



MCS SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021

GOOD STEWARDS

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021

TIME: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WHERE: VIRTUAL

LIKE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF
GOD, SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH WHATEVER GIFT
EACH OF YOU HAS RECEIVED.

1 PETER 4:10

**Minutes of the 33rd & 34th Annual Synod Assemblies
of the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Hosted online via Zoom and eBallot**

2020 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Welcome

At 9:00AM Ms. Hope Johnson opened the assembly with a Native Land Acknowledgement. Bishop Curry then welcomed members, visitors, and guests to the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth Annual Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Curry explained that last year, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council voted to postpone the 2020 synod assembly in compliance with Illinois state law, having determined that meeting was inadvisable for reasons of health, life, and safety. Therefore, to fulfill the synod's bylaws, the synod council decided to host the 2020 synod assembly very briefly today, just in advance of the 2021 assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Following the opening litany, the 2020 assembly will be closed and the 2021 assembly convened immediately afterward. Bishop Curry also briefly outlined the online format of the assembly and thanked the assembly for their grace as the synod and the participants navigate this new format for assembly. Bishop Curry then introduced Pastor Mark Carlsson, Senior Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Naperville, the host for the on-site portion of the Synod Assembly.

Greetings

Pastor Mark Carlsson briefly greeted the assembly.

Opening Litany / Bishop's Report Part I

At 9:08AM Bishop Curry thanked Pastor Carlsson and introduced the musicians, who played "Come Let us Worship God." Bishop Curry then continued with an invocation and prayer, followed by "Blessed Assurance."

The Bishop's recorded report began with a sermon reflection on 1 Peter 4:7b-11. Bishop Curry briefly outlined the theme for the 2020/2021 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, "Good Stew." This report acknowledged the brevity of the online assembly compared with in-person assemblies and invited the assembly to experience nourishment in the stories of the 'good stew'-ardship of ministries around the synod.

Following this video, the assembly musicians led the assembly in 'Vamos Todos,' and Ms. Jen DeLeon led the assembly in prayer.

2020 Business

At 9:36AM Bishop Curry declared the 2020 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod to be open. He noted that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Council had approved the minutes of the 2019 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Bishop Curry then introduced a video

recognizing rostered ministers and congregations that celebrated significant milestone anniversaries of service in the last year. Following the video, Bishop Curry declared the 2020 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod closed.

2021 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod

At 9:43AM Bishop Curry declared the 2021 Assembly of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod to be open. He introduced Pastor Darryl Thompson-Powell, chair of this year's Nominations, Credentials and Election Committee. Bishop Curry asked Pastor Thompson Powell to present the credentials report. Pastor Thompson Powell reported to the assembly that the total number of voting members registered as of 9:48AM was 374, including 168 rostered ministers and 206 lay voting members. The voting membership of the assembly therefore is comprised of 56% lay and 44% rostered ministers. The number of voting members necessary for a quorum is 231. Pastor Thompson Powell moved the adoption of this report, and Secretary Clausen seconded. The assembly voted using the polling function on Zoom, and the report was adopted as presented.

Rules of Organization and Procedure

Bishop Curry then introduced the next item of business before the assembly - the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2021 Assembly. This document had been sent via email as part of the assembly checklist, and is also located on page 9 in the Voting Member Handbook. Having been recommended to the assembly for adoption by the Synod Council, the Rules of Organization and Procedure do not require a second. There was no discussion, and the assembly voted using the polling function on Zoom. The Rules of Organization and Procedure were adopted by the assembly.

Adoption of the Agenda

Bishop Curry instructed the assembly to consider the agenda for the assembly which was published on page 3 of the Voting Member handbook. Having been recommended for approval by the synod council, the proposed agenda does not require a second. There was no discussion, and at 9:50AM the assembly adopted the agenda via the polling function on Zoom.

