



The Minutes of the 27th Annual Synod Assembly
of the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Friday, May 30, 2014
Saturday May 31, 2014
held at the
Tinley Park Convention Center
Tinley Park, Illinois



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



**Minutes of the
27th Annual Synod Assembly
of the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Friday, May 30, 2014, and
Saturday, May 31, 2014
Tinley Park Convention Center**

Tinley Park, Illinois

Plenary Session One

Orientation of New Voting Members

At 8:30AM Secretary Srock gave a presentation to the Voting Members of the 2014 Assembly who were new to serving as an Assembly Voting Member. The presentation included an explanation of their roles and responsibilities as voting members, the relationship of the synod to the congregations and to the churchwide expression, how the assembly functioned, a brief overview of the agenda, and procedures for parliamentary action during the various assembly gatherings.

Opening Worship

The 2014 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod began with Opening Devotions at 9:32AM that was led by Bishop Miller.

Welcome

Following the Opening Worship Bishop Miller welcomed the voting members, visitors and guests to the Twenty-Seventh Annual Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Appointment of Parliamentarian

As the first order of business, in consultation with the synod council, Bishop Miller appointed Ms. Marcella Morrison as parliamentarian for this assembly. Ms. Morrison is a Registered Professional Parliamentarian with the National Association of Parliamentarians. Bishop Miller welcomed Ms. Morrison back to our assembly, as she has served our synod in this capacity in years past.

Approval of the Agenda

Bishop Miller instructed the assembly to turn to the Agenda for the Assembly which was printed in the supplement to the Book of Reports located in the packets that the voting members had received at the time of registration. He entertained a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented. It was moved, seconded, and adopted.

Introduction of the Assembly Planning Team and Chaplain

Bishop Miller then introduced the members of the 2014 Assembly Planning Team and had them stand as their names were read. He thanked them for their hard work in preparing for this year's assembly.

Assembly Planning Team:

Ms. Erma Alvarez, staff	Rev. Ellen Arthur
Ms. Joan Church	Mr. Ken Church
Ms. Nanette Dahlke	Mr. Jeff Drake, staff
Rev. Hector Garfias-Toledo, staff	Rev. Cynthia Hileman, staff
Mr. Steven Homberg, staff	Rev. Jim Honig
Rev. Ray Legania, staff	Bishop Wayne Miller, staff
Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite	Ms. Mary Richardson, staff
Ms. Sandra Schlauch	Ms. Patricia Schmitt
Rev. Patrick Shebeck	Rev. Steve Srock
Ms. Patti Tregoning	Ms. Kathleen West
Ms. Beth Lawniczak, chair	

Bishop Miller then introduced and thanked our emcee for this year's assembly, the Rev. Erin Bouman.

Introduction of the Assembly Committees

Bishop Miller then called upon our Vice President, Ms. Nanette Dahlke, who in consultation with the Synod Council, made the following appointments to the Assembly Committees.

Credentials and Courtesies Committee

Ms. Joyce Brown	Rev. Ray Legania, staff
-----------------	-------------------------

Minutes Committee

Ms. Lynn Dreymler	Ms. Patti Tregoning
Rev. Steve Srock, chair	

Reference and Counsel Committee

Rev. Herbert Carlmark	Rev. Lawrence Clark
Mr. Tyler Dahlke	Mr. Terry Henderson
Rev. David Miller	Ms. Laurie Schuemann
Rev. Sue Allen, chair	Rev. Steven Srock, ex-officio

Sergeants at Arms

Rev. Mary Appelt-Graves
Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald
Rev. Richard Grudt
Mr. Mark Johnson
Ms. Phyllis Johnson
Mr. Fernando Mercado
Rev. Paul Pfeffer, chair

Ms. Patricia Gerber Bornholt
Rev. Hector Garfias-Toledo, staff
Mr. Jim Hiepler-Hartwig
Rev. Marrion Johnson
Rev. Vickie Johnson
Ms. Lisa Nuebert

Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

At 9:50AM Bishop Miller called upon Ms. Joyce Brown for the report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee. She reported to the Assembly that the total number of voting members registered as of 9:00AM was 297 with the number of voting members necessary for a quorum being 149. Bishop Miller declared a quorum to be present at 9:50AM.

