



Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8, 2019

**Minutes of the
32nd Annual Synod Assembly
of the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Friday, June 7, 2019 and Saturday, June 8, 2019
Tinley Park Convention Center
Tinley Park, Illinois**

Plenary Session One

Orientation of New Voting Members

At 8:00AM 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 8:30AM Bishop Miller welcomed the voting members, visitors, and guests to the Thirty-Second Annual Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Opening Devotions

He then led the 2019 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in the devotions, followed by the Order for the Opening of the Assembly. At 8:41AM Bishop Miller declared the assembly to be in session.

Appointment of Parliamentarian

As the first order of business at 8:48AM, 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:

Mr. Tom Anderson, staff

Mr. Ken Church

Mr. Jeff Drake, staff

Ms. Vicki Hill

Rev. Ray Legania, staff

Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite

Ms. Mary Richardson, staff

Ms. Sandra Schlauch, staff

Ms. Patti Tregoning

Ms. Beth Lawniczak, chair

Ms. Joan Church

Rev. Erin Clausen

Mr. Terry Henderson

Rev. Christina Klein

Bishop Wayne Miller, staff

Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell

Ms. Gloria Rowland

Rev. Sarah Stumme, staff

Ms. Kathleen West

Dcn. Jim Valentine

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

Introduction of the Assembly Committees

At 8:52AM 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. Tom Anderson

Ms. Cynthia Bemis Abrams

Ms. Stephanie Collins

Rev. Jason Glombicki

Rev. John Hildner

Rev. Paul Kopka

Mr. Tyrone McGowan

Ms. Elizabeth Meadows

Ms. Shirley Moore

Rev. Carole Willer

Ms. Carol Wilson

Rev. Robert Klonowski, chair

Minutes Committee

Ms. Lynn Dreymler

Ms. Patti Tregoning

Rev. Erin Clausen, chair

Nominations Committee

Ms. Jennifer DeLeon

Rev. Ben Dueholm

Ms. Elaine Farmer

Ms. Dorothy Gunter

Rev. Emily Heitzman

Ms. Jeanne Herring

Ms. Loretta Northcutt

Rev. Sarah Stumme, staff

Mr. David Walters

Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell, chair

Reference and Counsel Committee

Rev. Lawrence Clark

Dcn. Heather Feltman

Mr. David Foster

Rev. Rayford Grady

Rev. Richard Perry

Rev. Marguerite Rourke

Ms. Cheryl Sanders

Rev. Kyle Severson

Rev. Steven Srock, chair

Sergeants at Arms

Rev. Mary Appelt-Graves

Rev. Ellen Arthur

Ms. Myrtis Brown

Ms. Alyssa Dahlke

Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald

Dcn. Patricia Gerber Bornholt

Rev. Cynthia Hileman

Rev. David Hulse

Mr. Rodger Jones

Rev. Rhonda Kral

Rev. Raymond Legania, staff

Mr. Fernando Mercado

Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska

Ms. Lisa Neubert

Ms. Bonnie Osborne

Rev. Rhonda Pruitt

Rev. Wende West

Mr. Charles Willet, Jr.

Rev. Paul Pfeffer, chair

Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

At 8:53AM Bishop Miller thanked Vice President Henderson. He thanked the pre-assembly canvass committee members, who were responsible for helping the synod discern and lift up qualified individuals for the office of bishop. Bishop Miller 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 8:15AM was 305 with the number of voting members necessary for a quorum being 153. Bishop Miller declared a quorum to be present at 8:53AM.

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 8:58AM, 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 then 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.

She 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 chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, the Rev. Steve Srock, will present how we will handle the Resolutions and Memorials, 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 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 at 9:00AM.

Introduction of ELCA Representative

At 9:01AM Bishop Miller called upon Vice President Terry Henderson to introduce the ELCA Representative to the assembly, Bishop-elect Kevin Strickland. Vice President Henderson explained that Bishop-elect Kevin Strickland serves as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, Executive for Worship of the ELCA. He began his call with the churchwide office in August, 2014. He has just been elected to serve as bishop of the Southeastern Synod, ELCA. Prior to his call to the churchwide organization, Bishop-elect Strickland served as pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He has served on various local non-profit boards and has a heart for justice and advocacy ministry. Bishop-elect Strickland has written for a number of publications and has spoken around the ELCA in the areas of worship and preaching. Vice president Henderson explained that as we move through the process to elect a bishop, Bishop-elect Strickland will serve as the official chair for that process.

