



**The Minutes of the 31st Annual Synod Assembly
of the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Friday, June 8, 2018
Saturday, June 9, 2018
held at the
Tinley Park Convention Center
Tinley Park, Illinois**



Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



31st Annual Synod Assembly
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Friday, June 8, 2018 and Saturday, June 9, 2018
Tinley Park Convention Center
Tinley Park, Illinois

Plenary Session One

Orientation of New Voting Members

At 8:30AM Secretary Clausen gave a presentation to the voting members of the 2018 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 9:03AM Bishop Miller welcomed the voting members, visitors, and guests to the Thirty-First Annual Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Opening Worship

Bishop Miller then led the 2018 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in the Order for the Opening of the Assembly. At 9:11AM Bishop Miller declared the assembly to be in session.

Appointment of Parliamentarian

As the first order of business at 9:21AM, 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 2018 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 | Rev. Erin Clausen |
| Mr. Jeff Drake, staff | Rev. Hector Garfias-Toledo, staff |
| Mr. Terry Henderson | Ms. Vicki Hill |
| Rev. Christina Klein | Rev. Ray Legania, staff |
| Bishop Wayne Miller, staff | Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite |
| Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell | Ms. Mary Richardson, staff |
| Ms. Gloria Rowland | Ms. Sandra Schlauch |
| Rev. Sarah Stumme, staff | Ms. Patti Tregoning |
| Dcn. Jim Valentine | Ms. Kathleen West |
| Ms. Beth Lawniczak, chair | |

Bishop Miller then introduced and thanked our emcee for this year’s assembly, Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell.

Introduction of the Assembly Committees

At 9:23AM Bishop Miller called upon our Vice President, Mr. Terry Henderson, who in consultation with the Synod Council, made the following appointments to the Assembly Committees.

Credentials and Courtesies Committee

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rev. Ray Legania, staff | Rev. Ellen Arthur, Chair |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|

Elections Committee

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mr. Andrew Bailey | Ms. Stephanie Collins |
| Mr. Steve Colson | Mr. Keith Cooper |
| Mr. Rolf Eilhauer | Rev. Hector Garfias-Toledo, staff |

Rev. Gail Heidtke
Ms. Mira Krull
Ms. Gretchen McDowell
Rev. Rhonda Pruitt

Mr. Jim Hiepler-Hartwig
Rev. John Lang
Rev. Peg Otte
Rev. John Hildner, chair

Minutes Committee

Ms. Lynn Dreymler
Rev. Steve Srock

Ms. Patti Tregoning
Rev. Erin Clausen, chair

Nominating Committee

Dcn. Tracy Katschke
Rev. Sarah Stumme, chair
Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell, chair

Rev. Daniel Morris
Ms. Delois Thomas

Reference and Counsel Committee

Rev. Erik Christensen
Ms. Elaine Farmer
Ms. Carol Smith
Ms. Carol Wilson
Rev. Steven Srock, co-chair

Rev. Erin Clausen, ex-officio
Rev. Daniel Schwick
Mr. Anthony Suarez-Abraham
Rev. Lawrence Clark, co-chair

Sergeants at Arms

Rev. Mary Appelt-Graves
Ms. Myrtis Brown
Dcn. Patricia Gerber Bornholt
Rev. Raymond Legania, staff
Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska
Ms. Bonnie Osborne
Rev. Paul Pfeffer, chair

Rev. Ellen Arthur
Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald
Rev. Rhonda Kral
Mr. Fernando Mercado
Ms. Lisa Neubert
Rev. Rhonda Pruitt

Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

At 9:25AM Bishop Miller thanked Vice President Henderson and then called upon the 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 8:45AM was 299 with the number of voting members necessary for a quorum being 150. Bishop Miller declared a quorum to be present at 9:26AM.

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. Bishop Miller reminded the assembly to take a few moments before the First General Ballot to read through the biographical information on nominees included with the Supplement to the Book of Reports located in the packets they had received at the time of registration.

Bar of the Assembly and the Rules of the Assembly

At 9:28AM, Bishop Miller called upon Secretary Clausen to explain the bar of the assembly. Secretary Clausen 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.

Regarding elections at this year's assembly, Secretary Clausen explained that the Elections Committee shall oversee the conduct of elections. In the packets that the voting members received when they registered was everything needed for the various elections that will take place during this assembly. Voting members were instructed to please check their packets and make certain that they had all of the materials required. She announced to the assembly that the Elections Committee would report the results of balloting in the elections by announcing the name of the person elected or by announcing the names of nominees qualified to appear on the next ballot. The results of all of the elections would be reported in the written reports of this year's assembly.

Secretary Clausen instructed the assembly regarding the procedures for addressing the assembly. She explained that there are three microphones: *green* for those speaking in favor of an action; *red* for those speaking in opposition; and *white* for points of order, information, personal privilege, 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 opposition. Only those voting members seated within the bar and wearing the proper credentials would be allowed to address the assembly.

