



Transformed & Transforming

**The Minutes of the 29th Annual Synod Assembly
of the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Friday, June 10, 2016
Saturday, June 11, 2016
held at the
Tinley Park Convention Center
Tinley Park, Illinois**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Transformed
Transforming
Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA
29th Annual Synod Assembly

**29th Annual Synod Assembly
of the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Friday, June 10, 2016 and Saturday, June 11, 2016
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 2016 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.

Welcome

At 9:20AM Bishop Miller welcomed the voting members, visitors, and guests to the Twenty-Ninth Annual Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and invited them to join in Opening Worship.

Opening Worship

The 2016 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod began with opening devotions and the Order for the Opening of the Assembly at 9:15AM that was led by Bishop Miller. At 9:24AM Bishop Miller declared the assembly to be in session.

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 2016 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 |
| Mr. Ken Church | Ms. Nanette Dahlke |
| Mr. Jeff Drake, staff | Rev. Michael Fick |
| Rev. Hector Garfias-Toledo, staff | Ms. Vicki Hill |
| Mr. Steven Homberg, staff | Rev. Ray Legania, staff |
| Bishop Wayne Miller, staff | Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite |
| Ms. Mary Richardson, staff | Ms. Gloria Rowland |
| Ms. Sandra Schlauch | Ms. Patricia Schmitt |
| Rev. Steven Srock | Rev. Sarah Stumme, staff |
| Ms. Patti Tregoning | Ms. Kathleen West |
| Ms. Beth Lawniczak, chair | |

Bishop Miller then introduced and thanked our emcee for this year’s assembly, Rev. Alex LaChapelle.

Introduction of the Assembly Committees

At 9:28AM 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 | Ms. Patti Tregoning |
| Rev. Steve Srock, chair | |

Reference and Counsel Committee

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Rev. Lawrence Clark | Rev. Thad Fisher |
| Mr. Rodger Jones | Rev. Robert Navarro |
| Rev. Kwame Pitts | Ms. Kathleen Sawyer |
| Deborah Welch | Mr. Charles Willett, Jr. |
| Rev. Sue Allen, chair | Rev. Steven Srock, ex-officio |

Sergeants at Arms

Rev. Mary Appelt-Graves
Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald
Mr. David Glover
Mr. Ray Good
Rev. Rhonda Kral
Ms. Lisa Neubert
Rev. Rhonda Pruitt
Rev. Paul Pfeffer, chair

Ms. Patricia Gerber Bornholt
Rev. Hector Garfias-Toledo, staff
Ms. Jackie Good
Ms. Beth Howell
Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska
Ms. Rene Paquin
Mr. Jim Valentine

Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

At 9:32AM 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 333 (104 - Rostered Clergy Voting Members; 11 - Rostered Lay Voting Members; 218 - Lay Voting Members; 85 - visitors, staff, and display presenters) with the number of voting members necessary for a quorum being 167. Bishop Miller declared a quorum to be present at 9:33AM.

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. It was moved, seconded, and adopted.

Bar of the Assembly and the Rules of the Assembly

At 9:34AM, 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. 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 2016 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 and contained in the document entitled, *Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2016 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 of 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 9:40AM 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.

Mission Moment

Bishop Miller invited Mr. Ken Olson, Coordinator of the Synod's Mission Interpreters, to come to the white microphone for this Assembly's first Mission Moment. He shared information on speaking out for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and others.

Introduction of Special Guests

At 9:48AM Bishop Miller invited Vice President Dahlke to welcome our assembly guests that represented our wide range of partnerships in mission and ministry.