Explanation of Ecclesiastical Ballot

Bishop Miller thanked Vice President Henderson, and then relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland for the explanation of the ecclesiastical ballot. Bishop Elect Strickland briefly outlined the process for using an ecclesiastical ballot.

Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

At 9:03AM Bishop-elect Strickland called on Rev. Ellen Arthur for an updated report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee. She reported to the assembly that the total number of voting members registered as of 9:03AM was 432.

Ecclesiastical Ballot

Bishop-elect Strickland called on Rev. Richard Perry to pray before balloting was opened. He then declared balloting open. After all ballots had been cast, Bishop-elect Strickland then

returned the chair to Bishop Miller.

Report of the Nominations Committee

Bishop Miller called on the Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell, Chair of the Nominations Committee, to give a report on the work of the Nominating Committee. Rev. Thompson Powell 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. Following the report Bishop Miller declared that the Nominations Center would close at 12:00PM today.

Instructions on Resolutions

At 9:21AM Bishop Miller called upon the Rev. Steve Srock, 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 and one memorial for consideration. However, upon review by the committee, it was determined that one of the resolutions was no longer pertinent and it was withdrawn by the movers. He explained that there would be three hearings on the resolutions and memorial that the assembly would be considering prior to their consideration. 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.

Introduction of Special Guests

At 9:35AM Bishop Miller invited Vice President Henderson to welcome our assembly guests that represented our wide range of partnerships in mission and ministry.

- Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich, Senior Vice President, Mission and Spiritual Care, Advocate Health Care System
- Bishop Jeffrey Clements, Northern Illinois Synod
- Bishop Paul Erickson, Greater Milwaukee Synod
- The Rev. Dr. James Nieman, President, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- Mr. Daniel Olsen, Director of the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Archdiocese of Chicago
- Our Churchwide Representative, Bishop-elect Kevin Strickland, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, Executive for Worship of the ELCA
- Bishop Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
- Bishop Ann Svennungsen, Minneapolis Area Synod

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

Introduction of Rostered Leaders New to the Synod

Bishop Miller then asked Vice President Henderson to introduce and welcome rostered leaders who are new to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Vice President Henderson introduced the following rostered leaders:

- Rev. Klaus-Peter Adam, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- Rev. Suzanne Anderson-Hurdle, Pastor, Ashburn Lutheran Church, Chicago

- Rev. Brittany Baurle Kooi, Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Blue Island
- Rev. Allison Bengfort, Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Wilmette
- Rev. Antonio Cabello, Associate Pastor, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Addison
- Rev. Mark Chen, Pastor, Taiwanese Community Church in Greater Chicago, Lombard
- Rev. Erin Coleman Branchaud, Pastor, St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square, Chicago
- Rev. Robert Leshner, Retired Pastor
- Rev. Richard Perry, Retired Pastor
- Rev. Jenna Pulkowski, Director of Pastoral Services, St. Paul's House, a Lutheran Life Community
- Rev. Mark Rollenhagen, Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waukegan
- Rev. Shelly Satran, Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church, Glen Ellyn
- Rev. Eric Schaefer, Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Libertyville
- Rev. Lisa Watson-Hill, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Warrenville
- Rev. Eric Worringer, Pastor, Holy Family Lutheran Church, Chicago

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

Report of the Bishop

At 9:30AM, Bishop Miller relinquished the chair of the assembly to Vice President Terry Henderson in order to give his report. At 10:15AM, Vice President Terry Henderson returned the chair to Bishop Miller. *(A copy of Bishop Miller's Power Point Report was made available online at the Metropolitan Chicago Synod website: www.mtselca.org/assembly)*

A Refreshment Break

Bishop Miller then invited the assembly to take a fifteen-minute break for refreshment.

Reconvening of the Assembly and Mission Moment

At 10:30AM, Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order and invited invite Pastor Elaina Salmon, a member of the companion synod group, to the center microphone for a Mission Moment. Rev. Elaina Salmon shared a video greeting from Bishop Rakuba of the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, with whom we are in a companion relationship.

Report of the Synodical Treasurer and the Introduction of 2020 Budget

At 10:32 AM Bishop Miller invited Ms. Yvette NewberryWhite to the stage. Treasurer NewberryWhite offered the Treasurer's Report and then introduced next year's budget. She moved the adoption of the 2020 budget as presented, and it was seconded. Treasurer NewberryWhite announced that there would be a hearing to discuss the budget at 3:45PM in the Sam Tinley Room. Bishop Miller stated that if there were no objections, consideration of the budget would be tabled until Saturday morning after the hearing. There were no objections and the motion was tabled.