Bar of the Assembly and the Rules of the Assembly

At 9:51AM, Bishop Miller called upon Rev. Steve Srock to explain the Bar of the Assembly. Secretary Srock instructed the assembly that the bar of the assembly was the area where voting members must be seated in order for their votes to be counted. Guest and visitors are asked to sit outside the bar during all plenary sessions. The bar of the assembly included all tables and chairs within the stanchions and ropes across the back of the room. Only those voting members seated within the bar and wearing the proper credentials would be allowed to vote, in elections and on resolutions. Secretary Srock then explained to the Assembly how Resolutions would be handled, including how to address the chair and voting members of our Assembly. Secretary Srock asked the members of the assembly to refer to the document containing the *Rules of the Assembly* that was contained in the Book of Reports. He instructed the assembly regarding the three colored microphones, Green for those speaking in favor of an action, Red for those speaking in opposition, and the White for points of Order and Information or Clarification. Voting members were asked to address their comments to the chair and to face the assembly while speaking. The order for speaking would be under the direction of the chair (Bishop Miller) and would alternate between those speaking in favor and those in oppositions. Only those voting members seated within the bar and wearing the proper credentials would be allowed to address the assembly. Regarding the resolutions, this year's chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, the Rev. Sue Allen, will present how we will handle the Resolutions, the debate on those matters, along with their respective Hearings, when it is time for those matters to be brought before the Assembly.

All of these matters along with many others that discuss in detail how we will interact over the next two days are contained in the document entitled, *Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2014 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly*. Secretary Srock stated that this document has been reviewed and approved by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council and on their behalf was presenting it to this Assembly for adoption and implementation. It appears in the Book or Reports immediately following the Agenda. He then moved to adopt the *Rules of Organization and Procedures for the 2014 Synod Assembly* (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that already are in force). The motion was seconded and adopted.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

At 9:56AM Bishop Miller called upon the Rev. Sue Allen, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, to offer the assembly instructions on Resolutions before the assembly. Rev. Allen asked the assembly to refer to printed instructions in their packets regarding the procedures for placing resolutions and amendments before the assembly. She explained that there would be hearings on the resolutions the assembly would be considering.

Mission Moment

At 9:57AM Bishop Miller thanked Ms. Mary Anderson, a member of the Synod Mission Interpreters Team, who has coordinated these mission moments for us over the past few years. He then invited Joe Scarry, a member of the Synod's Working Group on the Middle East, to present our first Mission Moment. He shared some information on the activities of this working group.

Introduction of Special Guests

At 10:02AM Bishop Miller invited Vice President Dahlke to welcome our assembly guests that represented our wide range of partnerships in mission and ministry.

- Our Churchwide Representative and Keynote Speaker: **Ms. Mikka McCracken**, Program Director for Constituent Engagement and Interpretation with ELCA World Hunger
- **The Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich**, Advocate Healthcare Systems, Senior Vice President, Mission and Spiritual Care Advocate Health Care
- **The Rev. Don Hallberg**, ELCA Mission Investment Fund
- **Mr. Paul Hegland**, Carthage College, Executive Director of Church and Professional Relations
- **The Rev. Franklin Ishida**, Area Program Director/Asia Pacific, ELCA Global Mission Unit
- **Ms. Jessica Nipp Hacker**, Coordinator, ELCA Malaria Campaign
- **Mr. Russ Senti**, Executive Director of the Lutheran Outdoors Ministries Center in Oregon, Illinois
- **Mr. Mark Vincent**, CEO and Senior Design Partner Design Group International, and Ms. Kara Vincent
- **The Rev. Lanny Westphal**, Director, Global Church Sponsorship, ELCA Mission Advancement Unit

Bishop Miller thanked Vice President Dahlke and then invited the assembly to welcome our guests and the assembly did so with applause.