Secretary Clausen also asked the assembly to refrain from applause or other displays of support or any displays of disapproval of the comments made at the microphones. We are a highly diverse synod with wide and varied opinions on a variety of matters that we have and will continue to have come before us to consider. We ask that respect be shown to everyone, especially those who may have an opinion and position very different from yours. Also, we ask that displays of partisanship, e.g. badges, buttons, articles of clothing, etc. not be worn while within the bar of the assembly, for the same reason.

Regarding the resolutions, this year's co-chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, the Rev. Steve Srock, 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 in the document entitled, *Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2018 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly*.

Secretary Clausen stated that this document has been reviewed and approved by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council and on their behalf, she 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 at 9:33AM.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

At 9:34AM Bishop Miller called upon the Rev. Steve Srock, co-chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, to offer the assembly instructions on the resolutions that are to come before the assembly. Rev. Srock informed the assembly that we had received three resolutions for consideration. However, upon review by the committee, it was determined that one of the resolutions was best handled as a Memorial to the Churchwide Assembly and that the other two needed to be split into a Resolution to be considered by this assembly and as a Memorial to the Churchwide assembly in 2019. He explained that there would be three hearings on the resolutions and memorials that the assembly would be considering prior to their consideration. The resolutions and memorials that dealt with the same subject matter would be considered at the same hearing. He gave the times and locations of those hearings to the assembly. Bishop Miller thanked him and the members of the committee for their willingness to serve.

Nominating Committee

At 9:39AM Bishop Miller called upon the Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell, Chair of the Nominating Committee to report on the work of the Nominating Committee. Rev. Thompson Powell presented the report of the committee. This was an opportunity for Bishop Miller 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. Following the report, Bishop Miller declared that the Nominations Center would close at 11:00AM today.

Introduction of Special Guests

At 9:42AM Bishop Miller invited Vice President Henderson to welcome our assembly guests that represented our wide range of partnerships in mission and ministry.

- Our Churchwide Representative, Rev. Chris Boerger, ELCA Secretary
- Mr. Darrell R. Gordon, our Keynote speaker
- Mr. Paul C. Miles, President and CEO, We Raise Ministries
- Ms. Andrea Arey, Portico Benefit Services
- The Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich, Advocate Healthcare Systems, Senior Vice President, Mission and Spiritual Care Advocate Health Care
- Mr. Mark Stutrud, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

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

Mission Moment

At 9:43AM Bishop Miller invited Pastor Ben Adams to come to the center microphone for this assembly's first Mission Moment. He shared some information on campus ministry in our synod.

Announcements and Adjournment

At 9:49AM Bishop Miller declared that the assembly was in recess for a twenty-minute break for refreshments.

Reconvening of the Assembly and We Raise Foundation Presentation

At 10:18AM Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order and invited Mr. Paul Miles, who has served as President and CEO of the We Raise Foundation since August 2015 to address the assembly.

Keynote Speaker

At 10:18AM Bishop Miller introduced the Keynote Speaker, Mr. Darrell R. Gordon. Mr. Gordon was a former starting outside linebacker on the 1988 National Championship Notre Dame football team. He earned a bachelor's degree in Economics and Business and a master's degree of Science in Administration from Notre Dame, a Juris Doctorate from Northern Kentucky University's Chase College of Law, and Strategic Perspective in Nonprofit Management from Harvard Business School Executive Education Program. Also, he recently earned his CFRM certificate from the IU School of Philanthropy. Currently, Mr. Gordon holds the position of Chief Executive Officer of Wernle Children's Home, a multi-million-dollar youth organization located in Richmond, Indiana. In addition, he serves as a National Public Speaker on the topics of Character Training, Diversity Training and Leadership Training. Mr. Gordon came to the stage for his presentation.

Mission Moment

At 11:34AM Bishop Miller invited Pastors Yehiel Curry and Elaina Salmon, members of the companion synod group, to come to the center microphone for this assembly's next Mission Moment. They talked about our synod's companion synod relationship with the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

Announcements and Adjournment

Bishop Miller invited Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell to the stage to make announcements. Pastor Thompson Powell mentioned that evaluations of the assembly would be e-mailed to participants. He gave instruction regarding the box lunches and the transition to the Conference Meetings and led the assembly in a meal prayer. Bishop Miller adjourned the assembly at 11:46AM and asked that the assembly reconvene at 1:00PM.

Lunch and Conference Meetings

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

Plenary Session Two

Report of the Synodical Treasurer and the Introduction of 2018 Budget

At 1:08PM Bishop Miller invited Treasurer 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 2019 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 4:00PM in North 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.

Portico Benefit Services Presentation

Bishop Miller invited Ms. Andrea Arey, one of the Regional Representatives of Portico Benefit Services, to the stage for a presentation from Portico Benefit Services.

Presentation of the ELCA Credit Union

At 1:15PM, Bishop Miller invited Rev. Arnie Pierson, President of the ELCA Credit Union, to the stage to present information to the assembly regarding the ELCA Credit Union.