Recognition of Anniversaries

Bishop Miller then invited Vice President Terry Henderson to recognize the rostered leaders and congregations of our synod who are celebrating significant anniversaries this year, and to make a presentation of the Sunergos Award. Vice President Henderson mentioned that these rostered leadrs had been honored at a luncheon on May 22, 2019, 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> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rev. Donald Danielson | 65 years |
| Rev. Clyde Friedman | 65 years |
| Rev. Dean Lueking | 65 years |
| Rev. Al Bergh | 60 years |
| Rev. Hansruedi Peplinski | 60 years |
| Rev. Carl Anderson | 50 years |
| Rev. Timothy Chao | 50 years |
| Rev. Lloyd Kittlaus | 50 years |
| Rev. Charles Merkner | 50 years |
| Rev. Robert Navarro | 50 years |
| Rev. Roger Nelson | 50 years |
| Dcn. Robert Pope | 50 years |
| Rev. Frank Senn | 50 years |
| Rev. Timothy Brown | 25 years |
| Rev. Antonio Cabello | 25 years |
| Rev. Robert Douglas | 25 years |
| Rev. Dawn Hansen-Roucka | 25 years |
| Rev. Sally Meyer | 25 years |
| Rev. Michelle Sevig | 25 years |
| Rev. Mark Sundberg | 25 years |
| Rev. Rosanne Swanson | 25 years |

Vice President Henderson then recognized those congregations in the synod which are celebrating significant anniversaries this year. He asked that members of those congregations stand to be recognized.

| <u>Congregation</u> | <u>Anniversary</u> |
|---|---------------------------|
| Grace Lutheran Church of Lily Lake, St. Charles | 125 years |
| Resurrection Lutheran Church, Franklin Park | 75 years |
| St. James Lutheran Church, Chicago | 75 years |
| Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Darien | 50 years |
| Rejoice Lutheran Church, Geneva | 25 years |

Vice President Henderson followed this with a presentation of the Sunergos Award for Synodical Service. He explained that 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 Ms. Nannette Dahlke, and she is the tenth person to receive this award.

The award reads: “The Metropolitan Chicago Synod expresses its deep appreciation for your many years of faithful service as a congregational leader, a leader in synodical work, and as synod vice president. We give thanks to God for your life and witness.”

Vice President Henderson continued with the following introduction of Nan Dahlke: Nan Dahlke has been part of the life of this synod from day one. She served on the first synod council way back in 1987 and has been involved in the life of this church ever since. Among other things, she has served on the synod Executive Committee, the Outreach Team, the Synod Assembly Planning Team, and has been a voting member at numerous Churchwide Assemblies. And in 2000 she was elected vice president of the synod.

Much has changed in the life of the church since she first started in lay leadership, but one thing has remained constant, and that is her faith and dedication to the roles to which she has been elected. We are honoring her today for volunteer work with the Sunergos Award. This work, this ministry, she fulfills with humor, grace, and concern for what is best for the many different congregations, parishioners and partner ministries that come together to form the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Her work has helped make sure that all of these different voices have been heard, and then her work has brought those voices together to share the Good News of the gospel.

You may know her from a visit to one of your congregations where perhaps she helped when you were facing a challenge, or perhaps you met her when you were celebrating an important event in your life together. Maybe you met her in a committee meeting either in our synod or assisting with the churchwide office and the ways that they help build up the body of Christ. Possibly you have heard one of her reports to a synod assembly, reports that are hard to forget both because of their message and because Nan has a way of making difficult ideas and concepts more understandable and more concrete.

However you know her, I am sure you will agree that her steady presence in our synod has made a vast difference in our life together. Nan is not one to trumpet her own horn. She can be quiet and unassuming as she goes about her task, (and sometimes not so quiet and unassuming) but make no mistake, she has a genuine and caring heart, she lives out her faith day-by-day, and I am profoundly grateful that the synod has been part of that lived-out faith for the past 30 years that she has been involved in synod leadership.

Part of her role has involved sacrifice, though you will never hear Nan call it that, and you will never hear her complain. Evening events, Saturday meetings, time spent away from her family and other interests, all without pay?—yes, that is something, and we have all benefited.

So, on behalf of the synod, Nan, I thank you for all that you have done. In closing, I am reminded of words from Matthew’s Gospel, chapter 20, verses 25-26: But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant” ... Nan is great among us. Thank you.

