



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Synod Assembly Minutes Friday, June 8, 2018—Saturday, June 9, 2018

On Friday evening, June 8, 2018 the NWOS gathered at the First United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, Ohio for a keynote speaker presentation by the Rev. Dr. Mark Throntveit. The Gathering Eucharist Presider was the Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock, Churchwide Representative, with Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin preaching. Principal Musicians were Kate Philabaum, Director of the Heart Gallery, St. Paul's Toledo and Deacon Steve Basselman, Director of Music, St. Martin's Archbold. The Worship Assistants for the evening were Synod Youth. On Saturday morning, June 9, 2018 the NWOS began meeting in assembly at Bowen Thompson Student Union on the campus of Bowling Green State University. The assembly's time together began with a Morning Prayer. The following are the minutes of the assembly that commenced with Plenary Session 1 at 8:10am.

PLENARY SESSION 1

Opening of Assembly

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

Bishop Beaudoin declared the assembly to be open and began with a reading from Philippians chapter 4 and a brief prayer. He then acknowledged leaders within NWOS and special guests in attendance. As each group was read, they stood and were then recognized by the assembly.

Synod Council: Officers, Vice-President Melissa Peper Firestone, Secretary Becky Seibert, Treasurer Phil Koenig and **Members**, Tom Ritter, Casey Cox, Cindy Millbury, Christina Wheeler, Deb Noll, Jacob Nekoranec, Pastor Ann Marshall, Cassie Yeager, Sue Lawrence, Diane Ninke, Pastor Pete Bowmer, Pastor Steve Edmiston, Pastor Richard Genzman, Brent Gardner, Pastor Julie Parsell, James Schwabero, Pastor Mark Wentz

Conference Deans: Pastor Ralph Mineo, Central, Pastor Jody Rice, Eastern; Pastor Paul Reichert, Maumee Valley, Pastor Rita Blair, North Central; Pastor Sarah Schaaf, Southeastern; Pastor Will Haggis, Southwestern; Pastor Steve Bauerle, Toledo Area

Northwestern Ohio Synod Staff: Pastor Kent Wilson, Director of Leadership Development for Congregational Vitality; Deacon Sherry Krieger, Director of Leadership Development for Congregational Care; Jacob Henry, Synod Administrator; Jennifer Pruetter, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop; Mary Boals, Synod Accountant; Cheryl Sondergeld, Program Assistant for Mission Advancement; Caroline Guy, Coordinator of Communications and Technology; Pastor Cathy Schibler, Director of Candidacy; Diane Stultz, Receptionist, Brent Gnagey, Technology Specialist.

Special Guests: Rev Dr. Mark Throntveit, Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary; Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock, Churchwide Representative and Executive for Administration; Carol Throntveit, Director of Adult Learning and Ministry at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis; Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans, Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University; ; Penny Christensen, Executive Director of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio; Rick Marshall, CEO Genacross Lutheran Services; Terri Rodriguez, CEO Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

The many Synod Assembly Volunteers were thanked and appreciated.

Testing of Electronic Voting

Jacob Henry

Jacob ensured that all voting members of assembly had an electronic voting device and then conducted a test of the voting devices.

Credentials Report

Diane Ninke

Bishop Daniel declared that our voting membership is in accordance with our constitution, and that we have a quorum.

Adoption of Rules and Procedures

Floor Committees, and Agenda

Becky Seibert

Rules of Procedure were referenced as found in Section 1 pages 13 -15. The standing non- parliamentary rules of the assembly as found on page 14 were read by Becky. No objections were offered, and the standing non- parliamentary rules were adopted by unanimous consent. The standing parliamentary rules of the assembly as found on page 15 were read by Becky. No objections were offered, and the standing parliamentary rules were adopted by unanimous consent.

The Assembly Floor Committees as found on page 15 of section one were highlighted with the reading of each committee. Specifically named was the Parliamentarian, Pastor Eric Bodestab. Again, no objections were offered and the committees as presented to the assembly were adopted by unanimous consent. A Special thank you was offered by Bishop Daniel to interns Janelle Hennager who serves at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Pemberville and Dan Gutman, who serves at St. John Lutheran Church in Celina for their assistance.

Adoption of the Order of Business / Agenda

The agenda as found in Section 1, page 12 No objections were offered so the Order of Business/Agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

The 2017 Synod Assembly Minutes were approved by Synod Council at the August 5 meeting. Assembly minutes are available on pages 18-26 of Section 4. Approved Synod Council Minutes are also included in your assembly packet. may be found on pages 27-39 of Section 4.

Bishop Daniel called attention to the bylaw change approved at the 2017 Assembly that allows for a flexible assembly and Synod Council intends to hold the next Synod Assembly in 2020. As such we will be voting on candidates for delayed start terms that would begin in 2019.

Report of Nominating Committee

Pastor Cindy Ritter

The slate of nominees for elected office may be found in Section 2, pages 3-8.

