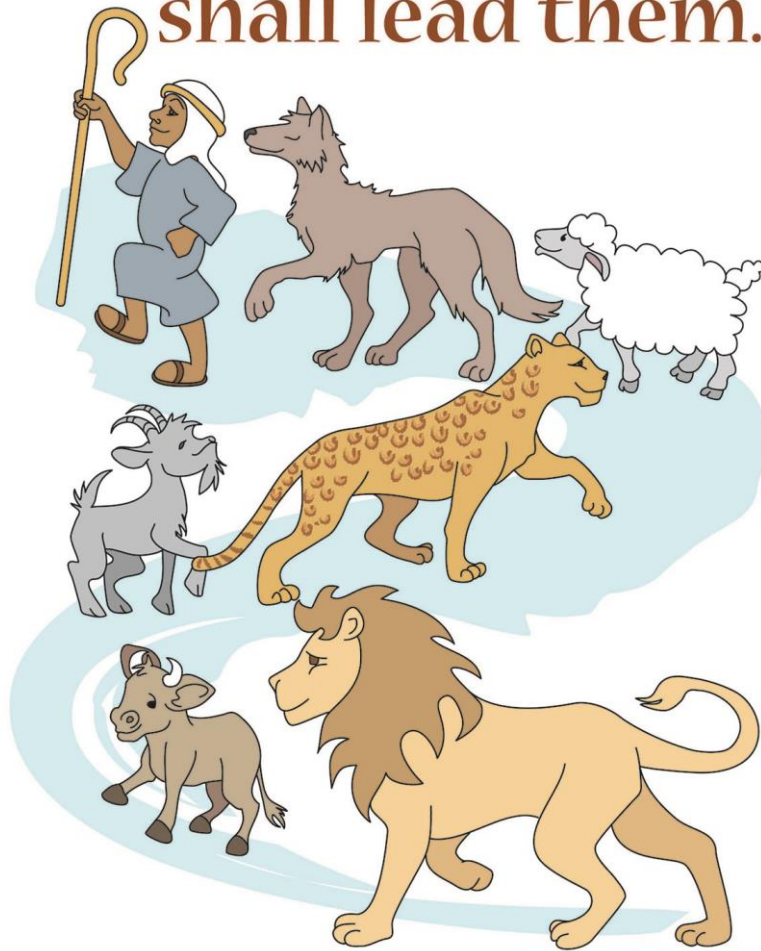


...and a little child  
shall lead them.



Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA  
28th Annual Synod Assembly

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**The Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Synod Assembly**  
of the  
**Metropolitan Chicago Synod**  
of the  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
**Friday, May 29, 2015**  
**Saturday May 30, 2015**  
held at the  
**Tinley Park Convention Center**  
**Tinley Park, Illinois**

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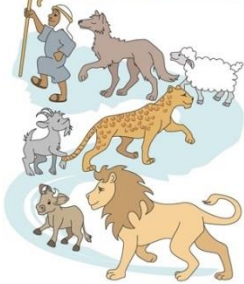


# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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...and a little child  
shall lead them.



## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Synod Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Friday, May 29, 2015 and Saturday, May 30, 2015 Tinley Park Convention Center Tinley Park, Illinois

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### **Plenary Session One**

#### **Orientation of New Voting Members**

At 8:30AM Secretary Srock gave a presentation to the voting members of the 2015 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 2015 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod began with opening devotions and the Order for the Opening of the Assembly at 9:30AM that was led by Bishop Miller. At 9:46AM Bishop Miller declared the assembly to be in session.

#### **Welcome**

Bishop Miller welcomed the voting members, visitors, and guests to the Twenty-Eight 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. Joan Bundley as parliamentarian for this assembly. Ms. Bundley is a Registered Professional Parliamentarian with the National Association of Parliamentarians. Bishop Miller welcomed Ms. Bundley back to our assembly, as she has served our synod in this capacity in years past.

#### **Introduction of the Assembly Planning Team and Chaplain**

Bishop Miller then introduced the members of the 2015 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  
Ms. Joan Church  
Ms. Nanette Dahlke  
Rev. Michael Fick  
Ms. Vicki Hill  
Rev. Ray Legania, staff  
Ms. Mary Richardson, staff  
Ms. Sandra Schlauch  
Rev. Steve Srock  
Ms. Patti Tregoning  
Ms. Beth Lawniczak, chair

Rev. Robin Brown  
Mr. Ken Church  
Mr. Jeff Drake, staff  
Rev. Hector Garfias-Toledo, staff  
Mr. Steven Homberg, staff  
Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite  
Ms. Gloria Rowland  
Ms. Patricia Schmitt  
Rev. Sarah Stumme, staff  
Ms. Kathleen West

Bishop Miller then introduced and thanked our emcee for this year's assembly, Rev. Christina Klein.