Ms. Dahlke accepted the award with thanks.

ELCA Churchwide Report

At 11:16AM Bishop Miller thanked Vice President Henderson for his report. He then welcomed the Churchwide Representative, Bishop-elect Kevin Strickland, who serves as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, Executive for Worship of the ELCA. Bishop-elect Strickland brought the assembly the ELCA Churchwide Report.

Announcements and Adjournment

At 11:48AM Bishop Miller then 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 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 11:57AM and asked that the assembly reconvene at 1:15PM.

Lunch and Conference Meetings

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

PLENARY SESSION 2

Report of the Ecclesiastical Ballot

At 1:15PM Bishop Miller called the Assembly back to order. He relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland for the report on the ecclesiastical ballot for the Office of Bishop. Bishop-elect Strickland called the Rev. Robert Klonowski, Chair of the Elections Committee, to give the report of the ecclesiastical ballot for the Office of Bishop.

Rev. Klonowski reported the results: there were 419 total, of which 1 was illegal, making 418 legal votes. This ballot therefore required 314 (75%) votes for an election. There was not an election.

Report of the Nominations Committee

Bishop-elect Strickland relinquished the chair to Bishop Miller, who invited the Rev. Darrel Thompson Powell, Chair of the Nominations Committee, to the stage for the Nominations Committee report. Rev. Thompson Powell presented the report of the committee. There were elections for Synod Council, Discipline Committee, and Consultation Committee. In no case were there more than one nomination for any position. Thus, Bishop Miller asked if there was any objection to an election by acclamation. Hearing no objection, the assembly proceeded to elect all positions by acclamation.

Presentation by Portico

At 1:30PM Bishop Miller invited Mr. Jeff Thiemann, Chief Executive Officer of Portico Benefit Services, to bring greetings from Portico, following a short video from Portico.

Mission Moment

At 1:37PM, Bishop Miller invited Ngbarezere Frezar, a junior at North Park University, who is a member at Unity Lutheran Church, Chicago, and a former member of the Edgewater Congregations Together youth group, and Maggie Peyton (May-gee Pay-ton), a junior at

Lincoln Park High School, who is a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago, and one of two synod representatives to the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in 2019, to come to the center microphone for this assembly's next Mission Moment. They shared a few highlights of their experiences in their church youth groups and the Metro-Chicago Youth Ministry Network events.

Announcements and Adjournment

At 1:41PM, Bishop Miller adjourned the assembly so that it could transition to the first session of Hearings and Workshops set to begin at 1:30PM. He announced that the assembly would reconvene at 3:00PM.

PLENARY SESSION 2 - continued

At 3:00PM Bishop Miller called the Assembly back to order. He relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland, to lead the second ballot for the Office of Bishop.

Report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee

Bishop-elect Strickland briefly explained second ballot voting. He then called on Rev. Ellen Arthur for an updated report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee. She reported to the assembly that the total number of voting members registered as of 2:30PM was 516. Bishop-elect Strickland asked that Pastor Mark Chen come to the white microphone and offer a prayer before voting. Following the prayer, balloting for the second vote was complete. Bishop-elect Strickland then returned the chair to Bishop Miller.

LSSI Presentation

At 3:38, Bishop Miller introduced Mr. Mark Stutrud, president and chief executive officer of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois since 2014, to bring an update on LSSI.

Mission Moment

At 3:44PM, Bishop Miller invited Pastor Deanna Langle, Pastor of University Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministries at Northwestern University in Evanston, to come to the center microphone for this assembly's third Mission Moment. In the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, there are three campus ministries: South Loop, University of Chicago, and Northwestern University. Bearing witness to God's amazing grace within the context of higher education, these campus ministries are one particular way the synod is intentionally reaching out to young adults, inviting them to experience the joys and challenges of following Jesus.

Announcements and Adjournment

At 1:41PM Bishop Miller invited Rev. Darryl Thompson-Powell to the stage for announcements. He then adjourned the assembly so that it could transition to the second session of Hearings and Workshops and rehearsal for the Assembly Choir, all set to begin at 3:45PM. He announced that the assembly would reconvene at 5:15PM.

PLENARY SESSION 3

Report of Second Ballot and Third Ballot Vote

At 5:24PM Bishop Miller called the Assembly back to order. He then relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland, to lead the third ballot for the Office of Bishop. Bishop-elect Strickland called on the Rev. Robert Klonowski, Chair of the Elections Committee, to give the report of the second ballot for the Office of Bishop.