Keynote Speaker

At 10:04AM Bishop Miller then introduced our Keynote Speaker, Ms. Mikka McCracken. Ms. McCracken, a South Korean adoptee, grew up in Bemidji, Minnesota. She is a current resident of Chicago, Illinois and serves as Program Director for Constituent Engagement and Interpretation with ELCA World Hunger. Ms. McCracken is a life-long Lutheran and a Gustavus Adolphus College graduate in political science and peace studies. Previously, she worked with the ELCA Justice for Women program, the ELCA Washington Office on gender justice advocacy, and ELCA Global Mission on “glocal” learning events.

She currently serves on the Lutheran World Federation international council as one of five members from the North American region, the Vorstand or board of the ELCA Wittenberg Center in Germany, and the Lutheran Advocacy Illinois Advisory Council. Ms. McCracken enjoys recreational running, yoga, movie scores, singing, the great outdoors and good vegetarian food. As a part of her report at 10:41AM, Ms. McCracken called on Jessica Nipp to report on the progress being made through the work and efforts of the ELCA's Malaria Campaign.

Mission Moment

At 11:21AM Bishop Miller introduced Ms. Karis Ailabouni, a participant in the Young Adults for Global Mission Program now serving in Madagascar. The Rev. Bouman read Ms. Ailabouni's presentation that shares what it has meant to her to live and work among the Malagasy people.

Announcements and Adjournment

Bishop Miller at 11:25AM then invited Rev. Erin Bouman to the stage to make announcements. Pastor Bouman mentioned that evaluations of the assembly would be emailed to all of the voting members. She then gave instruction regarding the box lunches and the transition to the conference meetings and led the assembly in a meal prayer. Bishop Miller then adjourned the assembly.

Lunch and Conference Meetings

During lunch the eight synod conferences met in separate areas to conduct business.

Plenary Session Two

Reconvening of the Assembly

At 1:09PM Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order and invited Judy Twist, a member of the Synod Council, to lead the assembly in prayer prior to the presentation of the 2014 Synodical Budget.

Report of the Synodical Treasurer and the Introduction of 2015 Budget

At 1:11PM Bishop Miller invited Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite to the stage. Treasurer NewberryWhite offered the Treasurer's report and then introduced next year's budget. As a part of her report, she moved the adoption of the 2015 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Budget. The motion was seconded. Treasurer NewberryWhite announced that there would be a hearing to discuss the budget that afternoon at 3:40PM in the South Pavilion Five Room. Bishop Miller stated that if there were no objections, consideration of the budget would be tabled until Saturday morning after the hearing. There were no objections and the motion was tabled.

Mission Moment

At 1:15PM Bishop Miller called upon Mayom Acien, to present our next Mission Moment. As a Sudanese refugee, Acien shared how it felt to be sponsored by RefugeeOne, the Illinois affiliate of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Report of the ELCA Mission Investment Fund Representatives

At 1:25PM Bishop Miller then invited Mr. Enrique Rojas from the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund and Ms. Jennifer Prinz from the ELCA's Foundation to the stage to give their presentations.

Video Report of the Work of *The Lutheran Magazine*

At 1:38PM Bishop Miller invited the assembly to watch a video highlighting the work of *The Lutheran Magazine*, our denominational publication. As many of you know, the synod has an insert included six times a year and this insert is also included on our synod webpage.

Announcements and Adjournment

Following the video at 1:41PM, Bishop Miller announced that the assembly would now be transitioning to the scheduled Hearings and Workshops at the locations designated and that our plenary session would resume at 2:55PM. However, before the assembly was excused he invited Mr. Daniel Feiertag, a member of the synod council, to offer a prayer. At 1:42PM Bishop Miller declared the assembly in recess for the Hearings and Workshops.