- Churchwide office Representative Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, ELCA Executive Director of the Global Mission Unit
- Bishop Sally Dyck, Northern Illinois Conference, United Methodist Church
- Bishop Jeffrey Lee, Episcopal Diocese of Chicago
- Rev. Dr. Jorge L. Morales, Conference Minister, Illinois Conference, United Church of Christ
- Mr. Mark Stutrud, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
- Rev. Ramie Bakken, Regional Coordinator, Region 5 of the ELCA
- The Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich, Advocate Healthcare Systems, Senior Vice President, Mission and Spiritual Care Advocate Health Care
- Rev. Don Hallberg, ELCA Mission Investment Fund
- Ms. Beth Lewis, Augsburg Fortress Publishers
- Rev. Arnie Pierson, ELCA Credit Union

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

Our First Guest Speaker

At 9:51AM Bishop Miller then invited our first guest speaker, Bishop Sally Dyck, bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church to address the assembly.

Report of the Synodical Treasurer and the Introduction of 2016 Budget

At 10:12AM 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 2017 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 3:35PM 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.

Report of the Vice President

At 10:18AM 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 10:28AM, Bishop Miller called upon the synod secretary, Rev. Steven Srock, for his report to the Assembly.

Mission Moment

At 10:41AM Bishop Miller invited JoAnn Post, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Northfield, to come to the microphone and tell us about the Forty Days of Giving challenge at her congregation.

Presentation of the ELCA Credit Union

At 10:46AM Bishop Miller invited Rev. Arnie Pierson and Mr. Luis Reyes, to make a presentation to the assembly about the newly formed ELCA Credit Union.

Our Second Guest Speaker

At 10:53AM Bishop Miller invited Mr. Mark Stutrud, president and chief executive officer of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois to report on the work of LSSI.

Presentation of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal

At 11:03AM Bishop Miller invited Reverend Robin Brown, Associate Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster, in the Mission Advancement Unit of the ECLA, to make a presentation on ELCA World Hunger.

Mission Moment

At 11:21AM Bishop Miller invited Mr. Greg Hammond, a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Mount Prospect, to come to the center microphone for our assembly's next Mission Moment. Mr. Hammond will offer information on congregations working with RefugeeOne to provide a home for a Syrian family.

Announcements and Adjournment

Bishop Miller then invited Rev. Alex LaChapelle to the stage to make announcements. Pastor LaChapelle mentioned that evaluations of the Assembly would be e-mailed to participants. He 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 11:23AM and asked to reconvene at 12:45PM.

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 12:51PM Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order.

Our Third Guest Speaker

At 12:54PM Bishop Miller invited our third guest speaker, Bishop Jeffrey Lee, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago to address the assembly.

Mission Moment

At 1:11PM Bishop Miller invited Mr. Dan Dorman, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Plaines. The video focuses on a program at Trinity, Five Loaves and Two Fish Community Lunch, which offers a free lunch to the needy.

Our Fourth Guest Speaker

At 1:14PM Bishop Miller invited our fourth pair of guests, Sister Mary Ellen Commbe and Mr. Daniel Olsen, who will bring greetings from the Archdiocese of Chicago. Sister Mary Ellen is the Associate Director for the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the Archdiocese of Chicago and Mr. Olsen is Assistant Director in the same office. Sister Mary Ellen read a letter of greeting from Archbishop Blase J. Cupich.

Reformation Anniversary

At 1:19PM Bishop Miller invited the Reverend Nicholas Zook, pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church in Chicago to speak about resources for dialogue, study and prayer together by congregations and Catholic parishes as we prepare to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation next year, the renewal of the covenant between Catholics and Lutherans in Chicago, and resources that will be made available for congregations seeking to form Covenants with Catholic parishes in their communities.

Portico Presentation

At 1:24PM Bishop Miller invited Ms. Kelsey Bode, Events Coordinator, Customer Outreach, from Portico Benefit Services to address the assembly.

Augsburg Fortress Presentation

At 1:28PM Bishop Miller welcomed Ms. Beth Lewis, Chief Executive Officer, of Augsburg Fortress Publishers and invited her to address the assembly.