Rev. Klonowski reported that there were 516 votes cast of which 7 votes were illegal. There were therefore 509 legal votes cast. An election requires 75% of the votes cast, or 382 votes. The top 7 nominees were listed: Rev. Sarah Stumme (96 votes), Rev. Heidi Torgerson (86 votes), Rev. Yehiel Curry (80 votes), Rev. Andrea Walker (67 votes), Rev. Trudy Stoffel (57 votes), Rev. Larry Clark (48 votes). Rev. Robert Davis (26 votes). There was no election.

A voting member of the Assembly moved that the Assembly take a 15 minute recess for the purpose of caucusing with the remaining nominees for the office of bishop. The motion was seconded. The vote was taken by blue card. He declared the motion defeated.

A voting member of the Assembly called for division of the house. The Sergeants at Arms counted the blue cards as the vote was taken. The motion was defeated.

Bishop-elect Strickland briefly explained third ballot voting.

A member of the Assembly moved to suspend the rules of the Assembly, to allow the remaining nominees for the office of bishop to give a brief introduction. This motion was seconded. The vote was taken by blue card. The motion was defeated.

A member of the Assembly moved that the Assembly recess for 5 minutes, to allow for caucusing with the remaining nominees for the office of bishop. The motion was seconded. The vote was taken by blue card. The motion was defeated.

Bishop-elect Strickland then called upon Rev. Ellen Arthur for an updated report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee. She reported to the assembly that the total number of voting members registered as of 4:30PM was 516. Bishop-elect Strickland asked that Pastor Allison Bengfort come to the white microphone and offer a prayer before voting. Following the prayer, balloting for the third vote was complete. Bishop-elect Strickland then returned the chair to Bishop Miller.

Presentation by the ELCA Credit Union

At 6:00PM Bishop Miller introduced a video about the ELCA Federal Credit Union. He explained that the ELCA Federal Credit Union was created by the ELCA to provide additional financial services to ELCA members, employees of synods, congregations or any other ELCA-related ministry. Family members of current ELCA FCU members are also eligible to join.

Mission Moment

Bishop Miller then invited Ms. Madelynn Skvarla, President of the Women's Network of LSSI, to come to the center microphone for another Mission Moment. She shared how LSSI supporters use toy showers for their program Bringing Churches Together: Toys that Heal.

Announcements

Bishop Miller invited Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell to share announcements. Pastor Thompson Powell explained that assembly evaluations will be e-mailed to all voting members and visitors. A reception for Bishop Miller will be held in Exhibit North following this plenary session. The assembly will reconvene on Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m.

Evening Worship

At 6:12PM Bishop Miller asked the Assembly to join in evening worship, led by members of the Metropolitan Chicago Worship Team.

Report of the Third Ballot for the Office of the Bishop

At 6:58PM Bishop Miller relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland, who invited the Rev. Robert Klonowski to present the report of the third ballot for the Office of the Bishop. Rev. Klonowski reported that there were 494 votes cast, of which there was 1 illegal vote. Out of 493 legal votes, an election requires 2/3, or 330 votes. Those moving to the next vote were: Rev. Sarah Stumme (122 votes), Rev. Yehiel Curry (99 votes), Rev. Heidi Torgerson (96 votes). Not moving to the next ballot were: Rev. Andrea Walker (67 votes), Rev. Trudy Stoeffel (46 votes), Rev. Larry Clark (39 votes), and Rev. Bob Klonowski (24 votes). There was no election. Bishop-elect Strickland then returned the chair to Bishop Miller, who declared the third plenary session of the assembly concluded.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 – PLENARY SESSION 4

Opening Worship

The assembly reconvened at 8:30AM for morning devotions led by the synodical Worship Team. When worship ended, Bishop Miller called the Fourth Plenary Session of the assembly to order at 8:53AM.

Comments from Three Final Nominees for the Office of the Bishop

Bishop Miller then relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Vice President Terry Henderson and Bishop-elect Strickland to introduce the three final nominees for the Office of the Bishop. The three nominees each had the opportunity to give a 10 minute address to the assembly, followed by answering the same 5 questions that had been prepared by the Elections Committee. After each Rev. Sarah Stumme, Rev. Heidi Torgerson, and Rev. Yehiel Curry had the opportunity to address the assembly, Bishop-elect Strickland and Vice President Henderson returned the chair to Bishop Miller, who announced a break for refreshments.