For all of the following nominations there were no nominations from the floor and all nominations were declared closed following the announcements of the names, which were presented as follows:

For Synod Council Southeast Clergy, 3-year term: Richard R. Genzman and Jarrod James Schaaf.

For Synod Council Southwest Clergy, 3-year term: Neil B Brady and Janine M Foster

For Synod Council At-Large, 3-year term, Christina Wheeler.

For Synod Council At Large Minority, 3-year term, Cindy Milbry.

For Synod Council Vice President, 4-year term, Melissa Peper Firestone.

Seeing no nominations from the floor, nominations for all Synod Council terms beginning in 2018 was declared closed.

Synod Council nominees for terms beginning on 2019 are found on pages 9-16 of Section 2. They are as follows:

- For Synod Council North Central Clergy, 3-year term, Mark Allen Wentz.
- For Synod Council Toledo Area Clergy, 3-year term, Beth Ferne Johnson and Edward Daniel Strietelmier.
- For Synod Council Central Clergy, 3-year term, Steven C. Ramsey and Steve Edminston.
- For Synod Council Eastern Lay, 3-year terms, Erin Ruth Taylor Bodenstab and Michelle Ann Schaffer.
- For Synod Council Southwest Lay, 3-year term, Diana Kay Schneider.
- For Synod Council At-Large, 3-year term, Cynthia Marie Harris.
- For Synod Council At-Large Youth/Young Adult, 3-year term, Jari Nicole Knowlton Simard.

Seeing no nominations from the floor, nominations for all Synod Council terms beginning in 2019 was declared closed.

Nominees for Churchwide Voting Members were presented. Vitas for these nominees are found on pages 18-36 of Section 2. The Churchwide Assembly will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They are as follows:

- Toledo Area Clergy: Howard Emerson Abts, Kelley Marie Ketcham and Edward Daniel Strietelmier
- North Central Lay Male: Eric P. Corns and Howard "Ardy" Gonyer.
- Eastern Lay Male: Alan Jacob Mehlow
- Southwest Lay Male: James Raabe
- Central Lay Female: Wendy Sue Bailey and Caitlin Ann Brink
- Southeast Lay Female: Tanyce Jo Addison, Jillian Marie Russell and Connie Jo Blackford
- Maumee Valley Lay Female: Calla M. Gilson
- At-Large Young Adult: Alexandria Lynne Osborn, Elizabeth E. Clark, and Jari Nicole Knowlton Simard
- At-Large Minority: Louis Johnson

Seeing no nominations from the floor, nominations for Churchwide Voting Members was declared closed.

Nominees were presented for Discipline Committee, 6-year terms beginning in 2018. Vitas found on pages 38-40 of Section 2. They are as follows:

Discipline Committee Clergy, 6-year term, Anita (Ann) Louise Marshall, Steve M Bauerle and Mary Beth Smith-Gunn
Discipline Committee Lay, 6-year term, Hans Warren Giller and Karen A Young.

Seeing no nominations from the floor, nominations for Discipline Committee, 6-year term beginning in 2018, was declared closed.

Nominees were presented for Discipline Committee, 6-year term, beginning in 2019. Vitas found on pages 42-43 of Section 2. They are as follows:

Discipline Committee Clergy, 6-year term, Howard Emerson Abts, and Jody Vanetta Rice.

Discipline Committee Lay, 6-year term, Laurie Y Swartz and Tracey J Merrithew

Seeing no nominations from the floor, nominations for Discipline Committee, 6-year term beginning in 2019, was declared closed.

Nominees were presented for Nominating Committee, 3-year term, beginning in 2018. Vitas were found on pages 45-46 of Section 2. They are as follows:

Toledo Area Lay, 3-year term, Tracey J Merrithew

At Large Lay, 3-year term, David G Myerholtz

Seeing no nominations from the floor, nominations for Nominating Committee, 3-year term beginning in 2018, was declared closed.

Nominee for Nominating Committee, 3-year term beginning in 2019. Vitas found on page 48 of Section 2. They are follows:

Nominating Committee At-Large Lay, 3-year term, beginning on 2019, Jari Knowlton Simard.

Seeing no nominations from the floor, nomination for Nominating Committee, 3-year term beginning in 2019, was declared closed.

Reminder was offered that voting on the nominees will occur during the afternoon Session. Bishop Daniel offered a prayer for the nominees.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

As Bishop Daniel began his report he read Psalm 150 and offered a prayer. The written report of the Bishop can be found in section 4 pages 2-5 in the Assembly book.

Bishop Daniel reflected that this year's theme has been set as the Year of Prayer; and our focus is on the spiritual practice of Daily Prayer. He shared a listing of resources being used throughout the Synod and reminded us to mark our calendars for our Year of Prayer Spiritual Convocation, which will be held on November 7, at St. John Lutheran Church in Celina. Spiritual director, author, and pastor Daniel Wolpert will be present to lead us deeper into this life of prayer.

2019 is the Year of Scripture with an emphasis on Bible reading, Bible reflection, and Bible study. Our Bible focus will be on the Sermon on the Mount.