Latino Strategy Update

At 1:35M Bishop Miller asked the Rev. Sandra Jones, chair of the Synod's Latino Ministry Strategy Implementation Team, to join him on the stage and to present to the assembly an update on the Latino Strategy. After her report Pastor Jones moved the adoption of the updated strategy. It was seconded and action on the motion was tabled until Saturday after today's hearing. There will be a hearing to discuss the Latino Strategy Friday afternoon at 3:35PM in the North Pavilion Four room.

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 2:50PM. At 1:38PM Bishop Miller declared the assembly in recess for hearings and workshops.

Plenary Session Three

Re-Convening of the Assembly

At 3:01PM Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order and invited Pastor Gregory Moser to lead the assembly in prayer prior to consideration of resolutions coming before the assembly.

Mission Moment

At 3:03PM Bishop Miller invited the Rev. Kathy Nolte, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Oak Park, to the center microphone for the next Mission Moment. The topic of this Mission Moment is Kidz Express, a holistic program to transform the lives of students in the South Austin neighborhood of Chicago.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

At 3:07PM 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 **03-16 - Resolution to Support ELCA World Hunger** and moved and recommended its adoption.

Resolution 03-16 - Resolution to Support ELCA World Hunger

WHEREAS, 795 million people around the world – 1 in 10 – cannot access the food they need to live active, healthy lives. One billion people, or 14.5% of the world's population, live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.25 a day. At some point in 2014, more than 48 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from; and 46.7 million Americans were living in poverty. For a family of four, this means that their annual household income was below \$23,850; and

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; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Metropolitan Chicago Synod gave \$520,595, and in 2015 gave \$627,616 to ELCA World Hunger; and WHEREAS, in 2016 the focus of the Campaign for the ELCA will be ELCA World Hunger; and

WHEREAS, 2017 is the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, reminding us again of how the church continues to be involved with the needs of society; be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod accept the challenge to raise one million dollars for ELCA World Hunger between June 1, 2016, and October 31, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, that 100% of the offerings from the 2016 and 2017 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly worship services be designated for ELCA World Hunger.

Bishop Miller called for a vote at 3:10PM and the motion as presented to the assembly was adopted.

The Rev. Sue Allen then read the resolved portions of resolution **04-16 – Memorial on African Descent Lutheran Lives Matter** and moved and recommended its adoption. Bishop Miller then called for debate on the resolution at 3:14PM.

Resolution 04-16 – Memorial on African Descent Lutheran Lives Matter

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to include as part of its observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and the commemoration of the United Nation’s International Decade of People of African Descent the following:

1. Direct the Church Council to create a “Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community” similar to the “Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community (4/18/1994)” acknowledging the Lutheran church’s complicity in the 400+ years of slavery and the oppression of other marginalized groups; that people of African descent were victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism and continue to be victims of its consequences; and, the ELCA has perpetuated racism and discrimination through attitudes, actions, policies and practices these communities still endure. The Council will bring this “Declaration” to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly for its consideration and action with a recommendation to include this Declaration in the governing documents of the ELCA;
2. Direct the Church Council to require the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC) in partnership with the Conference of International Black Lutherans (CIBL) to recognize and dismantle white hegemony by lifting up, encouraging and incorporating academic exploration of Black Liberation

theology across ELCA educational expressions, to allocate funds for the development of resources and to accomplish this by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; and,

3. Direct the Church Council to require the Congregational and Synodical Missions Unit of the ELCA to work in partnership with the African Descent Lutheran Association to increase by 10% the number of African Descent leaders, congregations and communities served, thereby renewing its commitment (see African Descent Strategy, CWA, 2005) to create, sustain, reinvest in and support this plan of action by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and to encourage Synods and congregations to do likewise.

Bishop Miller called for a vote at 3:17PM and the memorial 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.

Mission Moment

At 3:18PM Bishop Miller called upon Ms. Sue Cahalan for our assembly’s next Mission Moment. Ms. Cahalan is a volunteer with Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry who frequently speaks on topics of mental health and faith as well as an attorney at law focusing in special health needs. She directs her own mental health minister in her Lutheran church in Wheaton. She discussed increasing suicide prevention awareness to reduce stigma and shame.