Report of Credentials and Courtesies

At 10:35AM Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order. He called on The Reverend Ellen Arthur to present the report of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee. Bishop Miller then relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Bishop-elect Strickland, to lead the fourth ballot for the Office of Bishop.

Fourth Ballot for the Office of Bishop

Bishop-elect Strickland briefly explained the process for voting on the fourth ballot and then asked that Pastor Eric Worringer come to the white microphone and offer a prayer before voting. Following the prayer, the votes were cast by written ballot. Bishop-elect Strickland then returned the chair to Bishop Miller.

Mission Moment

Bishop Miller then invited the Rev. Paul Pfeffer to the center microphone for a Mission Moment. Pastor Pfeffer provided a brief overview of the Federal Chaplains of the ELCA program showing how on our behalf these Chaplains are making all things new. Retired US Army Chaplain Pfeffer has been part of the US Army Chaplain Corps Regiment since 1974 and serves as Metropolitan Chicago's Centurion representative serving as an advisor to Synod parishes doing and who are interested in ministry to military members.

Campus Ministry Presentation

Following the mission moment, Bishop Miller introduced a video about the ELCA Campus Ministry Program. He explained that the ELCA campus ministry is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff, and others "on campus" and provides an ELCA presence at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities, with cooperating congregations in campus ministry at an additional 400 campuses nationwide. This video produced by LuMin, the ELCA network for campus ministry, offered a glimpse from students themselves of the impact that Lutheran Campus Ministry makes in their lives and the lives of young adults on campuses across the United States.

Debate on Resolutions

At 10:55AM Bishop Miller invited Pastor Brittany Baurle-Kooi to the white microphone to offer a prayer. He then invited the Rev. Steve Srock, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee to the stage to introduce resolutions for debate by the assembly. At 10:58AM Rev. Srock read the resolved portions of **Resolution 02-19 RESOLUTION ON DEALING WITH DEPRESSION AND INTENTIONAL DEATH (OR SUICIDE) IN OUR CHURCHES** and moved and recommended its adoption.

RESOLUTION ON DEALING WITH DEPRESSION AND INTENTIONAL DEATH (OR SUICIDE) IN OUR CHURCHES

WHEREAS, life expectancy in the United States is decreasing (partially resulting from intentional death) and intentional death in the United States is increasing;

WHEREAS, studies suggest that over 75% of railroad trespass deaths are intentional;

WHEREAS, in Northeastern Illinois, approximately 5% of all intentional deaths occur on railroad property;

WHEREAS, Jesus commands us in John 13:34-35 to love one another;

WHEREAS, Jesus requires us to care for our neighbor in Luke 10:36-37;

WHEREAS, depression that has lasted over two weeks has become a clinical problem (clinical depression) which almost always requires medical intervention; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that each congregation have resources available to guide individuals with clinical depression to help in combatting their depression before thoughts of suicide occur; and that the framers of this motion assemble a packet of appropriate resources to be assembled and sent to each congregation;

RESOLVED, that each congregation be made aware of the ELCA's commitment to suicide prevention;

RESOLVED, that each congregation have the "National Suicide Prevention Lifeline" contact information (1-800-273-8255) posted in conspicuous places;

RESOLVED, that each congregation will, in some way, address the issue of recognizing depression and loneliness amongst their members; and

RESOLVED, that each congregation will in some way develop resources for family and community members who have experienced the loss of a loved one through suicide.

Following discussion, Bishop Miller called for a vote on Resolution 02-19. The vote on the motion to approve was taken by blue cards. The motion passed.

Rev. Srock then introduced **Memorial 01-19 MEMORIAL TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT: *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*** and moved and recommended its adoption.

MEMORIAL TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT: *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*

WHEREAS, social statements are social teaching documents that "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12) by bringing into "dialogue the convictions of faith with the realities of the world and the experience of Christians living out their baptismal vocation"*— and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* is a comprehensive, creatively-organized teaching document that will equip members and build up the church by clarifying biblical texts, utilizing scientific knowledge and human reason, and articulating Lutheran theology that speaks truth with charity; and

WHEREAS, social statements are intended to help members "discern God's will for today," offer moral direction on how to view an issue, foster moral conversation, and act justly as followers of Christ* —and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* sets forth ethical thinking and evaluation by: analyzing the complex effects of patriarchy and sexism on church and society, including on women and girls of color, the LGBTQ community, and gender non-conforming people; introducing the concept of neighbor justice, intersecting forms of discrimination, and principles for

creating and supporting justice; and calling the church to redress the wrongs of the past and present; and

