What does it mean to be a gathered community of Christ followers who join God on mission in the world?

Rev. Tidsworth concluded his remarks by noting that this is a challenging road and we are navigating uncharted waters, so we will need our faith. He shared his faith statements with the Assembly. God provides what we need to do what God calls us to do. There is enough time to do what God calls us to do. We have the capacity to do what God calls us to do. "There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear." God knows how to lead God's people through transitions.

The Bishop recessed the Assembly to attend the workshops.

Session IV

Bishop Froiland called Session IV to Order.

Credentials Report #2

Helen Troutman (Bethel, Madison) presented the second report of the Credentials Committee. There are 339 Voting Members present.

Clergy	113 (Female-45; Male-68)
Lay Female	129
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>97</u>
Voting Members	339
Visitors	44

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). There are two elections.

Rev. Way and Rev. Tveite brought the first ballot to the floor of the Assembly. The first ballot includes the following elections:

Synod Council – Youth Male or Female (Vote for 1)

Caitlin Brown
Natalie Shema

Synod Council – Clergy Male (Vote for 1)

The Rev. Andy Twiton
The Rev. Brent Walsworth
The Rev. Chris Enstad

The Bishop reported that Rolfe Nervig withdrew his nomination for Synod Council – Lay Male. **The Bishop declared Jason Poole-Xiong and Trevor Thom elected by acclamation.**

The Bishop reported that The Rev. Mae Jean Zelle withdrew her nomination for the Discipline Committee – Clergy

Female. **The Bishop declared The Rev. Katie Baardseth elected by acclamation.**

The Bishop instructed the Assembly to vote for one person for Synod Council – Youth Male or Female and one-person for Synod Council – Clergy Male. Sarah Schultz offered a prayer before the ballot. The Bishop declared the voting closed.

Mission Moment

Mission moments from ministry partners were given by Jennifer Prinz, Portico and Paula Kitt, Mission Investment Fund. The SCSW 500th Anniversary Team updated the Assembly about the 500th Reformation Commemoration. The Rev. Rick Reiten (Bristol, Sun Prairie) reminded the Assembly to share their resources for the reformation commemoration. Jason Poole-Xiong (Bethel, Madison) updated the Assembly about the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Resolutions

Resolution 1 –Establishment of a Synodical Observance in Support of the Madison Area Jail Ministry and Its Jail Chaplaincy

The Rev. Rich McLeer brought forth Resolution 1 – Establishment of a Synodical Observance in Support of the Madison Area Jail Ministry and Its Jail Chaplaincy. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

WHEREAS, the Madison Area Jail Ministry (MAJM) celebrates fifty years of serving the spiritual needs of incarcerated persons in the Dane County Jail, Madison, WI, along with family, friends, and jail staff; and

WHEREAS, we seek as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, South Central Synod of Wisconsin to live *God's work. Our hands*, and to answer Christ's command to visit those in prison (Matthew 25); and

WHEREAS, MAJM is responsible for numerous volunteer-staffed programs serving more than 800 incarcerated individuals through worship, prayer services, bible studies, support groups and providing resources such as clothing, bibles, devotional materials, reading glasses, and journals; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council designate a Sunday in October 2017 as Madison Area Jail Ministry Sunday within the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations are invited to prayerfully consider a special offering for support of the jail ministry and include it in their annual budgets; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in 2017, congregations be encouraged to invite Madison Area Jail chaplains to preach, teach, and provide articles for church publications that share stories of lives touched by Christ's love and care in the jail ministry; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged to select a congregational liaison to develop a deeper relationship between congregations and Madison Area Jail Ministry.

The Bishop asked for any discussion. Dave Carlson (Hope, McFarland) proposed the following amendments to the resolution in Resolved sections one, two, and four.

MOVED RESOLVED, that the Synod Council designate a Sunday in October 2017 as ~~Madison Area~~ a local Jail Ministry Sunday within the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations are invited to prayerfully consider a special offering for support of ~~the a local~~ jail ministry and include it in their annual budgets; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged to select a congregational liaison to develop a deeper relationship between congregations and Madison Area Jail Ministry- with the goal of establishing additional Jail Ministries in communities throughout the SCSW Synod.

Mr. Carlson spoke in favor of his amendments as he expressed that all jail ministries in the Synod should be included. The Rev. Barry Hoertz, (Vermont Lutheran, Vermont) spoke against the amendment changes as he didn't know if there were any other jail ministries in the Synod and these might be confused with prison ministries. There was no further discussion so the Bishop called for a vote on the amendments.

VOTED **RESOLVED, that the Synod Council designate a Sunday in October 2017 as ~~Madison Area~~ a local Jail Ministry Sunday within the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA; and be it further**

RESOLVED, that congregations are invited to prayerfully consider a special offering for support of ~~the~~ a local jail ministry and include it in their annual budgets; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged to select a congregational liaison to develop a deeper relationship between congregations and Madison Area Jail Ministry, with the goal of establishing additional Jail Ministries in communities throughout the SCSW Synod.