ELCA Mission Investment Fund Presentation

At 1:26PM, Bishop Miller invited Mr. Richard Wehrs, Regional Manager for the ELCA Mission Investment Fund, to the stage to share an update on the Mission Investment Fund.

Mission Moment

At 1:29PM Bishop Miller invited Ms. Adriana Plocinski, Development Director of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, to come to the center microphone for another Mission Moment. She presented a short video about the programs and ministry of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center.

Announcements and Adjournment

At 1:34PM, Bishop Miller adjourned the assembly so that it could transition to the first session of Hearings and Workshops set to begin at 1:45PM. He announced that the assembly would reconvene at 2:45PM.

Plenary Session Three

Reconvening of the Assembly

At 2:45PM, Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order and invited the Rev. Matthew Zemanick to the white microphone to offer a prayer before debate on resolutions.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

At 2:45PM, Bishop Miller announced that the next action of the assembly would be to consider those resolutions and memorials presented by the voting members to this gathering. He invited the Rev. Larry Clark, co-chair of the committee on Reference and Counsel, to the stage to present the resolution and memorial to Support the Illinois Poor Peoples' Campaign for consideration and debate by this year's assembly.

At 3:00PM, the Rev. Larry Clark read the resolved portions of Resolution **01-18 - Resolution to Support the Illinois Poor Peoples' Campaign** and moved and recommended its adoption.

Resolution 01-18 – Resolution to Support the Illinois Poor Peoples' Campaign

WHEREAS, the prophetic ministry begun in 1967 by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others called for a “revolution of values” in the United States of America and invited people who had been divided to stand together against three forms of systemic evil: militarism, racism, and economic injustice; and

WHEREAS, this prophetic ministry was built into a national coalition of poor people, allies, and grassroots and community organizers called the Poor People’s Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the current social fabric of the United States of America and her territories is stretched thin by widening economic inequality, criminalization of the poor, racism and xenophobia dividing the poor, budget increases for a well-funded military and ecological degradation adversely affecting the poor, and the largest tax breaks for our wealthiest neighbors leaving fewer public resources available to care for the poor; and

WHEREAS, after more than a decade of work by grassroots, community, and religious leaders, organizations, and movements, the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is being renewed to bring an end to systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction, and related injustices; and

WHEREAS, in mid-May 2018, the Poor People’s Campaign launched 40 days of direct action and civil disobedience in Illinois, at least 24 other states, and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is a broad, deep, national, long-term moral movement rooted in the leadership of poor people and reflecting great moral teachings in order to build a just, sustainable and participatory society; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA’s Social Statements: Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective (1991); Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture (1993); Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice (1993); and Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All/Economic Life (1999) all provide theological grounding and support for the goals, methods, and efforts of the Poor Peoples’ Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod has recently established an endowment for the purposes of supporting, establishing and furthering ministries by congregations serving within conditions of chronic, concentrated poverty; and

WHEREAS, various congregations, individuals and affiliated ministries within the Metropolitan Chicago Synod already have been volunteering with the Illinois Poor People’s Campaign;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA, endorse the Illinois Poor People's Campaign (ILPPC) as soon as feasible; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that the Metro Chicago Synod, ELCA, with the support of the current Metropolitan Chicago Synod ILPPC volunteers, use its various communication formats to invite congregations, individuals, affiliate organizations, and ministry partners to join the ILPPC; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council establish a Mission on the Margins Endowment Fund Grant Process by which Metropolitan Chicago Synod congregations and affiliated ministries may participate actively in the ongoing, future work of the Illinois Poor People's Campaign.

Bishop Miller called for a vote at 3:07PM and the motion as presented to the assembly was adopted.

At 3:07PM, the Rev. Larry Clark then read the resolved portions of Memorial **01-18 - MEMORIAL TO SUPPORT THE ILLINOIS POOR PEOPLES' CAMPAIGN** and moved and recommended its adoption.

Memorial 01-18 – MEMORIAL TO SUPPORT THE ILLINOIS POOR PEOPLES' CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, the prophetic ministry begun in 1967 by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others called for a “revolution of values” in the United States of America and invited people who had been divided to stand together against three forms of systemic evil: militarism, racism and economic injustice; and

WHEREAS, this prophetic ministry was built into a national coalition of poor people, allies, and grassroots and community organizers called the Poor People's Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the current social fabric of the United States of America and her territories is stretched thin by widening economic inequality, criminalization of the poor, racism and xenophobia dividing the poor, budget increases for a well-funded military and ecological degradation adversely affecting the poor, and the largest tax breaks for our wealthiest neighbors leaving fewer public resources available to care for the poor; and

WHEREAS, after more than a decade of work by grassroots, community and religious leaders, organizations and movements, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is being renewed to bring an end to systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and related injustices; and