WHEREAS, social statements are the result of extensive, participatory discussion throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and are shaped by careful listening to all quarters of this church, to society, as well as to other church bodies and ecumenical organizations* —and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* has been a decade in the making that has consisted of: listening events in 2013, 2014, and 2015; the publication of study materials in 2014 and 2015; the production of the Church Council-approved social message “Gender-based Violence” (2015); the publishing of the study “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement” (2016) with responses to it throughout 2017; the writing of the draft women and justice statement (2017) with responses to it as well as synodical hearings on it in 2018, including at last year’s Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly; interaction with other denominations and with the Lutheran World Federation; and review by the ELCA Conference of Bishops and Church Council; and

WHEREAS, social statements, as the ELCA’s primary social teaching documents, govern this church’s institutional life, its policies and practices, setting forth expectations for the church’s agencies and institutions, its advocacy to government and the private sector, and its ecumenical and interfaith relations*—and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*, in response to theological convictions and social analysis, calls the ELCA to commitments within its institutional life to honor and support women and girls “in ways more consistent with life-giving theology and faith practices,” and to commitments in society to “seek justice in earthly relationships, structures, and systems”;** therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to adopt the recommended proposed social statement *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* and all implementing resolutions.

**Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns*, 2019.

***Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*, Short Statement, Articles 24 and 31, respectively.

Following discussion, Bishop Miller called for a vote on Memorial 01-19. The vote on the motion to approve was taken by blue cards. The motion passed. Rev. Srock then presented **Resolution 01-19 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT: *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*** and moved and recommended its adoption.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PROPOSED SOCIAL STATEMENT: *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*

WHEREAS, social statements are social teaching documents that “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12) by bringing into “dialogue the convictions of faith with the realities of the world and the experience of Christians living out their baptismal vocation”^{*}— and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* is a comprehensive, creatively-organized teaching document that will equip members and build up the church by clarifying biblical texts, utilizing scientific knowledge and human reason, and articulating Lutheran theology that speaks truth with charity; and

WHEREAS, social statements are intended to help members “discern God’s will for today,” offer moral direction on how to view an issue, foster moral conversation, and act justly as followers of Christ^{*}—and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* sets forth ethical thinking and evaluation by: analyzing the complex effects of patriarchy and sexism on church and society, including on women and girls of color, the LGBTQ community, and gender non-conforming people; introducing the concept of neighbor justice, intersecting forms of discrimination, and principles for creating and supporting justice; and calling the church to redress the wrongs of the past and present; and

WHEREAS, social statements are the result of extensive, participatory discussion throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and are shaped by careful listening to all quarters of this church, to society, as well as to other church bodies and ecumenical organizations^{*}—and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* has been a decade in the making that has consisted of: listening events in 2013, 2014, and 2015; the publication of study materials in 2014 and 2015; the production of the Church Council-approved social message “Gender-based Violence” (2015); the publishing of the study “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement” (2016) with responses to it throughout 2017; the writing of the draft women and justice statement (2017) with responses to it as well as synodical hearings on it in 2018, including at last year’s Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly; interaction with other denominations and with the Lutheran World Federation; and review by the ELCA Conference of Bishops and Church Council; and

WHEREAS, social statements, as the ELCA’s primary social teaching documents, govern this church’s institutional life, its policies and practices, setting forth expectations for the church’s agencies and institutions, its advocacy to government and the private sector, and its ecumenical and interfaith relations^{*}—and *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*, in response to theological convictions and social analysis, calls the ELCA to commitments within its institutional life to honor and support women and girls “in ways more consistent with life-giving theology and faith practices,” and to commitments in society to “seek justice in earthly relationships, structures, and systems”;^{**} therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations, conferences, and agencies and institutions on the territory of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod engage in study of *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A*

Lutheran Call to Action, be guided by its convictions and commitments, and review its implementing resolutions to determine what specifically they may do to take action.

**Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns, 2019.*

***Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*, Short Statement, Articles 24 and 31, respectively.

Following discussion, Bishop Miller called for a vote on Resolution 01-19. The vote on the motion to approve was taken by blue cards. The motion passed.

Presentation by LIRS

Bishop Miller then welcomed Ms. Marta Erling-Spanger, Gifts officer at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to give an overview of LIRS's work with refugee resettlement and immigration.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service welcomes refugees and immigrants, serving children and families who have faced incredibly challenging journeys to reach safety here in the United States. During challenging times for migrants and refugees, LIRS lives out the call that we have as people of faith, to welcome the stranger.