ADOPTED

There was no further discussion on the main motion and the amendments. The Bishop called for the vote. Lon Buss offered a prayer before the vote on the resolution.

SA17.04.03 Establishment of a Synodical Observance in Support of the Madison Area Jail Ministry and Its Jail Chaplaincy

VOTED WHEREAS, the Madison Area Jail Ministry (MAJM) celebrates fifty years of serving the spiritual needs of incarcerated persons in the Dane County Jail, Madison, WI, along with family, friends, and jail staff; and

WHEREAS, we seek as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, South Central Synod of Wisconsin to live *God's work. Our hands*, and to answer Christ's command to visit those in prison (Matthew 25); and

WHEREAS, MAJM is responsible for numerous volunteer-staffed programs serving more than 800 incarcerated individuals through worship, prayer services, bible studies, support groups and providing resources such as clothing, bibles, devotional materials, reading glasses, and journals; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council designate a Sunday in October 2017 as a local Jail Ministry Sunday within the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations are invited to prayerfully consider a special offering for support of a local jail ministry and include it in their annual budgets; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in 2017, congregations be encouraged to invite Madison Area Jail chaplains to preach, teach, and provide articles for church publications that share stories of lives touched by Christ's love and care in the jail ministry; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged to select a congregational liaison to develop a deeper relationship between congregations and Madison Area Jail Ministry with the goal of establishing additional Jail Ministries in communities throughout the SCSW Synod.

ADOPTED

Resolution 3 – Becoming a Reconciling in Christ Synod

Rev. McLeer brought forth Resolution 3 – Becoming a Reconciling in Christ Synod. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

WHEREAS, Jesus reiterated the command to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Mark 12:31); and

WHEREAS, the need for care and support for the vulnerable LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) population was dramatically illustrated last year in the killing of 49 people at the Pulse Orlando Nightclub, while statistics from the FBI show that LGBTQ people are the most likely targets of hate crimes, as well as targets of numerous subtle aggressions and smaller oppressions; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* affirmed relationships and structures that will “promote, value, and respect the human dignity of each individual; protect all from physical, emotional, and spiritual harm; demonstrate mercy, compassion, and justice for all, especially the ‘least of these’—those who are most vulnerable in relationships and in society;” and

WHEREAS, this is the tenth anniversary of this synod adopting *An Affirmation of Welcome and Inclusion of all People* at its 2007 assembly that stated “The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA) welcomes all people without regard to race, family, or economic status, gender, disability, age, or sexual orientation and invites and encourages all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its expressions, in accordance with all ELCA policies, procedures, and publications;” and

WHEREAS, while a Reconciling in Christ synod cannot speak for individuals and congregations, nevertheless this designation serves as a public proclamation and welcoming witness to the Lutheran community and society at large; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that this synod officially become a Reconciling in Christ synod by adopting this updated affirmation of welcome:

“Following Jesus, who commanded his followers, ‘Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another,’ and believing that all persons are created in the image of God, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA) strives to be fully inclusive for all. This synod welcomes people of every race, background, age, political affiliation, economic and social status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and mental and physical ability, while striving to enable all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its expressions;” and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this synod attend to this affirmation by pursuing practices that welcome and include people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions.

The Bishop asked for discussion. Ericka Short (Trinity, Madison) spoke in favor of the resolution speaking from a disabled person’s point of view. She stated that full inclusion of all people and all people of differing abilities should be approved.

Sarah Schultz (St. John, Oregon) proposed to amend the resolution by adding a third resolve.

MOVED RESOLVED that this assembly calls the Synod office to make two commitments: to act as a resource for congregations in order to continue conversations about welcoming and inclusion; and to accompany congregations who wish to pursue the Reconciling In Christ process for themselves.

Ms. Schultz stated that the Synod office acts as a reconciling in Christ synod but would like to see this in writing. The Rev. Nick Utphall (Advent, Madison) spoke in favor of the amendment. He noted that the amendment would not change the practices of the Synod as they already are a reconciling in Christ staff but this is encouragement for our congregations.

VOTED RESOLVED that this assembly calls the Synod office to make two commitments: to act as a resource for congregations in order to continue conversations about welcoming and inclusion; and to accompany congregations who wish to pursue the Reconciling In Christ process for themselves.

ADOPTED

The Bishop asked for further discussion. Sarah Schultz moved to amend the second WHEREAS to include + after LGBTQ.

MOVED WHEREAS, the need for care and support for the vulnerable LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) population was dramatically illustrated last year in the killing of 49 people at the Pulse Orlando Nightclub, while statistics from the FBI show that LGBTQ+ people are the most likely targets of hate crimes, as well as targets of numerous subtle aggressions and smaller oppressions; and

Ms. Schultz stated that it is not practical to include every group so the addition of the + after LGBTQ would cover other groups. The Bishop called for a vote on the amendment as there was no further discussion.