Plenary Session Three

Mission Moment

At 3:02PM Bishop Miller called the Assembly back to order and invited Ms. Janet Fisher, a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Northbrook, to present our next Mission Moment. The topic of this Mission Moment is how her congregation has made the assembly of Lutheran World Relief health kits into an all-congregational event.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

At 3:06PM Bishop Miller announced that the next action of the assembly would be to consider those resolutions presented by the voting members to this gathering. However before considering this important matter, Bishop Miller invited the Rev. Larry Clark, a member of the Synod Council, to lead the assembly in prayer. He then invited the Rev. Sue Allen, chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, back to the stage to present resolutions for debate by this year's assembly.

The Rev. Sue Allen read the resolved portions of resolution **01-14 - Resolution on Hunger and Poverty** and moved its adoption. Bishop Miller then called for debate on the resolution. The question was called and the resolution was adopted.

Resolution 01-14 - Resolution on Hunger and Poverty

- WHEREAS, 2014 is the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty that brought national attention and resources to bear on poverty and hunger; and
- WHEREAS, St. Paul, in encouraging the Corinthians to give aid to the saints in Jerusalem, observes that “God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8); and
- WHEREAS, when the disciples advised Jesus to send the crowds away so that they could buy something to eat, he replied, “YOU give them something to eat.” Mark 6:36-37; and
- WHEREAS, in Israel, God made the king responsible for the just treatment of the poor (Psalm 72), and in a democracy, we as citizens encourage the government to remember that role; and
- WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Hunger Action Team encourages all synod congregations and their members to recognize that the elimination of hunger and poverty, integral to our mission as Christians, requires: 1) financial gifts, 2) direct service, and 3) advocacy; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that congregations and members of congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod review and renew their efforts toward eradication of hunger and poverty by reviewing their financial support, direct service and advocacy, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that congregations and members seek to intensify their efforts in all three areas, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that congregations submit a summary to the Hunger Action Team by April 1, 2015, (summary form to be prepared by the Team) in preparation for a report to the 2015 Assembly.

At 3:11PM the Rev. Sue Allen read the resolved portions of resolution **02-14 - Solidarity with those Experiencing and Resisting Harsh Anti-LGBTI Legislation across parts of Africa** and moved its adoption. After discussion and debate Bishop Miller called for a vote and the motion was adopted.

Resolution 02-14 - Solidarity with those Experiencing and Resisting Harsh Anti-LGBTI Legislation across parts of Africa

- WHEREAS, in “witnessing as an institution” the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has committed to: “speak out on timely, urgent issues on which the voice of the church should be heard,” and “defend human dignity” (ELCA social statement, Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective, 1991, p. 1, 7); and
- WHEREAS, “in the area of international peace we strive to strengthen our global perspective as individual Christians and as a church body, in spite of strong currents that push us to turn in on ourselves” and in taking up the task to “promote respect for human rights” and commit to “teach about human rights... and protest their violation” with priorities to “defend the human rights of groups most susceptible to violations, especially all minorities, women and children; and “in our own country to support a generous policy of welcome for refugees” (ELCA social statement, For Peace in God’s World, 1995, p. 1, 14, 20); and