Fourth ballot results and Fifth ballot vote

At 11:40AM, Bishop Miller ceded the chair to Bishop-elect Strickland, who invited Bob Klonowski to share the results of the fourth ballot for the office of bishop. Out of 492 total ballots cast, 4 were illegal. Therefore, there were 488 legal ballots. The 60% required for an election would be 293 ballots. The totals were: Rev. Curry 216; Rev. Torgerson 177; Rev. Stumme 95. No election was declared.

Rev. Strickland invited Ellen Arthur, chair of Credentials and Courtesies Committee, to provide an updated report. The total number of voting members registered as of 11:00 a.m. was 525. He then invited Pastor Mark Rollenhagen to offer a prayer before voting. At 11:46AM, voting for the fifth ballot for the office of bishop was declared open. At 11:50, voting was declared closed and Bishop-elect Strickland returned the chair to Bishop Miller.

Announcements and Meal Prayer

Bishop Miller then invited Rev. Daryl Thompson-Powell to the stage for announcements and meal prayer. The assembly was released for lunch at 12:00, with the instruction that Plenary Session 5 would begin at 12:45.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 – PLENARY SESSION 5

Mission Moment

At 12:49PM Bishop Miller called the assembly back to order. He invited Ms. Pamela Gonzalez, a member at Edgebrook Lutheran Church in Chicago to share another Mission Moment. She shared about how Edgebrook Lutheran Church brings Christ to a Home for People with

Disabilities.

Debate on Budget

Bishop Miller then invited Treasurer Yvette NewberryWhite to the stage to present the budget. Having no questions or comments from the floor, the assembly voted on the budget by blue cards. The budget was adopted.

Report of the Fifth Ballot for the Office of Bishop

At 12:56PM Bishop Miller again relinquished the chair to Bishop-elect Strickland for the report of the fifth ballot for the office of bishop. Bishop-elect Strickland invited Rev. Klonowski to return to the stage to present the report. Out of 484 total votes cast, 0 were illegal. This ballot required a simple majority, or 243 votes to win. Rev. Curry received 258 votes; Rev. Torgerson received 226 votes. Bishop-elect Strickland declared that Rev. Curry had been elected as the next bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.

Greetings from Bishop-Elect

At 1:00PM, Bishop-elect Curry was invited to the stage to greet the assembly.

Mission Moment #8

Following the greeting from Bishop-elect Curry, Bishop Miller invited Ms. LaShanda Curry, a member at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, to share a mission moment. Ms. Curry shared information about the Metropolitan Chicago African Descent Lutheran Association, commonly referred to as ADLA. As part of the ELCA's Ethnic-Specific and Multicultural Ministries Team, ADLA seeks to answer the call to build a multicultural church that is inclusive of all God's children.

Report of the Vice President

At 1:08PM Bishop Miller invited Vice President Henderson to give a report. Vice President Henderson shared the importance of the church's action in recognizing discrimination and profiling.

Report of the Secretary

Bishop Miller then invited Secretary Clausen to give the report of the secretary. Secretary Clausen focused on the importance of governing documents to the mission of congregations and the church at large.

Mission Moment

Bishop Miller then invited Mr. Jims Porter, Policy and Communications Coordinator for RefugeeOne, to give the final Mission Moment of this assembly. Today, we are faced with the worst refugee crisis in recorded history, with more than 68 million people displaced around the world by violence and persecution. Refugee ministry is a critical component of practicing the biblical mandate to "welcome the stranger." RefugeeOne is our synod's partner in mission working with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Church World Service to resettle and advocate on behalf of the most at risk and vulnerable.

Resolution of Thanks

At 1:36PM Bishop Miller invited Reverend Ellen Arthur of the Credentials and Courtesies Committee back to the stage for the Resolution of Thanks.

Authorization of Approval of the Minutes

At 1:38PM Bishop Miller invited Vice President Terry Henderson to the stage to move the Authorization of Approval of the Minutes.

Vice President Henderson moved, and a member of the assembly seconded:

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.

The motion passed.

Announcements

At 1:40PM Bishop Miller called Rev. Thompson Powell to the stage for final announcements.

Order for the Closing of the Assembly

At 1:45PM Bishop Miller led the assembly in the Order of the Closing of the Assembly.

At 1:50PM, the assembly was declared closed and was invited to transition to worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Erin Clausen
Secretary, Metropolitan Chicago Synod.