VOTED WHEREAS, the need for care and support for the vulnerable LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) population was dramatically illustrated last year in the killing of 49 people at the Pulse Orlando Nightclub, while statistics from the FBI show that LGBTQ+ people are the most likely targets of hate crimes, as well as targets of numerous subtle aggressions and smaller oppressions; and

ADOPTED

There was no further discussion so the Bishop called for a vote on the main motion as amended in the resolve and whereas sections.

SA17.04.04

Becoming a Reconciling in Christ Synod

VOTED

WHEREAS, Jesus reiterated the command to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Mark 12:31); and

WHEREAS, the need for care and support for the vulnerable LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) population was dramatically illustrated last year in the killing of 49 people at the Pulse Orlando Nightclub, while statistics from the FBI show that LGBTQ+ people are the most likely targets of hate crimes, as well as targets of numerous subtle aggressions and smaller oppressions; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* affirmed relationships and structures that will “promote, value, and respect the human dignity of each individual; protect all from physical, emotional, and spiritual harm; demonstrate mercy, compassion, and justice for all, especially the ‘least of these’—those who are most vulnerable in relationships and in society;” and

WHEREAS, this is the tenth anniversary of this synod adopting *An Affirmation of Welcome and Inclusion of all People* at its 2007 assembly that stated “The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA) welcomes all people without regard to race, family, or economic status, gender, disability, age, or sexual orientation and invites and encourages all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its expressions, in accordance with all ELCA policies, procedures, and publications;” and

WHEREAS, while a Reconciling in Christ synod cannot speak for individuals and congregations, nevertheless this designation serves as a public proclamation and welcoming witness to the Lutheran community and society at large; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that this synod officially become a Reconciling in Christ synod by adopting this updated affirmation of welcome:

“Following Jesus, who commanded his followers, ‘Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another,’ and believing that all persons are created in the image of God, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA) strives to be fully inclusive for all. This synod welcomes people of every race, background, age, political affiliation, economic and social status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and mental and physical ability, while striving to enable all people to participate fully in the life and work of the church and its expressions;” and be it

RESOLVED, that this synod attend to this affirmation by pursuing practices that welcome and include people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions; and be it finally

RESOLVED that this assembly calls the Synod office to make two commitments: to act as a resource for congregations in order to continue conversations about welcoming and inclusion; and to accompany congregations who wish to pursue the Reconciling In Christ process for themselves.

ADOPTED

Resolution 2 – 500 Years and Still Reforming – Individually, Ecumenically, Culturally

Rev. McLeer Brought Forth Resolution 2 – 500 Years and Still Reforming – Individually, Ecumenically, Culturally. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

WHEREAS, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther spurred the Reformation by posting 95 theses, declaring in the first, “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said ‘Repent’ (Matthew 4:16), he called for the entire life of believers to be of repentance;” and

WHEREAS, Luther continues to spur us to ongoing reformation, constantly turning all aspects of our lives back toward God; and

WHEREAS, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has encouraged us to celebrate this 500th anniversary year by utilizing Luther’s *Small Catechism*; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly approved the *Declaration on the Way* explaining agreements between Lutherans and Catholics, inviting us to explore ways to collaborate with Catholic congregations; and
WHEREAS, Bishop Mary Froiland encourages this synod to embrace its identity as a reforming church, not just as

a historical memory, but as ambassadors of reconciliation, renewal, and hope for our 21st century culture and context; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA's first social statement *The Church in Society* in 1991 proclaimed that "As a reconciling and healing presence, this church is called to... pioneer new ways of addressing emerging social problems and... resolutions to the world's divisions;" and

WHEREAS, subsequent ELCA social statements have sought to discern faithful responses to difficult emerging ethical issues including *Abortion* (1991), *Caring for Creation* (1993), *Criminal Justice* (2013), *Human Sexuality* (2009), and *Race, Ethnicity, and Culture* (1993); THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that this assembly encourage ongoing individual reformation by reading, teaching, and preaching Luther's *Small Catechism*, as well as the *Declaration on the Way*; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this assembly encourage ongoing reformation in the ecumenical relationships of our congregations, including exploring shared worship services with Roman Catholic congregations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this assembly encourage our ongoing role as a reconciling and healing presence for addressing social problems and the world's divisions amid ongoing changes in culture.

The Bishop asked for discussion on the resolution. The Rev. George Carlson, Retired (Covenant, Stoughton) asked for clarification on the first resolve as the current wording would require the Assembly members to do the reading, teaching, and preaching. The Rev. Mae Jean Zelle (Christ, Spring Green) offered an amendment to the first resolve.

MOVED RESOLVED, that this assembly encourage members to engage in ongoing individual reformation by reading, teaching, and preaching Luther's *Small Catechism*, as well as the *Declaration on the Way*; and be it further

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

VOTED RESOLVED, that this assembly encourage members to engage in ongoing individual reformation by reading, teaching, and preaching Luther's *Small Catechism*, as well as the *Declaration on the Way*; and be it further
ADOPTED

There was no further discussion on the main motion. The Bishop called for a vote. Carolyn Butts offered a prayer before the vote on Resolution 2.