WHEREAS, in mid-May 2018, the Poor People's Campaign launched 40 days of direct action and civil disobedience in Illinois, at least 24 other states, and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is a broad, deep, national, long-term moral movement rooted in the leadership of poor people and reflecting great moral teachings in order to build a just, sustainable and participatory society; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA’s social statements “The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective” (1991), “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture” (1993), “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice” (1993) and “Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All” (1999) all provide theological grounding and support for the goals, methods and efforts of the Poor People’s Campaign; and

WHEREAS, at the time of this resolution’s submission, other synods are considering similar resolutions and urging churchwide units to participate in and endorse the Poor People’s Campaign; and

WHEREAS, congregations, individuals and affiliated ministries within multiple synods of the ELCA already have been volunteering with state-based Poor People’s Campaign efforts; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly request that the ELCA Church Council authorize denominational endorsement of the National Poor People’s Campaign; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly direct the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council’s Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

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

At 3:11PM, Bishop Miller invited the Rev. Steven Srock, co-chair of the committee on Reference and Counsel, to the stage to present the resolution and memorial addressing Gun Violence, Gun Policy for consideration and debate by this year’s assembly.

Resolution 02-18 - Resolution Regarding Gun Violence, Gun Policy

WHEREAS, since its first Churchwide Assembly in 1989 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has spoken numerous times on gun violence and public policy on guns in social policy resolutions (e.g., “Ban of Military-Style Semi-Automatic Weapons” [1989], “Community Violence—Gun Control” [1993], and “Gun Violence Prevention” [2016]; in the social message on “Community Violence” (1994); in the social statement “Our Calling in Education” (2007); and through pastoral statements by the Conference of Bishops and by the Presiding Bishop); and

WHEREAS, the social message on “Community Violence,” despite mentioning gun violence and public policy on guns, is a broad statement about violence in community and, therefore, does not take into consideration the causes of, impacts of, and solutions to gun violence, nor does it provide members of this church with sufficient moral guidance to act as Christian citizens on the issues of gun violence and public policy; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the social message on “Community Violence” in 1994, important developments have occurred in the areas of gun violence and public policy on guns (e.g., an increase in mass shootings and suicides using guns, changes to open and concealed weapon carry laws, the proliferation of gun sales not subject to background checks, the expiration in 2004 of the Assault Weapons Ban, court decisions concerning the Second Amendment, and data on mental health as a factor in gun violence) that have rendered previous actions of the ELCA in addressing gun violence and public policy on guns inadequate; and

WHEREAS, the Renewal of the Covenant between the ELCA’s Metropolitan Chicago Synod and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago on October 31, 2017, states, “Salient among our new challenges is the violence in the Chicagoland area that extinguishes the lives of so many of our young people and leaves families and communities devastated by grief and despair. We recognize that for us this violence is the ‘sign of the times’ to which we must respond as followers of the Lord Jesus”; and,

WHEREAS, recent mass shootings, especially in schools, have created an urgent need for a reevaluation of the issues of gun violence and the development of a more comprehensive and cohesive statement concerning gun violence and public policy on guns; and

WHEREAS, the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” state that “Under extraordinary circumstances, the Church Council, after consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, may suspend these procedures... [for the development of messages on social issues] to respond to an especially urgent situation”; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod be encouraged to study the ELCA’s current policies, messages and statements on gun violence; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod engage with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, and other ecumenical and interfaith partners, to develop a constructive and practical plan of action to address the issues of gun violence; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly direct the Synod Bishop and Synod Council to ask the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Church Council, to develop a social message on gun violence and public policy on guns, and in view of the urgency of the situation, to suspend the usual procedures as allowed in the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns.”

Bishop Miller called for a vote at 3:15PM and the motion as presented to the assembly was adopted.

At 3:15PM, the Rev. Steven Srock then read the resolved portions of Memorial **02-18 - MEMORIAL ON GUN VIOLENCE, GUN POLICY** and moved and recommended its adoption.

Memorial 02-18 - Resolution Regarding Gun Violence, Gun Policy

WHEREAS, since its first Churchwide Assembly in 1989, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has spoken numerous times on gun violence and public policy on guns in social policy resolutions (e.g., “Ban of Military-Style Semi-Automatic Weapons” [1989], “Community Violence—Gun Control” [1993] and “Gun Violence Prevention” [2016]), in the social message on “Community Violence” (1994), in the social statement “Our Calling in Education” (2007) and through pastoral statements by the Conference of Bishops and by the presiding bishop; and

WHEREAS, the social message on “Community Violence,” despite mentioning gun violence and public policy on guns, is a broad statement about violence in community and, therefore, does not take into consideration the causes of, impacts of, and solutions to gun violence, nor does it provide members of this church with sufficient moral guidance to act as Christian citizens on the issues of gun violence and public policy; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the social message on “Community Violence” in 1994, important developments have occurred in the areas of gun violence and public policy on guns (e.g., an increase in mass shootings and suicides using guns, changes to open and concealed weapon carry laws, the proliferation of gun sales not subject to background checks, the expiration in 2004 of the Assault Weapons Ban, court decisions concerning the Second Amendment, and data on mental health as a factor in gun violence) that have rendered previous actions of the ELCA in addressing gun violence and public policy on guns inadequate; and