**Introduction of the Assembly Committees**

At 9:58AM Bishop Miller 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**

Rev. Ellen Arthur, chair

Rev. Ray Legania, staff

**Minutes Committee**

Ms. Lynn Dreymler  
Rev. Steve Srock, chair

Ms. Patti Tregoning

**Elections Committee**

Mr. Fred Biederman  
Ms. Erin Bodenstab  
Ms. Linda Covey  
Rev. Thad Fisher  
Mr. Fernando Mercado  
Rev. Rhonda Pruitt

Rev. Eric Bodenstab  
Ms. Stephanie Collins  
Ms. Reiko Dyson  
Mr. Steven Homberg, staff  
Ms. Nancy Nagel  
Rev. Robert Klonowski, Chair

**Nominations Committee**

Mr. Jason Churchill  
Rev. Rebekah Costello  
Rev. Christopher Neptun  
Rev. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong  
Rev. Sarah Stumme, staff

Ms. Viola Collins  
Ms. Elaine Farmer  
Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell  
Rev. Tim Seitz  
Mr. Kenneth Olson, Chair

### **Reference and Counsel Committee**

Rev. Herb Carlmark  
Mr. Fred Gittens  
Ms. Ruth Nelson  
Rev. Sue Allen, chair

Rev. Larry Clark  
Rev. Robert Goldstein  
Ms. Darcelle Williams  
Rev. Steven Srock, ex-officio

### **Sergeants at Arms**

Rev. James Andrews  
Rev. Kelly Faulstich  
Rev. Hector Garfias-Toledo, staff  
Rev. Rhonda Kral  
Mr. Mark Kuehner  
Ms. Lisa Neubert

Ms. Patricia Gerber Bornholt  
Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald  
Mr. David Glover  
Ms. Kathy Kuehner  
Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska  
Rev. Paul Pfeffer, chair

### **Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee**

At 10:00AM Bishop Miller called upon Rev. Ellen Arthur 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 327 (100 - Rostered Clergy Voting Members; 12 - Rostered Lay Voting Members; 215 - Lay Voting Members; 58 - visitors, staff, and display presenters) with the number of voting members necessary for a quorum being 164. Bishop Miller declared a quorum to be present at 10:01AM.

### **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 amended (the amendment had to do with relocating one of the forums to a different room and time). It was moved, seconded, and adopted.

### **Bar of the Assembly and the Rules of the Assembly**

At 10:03AM, 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 Organization and Procedure for the 2015 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly*" that was contained in the packet of materials that the voting members were given at the time of registration. He instructed the assembly regarding the three microphones: *green* for those speaking in favor of an action; *red* for those speaking in opposition; and *white* for points of order, 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 concerning how we will interact over the next two days are described in detail are contained in the document entitled, *Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2015 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 he was presenting it to this assembly for adoption and implementation. It appears in the Book or Reports immediately following the agenda. Since this comes to the assembly as a recommendation from the synod council it does not need to be moved or seconded. Bishop Miller acknowledged that the matter was properly before the assembly for consideration exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that already are in force. The motion was adopted.

#### **Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel**

At 10:08AM Bishop Miller called upon the Rev. Sue Allen, chair of the reference and counsel committee to offer the assembly instructions on the resolutions that are to come 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 prior to consideration and that the times and locations of those hearings would be given to the assembly.

Pastor Allen stated that there was an additional resolution that been submitted for consideration, however it had brought to the by someone who is not a voting member at this Assembly. It therefore was "out-of-order" and could not be considered. As a result and because of the importance of this matter, the concern was taken to the synod council who reviewed and considered the matter in order that it could be given a hearing. Pastor Allen, and the members of the Reference and Counsel Committee, noted in their report to the Synod Council that the items discussed by this additional resolution had been dealt with in previous Synod Assemblies. They recommended to the Synod Council that the concerns of this matter could be brought to the attention of this Assembly by referring to the actions of the previous assemblies. In 2007 and 2011, continuing position statements were adopted that are still in effect. These two continuing position statements (resolutions) are part of a 20-year strategic plan to address the matter of racism and antiracism education and action. The Synod Council agreed with the recommendation and decided that the best way to handle this matter was to distribute to this assembly copies of the 2007 and 2011 antiracism resolutions that clearly stated our synod's continuing position. Pastor Allen noted that these two resolutions had already been distributed to all of the voting members at this assembly by the Sergeants at Arms.

### **Report of the Nominations Committee**

At 10:14AM Bishop Miller invited Mr. Ken Olsen, the chairperson of the synod nominations committee to offer the assembly instructions on the nominations process. Following the report Bishop Miller declared that the nominations center would close at 12:00PM today.

### **Mission Moment**

Before our first mission moment of this assembly, Bishop Miller thanked Ms. Mary Anderson, a member of the synod Mission Interpreters Network, for coordinating these mission moments for us over the past few years. At 10:16AM Bishop Miller invited Ms. Beth Gibbs, mission interpreter at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Schaumburg, to come to the white microphone for this Assembly's first Mission Moment. She shared information on Moms and Tots English as a Second Language classes.