- WHEREAS, thirty-eight countries in Africa as well as other areas of the world are experiencing rising levels of state-sanctioned homophobia and violence through the imposition of harsh and even brutal laws criminalizing homosexuality with sentences including lifelong imprisonment to the death penalty for lgbt persons¹; and in some cases jail time for those associating with, found in the company with, advocating for or accused of supporting organizations connected with such human rights -- including religious leaders²; and,
- WHEREAS, in 2011 the United Nations Human Rights Council passed Resolution 17/19 as the first United Nations resolution on sexual orientation and gender identity, presented by South Africa and expressing “grave concern at violence and discrimination against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity” and establishing human rights for lgbt persons as an international norm (A/HRC/RES/17/19); and,
- WHEREAS, the detrimental effects of these discriminatory laws includes targeted violence toward persons; scapegoating; the spread of HIV/Aids through such violence, through fear, intimidation and limiting access to service and other human rights; limiting the ability and scope of vital NGO aid; and deliberately drawing attention from other human rights issues³; and,
- WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America “acknowledges that consensus does not exist on how to regard same-gender committed relationships” while confessing “hate crimes and violence against those who are regarded as sexually different sometimes have been perpetrated publicly in the name of Christ” and that despite our differences this church unequivocally “oppos(es) all forms of verbal or physical harassment and assault based on sexual orientation” and denounces the behavior leading to the violence against those regarded as sexually different (ELCA social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust, 1993 pg. 19, 24); and,
- WHEREAS, Metropolitan Chicago Synod has a companion relationship with the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA), a relationship that “opens our eyes to the global challenge that Christ offers us today” through the lens of accompaniment, “an endeavor shared by mutual participation in the body of Christ” (MCS website, Companion Synod); and,
- WHEREAS, while South Africa currently extends same gender marriage and other rights to gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgendered and intersex individuals yet is susceptible to the effects of harsh anti-gay sentiment and lgbt South Africans continue to face considerable challenges, including social stigma, homophobic violence (particularly “corrective rape”), and high rates of HIV/AIDS infection⁴; and,
- WHEREAS, our companion synod is a participant in the Speak Out Campaign Against Sexual Violence in relation to the Diakonia AIDS Ministry it supports with ecumenical partners, recognizing that “violence against people of different sexual orientations is one of the causes that contributes to the continuous spread of HIV” and thus encouraging ministries to speak out and work to end sexual violence (Diakonia AIDS Ministry Newsletter December 2012 - February 2013); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod stand in solidarity with those in our companion synod and throughout Africa who are experiencing and resisting the rising tide of hatred and harsh anti-lgbt legislation in many African countries, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, through its companion synod working group and in partnership with Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA), continue to call the Metropolitan Chicago Synod to prayer as well as inform this synod and its congregations of other ways we can be in active solidarity, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council through its companion synod relationships in South Africa and appropriate other partners (e.g., such as the global mission unit of the ELCA, LIRS/RefugeeOne and the ecumenical community), facilitate further conversation to explore the global accompaniment we can offer and responses we can make to violations of human dignity and human rights in this developing crisis.

Citations:

¹ Lgbt is the initialism most commonly used across Africa for this human rights movement. Lgbt stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex.

² Widely reported and documented in national and international press and human rights organizations for example

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26320102>,

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/01/14/nigeria-anti-lgbt-law-threatens-basic-rights>,

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/25/world/africa/ugandan-president-to-sign-antigay-law.html>,

³ Widely reported and documented in national and international press for example

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/ugandan-leader-signs-harsh-anti-gay-bill-despite-warning-from-obama-administration/2014/02/24/88486066-9d63-11e3-87>

<http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2014/1/retrogressive-antigaylawinugandahastiestotheus.html> 8c-65222df220eb_story.html

⁴ See also Violent Hate Crimes in South Africa a report submitted to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the thirteenth Universal Periodic Review May 12 – June 1, 2012.

http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/UPR_SA_hate_crimes_submission-FINAL-Human-Rights-First.pdf

Report of the Vice President

At 3:25PM Bishop Miller called upon Vice President Dahlke to present her report.

Mission Moment

At 3:32PM Bishop Miller called upon Ms. Cheryl Collins, principal of Holy Family School in Chicago, to present our assembly's next Mission Moment. She presented highlights about Holy Family Ministries and their newest program, the Peace Exchange.

Report of the Synodical Secretary

Following the Mission Moment at 3:35 Bishop Miller called upon the Synod Secretary, Rev. Steven Srock for his report to the assembly.

Mission Moment

At 3:43PM Bishop Miller called upon Ms. Mary Ann Smith, a member of Gloria Dei, Downers Grove, for the final mission moment of the day focusing on the different ways her congregation raises funds for the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Announcements and Adjournment

Before transitioning to the second session on hearings and workshops Bishop Miller called upon the Rev. Erin Bouman for announcements. Before dismissing the assembly Bishop Miller asked Ms. Marlene Daubert, a member of the synod council, to lead the assembly in prayer. At 3:47PM he then declared the assembly in recess until Saturday Morning at 8:30AM and invited to assembly to adjourn for the second session of Hearings and Workshops and the Evening Eucharist Service at 5:00PM.