SA17.04.05 500 Years and Still Reforming – Individually, Ecumenically, Culturally

VOTED

WHEREAS, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther spurred the Reformation by posting 95 theses, declaring in the first, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said 'Repent' (Matthew 4:16), he called for the entire life of believers to be of repentance;" and

WHEREAS, Luther continues to spur us to ongoing reformation, constantly turning all aspects of our lives back toward God; and

WHEREAS, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has encouraged us to celebrate this 500th anniversary year by utilizing Luther's *Small Catechism*; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly approved the *Declaration on the Way* explaining agreements between Lutherans and Catholics, inviting us to explore ways to collaborate with Catholic congregations; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Mary Froiland encourages this synod to embrace its identity as a reforming church, not just as a historical memory, but as ambassadors of reconciliation, renewal, and hope for our 21st century culture and context; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA's first social statement *The Church in Society* in 1991 proclaimed that "As a reconciling and healing presence, this church is called to... pioneer new ways of addressing emerging social problems and... resolutions to the world's divisions;" and

WHEREAS, subsequent ELCA social statements have sought to discern faithful responses to difficult

emerging ethical issues including *Abortion* (1991), *Caring for Creation* (1993), *Criminal Justice* (2013), *Human Sexuality* (2009), and *Race, Ethnicity, and Culture* (1993); THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that this assembly encourage members to engage in ongoing individual reformation by reading, teaching, and preaching Luther's *Small Catechism*, as well as the *Declaration on the Way*; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this assembly encourage ongoing reformation in the ecumenical relationships of our congregations, including exploring shared worship services with Roman Catholic congregations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this assembly encourage our ongoing role as a reconciling and healing presence for addressing social problems and the world's divisions amid ongoing changes in culture.

ADOPTED

Resolution 4 – Carbon Fee and Dividend, A Climate Solution

Rev. McLeer brought forth Resolution 4 – Carbon Fee and Dividend, A Climate Solution. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

The Bishop asked for discussion. Ted Sehmer (Christ, Stoughton) reminded the Assembly that the 2011 Assembly acted on a resolution against Act 10 of the legislature. At that time he submitted a resolution that would eliminate any resolutions that were political in nature. The Reference and Counsel Committee rejected his resolution. He spoke against this resolution as he believes it is political in nature and the Synod should not be involved in politics. He asked for a recorded vote. The Rev. Jane Cahill Wolfram (Christ, DeForest) recognized the enormity of the problem but raised concern that the resolution establishes a tax that will be painful for low-income individuals. She stated that this resolution does not address alternative fuels and possibly the loss of jobs for those who currently work in the energy companies. On direction of her congregation she spoke against the resolution.

Bob Lindmeier (St. John's, Oregon) reported that he is a member of the Synod Care for God's Creation Team. He stated that this resolution is a scientific and faith based proposal and not political. He noted that we are at an important juncture in our lives and the decision we make now is for future generations. Reducing our carbon footprint is not enough and currently the US does not have a solution for clean power plants. All fossil fuels have a health cost and the carbon fee dividend puts fees on the fossil fuel industry and brings everything to a level playing field. The fees will be given to us as a dividend for using fossil fuel.

The Rev. Mae Jean Zelle spoke in favor of the resolution. She stated that the earlier speaker was not wrong. This will be difficult, it will be hard, and it will cost us something but that cost is nothing in comparison to do nothing for the environment. These fees will provide new jobs and new technology. She stated that if you only look backward you will see what we have to lose, but if you look forward then you will see what might come. She stated that it is time for us to do something as doing nothing is not acceptable.

The Rev. Nick Utphall (Advent, Madison) invited the Assembly to have a bold voice. He stated that he was proud of our church and the work we do on ethical and moral questions. This is an opportunity to move forward and say we need to find a solution.

Parliamentarian David Moore clarified what Mr. Sehmer meant by a recorded vote. Mr. Moore stated that he understood the request to be a counted vote. Mr. Sehmer stated that he was not opposed to a voice vote but if there was a division of the house he wanted the vote to be counted.

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

SA17.04.06
VOTED

Carbon Fee and Dividend, A Climate Solution

WHEREAS, this church faithfully addresses the impact science, economics, and politics have on the well-being of God's creation and God's children; and

WHEREAS, this synod has adopted multiple resolutions and memorials including *A Faithful Response to Global Climate Change* in 2007, *Energy Stewardship* in 2011, and *The Church's Response to Climate Disruption* in 2015 reminding us that part of our calling as followers of Jesus is to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, since 1993 this church has understood the threats of climate change with the 1993 social statement *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* stating the urgency was already “widespread and serious, according to the preponderance of evidence from scientists worldwide [of] dangerous global warming, caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide” from the burning of fossil fuels, and that “action to counter degradation, especially within this decade, is essential to the future of our children and our children's children;” and