### **Introduction of Special Guests**

At 10:20AM 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: Rev. Stacy Martin, ELCA Director for Policy and Advocacy
- The Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich, Advocate Healthcare Systems, Senior Vice President, Mission and Spiritual Care Advocate Health Care
- Mr. Paul Hegland, Carthage College, Executive Director of Church and Professional Relations
- Mr. Mark Stutrud, Chief Executive Officer, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

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

### **Campus Ministry Presentation**

We then heard a presentation on Lutheran campus ministry by the Rev. Elizabeth Palmer, who serves as campus ministry pastor at the University of Chicago in Hyde Park.

### **Mission Moment**

At 10:43AM Bishop Miller invited Ms. Lori Vallelunga, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bethel New Life, Chicago, to come to the microphone and told us about their *West Side Forward Program*.

### **Concordia Place Presentation**

At 10:47AM Bishop Miller invited Rev. Nicholas Zook, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Concordia Place and pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church in Chicago to the stage. Rev. Adam Varner and Ms. Brenda Swarz joined Pastor Zook in sharing some information on the work and ministry of Concordia Place.

### **Announcements and Adjournment**

Bishop Miller then invited Rev. Christina Klein to the stage to make announcements. Pastor Klein mentioned that evaluations of the Assembly would be e-mailed to participants. 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 at 11:20AM.

### **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 12:49PM Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order and invited Pastor Larry Clark, a member of the synod council to open this session of the assembly with prayer.

### **Report of the Synodical Treasurer and the Introduction of 2015 Budget**

At 12:50PM Bishop Miller invited Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite to the stage. Treasurer NewberryWhite offered her treasurer's report and then introduced next year's budget. As a part of her report, she stated that the 2016 Budget had been reviewed by the synod council and comes to the assembly as a recommendation from them. It therefore does not need to be moved or seconded. Treasurer NewberryWhite announced that there would be a hearing to discuss the budget that afternoon at 1:30PM in the South Pavilion Room Three. 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 at 12:56PM.

### **Presentation of the Updates to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Constitution**

At 12:56PM Bishop Miller invited Secretary Srock to the stage. Secretary Srock offered a brief explanation of the process that the synod would undertake to update its governing document. This year the assembly would be voting to bring our constitution up-to-date by incorporating all of the updates authorized by churchwide assemblies over the past several years. He explained that the committee utilized the Model Constitution for Synods as the basis of this revision and to it added all of the provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions that are unique to our synod. The revisions to those portions of the document will be presented to the assembly in 2016 for consideration and again in 2017 for ratification. Secretary Srock stated that the updated constitution had been reviewed by the synod council and comes to the assembly as a recommendation from them. It therefore does not need to be moved or seconded. He announced that there would be a hearing to discuss the revisions to the constitution that afternoon at 1:30PM in the Sam Tinley Room and that anyone attending this would be given chocolate as an additional incentive to encourage attendance at this forum. Treasurer NewberryWhite objected to this blatant attempt at bribery to which Bishop Miller suggested that the voting members should stop at the constitution forum, grab some chocolate, and then proceed to the budget forum. Bishop Miller then stated that if there were no other objections, consideration of the constitution would be tabled until Saturday morning after the hearing. There were no objections and the motion was tabled at 1:00PM.

### **Mission Moment**

At 1:02AM Bishop Miller invited Ms. Margaret Flanagan, Community Engagement Manager

for Holy Family Ministries, to come to the microphone for our assembly's next Mission Moment. She spoke about Holy Family Lutheran Church's new resale shop in Arlington Heights, named Lucille.

### **Holy Family Ministries Presentation**

At 1:06PM Bishop Miller then invited, Ms. Susan Work, Chief Executive Officer of Holy Family Ministries, to come to the stage to share information on the wider scope of Holy Family Ministries.

### **Update on the ELCA's Malaria Campaign**

Bishop Miller upon the conclusion of the Holy Family Presentation at 1:23PM invited Ms. Bev Moody to give a brief update on progress of the ELCA's Malaria Campaign.

### **Announcements and Adjournment**

Following the presentation 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 2:15PM. However, before the Assembly was excused he invited Secretary Srock, a member of the synod council to offer a prayer. At 1:31PM Bishop Miller declared the assembly in recess for hearings and workshops.

## **Plenary Session Three**

### **Re-Convening of the Assembly**

At 2:40PM Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order and invited Pastor Robin Brown, a member of the synod council, to lead the assembly in prayer prior to consideration of resolutions coming before the assembly.

### **Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel**

At 2:41PM Bishop Miller announced that the next action of the assembly would be to consider those resolutions presented by the voting members to this gathering. He invited the Rev. Sue Allen, chair of the committee on reference and counsel, back to the stage to present resolutions for consideration and debate by this year's assembly.

The Rev. Sue Allen read the resolved portions of resolution **01-15 - Resolution on Criminal Justice** and moved and recommended its adoption. Bishop Miller then called for debate on the resolution at 2:43PM.