WHEREAS, recent mass shootings, especially in schools, have created an urgent need for a re-evaluation of the issues of gun violence and the development of a more comprehensive and cohesive statement concerning gun violence and public policy on guns; therefore, be it

- RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to develop study materials about gun violence and public policy on guns; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to encourage synods and member congregations to dedicate a time of study and exhortation to action on the issue of gun violence and public policy on guns; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to develop a social message on gun violence and public policy on guns that “point[s] to human suffering, grave injustice, pending danger, (and) social perplexity” that are part of this social issue (“Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns”).

Bishop Miller called for a vote at 3:18PM and the motion as presented to the assembly was adopted.

Mission Moment

At 3:19PM, Bishop Miller invited Ms. Madelynn Skvarla, President of the Women’s Network of LSSI, to come to the center microphone for another Mission Moment. Her focus was on Advocacy and the participation of the Women’s Network in Lutheran Day in Illinois.

Report of the ELCA Representative

At 3:22PM, Bishop Miller welcomed our Churchwide Representative, the Rev. William Chris Boerger, ELCA Secretary, who brought the assembly the ELCA Churchwide office Report.

Report of the Nominating Committee

At 4:01PM, Bishop Miller called the Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell, Chair of the Nominations Committee, to the stage to report on the work of the Nominating Committee. Rev. Thompson Powell presented the report of the committee.

Report of the Elections Committee

At 4:09PM, Bishop Miller invited the Rev. John Hildner, chair of the Elections Committee, to give instructions to the assembly regarding the first ballot. Before voting, Bishop Miller asked Pastor Peter Schwich to offer a prayer. Bishop Miller declared the ballot open at 4:14PM. After everyone had completed and turned in the first ballot, Bishop Miller declared the balloting closed at 4:25PM.

LSSI Presentation and Report

At 4:26PM, Bishop Miller introduced Mr. Mark Stutrud, president and chief executive officer of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois for the LSSI’s report to the synod.

Presentation of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal

At 4:33PM, Bishop Miller invited Rev. Robin Brown, Associate Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster, in the Mission Advancement Unit of the ECLA, for her report and to announce the results of our synod's One Million Dollar World Hunger Challenge.

Mission Moment

At 4:41PM, Bishop Miller invited Rev. Laura Hall-Schordje to the center microphone for the last Mission Moment for today. She talked about the Mobile Food Pantry at Living Christ Lutheran Church in Hanover Park.

Announcements and Adjournment

At 4:43PM, Bishop Miller asked the Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell to come to the stage for announcements. Rev. Thompson Powell announced that the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist would be held in Exhibit Hall West and that the assembly would reconvene on Saturday morning at 8:30AM. At 4:47PM, Bishop Miller declared the assembly in recess and invited everyone to gather for worship at 5:45PM.

Plenary Session Four

Opening Worship

The assembly reconvened at 8:40AM for worship, with morning devotions led by the synodical Worship Team. When worship ended, Bishop Miller called the Fourth Plenary Session of the assembly to order at 9:09AM.

Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

At 9:10AM, 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 8:15AM Saturday was 425 with the number of voting members necessary for a quorum being 213. Bishop Miller declared a quorum present and thanked the Pastor Arthur and the committee for their work.

Report of the First General Ballot

At 9:11AM, Bishop Miller asked the Rev. John Hildner, Chair of the Elections Committee, to present the results of the First General Ballot. Rev. Hildner asked for permission to read just the name of those who had received a sufficient number of votes to be elected and to have the results of the elections projected on the screens. Bishop Miller declared those receiving sufficient votes elected at 9:15AM.

Official Election Results – General Ballot

Voting Members to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly

Bold Type – Indicates the person received the majority vote

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

Names *italicized* indicates a person nominated by their conference

Conference Key

C = Central

N = North

NE = Northeast

NW = Northwest

NRW = Near West

S = South

SW = South West

W = West

Lay Voting Members (Male)

01	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	353	1	352	177
a.	Urv Uhlman (N)			352
b.				