WHEREAS, the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted memorials from five synods on *A Responsible Energy Future* that give guidance to church investment decisions and “help transition to an economy less dependent on fossil fuels” and that also continue to call “all ELCA members, congregations, and synods...to advocate for policies that reduce energy use and our dependence on fossil fuels;” and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that as long as carbon pollution remains free, the true costs of fossil fuels are hidden, allowing fossil fuels to appear cheaper than low-carbon alternatives even as they put long-term health and economic prosperity at risk; and

WHEREAS, a Carbon Fee and Dividend system would impose a predictable, steadily-rising carbon fee on all fossil fuels and other sources of greenhouse gases at the point where they first enter the economy, with all fees collected minus administrative costs being returned to households as a monthly energy dividend to ease the financial burden on families during the transition to low-carbon; and

WHEREAS, phased-in carbon fees on greenhouse gas emissions will stimulate investment in alternative energy technologies, create jobs, give businesses powerful incentives to increase their energy efficiency and reduce their carbon footprints in order to remain competitive, and ultimately put us on a path of a sustainable climate by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning us to a clean energy economy; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that this assembly encourage members and congregations to continue learning about and advocating for Carbon Fee and Dividend; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this assembly invite our bishop to communicate our support for Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation to the members of Congress who represent the geographical territory of this synod.

ADOPTED

Resolution 5 – Welcoming Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Immigrants

Rev. McLeer brought forth Resolution 5 – Welcoming Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Immigrants. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

WHEREAS, Jesus calls those who follow him to love their neighbors, the hungry, the homeless, and the vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, in Deuteronomy, the people of God were admonished, “You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deut. 10:19) and St. Paul urged the church to “Welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you, to the glory of God” (Romans 15:7); and

WHEREAS, the United States of America is primarily a nation of immigrants with a long bipartisan history of welcoming newcomers to our shores; and

WHEREAS, the congregations and members of the ELCA have a long tradition of refugee resettlement ministries especially through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and Lutheran Social Services; and

WHEREAS, many newcomers, especially children and others who have been trafficked to this country for the purpose of forced labor or sexual exploitation, need protection, help, and the opportunity to live in dignity; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of WI passed the memorial *Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Immigrants* in support of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of WI encourage the congregations and bishop of this synod to advocate for education, services, and fair treatment for refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of WI encourage the congregations and bishop of this synod to oppose all legislative attempts to ban the arrival of refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of WI encourage its members to encourage our legislators to return to the target goal of the United States receiving 110,000 refugees in fiscal year 2017; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this synod support and advance multicultural and interfaith connections on behalf of all God's children, so that understanding and mutual respect become hallmarks of our faith and witness.

The Bishop asked for discussion. The Rev. Susan Schneider (Trinity, Madison) reported that she was one of the authors of the resolution and noted that this is one of the pressing issues of our time. It was intended to be a nonpartisan/nonpolitical resolution.

The Rev. George Carlson, Retired (Covenant, Stoughton) proposed an amendment to the resolve section of the resolution to be placed after the first resolve.

MOVED RESOLVED, the 2017 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA call on all South-Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA congregations to

1. Provide opportunities for their members to learn about the issues and needs for comprehensive immigration reform (many resources are available at <http://refugeesunday.lirs.org/>),
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,
3. Participate in the work of our synod refugee resettlement team through prayer, contributions, and active support of resettlement of refugees in partnership with Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (check the synod website at [http://www.scsw-elca.org/refugee task force. aspx](http://www.scsw-elca.org/refugee%20task%20force.aspx) for ways to become involved and for people to contact), and
4. Encourage their members to welcome all newcomers, especially immigrants and refugees, to their communities and to help them assimilate into our society.

And be it further

Rev. Carlson stated that he sees the addition of this resolve as a healthy resource for congregations. There was no further discussion so the Bishop called for a vote on the amendment.

VOTED **RESOLVED, the 2017 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA call on all South-Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA congregations to**

- 1. Provide opportunities for their members to learn about the issues and needs for comprehensive immigration reform (many resources are available at <http://refugeesunday.lirs.org/>),**
- 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,**
- 3. Participate in the work of our synod refugee resettlement team through prayer, contributions, and active support of resettlement of refugees in partnership with Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (check the synod website at [http://www.scsw-elca.org/refugee task force. aspx](http://www.scsw-elca.org/refugee%20task%20force.aspx) for ways to become involved and for people to contact), and**
- 4. Encourage their members to welcome all newcomers, especially immigrants and refugees, to their communities and to help them assimilate into our society; and be it further**

ADOPTED

The Bishop asked for any further discussion. The Rev. George Carlson, Retired (Covenant, Stoughton) proposed an amendment to the resolve section of the resolution to be placed after the second resolve.

- MOVED RESOLVED, that the 2017 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin—ELCA encourages the bishop, congregations, and members to support legislation based on principles for comprehensive immigration reform articulated by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (<http://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
 - Ensure the protection of U.S. citizen and migrant workers. And be it further

Rev. Carlson wants to include these positive principles so they can be used as the basis of our talking points when we write to our legislators. There was no further discussion so the Bishop called for a vote on the amendment.