### **Resolution 01-15 - Resolution on Criminal Justice**

WHEREAS, Illinois prisons operate at 172.6% of design capacity, and are second only to Alabama in terms of being overcrowded;

WHEREAS, Cook County Jail serves as the largest mental health care provider in the United States;

WHEREAS, almost 70% of all Illinois inmates are in prison for non-violent crime;



WHEREAS, budget cuts have eliminated services and educational programs that would prepare inmates for their reentry to society;

WHEREAS, offenders face great obstacles when they return to society which make it difficult to secure housing and employment resulting in a recidivism rate higher than the U.S. average: in 2011, 51.7% of released prisoners returned to prison within three years versus the national average of 43.3%;

WHEREAS, both the General Assembly and the Governor recognize the need for comprehensive reform: the Joint Criminal Justice Reform Committee was created in the last session and was reconstituted in this session; and Governor Rauner has appointed a 28-member Criminal Justice Reform Commission;

WHEREAS, Lutheran Advocacy connects faith with public life, endeavors to further God's work in our world by advancing the common good, and represents a valuable tool to members of the ELCA as we do advocacy;

WHEREAS, the social statement, "The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries" was adopted in 2013 at the 13<sup>th</sup> 29 biennial Churchwide Assembly and gives direction for action; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to read and study the social statement, "The Church and Criminal Justice"; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations and members discuss how they might serve those involved in the Criminal Justice System, whether offenders, victims, or those who work in the system; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations become acquainted with the criminal justice ministries provided within the Metro Chicago area; and be it further

RESOLVED, that members of congregations be encouraged to join Lutheran Advocacy-Illinois at [Lutheranadvocacy.org](http://Lutheranadvocacy.org) in order to engage in this ministry more effectively; and be it further

RESOLVED, that members of congregations encourage their lawmakers to support criminal justice legislation that focuses on the restoration of offenders to society and to oppose punitive measures that make it difficult for offenders to make successful return to society.

Bishop Miller called for a vote at 2:49PM and the motion as amended by the reference and counsel committee and presented to the assembly was adopted.

The Rev. Sue Allen then read the resolved portions of resolution **03-15 - Resolution on Hunger** and moved and recommended its adoption. Bishop Miller then called for debate on the resolution at 2:50PM.

### **Resolution 03-15 - Resolution on Hunger**

WHEREAS, ELCA World Hunger responds to Christ's call to find him in the "least of these" (Matthew 25) and "until all are fed," serving with compassion people who are

most vulnerable, paying focused attention to the full participation of women and the needs of children;

WHEREAS, ELCA World Hunger responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world by addressing root causes through a comprehensive program of relief, education, advocacy, sustainable development, community organizing and networking by which people are connected to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty;

WHEREAS, through ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Fund Grants, \$32,775 is being given to hunger ministries in our synod for 14 different programs about food, education, homelessness, safety, and more;

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod gave an average of \$6.71 per baptized member, or \$520,800;

WHEREAS, in 2016, the focus of the Campaign for the ELCA will be ELCA World Hunger; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod be encouraged to make support for ELCA World Hunger a year-round emphasis, distribute the ELCA World Hunger envelopes for year-round giving, and participate in synod programs that lift up the ministry of ELCA World Hunger; and be it further

RESOLVED, that between now and the 2016 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly, the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod will each challenge themselves to take at least one additional concrete measurable step to increase their support for and awareness of those in need and ELCA World Hunger; and be it further

RESOLVED, that through the Campaign for the ELCA and its 2016 ELCA World Hunger theme will be one of the major focuses of the 2016 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that one of the offerings from the 2016 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly be designated for ELCA World Hunger.

Bishop Miller called for a vote at 2:51PM and the motion as presented to the assembly was adopted. Bishop Miller then thanked Pastor Allen and stated that we would consider the remaining resolutions on Saturday morning.

### **Nominating Committee**

At 2:52PM Bishop Miller then called upon the Mr. Ken Olson, Chair of the Nominations Committee, to the stage to report on the work of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Olson presented the report of the committee. This was an opportunity for Bishop Miller then to offer a special word of thanks to the committee for continuing to lift up fine leaders for our synod who also reflect our commitment to racial and cultural diversity. Mr. Olsen mentioned that there were additional nominees and asked the bishop to have the sergeants at arms distribute printed information on the additional nominees.

### **Report of the Elections Committee**

At 2:57PM Bishop Miller then invited the Rev. Robert Klonowski, chair of the elections committee, to give instructions to the assembly regarding the first ballot. Before the voting, Bishop Miller asked, Pastor Michael Russell, a member of the synod council to offer a prayer. He declared the ballot open at 3:00PM. After everyone had completed and turned in the first ballot Bishop Miller declared the balloting closed at 3:22PM.

### **Mission Moment**

At 3:22PM Bishop Miller called upon Mr. Joe Scarry, a member of the synod's Working Group on the Middle East, to come to the microphone for a Mission Moment. He showed a video entitled, "Bright Stars of Bethlehem and Diyar".