02	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	353	0	353	177
a.	Clyde Walter (NE)			191
b.	Paul Tyler (NE)			162

03	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	354	0	354	178
a.	Roger Jones* (C)			152
b.	Ívan Perez* (C)			202

Lay Voting Members (Female)

04	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	354	0	354	178
a.	Julie Grafe (N)			257
b.	Joan Church (N)			97

05	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	353	0	353	177
a.	Stephanie Collins* (S)			308
b.	Shirley Moore* (S)			45

06	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	349	0	349	175
	a. Pamela Marino (C)			168
	b. Roxanne Doremus (NW)			181
07	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	354	0	354	178
	a. Yvette NewberryWhite* (S)			266
	b. Patricia Colson (SW)			88

Youth/Young Adult Voting Members

08	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	356	3	353	178
	a. Evan Powell* (Youth) (C)			353
	b.			0
09	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	358	0	358	180
	a. Ben Grafe (Young Adult) (N)			162
	b. Alyssa Dahlke (Young Adult) (N)			196

Ordained Voting Members (Female)

10	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	354	0	354	178
	a. Rev. Sally Hanson (N)			215
	b. Rev. Michelle Sevig (NE)			139
11	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	355	0	355	178
	a. Rev. Laura Hall-Schordje (NW)			188
	b. Rev. Rhonda Pruitt* (NW)			167
12	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	355	0	355	178
	a. Rev. Anna Ernst (NRW)			131
	b. Rev. Erin Clausen (NRW)			224
13	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	355	0	355	178
	a. Rev. Mary Appelt-Graves (SW)			239
	b. Rev. Carla Thompson Powell (C)			116

14	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	349	4	345	173
	a. Rev. Kwame Pitts*(S)			345
	b.			

Ordained Voting Members (Male)

15	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	352	0	352	177
	a. Rev. Benjamin Sloss (NRW)			276
	b. Rev. J. T. Miller (NRW)			76

16	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	353	0	353	177
	a. Rev. Yehiel Curry* (SW)			248
	b. Rev. Chris Buresh (SW)			105

17	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	347	0	347	174
	a. Rev. David Walters (W)			272
	b. Rev. Dave Beese (NRW)			75

18	Cast	Invalid	Valid	Majority
	351	5	346	174
	a. Rev. Kyle Severson (NE)			346
	b.			0

Consideration of the 2019 Synodical Budget

At 9:16AM, Bishop Miller declared that the 2019 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 2019 Synodical Budget and the Budget was adopted at 9:17AM. He then thanked Treasurer NewberryWhite for her work and her dedication to our synod.

Recognition of Rostered Leaders New to Our Synod

At 9:18AM, Bishop Miller invited Vice President Terry Henderson to the stage to recognize the rostered leaders who are new to our synod during the past year. He introduced those leaders and asked that they stand and be recognized.

Leland Albright	Pastor
	Grace Lutheran Church, La Grange
Arletta Anderson	Retired Deacon
Mark Bangert	Retired Pastor
David Beese	Retired Pastor

Peter Clark	Pastor Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aurora
Anna Ernst	Pastor Epiphany Lutheran Church, Elmhurst
Patrick Fish	Pastor St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Aurora
Rebecca Gordon	Pastor St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Antioch
Jessica Harren	Pastor Calvary Lutheran Church on Spaulding, Chicago
Nathaniel Klein	Pastor Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Palos Heights
Kathryn Lawler-Wunsch	Deacon Swedish Covenant Hospital, Chicago
Philip Lund	Retired Pastor
Lynnette Schroeder	Pastor
Peter Schwich	Pastor Redeemer Lutheran Church, Park Ridge
Philip Trzynka	Pastor Christ the Lord Lutheran Church, Elgin
Zachary Wagner	Pastor St. Paul Lutheran Church, Villa Park
Leslie Weber	Retired Pastor
Emily Wiles	Pastor Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Naperville
Joseph Yucha	Pastor Faith Lutheran Church, Glen Ellyn
Matthew Zemanick	Pastor Lebanon Lutheran Church, Chicago

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

Recognition of Anniversaries

Vice President Terry Henderson 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 15, 2018, at Colletti's Restaurant in Chicago, at which time they were presented with a certificate. He introduced those leaders and asked that they stand and be recognized.

<u>Rostered Leader</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
Wilbert Ericson	65 years
Carl Freedlund, Jr.	65 years
Delbert Anderson	60 years
Charles E. Miller	60 years
Warren Thummel	60 years
Philip Ramsey	55 years
Frederick Reklau	55 years
Robert Trendel, Jr.	55 years
Anton Danielson	50 years
Roy Olson	50 years
Arthur Puotinen	50 years
Michael Schnell	50 years
Paul Tieman	50 years
Inez Torres Davis	25 years
Sue Ellen Grudt	25 years
Montgomery Johnson	25 years
Bette MacKenzie	25 years
Kevin Massey	25 years
Billie Navarro	25 years
Linda Johnson Seyenkulo	25 years
Paul Stone	25 years
Peter Wang	25 years

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

Vice President Terry Henderson then recognized the congregations celebrating significant anniversaries and asked that their members who were present stand as their congregation's names were read.

<u>Congregation Name</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
Salem Lutheran Church Chicago	125 years
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church Waukegan	125 years
Martin Luther Lutheran Church Chicago	100 years

St. Philip Lutheran Church Glenview	50 years
St. Timothy Lutheran Church Naperville	50 years

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

Vice President Terry Henderson announced to the assembly that since last year’s assembly, one congregation has closed and three more have made the decision to close and asked that the synod honor their ministries here today.