- VOTED RESOLVED, that the 2017 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin—ELCA encourages the bishop, congregations, and members to support legislation based on principles for comprehensive immigration reform articulated by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (<http://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**
 - **Ensure the protection of U.S. citizen and migrant workers; and be it further**
- ADOPTED**

There was no further discussion so the Bishop called for a vote on the main motion as amended. Trevor Thom offered a prayer before the vote on the resolution.

SA17.04.07 Welcoming Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Immigrants
VOTED WHEREAS, Jesus calls those who follow him to love their neighbors, the hungry, the homeless, and the vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, in Deuteronomy, the people of God were admonished, “You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deut. 10:19) and St. Paul urged the church to “Welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you, to the glory of God” (Romans 15:7); and

WHEREAS, the United States of America is primarily a nation of immigrants with a long bipartisan history of welcoming newcomers to our shores; and

WHEREAS, the congregations and members of the ELCA have a long tradition of refugee resettlement ministries especially through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and Lutheran Social Services; and

WHEREAS, many newcomers, especially children and others who have been trafficked to this country for the purpose of forced labor or sexual exploitation, need protection, help, and the opportunity to live in dignity; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of WI passed the memorial *Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Immigrants* in support of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of WI encourage the congregations and bishop of this synod to advocate for education, services, and fair treatment for refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers; and be it further

RESOLVED, the 2017 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA call on all South-Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA congregations to

1. Provide opportunities for their members to learn about the issues and needs for comprehensive immigration reform (many resources are available at <http://refugeesunday.lirs.org/>),
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,
3. Participate in the work of our synod refugee resettlement team through prayer, contributions, and active support of resettlement of refugees in partnership with Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (check the synod website at http://www.scsw-elca.org/refugee_task_force.aspx for ways to become involved and for people to contact), and
4. Encourage their members to welcome all newcomers, especially immigrants and refugees, to their communities and to help them assimilate into our society; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of WI encourage the congregations and bishop of this synod to oppose all legislative attempts to ban the arrival of refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2017 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin—ELCA encourages the bishop, congregations, and members to support legislation based on principles for comprehensive immigration reform articulated by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (<http://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
- Ensure the protection of U.S. citizen and migrant workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of WI encourage its members to encourage our legislators to return to the target goal of the United States receiving 110,000 refugees in fiscal year 2017; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this synod support and advance multicultural and interfaith connections on behalf of all God's children, so that understanding and mutual respect become hallmarks of our faith and witness.

ADOPTED

Report of the Elections – Ballot #1

The Rev. Jack Way and The Rev. Emily Tveite brought forth the results of the election.

Synod Council - Youth Male or Female (vote for 1)
275 votes cast – 138 elects

Caitlin Brown	187
Natalie Shema	86

Bishop Froiland declared the election of Caitlin Brown.

Synod Council – Clergy Male (Vote for 1)

The Rev. Andy Twiton	148
The Rev. Brent Walsworth	31
The Rev. Chris Enstad	94

Bishop Froiland declared the election of The Rev. Andy Twiton.

The Bishop recognized and thanked the members of the Synod Worship Team and the Assembly Planning Team.

Synod Worship Team	Assembly Planning Team
The Rev. Erik Jelinek	Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Chair
The Rev. Dom Guido	Robin Cherwinka
The Rev. Tim Hanson	Linda Freitag
Ben Johnston-Urey	The Rev. David Glesne
Jason Poole-Xiong	The Rev. Erik Jelinek
Deacon Nancy Raabe	The Rev. Steve Kottke
	Rhonda Marten
	The Rev. Robert Neubert
	Jason Poole-Xiong
	Deacon Nancy Raabe
	Trevor Thom

Announcements

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan made general announcements to the Assembly.

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

Banquet and Congregational and Rostered Leader Anniversary Recognitions

Congregational Anniversaries

50th Anniversary
Shepherd of the Hills, New Glarus

100th Anniversary
Fairview Lutheran, Highland
Zion Lutheran, Horicon

125th Anniversary
Rockdale Lutheran, Rockdale

150th Anniversary
St. John Lutheran, Boscobel
McFarland Lutheran, McFarland

Rostered leader anniversary recognitions include:

25th Anniversary of Ordination
The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe
The Rev. Robert Vetter

50th Anniversary of Ordination
The Rev. Jerald Folk
The Rev. Delmar Goetz
The Rev. Richard Halom
The Rev. Dean Phillips
The Rev. David Soberg

Session V

Worship

Worship was held with The Rev. Ruben Duran assisting and music provided by the Jay Beech Band.

Recognition of Outgoing Synod Council Members

Robin Cherwinka recognized Rolfe Nervig and The Rev. Rick Reiten and thanked them for their service and work on the Synod Council.

Installation of Newly Elected Synod Council and Committee Members

Bishop Froiland installed newly elected and appointed Synod Council members. Caitlin Brown, Carolyn Butts, Trevor Thom, The Rev. Andy Twiton, and Jason Poole-Xiong. Consultation Committee members: Steve Timm, Dick Larson, Gary Dahlgaard, and Jane Cahill Wolfram; and Discipline Committee member: The Rev. Katie Baardseth.