### **Report of the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Representative**

At 3:25PM Bishop Miller then invited Mr. Mark Stutrud, Chief Executive Officer of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, who will present a report on the work and ministry of LSSI.

### **Keynote Speaker**

At 3:40PM Bishop Miller then introduced our Keynote Speaker, the Rev. Stacy Martin. Pastor Martin is currently serving as the ELCA's Director for Policy and Advocacy. As the advocacy director, she leads the ELCA's advocacy efforts and is our presence in Washington on a range of issues, both domestic and international. In addition to her work on the national and international arena she also works with the state public policy offices. Pastor Martin is an ordained Presbyterian Minister, and has served both Presbyterian and ELCA parishes in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Prior to joining the ELCA, Pastor Martin served as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service's vice president for external relations and development, where she led their policy and advocacy, resource development, marketing and communications, and media efforts. She has lived and worked in South Korea, South Africa, and Turkey.

### **Announcements**

Before transitioning to the second session on hearings and workshops Bishop Miller called upon the Rev. Christina Klein for announcements.

### **Mission Moment**

At 4:17PM Bishop Miller called upon Ms. Ruth Beck, past president and current Board Member of the Synodical Women's Organization, to come to the microphone for the final Mission Moment for today. She will be sharing information on Ecumenical Mission. Ms. Beck is a member of Bethany Lutheran Church in Batavia.

### **Adjournment**

Before dismissing the assembly, Bishop Miller asked Pastor Ellen Arthur, a member of the synod council to lead the assembly in prayer. At 4:20PM 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 5:15PM.

### **Evening Worship**

After the hearing and workshops, 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 reconvened at 8:38AM for worship with morning devotions led by the Rev. Ben Adams and Ms. Tammy Jackson. When worship ended Bishop Miller called the fourth plenary session of the assembly to order at 9:00AM.

### **Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee**

At 9:01AM Bishop Miller called upon the Rev. Ellen Arthur of the credentials and courtesies committee, to give their final report. Pastor Arthur reported that the total number of voting members registered as of 8:30AM Saturday was 418 with the number of voting members necessary for a quorum being 209: 149 - Registered Rostered Voting Members, 253 - Voting Members, 16 - Registered Guests, and 68 Visitors and Guests. Bishop Miller declared a quorum present and thanked the Pastor Arthur and the committee for their work.

### **The Report of the First General Ballot**

At 9:02AM Bishop Miller called upon Pastor Robert Klonowski, to present the results of the First General Ballot. He asked for the chair's permission to only read the names of those who had received a sufficient number of votes to be elected and to distribute the results of the elections to the assembly. The request was granted. At 9:06AM Bishop Miller declared the receiving the majority of votes to be elected:

## **Metropolitan Chicago Synod 2015 Assembly Official Election Results – First General Ballot**

**Bold Type – Indicates the person received the majority vote**

\* - Indicates person of color or language other than English

### **Synod Treasurer**

1	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	351		351	176
a.	<b>Yvette Newberry White*</b>			351
b.				0

### **Synod Council**

2	<u>North Conference:</u>			Majority
	Cast	Invalid	Valid	
	328	1	328	164
a.	<b>Rev. Dennis Kelly</b>			327
b.				0

3	<u>Northwest Conference:</u>			
	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	339	1	338	170
	a. <b>Marlene Daubert</b>			338
	b.			0
4	<u>West Conference:</u>			
	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	338		338	170
	a. <b>Jim Hiepler Hartwig</b>			188
	b. Farrell Benefield*			150
5	<u>Southwest Conference:</u>			
	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	337	1	336	169
	a. <b>Charles Willett, Jr.*</b>			336
	b.			0
6	<u>South Conference (completing term):</u>			
	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	335		335	168
	a. <b>Myrtis Brown*</b>			335
	b.			0
7	<u>Other Council Member:</u>			
	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	342	1	341	171
	a. <b>Rev. Larry Clark*</b>			341
	b.			0
8	<u>Other Council Member:</u>			
	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	344		344	173
	a. <b>Rev. Erin Clausen</b>			191
	b. Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald			153
9	<u>Youth Member:</u>			
	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	0	0	0	0
	a.			0
	b.			0

## **Consultation Committee**

### Laypersons:

10	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	338	1	337	169
	a. <b>Joan Church</b>			337
	b.			0
11	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	333		333	167
	a. <b>Mark Witt</b>			333
	b.			0
12	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	334		334	168
	a. <b>Renee Gust</b>			334
	b.			0

### Clergy:

13	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	335	1	335	168
	a. <b>Rev. Ellen Arthur</b>			335
	b.			0
14	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	321	1	320	161
	a. <b>Rev. Lester White*</b>			320
	b.			0
15	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	0	0	0	0
	a.			0
	b.			0

## **Discipline Committee**

### Laypersons:

16	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	333	1	332	167
	a. <b>Ivan Perez*</b>			332
	b.			0