Evening Worship

After the Hearing and Worships, at 5:00PM the Assembly gathered in the worship area for a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Bishop Miller preaching and presiding at this service.

Plenary Session Four

Opening Worship

The Assembly began with Morning Devotions led by the Rev. Maxine Washington at 8:34AM.

Called to Order

Bishop Miller called the Assembly to order at 8:59AM. A point of personal privilege was asked for to remind the gathering that this was in fact the bishop's birthday. The assembly sang "Happy Birthday."

Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

At 9:01AM Bishop Miller called upon Ms. Joyce Brown of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee to give their final report. Ms. Brown reported that the total number of voting members registered as of 8:30AM Saturday was 470 with the number of voting members necessary for a quorum being 235. Bishop Miller declared a quorum present and thanked Ms. Brown and the committee for their work.

Mission Moment

At 9:07AM Bishop Miller invited Mr. Edward Coleman to come to the center microphone for today's first Mission Moment. Mr. Coleman represents Bethel Community Economic Development and Bethel New Life Ministries, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year.

Consideration of the 2015 Synodical Budget

At 9:08AM Bishop Miller declared that the 2015 Budget of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod that was tabled the day before to allow for the “Forum on the Budget” was now before the assembly. Treasurer Yvette NewberryWhite came to the stage. Bishop asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, Bishop Miller called for a vote on the 2015 Budget and the budget was adopted. He then thanks Treasurer NewberryWhite for her work and dedication to our synod.

Recognition of Anniversaries and the Rostered Leaders New to our Synod

Bishop Miller then invited Vice President Dahlke back to the stage to recognize the congregations and rostered leaders, who are celebrating anniversaries this year, and to introduce and welcome rostered leaders who are new to our synod.

Recognition of Anniversaries

Vice President Dahlke recognized the congregations celebrating significant anniversaries and asked that their members who were present stand as their congregation names were read.

<u>Congregation Name</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
St. Philip Lutheran Church, Blue Island	125 years
St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Park Ridge	100 years
Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn	100 years
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Chicago	50 years
Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary, Mount Prospect	50 years

When all the names had been read, Bishop Miller invited the assembly to acknowledge the congregations with applause. Vice President Dahlke then recognized the rostered leaders of our synod who are celebrating significant anniversaries and mentioned that they had been honored at a luncheon on May 14, 2014, at Marcello’s Restaurant in Chicago at which time they were presented with a certificate. She introduced those leaders and asked that they stand and be recognized. When all the names had been read, Bishop Miller invited assembly to acknowledge these individuals with applause.

<u>Rostered Leader</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
Rev. Paul Bouman	75 years
Rev. Victor Brandt	70 years
Rev. George Reinke	65 years
Rev. Donald Danielson	60 years
Rev. Clyde Friedman	60 years

Rev. Dean Lueking	60 years
Rev. Gerald Rygh	60 years
Rev. Al Bergh	55 years
Rev. Hansruedi Peplinski	55 years
Rev. Don Fagerberg	50 years
Rev. Daniel Hoeger	25 years
Rev. John Holm	25 years
Rev. Lester White	25 years

When all the names had been read, Bishop Miller invited the assembly to acknowledge the individuals celebrating anniversaries with applause. Vice President Dahlke then recognized the rostered leaders who are new to our synod this year. She introduced them and asked that they stand and be recognized. When all the names had been read, Bishop Miller invited the assembly to acknowledge these individuals with applause.