Bishop Froiland recessed the Assembly for Breakout Sessions.

Session VI

The Bishop called Session VI to order.

Credentials Report #3

Helen Troutman (Bethel, Madison) presented the third report of the Credentials Committee. There are 339 Voting Members present.

Clergy	113 (Female-45; Male-68)
Lay Female	129
Lay Male	97
Voting Members	339
Visitors	67

Discussion of Spending Plan

Treasurer Bruce Hutler (Our Savior's, Sun Prairie) returned the Spending Plan to the floor of the Assembly. Bishop Froiland invited questions from the Assembly. The Rev. Todd Iverson (Immanuel, Watertown) noted that the ELCA is doing fantastic work. He reminded the Assembly that last year Mission Support was cut from 55% to 52%. He asked the voting members to think about how Churchwide is pushing us forward and that there are eight ELCA seminaries that are not looking forward. He questioned why we are funding eight administrations for the seminaries when they could be combined. Rev. Iverson put forth the following amendment.

MOVED to shift funds from the ELCA Seminaries to ELCA Churchwide to bring the Mission Support percentage back to fifty-five percent (55%).

Mr. Hutler clarified that our proposed Mission Support for 2017-18 is \$1,475,000 and what is being asked is to move support from the seminaries to ELCA Mission Support in order to bring the percentage to fifty-five percent (55%)

Bishop Froiland turned the chair over to Robin Cherwinka. Ms. Cherwinka asked for discussion on the amendment to the Spending Plan. Bishop Froiland (Central, Edgerton) spoke against the amendment. She noted that she understood what Rev. Iverson was saying about being able to support the ELCA at fifty-five percent (55%). She stated that three of the seminaries have combined with universities and have less of a financial footprint. Seminaries are trying to be innovative in order to raise up leaders. She reminded the Assembly that one of our stated priorities is to raise up leaders and now would not be a good time to cut our support to seminaries.

Mae Jean Zelle (Christ, Spring Green) spoke against this amendment primarily because it isn't a positive approach to change. She noted that all rostered leaders have allegiances to their seminaries and we don't want funding to their own seminaries cut. We need to find new approaches for the direction we want to go. The Rev. Stacy Galman-Schroder (Norway Grove, DeForest) graduated from LSTC last year and stressed the importance of funding to seminaries.

Rev. Iverson clarified that the intent of his amendment would move three percent (3%) to ELCA Mission Support and the

balance (3.2%) would remain for seminary support.

There was no further discussion so Ms. Cherwinka called for the vote on the amendment to the spending plan.

MOVED to shift funds from the ELCA Seminaries to ELCA Churchwide to bring the Mission Support percentage back to fifty-five percent (55%).

DEFEATED

With the defeat of the amendment, Ms. Cherwinka asked for other discussion or amendments to the original spending plan. There was no further discussion so Ms. Cherwinka called for a vote. Rofle Nervig offered a prayer before voting on the adoption of the 2017-18 Spending Plan.

Adoption of the Spending Plan

SA17.04.08 2017-18 Spending Plan

VOTED to adopt the 2017-18 Spending Plan as presented.

ADOPTED

Ms. Cherwinka returned the chair to Bishop Froiland.

ELCA Report

The Rev. Ruben Duran, ELCA, Director of New Congregations, greeted the Assembly and shared a video from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton outlining 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 2016, the ELCA engaged members, leaders and partners in conversation about what God is calling this church to be, so the ELCA can journey faithfully and effectively together in the years ahead. This engagement led to the development of *Strategic Directions 2025* and reflects what people across the church said was important. Two main focus areas are congregational vitality and leadership. Rev. Duran thanked the Synod for our mission support and shared examples of how mission support is used around the world.

Report of the Secretary

Mary DeYoung (Christ, Sharon), the Synod Secretary, brought the secretary's report to the assembly. The report included the approved constitutional, policy, financial, and roster change actions of the Synod Council since the May 2016 regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. She reviewed the required and non-required amendments Synod Constitution amendments approved by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. Ms. DeYoung reported that the Synod Council approved a Constitutional amendment change for Chapter 7 – Synod Assembly to be presented to this Assembly: *S7.14. One half of the number of members of the Synod Assembly registered at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum for that meeting and any special meeting of the Synod Assembly meeting thereafter until the next regular meeting.* The amendment will be voted on at the 2018 Assembly and will require a two-thirds vote of the voting members.

Bishop Froiland invited The Rev. David Larson to come forward to be thanked for his service, leadership, and partnership with Lutheran Social Services and wished him the best on his retirement.