17	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	0	0	0	0
	a.			0
	b.			0
18	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	0	0	0	0
	a.			0
	b.			0

Clergy:

19	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	328	1	327	164
	a. <b>Rev. Michael Sparby</b>			327
	b.			0
20	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	335	1	335	168
	a. <b>Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell*</b>			335
	b.			0
21	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	334	1	333	167
	a. Rev. Mary Appelt-Graves			333
	b.			0

## Official Election Results – General Ballot Voting Members to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly

**Bold Type – Indicates the person received the majority vote**

\* - Indicates person of color or language other than English

**Lay Voting Members (Male)**

22	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	333	1	332	167
	a. <b>Ken Church (N)</b>			332
	b.			0
23	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	338		338	170
	a. <b>Terry Henderson I (SW)*</b>			338
	b.			0

24	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	330	1	329	165
	a. <b>Dan Dorman</b>			329
	b.			0

25	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	333	1	332	167
	a. <b>Ken Olson</b>			329
	b.			0

**Lay Voting Members (Female)**

26	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	333	1	333	167
	a. <b>Shirley Moore (S)*</b>			210
	b. Yvette NewberryWhite (S)*			123

27	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	333		333	167
	a. <b>Tara Shilts (NW)*</b>			229
	b. Dixie Downes (NE)*			104

28	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	319		319	160
	a. <b>Patricia Gerber Bornholt (W)</b>			176
	b. Patricia Colson (SW)			143

29	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	325		325	163
	a. <b>Betty Birner (NW)</b>			186
	b. Beverly Moody (NW)			139

30	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	312		312	157
	a. <b>Judy Nuehring (NRW)</b>			174
	b. Sandy Reback (NRW)			138

31	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	322		322	162
	a. <b>Alyssa Dahlke (Young Adult)</b>			322
	b.			0



**Ordained Voting Members (Male)**

32	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	325		325	163
	a. <b>Rev. Jason Glombicki (C)</b>			182
	b. Rev. Lester White (C)*			143
33	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	324	1	323	162
	a. <b>Rev. John Roberts (NE)</b>			323
	b.			0
34	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	329		329	165
	a. <b>Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell (S)*</b>			170
	b. Rev. Michael Russell (SW)*			159
35	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	323		323	162
	a. <b>Rev. Steve Srock (W)</b>			323
	b.			0
36	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	325		325	163
	a. <b>Rev. Alex LaChapelle (NE)*</b>			325
	b.			0

**Ordained Voting Members (Female)**

37	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	337		337	169
	a. <b>Rev. Rhonda Dral (NRW)</b>			215
	b. Rev. Julie Boleyn (NRW)			122
38	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	329	2	327	164
	a. <b>Rev. Sandra Jones (W)</b>			327
	b.			0
39	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	326	2	324	163
	a. <b>Rev. Rhonda Pruitt (NE)*</b>			324
	b.			0

40	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	329	2	329	165
	a. Rev. Caroline Satre (N)*			163
	b. <b>Rev. Carla Thompson Powell</b> (S)			166

**Consideration of the 2016 Synodical Budget**

At 9:07AM Bishop Miller declared that the 2016 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 Miller asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, Bishop Miller called for a vote on the 2016 budget and the budget was adopted at 9:08AM. He then thanked Treasurer NewberryWhite for her work, her dedication to our synod, and congratulated her on her reelection.

**Recognition of Anniversaries and Welcome Rostered Leaders New to Our Synod**

At 9:08AM Bishop Miller 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 congregations names were read.

<u>Congregation Name</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
First Lutheran Church of the Trinity, Chicago	150 years
Bethel Lutheran Church, Chicago	125 years
Edgebrook Lutheran Church, Chicago	75 years
Savior Divine Lutheran Church, Palos Hill	75 years
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ingleside	75 years
Holy Family Lutheran Church, Chicago	50 years
St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Antioch	50 years
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Glenwood	50 years

At 9:10AM Vice President Dahlke also asked to the assembly to acknowledge and celebrate the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church in Villa Park, which closed during this year after 88 years of proclaiming the good news of God for us in Jesus Christ.

When all the names had been read, Bishop Miller invited assembly to acknowledge the congregations with applause.

At 9:10AM 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 April 22, 2015 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.

<b><u>Rostered Leader</u></b>	<b><u>Anniversary</u></b>
Rev. Willard Blomquist	65 years
Rev. Edwin Blumenkamp	60 years
Rev. Bruce Johnston	60 years
Rev. Kenneth Pohlmann	60 years
Rev. James Carr	55 years
Rev. Bruce Dahl	55 years
Rev. Hans Dumpys	55 years
Rev. Paul Johns	55 years
Rev. Gerald Koenig	55 years
Rev. Earl Peters	55 years
Rev. Harvey Feustel	50 years
Rev. Paul Landahl	50 years
Rev. David Maring	50 years
Rev. Larry Morkert	50 years
Rev. Donald Myrom	50 years
Rev. Ellen Arthur	25 years
Rev. Susan Beadle	25 years
Rev. Janet Breum	25 years
Rev. Eileen Harris	25 years
Rev. Franklin Ishida	25 years

At 9:11AM Vice President Dahlke then recognized the rostered leaders who are new to our synod during the past year. She introduced those leaders 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.