Rostered Leader

Congregation

Lynn Bird	Pastor, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Woodridge
Rebekah Costello	Pastor, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Itasca
Diane Dardon	Protestant Chaplain, DePaul University Office of Religious Diversity, Chicago
Angela Denker	Pastor, The Lutheran Church of St. Philip, Glenview
Joshua Ebener	Pastor, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Chicago
Heather Feltman	Diaconal Minister
John Gerike	Pastor, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Naperville
Jason Glombicki	Pastor, Wicker Park Lutheran Church, Chicago
David Heim	Pastor, Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Palatine
Christopher Honig	Pastor, Acacia Park Lutheran Church, Norridge
Sandra Jones	Pastor, New Hope/Nueva Esperanza Lutheran Church, Aurora
Barbara Kudirka	Associate in Ministry, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights

Deanna Langle	Campus Pastor, University Lutheran Church Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University, Evanston
Joel Lohafer	Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Palatine
Larry Lutey	Pastor, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge
Lindsay Mack	Mexico Country Coordinator, ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission, Mexico City
Dennis Meyer	Retired Pastor
Sally Meyer	Retired Pastor
Rhonda Pruitt	Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Wilmette
Sarah Rohde	Associate Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Charles
Elaina Salmon	Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church, Lemont
Hyuk Tae Shim	Pastor, Naperville Yuhllin Church, Naperville
Michael Steinke	Interim Pastor, Salem Lutheran Church
John Sturz	Retired Pastor
Janet Volk	Interim Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church, Lemont

When all the names had been read, Bishop Miller invited the assembly to recognize those new to our synod with applause.

Report of the Bishop

At 9:13AM Bishop Miller relinquished the chair of the assembly to Vice President Nan Dahlke in order to give his report. At 10:11AM Vice President Nan Dahlke returned the chair to Bishop Miller. *(Unfortunately the video copy of Bishop Miller's Report is not available because of technical difficulties that occurred while recording the assembly.)*

A Refreshment Break

At 10:12AM Bishop Miller invited the assembly to take a fifteen minute break for refreshments. At 10:44AM Bishop Miller reconvened the assembly and called it back to order.

Mission Moment

At 10:44AM Bishop Miller called upon Ms. Beverly Moody, member of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Buffalo Grove, to present our final mission moment. Her topic was the work of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Women's Network.

Presentation of the Spirit of LOMC Award

Bishop Miller then invited to the stage Mr. Russ Senti, Executive Director of the Lutheran Outdoors Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon, Illinois. LOMC is a 640 acre Outdoor Ministry Center that works with 500+ ELCA congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod and the Central-Southern Illinois Synods. Mr. Senti discussed the work of LOMC and especially the help and support provided by volunteers and supporters the ELCA's outdoor ministries programs. This year LOMC wanted to recognize the work of two individuals from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod for their devoted and heartfelt support of our camp. He presented two awards to Tim Peterson and Todd Peterson. Tim and Todd are the sons of Pastor Len Peterson (*a former Secretary of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and also a strong supporter of LOMC*).

Report of the ELCA Representative

At 10:57AM Bishop Miller welcomed back to the stage our ELCA Churchwide Representative to our gathering, Ms. Mikka McCracken. Ms. McCracken serves as the Program Director for Constituent Engagement and Interpretation with ELCA World Hunger. In that work, her passion is helping people make a difference to end poverty and hunger in their communities and congregations. Ms. McCracken then gave us the churchwide office report. As a part of that report Mr. Fred Bierderman from our Metropolitan Chicago Synod talked about our synod's anti-hunger efforts.

Final Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

At 11:54AM Bishop Miller called on the Ms. Joyce Brown of the Committee for Credentials and Courtesies for a Resolution of Thanks.

Authorization to Necessary Technical Corrections

Bishop Miller then called upon Vice President Dahlke for a final resolution. She moved that the synodical secretary be authorized to correct punctuation, references to resolutions and other positions, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the assembly in connection with positions adopted, and that the synod council's executive committee be given authority to approve the minutes of this assembly.

Announcements and the Closing of the Assembly

Bishop Miller then called the Rev. Erin Bouman to the stage for final announcements. Following the announcements the bishop then led the Assembly in "Order for the Closing of the Assembly". Bishop Miller declared that the 27th Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod was adjourned at 12:04PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Steven J. Srock
Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

(The PowerPoint of Bishop Miller's Report to the Assembly and the text of his sermon from the Friday evening Eucharist are available online at www.mcselca.org/assembly. Also available online are the 2015 Synodical Budget, final copies of the resolutions that were adopted, and photos of the gathering.)