Recognition of Anniversaries and Welcome Rostered Leaders New to the Synod

At 3:21PM 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 to stand as their congregations’ names were read.

<u>Congregation Name</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Harvey	125 years
Trinity Lutheran Church, Evanston	125 years
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Villa Park	75 years
Lutheran Church of the Master, Carol Stream	50 years
Messiah Lutheran Church, Elgin	50 years

Living Christ Lutheran Church,
Hanover Park

50 years

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

At 3:22PM 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 11, 2016, 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.

<u>Rostered Leader</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
Rev. James Christensen	65 years
Rev. Donald Balster	60 years
Rev. Donald Bravin	60 years
Rev. Herbert Carlmark	60 years
Rev. Walter Hamester	60 years
Rev. Arnold Lack	60 years
Ms. Olive Hanson	60 years
Rev. Glenn Bergmark	55 years
Rev. Robert Hereth	55 years
Rev. Gerald Nelson	55 years
Rev. Robert Shaner	55 years
Rev. Willard Wagner	55 years
Rev. Donald Hallberg	50 years
Rev. Shun-Lian Hsie	50 years
Rev. Richard Kaeske	50 years
Rev. Karl Reko	50 years
Rev. Anton Weber	50 years
Rev. Lawrence Wick	50 years
Rev. Richard Grudt	25 years
Ms. Wanda Krentz	25 years
Rev. Gregory Moser	25 years
Ms. Ellen Schnack	25 years
Rev. Donald Wink	25 years

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

At 3:24PM 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.

<u>Rostered Leader</u>	<u>Congregation</u>
Rev. Benjamin Adams	Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago
Rev. Donald Bravin	Retired Pastor
Rev. Amy Gillespie	Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lombard
Rev. Sally Hanson	Associate Pastor Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Libertyville
Rev. Marrion Johnson	Pastor, Come Alive Ministry of Faith, Chicago
Rev. Vickie Johnson	Pastor St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Chicago
Tracy McClure	Associate in Ministry Christ Lutheran Church, Palatine
Rev. David Lyle	Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest
Billie Navarro	Retired Associate in Ministry
Rev. Roberto Navarro	Retired Pastor
Rev. Kwame Pitts	Pastor Redeemer Lutheran Church, South Holland
Rev. Carl Rabbe	Pastor, United by Faith Lutheran Church, Evergreen Park
Rev. Dana Schroeder	CPE Supervisor and Chaplain Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, Downers Grove
Rev. Kyle Severson	Pastor, Lutheran Church of St. Philip, Glenview
Rev. Paula Stecker	Interim Pastor Calvary Lutheran Church, Chicago
Rev. Harvard Stephens	Pastor to the Community and Dean of the Chapel Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
Rev. Linda Thurston	Pastor, Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Elk Grove Village
Rev. David Walters	Associate Pastor Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wheaton
Rev. Christine Webb	Pastor St. Mark Lutheran Church, Mount Prospect

David Webb

Diaconal Minister
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Mount Prospect

Christine Yucha

Diaconal Minister
Recruiter, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

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

Announcements

At 3:26PM Bishop Miller asked Rev. Alex LaChapelle for announcement. The assembly then transitioned to the second session of hearings and workshops. Bishop Miller announced that following the workshops and hearings that the assembly would be in recess until Saturday morning at 8:30AM.

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 8:34AM on Saturday for worship with morning devotions. When worship ended Bishop Miller called the fourth plenary session of the assembly to order at 9:01AM.

Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

Bishop Miller then 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 447 with the number of voting members necessary for a quorum being 224. In addition there were 92 visitors and guests. Bishop Miller declared a quorum present and thanked the Pastor Arthur and the committee for their work.

Consideration of the 2017 Synodical Budget

At 9:02AM Bishop Miller declared that the 2017 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 2017 budget and the budget was adopted at 9:03AM. He then thanked Treasurer NewberryWhite for her work and her dedication to our synod.