<u>Congregation Name</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
Grace Lutheran Church Elmwood Park	Closed
First Lutheran Church Harvey	Closing
Norwood Park Lutheran Church Chicago	Closing
United by Faith Evergreen Park	Closing

Welcome and Reception of a New Congregations – Come Alive Ministry of Faith

At 9:24PM, Bishop Miller invited the pastor, voting members, and representatives of Come Alive Ministry of Faith to the stage. Come Alive Ministry of Faith Church began as a non-denominational ministry 31 years ago with Pastors Marrion and Vickie Johnson and their family, who responded to the call of the Spirit to join God’s work in the South Shore neighborhood. Through some friends, Pastor Marrion Johnson was introduced to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Their first contact person in the synod was the Rev. Ray Legania, and he and the Rev. Hector Garfias have led the process for the ministry to become part of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. The Outreach Team and Pastor Garfias recommended that the synod council enter a formal partnership with Come Alive, which was approved as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community in December 2009. In 2013, Come Alive was approved to be a Congregation Under Development by the Synod and the Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA and a general ministry plan was prepared for the two-year project. In 2016, the Synod Outreach Team and the congregation decided to move toward organization and full partnership with the ELCA in the Synod. Since then, Come Alive has been working with Pastor Garfias on the steps needed to formally be a part of the ELCA. Come Alive voted to become part of the ELCA on March 18, 2018. Come Alive’s ministry is focused on proclamation and service. They serve a mixed community in the South Shore neighborhood. Their ministry provides for people what they need, including a worship experience, counseling, and personal transformation. It continues to be a place for spiritual nurturing and fellowship in a community that is affected by the injustices caused by inequality and segregation in Chicago.

Despite the many challenges faced by the ministry, Come Alive has been able to serve for 31 years. Currently, 45 people worship together on Sunday. Their vision is to be a congregation that witnesses to the Lord in the South Shore neighborhood and beyond by equipping leaders and leading people to a closer relationship with God. Bishop Miller reported to the assembly that Come Alive Ministry of Faith Church has made application for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and presented the bishop with a copy of the congregation's charter and a copy of its constitution. At 9:31AM, Bishop Miller, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, received Come Alive Ministry of Faith Church as a duly organized and constituted congregation of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Miller then offered a prayer of welcome and the assembled church welcomed the congregation with a standing ovation!

Mission Moment

At 9:34AM, Bishop Miller asked Ms. Barbara Peterson, a member of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, to come to the center microphone the first Mission Moment today. The topic of this Mission Moment was mission quilters.

Report of the Bishop

At 9:36AM, Bishop Miller relinquished the chair of the assembly to Vice President Terry Henderson in order to give his report. At 10:30AM, Vice President Terry Henderson returned the chair to Bishop Miller. *(A copy of Bishop Miller's Power Point Report was made available online on the Metropolitan Chicago Synod website: www.mcselca.org/assembly)*

A Refreshment Break

At 10:31AM, Bishop Miller invited the assembly to take a twenty-minute break for refreshment.

Reconvening of the Assembly and Mission Moment

At 10:53AM, Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order and invited invite Ms. Jacque Oretgel, a member at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Northbrook, to the center microphone for another Mission Moment. The topic of this Mission Moment was their Refugee/Citizenship Class.

Presenting the Sunergos Award

At 10:56AM, Bishop Miller invited Vice President Terry Henderson to the stage to present the Sunergos Award for Synodical Service. Sunergos is a Greek word that means "a companion in work" or "fellow worker." The award was established by the synod council in May 2000 to "celebrate the gift of lay servants of our synod who give so much to the life of the church." This year's recipient is Mr. Steve Homberg, and he is the ninth person to receive this award. He was a member of Prince of Peace, Chicago Heights, and Faith Lutheran, Homewood. Steve was the synod's business manager and stewardship specialist from 2001 to 2018. Before joining the synod staff, he was active in congregational lay leadership, and was an active member of the synod's stewardship team. Steve died in March of this year. The award reads: "The Metropolitan Chicago Synod expresses its deep appreciation for his many years of faithful service as a congregational leader, a leader in synodical stewardship development, and as an administrative leader for synodical mission.

We give thanks to God for his life and witness.” Gayle Homberg, Steve’s wife, accepted the award posthumously on his behalf. Bishop Miller then asked to assembly to express the synod’s deep gratitude for Steve’s service and for the blessings this synod has received from his work by honoring his memory with applause.

Report of the Vice President

At 11:11AM, Bishop Miller asked Vice President Henderson to present his first report to the assembly, having been elected at last year’s assembly.

Report of the Synodical Secretary

At 11:14AM, Bishop Miller called upon the Synod Secretary, Rev. Erin Clausen, for her report to the assembly.

Mission Moment

At 11:26AM, Bishop Miller invited Ms. Mary Ann Smith to the center microphone for the final Mission Moment of the assembly. The topic of this Mission Moment is the synod’s Diakonia program.