Resolutions

Resolution 6 – Recognition of Rev. David N. Larson's Service as President and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan

Rev. McLeer brought forth Resolution 6 – Recognition of Rev. David N. Larson's Service as President and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

SA17.04.09 Recognition of Rev. David N. Larson's Service as President and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan

VOTED WHEREAS, Rev. David N. Larson has provided distinguished leadership as President and Chief Executive Officer of Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan since July 2002, and prior to that serving as Vice-President of resource development; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Larson served as a synod representative to the LSS operating board for six years; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Larson, has tirelessly urged a strong commitment to the social ministry of the church, reminding us that, "When people are at their worst, we need to be at our best;" and

WHEREAS, Rev. Larson has been a leading voice of inspiration and challenge to fulfill the mission of LSS, "Motivated by the compassion of Christ, we help people improve the quality of their lives;" and

WHEREAS, Rev. Larson will retire in 2018 from a career of dedicated service as a Lutheran pastor and social services leader; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Synod recognize, affirm, and celebrate Rev. David N. Larson for his service to the church and the thousands of lives that have been changed because of his passionate and committed leadership.

ADOPTED BY ACCLAMATION

Resolution 7 – Preparing for the Women and Justice Social Statement

Rev. McLeer brought forth Resolution 7 – Preparing for the Women and Justice Social Statement. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

The Bishop asked for discussion on this resolution. There was no discussion so the Bishop called for a vote on the main motion as amended. The Rev. Michael Short offered a prayer before the vote on the resolution.

SA17.04.10 Preparing for the Women and Justice Social Statement

VOTED

WHEREAS, in faith we are all called to “do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.” (Micah 6:8); and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly authorized a social statement process “on the topic of justice for women in church and society” and the ensuing Women and Justice: One in Christ Task Force has diligently worked toward a social statement with listening events across the ELCA from 2013-2016, encouraging open, honest, and empowering conversations about sexism and its negative impacts on individuals and families, in our homes, congregations, and communities; and

WHEREAS, a study document Faith, Sexism, and Justice: Conversations toward a Social Statement has been designed to invite dialogue and action, including feedback through August 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, those comments will help shape a draft social statement that will be available for comment and synodical hearings from October 12, 2017, through October 30, 2018, to prepare for a social statement to be considered for adoption at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that congregations, groups, members, and institutions of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin are encouraged to use the study document, Faith, Sexism, and Justice: Conversations toward a Social Statement, and respond to it prior to the August 31, 2017, deadline; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that congregations, groups, members, and institutions of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin are encouraged to read, study, and respond to the social statement draft beginning in October 2017.

ADOPTED

Resolution 9 – Establishment of a Synod Wide Observance in Support of Lutheran Campus Ministry

Bishop Froiland informed the Assembly that Resolution 9 was submitted after the resolution deadline but before the Assembly. Due to an email mix-up it did not get to the Reference & Counsel Committee for review. The Rev. McLeer reported that the Reference & Counsel Committee recommended that the Assembly consider bringing the resolution to the floor. The Bishop explained that in order to do this, per the rules of the assembly, we need to vote to bring the resolution before the assembly. The question before the Assembly is whether to permit the resolution to be brought before the Assembly. This vote is not debatable and requires a 2/3 vote. This vote is not on the resolution itself, but whether The Assembly wants to discuss it.

SA17.04.11 Bring Resolution 9 to the Floor of the Assembly

VOTED

to allow Resolution 9 – Campus Ministry to be brought to the floor of the Assembly.

ADOPTED

Resolution 9 – Campus Ministry

Rev. McLeer brought forth Resolution 9 – Campus Ministry. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended adoption.

The Bishop asked for discussion on this resolution. The Rev. Emily Tveite (Lutheran Campus Ministry, Madison)

informed the Assembly that a resolution similar to Resolution 9 at the last Assembly. This resolution is for an ongoing opportunity to lift up and pray for our three ministry sites.

There was no further discussion so the Bishop called for a vote on the motion. The Rev. Rick Reiten offered a prayer before the vote on the resolution.

SA17.04.12 Campus Ministry

VOTED

WHEREAS, the ministries of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin include three campus ministry sites at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, and UW-Whitewater; and

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

WHEREAS, Lutheran Campus Ministry sites serve as places of worship, spaces of respite during anxious times, places of contact with the church, and communities of support for young adults; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Campus Ministry sites offer young adults a place to explore their vocation in life in a community of peers and campus ministers; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Campus Ministry Oversight Team is charged with supporting and engaging the synod with our Lutheran Campus Ministry sites; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, by the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin that each year in the fall, one Sunday in September or October be designated a Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged on that day or another day in the fall to offer special prayers, to lift up campus ministry during worship, to share information about Lutheran Campus Ministry, to connect with local campus ministry sites, to receive a special offering for campus ministry, and to connect their young adults with Lutheran Campus Ministry wherever they attend college or university.

ADOPTED

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Announcements

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan announced that twenty-nine congregations participated in the Global Health Ministries. Contributions this year topped last year's generosity with 1,804 Global Health Ministry kits. The Synod Assembly offering was \$6,247.20 that will be divided between the Synod's Ethnic Ministries and the Campaign for the ELCA.

Closing of the Assembly

The Bishop closed the Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary DeYoung, Secretary
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Protocol Documents

2017 Synod Assembly Book
Credential Reports
Resolutions