<b><u>Rostered Leader</u></b>	<b><u>Congregation</u></b>
Rev. Justin Baxter,	Pastor,

	Norwood Park Lutheran Church, Chicago
Rev. Eric Bodenstab,	Interim Pastor, United in Faith Lutheran Church, Chicago
Ms. Erin Bodenstab,	Director of Discipleship and Faith Formation, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hinsdale
Rev. Carol Book,	Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Elgin
Rev. Anne Christiansen,	Pastor
Rev. Laura Hall-Schordje,	Pastor, Living Christ Lutheran Church, Hanover Park
Rev. Cynthia Halmarson,	ELCA Area Program Director for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, Chicago
Rev. Charisse Jensen	Pastor, St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Naperville
Rev. Richard Johnson,	Pastor, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge
Rev. Christina Klein	Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Homewood
Rev. Alexis LaChapelle	Pastor, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge
Rev. Daniel Morris	Pastor, St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Naperville
Rev. Christopher Neptun	Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Glenview
Rev. JoAnn Post,	Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Northfield
Rev. Thomas Prochaska,	Interim Pastor, Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn
Rev. Elaina Salmon,	Pastor, Bethany Lutheran Church, Lemont
Ms. Julie Sevig,	Section Editor for <i>The Lutheran</i> , ELCA Mission Formation, Chicago
Rev. Michael Steinke,	Interim Pastor, Salem Lutheran Church, Chicago
Rev. Adam Varner	Pastor, Concordia Lutheran Church, Chicago

### **Kid's Hope Ministries Presentation**

At 9:14AM Bishop Miller then invited, Ms. Marlene Daubert, Diaconal Minister at Zion Lutheran Church in Elgin and a member of the Synod Council, to come to the stage to share information on the work of Kid's Hope.

### **Mission Moment**

At 9:34AM Bishop Miller invited Rev. David Hulse, associate pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in LaGrange, to come to the microphone to share the first Mission Moment of the day. His topic was the Weekend Backpack Program.

### **Report of the Bishop**

At 9:36AM Bishop Miller relinquished the chair of the assembly to Vice President Nan Dahlke in order to give his report. At 10:29AM Vice President Nan Dahlke returned the chair to Bishop Miller. *(A video copy of Bishop Miller's Report is available online at the Metropolitan Chicago Synod website: [www.mcselca.org/Assembly](http://www.mcselca.org/Assembly))*

### **A Refreshment Break**

At 10:29AM Bishop Miller invited the Assembly to take a fifteen-minute break for refreshment.

### **Announcement of the Election of New Bishop**

At 10:54AM Bishop Miller reconvened the assembly and called it back to order and offered prayer on the newly elected bishop in South Carolina.

### **Greetings from a Representative Church Council**

At 10:56PM before we received the ELCA Churchwide Office Report, Bishop Miller invited Ms. Ingrid Stafford, a member of the ELCA Church Council to the stage. Ingrid relates to our synod and brought greetings to the assembly from the church council.

### **Report of the ELCA Representative**

At 10:59AM Bishop Miller welcomed back to the stage our ELCA Churchwide Representative to our gathering, the Rev. Stacy Martin, who will bring us the ELCA Churchwide Office Report. Pastor Martin serves as the Director for Policy and Advocacy. In that work, she leads the our advocacy efforts and is our presence in Washington on a range of international and domestic issues as well as working with state of Illinois public policy offices. Pastor Martin gave her report.

### **Prayer**

At 11:27PM Bishop Miller offered a prayer for young adults touring Palestine and the death of Dr. Nasar.

### **Mission Moment**

At 11:29PM Bishop Miller invited the Rev. Linnea Wilson, pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Mount Prospect, to come to the microphone for another Mission Moment. Pastor Wilson shared information on the foster care program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.

### **Report of the Vice President**

At 11:31AM Bishop Miller called upon Vice President Dahlke to present her vice president's report.

### **Report of the Synodical Secretary**

Following the vice president's report at 11:39AM, Bishop Miller called upon the synod secretary, Rev. Steven Srock, for his report to the Assembly.

### **Consideration of the Updates to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Constitution**

At 11:50AM Bishop Miller declared that consideration of the updates to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Constitution that was tabled the day before to allow for a forum to discuss these updates was now before the Assembly. Bishop Miller asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, Bishop Miller called for a vote to approve the updated synodical constitution. The motion was adopted and he declared that the updated constitution was approved. Secretary Srock will forward a copy of this document to the ELCA Office of the Secretary for review. Bishop Miller then thanked Secretary Srock and the committee for their work.