Consideration of Resolutions

At 11:33AM, Bishop Miller invited the Pastor Anna Ernst to the white microphone to offer a prayer before beginning debate on resolutions.

At 11:34AM, the Rev. Larry Clark then read the resolved portions of Memorial **03-18 - MEMORIAL ON PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN CHILDREN LIVING UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATIONS: NO WAY TO TREAT A CHILD** and moved and recommended its adoption.

Memorial 03-18 – Memorial on Protecting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Operations: No Way to Treat a Child

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), in its social message on “Human Rights,” adopted unanimously by the Church Council of the ELCA on November 12, 2017, affirms this church teaches that “human dignity is God’s gift to every person and that the commitment to universal rights protects that dignity.” Further the council “gives renewed attention to addressing human rights as a church. It also believes the time is right for more Christians to enter public conversation and take action to safeguard the dignity due to all children of God”; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in its social message on “Human Rights,” also affirms, “ELCA social teaching is clear: ‘The God who justifies expects all people to do justice’”; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in its social message on “Human Rights,” further states, “The ELCA affirms the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as ‘a common universal standard of justice for living with our differences, and they give moral and legal standing to the individual in the international community’”; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in its social message on “Human Rights,” further states, “Christians cannot be satisfied simply with responding to injustice that has already occurred. We also are called to take actions that prevent rights abuses from happening in the first place, whether by personal intervention in injustice or publicly addressing rights abuses. Support for legal protections and means of enforcement is also our responsibility”; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in 2005, established [CA05.06.23] an initiative, “Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land,” with three components — awareness building, accompaniment and advocacy — which seeks “peace with justice for both Palestinians and Israelis and the continuation of the Christian witness in the Holy Land” (Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in its social statement “For Peace in God’s World” (1995), has committed to promote respect for human rights, especially for “groups most susceptible to violations, especially all minorities, women and children”; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is in relationship with the six Lutheran congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; and

WHEREAS, Israel operates two separate and unequal legal systems in the same territory. Military law has applied to Palestinians in the West Bank since 1967, when Israeli forces occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Jewish settlers, however, who reside within the bounds of the occupied West Bank, in violation of international law, are subject to the Israeli civilian legal framework; and

WHEREAS, Israel is the only country in the world that automatically and systematically prosecutes children in military courts that lack fundamental fair trial rights and protections, detaining and prosecuting an estimated 500 to 700 Palestinian children in military courts each year; and

WHEREAS, Palestinian children detained in the Israeli military detention system commonly report being arrested in the middle of the night and typically arrive to interrogation bound, blindfolded, frightened and sleep deprived, and often give confessions after verbal abuse, threats, physical and psychological violence that in some cases amounts to torture. Israeli military law provides no right to legal counsel during interrogation, and 96 percent of children have no parents present during interrogation; and

- WHEREAS, Israel has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on October 3, 1991, which states in article 37(a), “No child shall be subject to torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment”; and
- WHEREAS, after 50 years of Israeli military occupation the situation for children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip) continues to deteriorate, making children increasingly vulnerable; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting that the assembly call on the State of Israel to guarantee basic due process rights in the Israeli military court system, respect and ensure the absolute prohibition against torture and ill-treatment in accordance with international law (specifically the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child), and call on the government of the United States to fully implement and enforce its own established law, including the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting that the ELCA presiding bishop and the bishops and staff of every ELCA synod advocate with elected officials, encouraging them to ensure that U.S. taxpayer funds, including the over \$3 billion annual foreign aid to Israel, do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse or ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international law, including but not limited to cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, stress positions, hooding, death threats, coerced confessions, and denial of parents or legal counsel during interrogations; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, to request that the Peace Not Walls strategy consider creating a resource enabling congregations to learn more about the lives of Palestinian children — especially the treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military courts, the Lutherans in the six congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and how Israel is spending U.S. foreign aid dollars; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting that the assembly encourage ELCA members to contact their members of Congress in support of legislation that prohibits U.S. foreign aid to be used in ways that violate human rights for Palestinian children, like H.R. 4391 (115th Congress), which requires the Secretary of State to certify that U.S. funds do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse or ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international law.

Bishop Miller called for a vote at 11:41AM, and the motion as presented to the assembly was adopted.

Final Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

At 11:42AM, Bishop Miller called on the Rev. Ellen Arthur of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee for a Resolution of Thanks. It was moved, seconded, and adopted.

Authorization to Make Necessary Technical Corrections

At 11:44AM, Bishop Miller then called upon Vice President Henderson for a final resolution. He 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 11:44AM.

Announcements and the Closing of the Assembly

At 11:44AM, Bishop Miller called the Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell to the stage for final announcements. Bishop Miller then led the assembly in the "Order for the Closing of the Assembly". Bishop Miller declared that the 31st Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod was adjourned at 11:57AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Erin Clausen

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, election results, the 2019 Synod Budget, the updated Synod Constitution, final versions of the resolutions and memorials that were adopted, and photos of the gathering.)