Appointment of Parliamentarian / Welcome to Churchwide Office Representative

Bishop Curry then appointed Ms. Joan Bundley as parliamentarian for the assembly. Ms. Bundley is a Registered Parliamentarian with the National Association of Parliamentarians. He also extended a warm welcome to the Churchwide Office representative – Pastor Keith Fry, Executive for Administration in the Office of the Secretary.

Election Committee Report

At 9:51AM Bishop Curry invited Pastor Thompson Powell to explain the Elections Process and the Election Committee Report. Pastor Thompson Powell explained that the members of the 2021 Nominating & Elections Committee are listed in the voting handbook and asked the assembly to please join him in thanking them for their good and faithful work, including Rev. Kyle Severson who served as the staff liaison to these committees.

Pastor Thompson Powell then explained the election process for the Vice president and Secretary elections. The elections for Synod Vice President and Synod Secretary are by ecclesiastical ballot, which means that for the first ballot there are no formal nominees or printed names and votes are taken by writing the name of any eligible individual. For the first ballot two-thirds of the votes are required for election; failing a 2/3 majority this first ballot becomes the nominating ballot. All eligible persons named on the first ballot, with the exception of those who withdraw their names, become eligible for votes on the second ballot. When the bishop declares voting to be open, each voting member will receive an email from E-Ballot. At that time, voting members will open that email and vote for one eligible person for each position. Pastor Thompson Powell explained that the Vice President must be a lay person. The Secretary may be a lay person or a rostered leader (pastor or deacon). All nominees named on this first ballot will have the opportunity before the second ballot to decline a nomination, thus each voting member must add a contact number for the person you nominate for either office. After the bishop declares voting to be open, voting members may complete their ballot. Once completing and submitting the ballot, please wait patiently for the bishop to declare balloting closed. The elections committee will steward the elections process throughout the assembly.

Ecclesiastical Ballot for Vice President and Secretary

Bishop Curry thanked Pastor Thompson Powell for his report and the instructions to the assembly. He explained that ballots would arrive in voting members' email boxes and reiterated that voting members must be aware of which position they were voting for on each ballot. He then invited Pastor Kyle Severson, Associate to the Bishop, to lead the assembly in prayer. Following the prayer, Bishop Curry explained that voting members would have 5 minutes to vote. He then declared voting open at 9:58AM.

Because of technical difficulties voting members shared in the Zoom chat, voting was extended to 10:06AM, at which time Bishop Curry declared voting closed.

First General Ballot

Bishop Curry then invited Pastor Darry Thompson Powell to explain the process for voting on the first general ballot. Pastor Thompson Powell explained that biographical information for all nominees had been shared with all voting members in the document entitled Elections Resource. This information was shared via email to all registered voting members on June 2, 2021 under "Resource Documents" and on the Synod Assembly page of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod website. The elections on this general ballot include electing voting members to the 2022 churchwide assembly, members of the synod council, members of the discipline committee and members of the consultation committee. Voting members will again use E-Ballot to vote and should vote for one person in each position.

Bishop Curry thanked Pastor Thompson Powell for this explanation and declared voting to be open at 10:09AM. At 10:20AM, Bishop Curry declared voting to be closed.

Anniversaries of Rostered Ministers 2021

While votes were being tabulated, Bishop Curry introduced a video to be played for the assembly, celebrating different milestones of rostered leaders in the synod, as well as those

rostered leaders who joined in the mission and ministry of this Synod as a first call pastor or deacon or moved into the synod since the last assembly.

Report of the Ecclesiastical Ballot for Vice President and Secretary

At 10:30AM, Bishop Curry invited Pastor Thompson Powell to give the report of the ecclesiastical ballots for Vice President and Secretary. Pastor Thompson Powell reported that on the ecclesiastical ballot for Vice President, there were 31 ballots cast. An election on this ballot requires two-thirds of the votes, or at least 21 votes. The results were projected and shared on participants' screens. Mr. Terry Henderson received 21 votes, representing 68% of the total ballots cast. Therefore, there was an election. Bishop Curry declared Mr. Terry Henderson elected as Vice President.