Latino Strategy Update

At 9:03AM Bishop Miller asked the Rev. Sandra Jones, chair of the Synod’s Latino Ministry Strategy Implementation Team, to join him again on the stage and answer questions that may not have been addressed at the Hearing.

Bishop Miller called for action to un-table the Latino Strategy Motion. He called for debate. There was none and the question was called for and the motion was adopted at 9:04AM.

Mission Moment

At 9:04AM Bishop Miller invited Rev. Ben Adams, assistant pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and a member of the Synod Antiracism Team, to present today's first Mission Moment. He spoke on the antiracism work being done at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago.

Our Fifth Guest Speaker

At 9:07AM Bishop Miller invited our fifth guest, the Rev. Dr. Jorge Morales, Conference Minister in the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Mission Moment

At 9:33AM Bishop Miller invited Ms. Maggie Paulson, a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Northbrook, to the microphone. Her Mission Moment topic will be how the youth of her congregation organized their own Walk for Water event.

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 10:23AM Vice President Nan Dahlke returned the chair to Bishop Miller.

A Refreshment Break

At 10:23AM Bishop Miller invited the Assembly to take a fifteen-minute break for refreshments.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

At 10:46AM Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order and invited the Rev. Erin Clausen, 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 **02-16 - Resolution to Reactivate Lutheran Advocacy Illinois** and moved and recommended its adoption. Bishop Miller then called for debate on the resolution at 10:48AM.

02-16 - Resolution to Reactivate Lutheran Advocacy Illinois

WHEREAS, in its first social statement approved in 1991, “The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective,” the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) committed to “work with and on behalf of the poor, the powerless and those who suffer, using its power and influence with political and economic decision-making bodies to develop and advocate policies that seek to advance justice, peace and the care of creation;” and

WHEREAS, the liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism describes the faith practices that grow out of our baptism (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 236) including the intent to strive for justice and peace in all the earth;” and

WHEREAS, staffing of Lutheran Advocacy-IL was supported by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) until February 2016 when the position of Director of Governmental Relations was eliminated due to the organization’s restructuring and because the employee in this LSSI position also served as the Director of Lutheran Advocacy-Illinois, Lutheran Advocacy-IL has become inactive, and

WHEREAS, ELCA Advocacy maintains an active State Public Policy Office network and will work with and support synods in their efforts to engage in public policy; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a task force of laypeople and clergy with knowledge and experience in advocacy be established by the bishop's office to ensure that a voice for public policy in Illinois is established. In order to ensure a unified voice with the other synods in Illinois, the task force is to seek a working relationship with those synods. The task force is to report its findings/progress/recommendations to the bishop's office in time for the fall council meeting.

At 10:51AM a vote was taken after discussion and the motion was adopted.

At 10:52AM Bishop Miller addressed the concerns and problems with **Resolution 01-16 Support for Persecuted Churches**. Because of the concerns inherent in this resolution the Reference and Counsel Committee recommended that this resolution be ruled “Out of Order.” Following their recommendation he declared Resolution 01-16 “Out of Order”. Hearing no objections the assembly moved on to the next item of business. Bishop Miller again 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.

Report of the ELCA Representative

At 10:55AM Bishop Miller welcomed our Churchwide Representative, the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, who brought us the report of the ELCA. Pastor Malpica Padilla serves as the Executive Director for the Global Mission Unit of the ELCA. In this capacity, he oversees the ELCA’s worldwide program, which gives expression to the accompaniment model for mission through the deepening of relationships and cooperation with Lutheran churches in approximately 90 countries. Pastor Malpica Padilla gave his report.

Final Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

At 11:31AM 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 11:33PM 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 11:34PM.

Announcements and the Closing of the Assembly

At 11:34PM Bishop Miller called the Rev. Alex LaChapelle 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 29th Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod was adjourned at 11:41AM.

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. Also available online are a summary report of this year's assembly, the 2016 synod budget, the updated synod constitution, final versions of the resolutions that were adopted, and photos of the gathering.)