### **Mission Moment**

At 11:51AM Bishop Miller called upon Ms. Viola Collins Brown of Holy Family Lutheran Church in Chicago to come to the microphone for our final Mission Moment. She made a short presentation on New Life in Cabrini Green.

### **Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel**

At 11:57AM Bishop Miller invited Ms. Marlene Daubert, a member of the synod council to lead the assembly in prayer prior to consideration of resolutions coming before the assembly. Bishop Miller then announced that the next action of the assembly would be to consider resolutions presented by the voting members to this gathering. He again invited the Rev. Sue Allen, chair of the committee on reference and counsel, back to the stage to present the remaining resolutions for consideration and debate by this year's assembly.

The Rev. Sue Allen then read the resolved portions of resolution **02-15 - Resolution on Bread for the World** and moved and recommended its adoption. Bishop Miller then called for debate on the resolution at 11:59AM. At 12:04PM a prayer before the vote was offered by Bishop Miller.

### **Resolution 02-15 - Resolution on Bread for the World**

WHEREAS, through faithful advocacy, the ELCA lives out our Lutheran belief that governments can help advance the common good;

WHEREAS, Bread for the World (BFW) is one of the ELCA's valued partners in advocacy;

WHEREAS, BFW has a successful track record in working on a bipartisan basis with Congress to pass legislation benefitting hungry and vulnerable people at home and around the world;

WHEREAS, BFW relies on the activity of Christian people and congregations to achieve its goal of passing such legislation;

WHEREAS, federal nutrition programs are essential to meet the needs of hungry people since 95% of food for the hungry in the U.S. comes from federal sources and only 5% from churches and other private charities;

WHEREAS, every five years, Congress must reauthorize the law that funds these programs (which include those for school meals, summer feeding, and the WIC nutrition program for pregnant and new mothers along with their small children);

WHEREAS, these national nutrition programs must be reauthorized this year; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that congregations and members be encouraged to participate in this year's offering of letters, "Feed Our Children"; and be it further RESOLVED, that members of congregations be encouraged to join BFW as individual members;

Bishop Miller called for a vote at 12:04PM and the motion as presented to the assembly was adopted.

The Rev. Sue Allen then read the resolved portions of resolution **04-15 - Resolution on U.S. Government Aid to the State of Israel** and moved it and it came from the committee on reference and counsel without recommendation. Bishop Miller then called for debate on the resolution at 12:06PM.

#### **Resolution 04-15 - Resolution on U.S. Government Aid to the State of Israel**

WHEREAS, under international law established by the Fourth Geneva Convention, the State of Israel, in its occupation of Palestinian territories, is not granting the Palestinian people their rights to full access to water, food, shelter, and medical and educational services; and

WHEREAS, in violation of the 1993 Oslo Accord's call for a two-state solution to the conflict, Israel continues to build illegal settlements on Palestinian land, erect a separation wall, deny free movement of Palestinians and maintain a blockade of the Gaza Strip; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, under the Foreign Assistance Act, requires that a country receiving U.S. financial aid not engage in violation of human rights of people under its governance; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, under the Arms Export Control Act, requires that a country receiving U.S. military arms not use these weapons for oppression of another people; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in assembly endorsed the October 15, 2012, letter sent to Congress by 15 American Christian leaders, and that the Illinois congressional delegation was notified of this action; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that members of the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod be encouraged to contact their congressional representatives and their senators to encourage their support and action to terminate U.S. financial aid until the state of

Israel seeks a peace agreement, ends its occupation of Palestinian territory and enables an independent Palestinian state; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly through the Synod Council make this resolution known to members of the Illinois Congressional delegation who serve citizens living in our synod and the public at large; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

At 12:18PM a prayer before the vote was offered by Bishop Miller, who then called for a vote at 12:20PM. The result of the vote was unclear and Bishop Miller called for the sergeants at arms to perform a count. The first count was challenged and a recount was called. The result of the recount was 128 in Favor and 107 Opposed. The Bishop declared the motion adopted at 12:26PM. Bishop Miller again then thanked Pastor Allen and the members of the reference and counsel committee for their work, dedication, and assistance with resolutions and the business of this year's assembly.

#### **Final Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee**

At 12:29PM Bishop Miller called on the Rev. Ellen Arthur of the committee for credentials and courtesies for a resolution of thanks.

#### **Authorization to Make Necessary Technical Corrections**

At 12:31PM 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. It was seconded and adopted at 12:32PM.

#### **Announcements and the Closing of the Assembly**

At 12:32PM Bishop Miller called the Rev. Christina Klein to the stage for final announcements. Bishop Miller then led the assembly in "Order for the Closing of the Assembly". Bishop Miller declared that the 28<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod was adjourned at 12:38PM.

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 is available online at [www.mcselca.org/assembly](http://www.mcselca.org/assembly). Also available online are a summary report of this year's assembly, election results, the 2016 synod budget, the updated synod constitution, final versions of the resolutions that were adopted, and photos of the gathering.)*