Pastor Thompson Powell then reported that on the ecclesiastical ballot for Secretary, there were 42 ballots cast. An election on this ballot requires two-thirds of the votes, or at least 28 votes. The results were projected and shared on participants' screens. Rev. Erin Clausen received 36 votes, representing 85% of the total ballots cast. Therefore, there was an election. Bishop Curry declared Rev. Erin Clausen elected as Secretary.

Bishop's Report – Part II

At 10:35AM, the Bishop's Report Part II video was shown. During this video, Bishop Curry highlighted several ministries doing good work throughout the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.

Report of the General Ballot

Following the Bishop's Report Part II video, Bishop Curry invited Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell to share the report of the General Ballot. The results follow – those receiving enough votes to be elected in bold:

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Female

Selene Partida (Near West)* 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Female

Ariolye Frost (Northeast)* PC/L 61% 178 votes

Claire Embil (Northeast) PC/L 39% 116 votes

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Female

Sherri D'Agostino (West)* 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Male

Ismael Calderon (North)* PC/L 63% 184 votes

Donal Barlow (North) 37% 110 votes

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Male

John Nicholas (Northwest)* 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly - Lay Male

Zachary Howell (Southwest)* 51% 150 votes

Rodger Jones (South) PC/L 49% 144 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Lay

Angela Bell (Southwest) 48% 141 votes

Elisabeth Trost (Northeast) 52% 153 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Lay

Frank Imhoff (Northwest) 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Rostered Female

Pr Erin Clausen (Near West) 55% 161 votes

Pr. Julie Grafe (West) 45% 133 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Rostered Female

Pr Alison Bengfort (Northeast) 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Rostered Male

Pr. Jason Glombicki (Central)* 65% 190 votes

Pr. David Elliot (West) 35% 104 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Rostered Male

Pr. Andrew Bell (Southwest) 38% 112 votes

Pr. Nathan Klein (Southwest) 62% 181 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Rostered

Pr. Lester White (South)* PC/L 100% 294 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Person of Color/Primary language other than English

Loretta Northcutt (South) PC/L 39% 114 votes

Yvette Newberry White (South) PC/L 61% 180 votes

Churchwide Assembly, Youth/Young Adult

Kayshawn Colbert Jones (Near West) PC/L 52% 152 votes

Emily Martinez (Near West) PC/L 48% 142 votes

Synod Council - Lay Female

Kristina Adamczeski (Near West)* 100% 294 votes

Synod Council Lay Female

Nancy Arnesen (West)* 100% 294 votes

Synod Council Rostered Female

Pr. Maria Rojas-Banda (Near West)* PC/L 100% 294 votes

Synod Council Rostered Male

Pr. Joel Lohafer (Northwest)* 100% 294 votes

Synod Council - Rostered

Pr. Lester White (South)* PC/L 100% 294 votes

Synod Council

Iván Pérez (Central) PC/L 100% 294 votes

Synod Council

Robert Langlois (Northwest) 100% 294 votes

Committee on Consultation, Lay Female

Barbara Hiller (Northeast) 100% 294 votes

Committee on Consultation, Lay Male

Thomas Weglarz (North) 100% 292 votes

Committee on Discipline, Lay Male

Wayne Giampietro (North) 100% 294 votes

Committee on Discipline - Lay Female

Angela Bell (Southwest) 100% 293 votes

Committee on Discipline, Rostered Female

Pr. Melody Eastman (West) 100% 294 votes

Committee on Discipline, Rostered Female

Pr. Carla Powell (Central) 100% 294 votes

Committee on Discipline, Rostered Male

Pr. Josh Evans (Northeast) 100% 294 votes

Following the report, Bishop Curry declared those individuals elected.

Report of the Treasurer

At 10:57AM Bishop Curry invited Treasurer Yvette NewberryWhite to give the report of the treasurer. Treasurer NewberryWhite indicated that the treasurer's written report and financial statements are located in the Book of Reports. She highlighted that for the fiscal year that ended January 31, 2021, the synod received 95% of the anticipated mission support from congregations. Fifty percent of the mission support received by the synod is passed through to the Churchwide Organization. Additionally, nine percent is used to financially support the synod's partners in ministry such as Lutheran seminaries, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, campus ministry, etc. Treasurer NewberryWhite also reported on operational costs for those ministries within the synod, as well as the Fund For Mission, concluding by giving thanks to the officers, synod council members, synod staff, and congregations for their work and ministry partnership. She then presented the 2022 Budget.

2022 Budget

Bishop Curry thanked Treasurer NewberryWhite for her stewardship of the budgeting process and indicated that the assembly would now consider the 2022 Budget. As the proposed 2022 budget had been moved for consideration by the synod council, it did not require a second and was on the floor before the assembly. There was no discussion, and the assembly voted on the 2022 budget as presented using the polling function in Zoom. The budget was adopted as presented.

Bishop's Report – Part III

This video concluded the Bishop's Report. In this video, Bishop Curry shared examples of ways the synod council and bishop's office live into the synod's mission and the 'Good Stew' of the synod. Bishop Curry shared about a Congregational Support Fund and a Congregational Recovery Fund established by the synod council to address the COVID-19 pandemic realities. He also explained there are additional monies available in a Ministry From the Margins fund, to begin in October 2021. Bishop Curry then shared information about new mission starts and various synod working groups that offer opportunities to share one's gifts with the larger church, with an invitation to nominate yourself or someone else to these groups. The bishop's report concluded with a benediction.

Partner Ministry Videos

At 11:18AM, Bishop Curry introduced two partners in ministry – First Immanuel and Lakeview Lutheran Churches. Videos of each of these ministries were presented.

Vote on Constitutional Amendments

At 11:28AM, Bishop Curry indicated that the assembly would consider the constitutional amendments recommended by the synod council. All amendments considered at this assembly are those consistent with the 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations. As they have been moved by the synod council, they do not require a second. There was no discussion. The

assembly voted using the polling feature of the Zoom platform. The amendments were adopted as presented.

Churchwide Office Report

Bishop Curry then invited Rev. Keith Fry, Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration, to share the churchwide report with the assembly. Rev. Fry shared greetings and a video of Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA. He continued with a brief presentation.

DREAM Team Report

At 11:46AM, Bishop Curry introduced Rev. Robert Biekman, Associate to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission. A brief report followed of the newly named DREAM Team – which had previously been called the Outreach Ministry Team.

Report of the Vice President and Secretary

Bishop Curry introduced the video report of Vice President Terry Henderson at 11:53AM, followed immediately by the video report of Secretary Erin Clausen. As a conclusion to the report, Secretary Clausen reported on actions of the synod council during the previous year. There was no discussion following this report.

Sunergos Award

At 12:00PM, Bishop Curry introduced the Sunergos Award for Synodical Service recipient, Ms. Mary Richardson, who retired from service to the synod office earlier in the year. 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 concluded with a video thanking Ms. Richardson for her service.

Authorization of Approval of the Minutes

Bishop Curry then 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 assembly voted using the polling function on the Zoom platform. The motion passed.

Memorials

Bishop Curry thanked Vice President Henderson, as well as Pastor Thompson-Powell and the synod staff and volunteers listed on pages 15-16 of the Voting Member handbook, all of whom worked so hard to make this a successful assembly. He then introduced a video in memory of those rostered leaders who have found their eternal rest in God in the past year.

Closing Litany

Ms. Hope Johnson was invited forward to lead the closing litany.

Order for the Closing of the Assembly

At 1:10PM Bishop Curry declared the assembly closed, and the assembly concluded with a final song.