2020 is the Year of Mission and Vision/Book of Acts.

Bishop Daniel recommended reading Tod Bolsinger's book *Canoeing the Mountains* as a resource for Pastors and Congregational leaders.

We are sent by the Crucified and Risen Jesus to equip leaders for ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12 —Some apostles, some evangelists, some teachers. We need leaders, we need trained pastors, trained and lay folk, trained deacons. They come from families where faith is being formed and they come from healthy congregations. Look at the future of seminary education and new possibilities for training and equipping pastors, and deacons.

Bishop Daniel introduced Adam Taylor who just accepted a call to First Lutheran Church in Galion. He was ordained on July 7. We need to look at new ways at lifting up and equipping leaders. One such possibility is TEEM-Theological Education for Emerging Ministries. The Teem program was established in Indiana. The focus is specialized ethnic multicultural, small urban congregations, new mission starts that have been authorized. People who are differently abled. TEEM candidates serve in the parish where they will be serving. There is a trained and authorized Pastor who will serve as their supervisor. The candidate is ordained to serve at the location they trained. Cost is shared by student and congregation they are serving. It is not the equivalent of an MDiv degree. When God calls leaders ordained is ordained. God is calling us to explore new possibilities.

We are sent by the Crucified and Risen Jesus to Develop Disciples for Mission (Matthew 28:18-20), we are sent to Vitalize Parishes for Outreach (Acts 1:8), we are sent to Launch New Communities for Transformation (Romans 15:20-12).

As we look ahead to the future, Bishop Daniel shared the Northwestern Ohio Synod themes for the coming years:

- 2019 Year of Scripture
- 2020 Year of Mission and Vision / Book of Acts

Bishop Daniel closed his report thanking everyone for their prayers, encouraging words, and support.

Treasurer's Report

Phil Koenig

As Phil Koenig began his report, the assembly was reminded that the proposed 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 Budgets may be found on pages 2-10 in Section 3 for budgetary information. The Auditor's Report is found on pages 11-32.

There are 64 congregations that increased their Synodical support for the year 2017. It was a good year but not outstanding with 4% below what we had budgeted. The investment income was the highest and the cash position remained healthy. We met the new FASB acct standard. So overall 2017 was a very good year.

Gifts received are being used for meaningful change throughout the ELCA by Transforming the world, developing disciples, and parish vitality. Review of our financial position shows a slight increase. Our position has risen substantially due to a good market and below budget spending. The trend in Mission support is down. We use a 12-month budget and YTD giving is 11% below what is budgeted. The Synod has maintained our mission support of 51% and has been solid for the past year and today.

The Budget is included in handbook materials for today. The Assembly was asked to review (section 3) while the Budget will be voted on in the afternoon session.

Faithful Response Opportunity

Rev. Kent Wilson

Rev. Wilson has been enjoying visiting congregations on the weekend and "give away money." He shared some of the different ways of giving an offering in parishes. Sometimes it is easy and sometimes you have to work at it.

Rev. Wilson has been sharing and working through new systems with congregations to making it easier to enable givers. A handout was provided with contact information to speak with Rev. Wilson for more information.

Compensation Guidelines

Deacon Sherry Krieger

Sherry gave an overview of the 2019/2020 Compensation Guidelines, which were posted separately from the main assembly book. The Guidelines can also be accessed through the assembly website. Sherry reminded assembly members that the compensation guidelines are provided as a tool to be used for conversation for not only compensation but ministry of each congregation. There was no change in the guidelines from the previous year and help is easily provided for those who would like further explanation of the guideline. Discussion and voting on the Compensation Guidelines will take place during the afternoon session.

Vice-President's Report

Melissa Peper Firestone

Melissa shared that it is a privilege to work with Bishop Daniel and watch his ideas and vision unfold and to work with the other members of the council who devote so much time and who bring new ideas and energy to our agendas. She shared a special thank you to Jennifer Pruetter and Jacob Henry who make our meetings go so much smoother with all their work preparing paperwork, agendas, presentations and meals.

We went from the Year of Grace in 2017 to the Year of Prayer in 2018 with the memory verse, Philippians 4:6, "Do not worry about anything. But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." These verses guide us as we make decisions for not only the Synod but for congregations, pastors and lay people. We need courageous prayers.

Synod Council approved the following staffing for Synod office: Cheryl Sondergeld as Program Assistant for Mission Advancement; Kent Wilson as Director of Leadership Development and Congregational Vitality; Caroline Guy as Coordinator of Communication and Technology; Sherry Krieger as Director of Leadership Development and Congregational Care, and Jacob Henry as Synod Administrator.

We have passed a variety of resolutions, and reviewed and approved many guidelines, agreements, requests, Roster, Candidacy, legal and budget matters, various appointment and Synod Constitution updates.

We as a Council pray for our congregations, knowing they share in many of the concerns before us. There are fantastic things going on in our churches and lay people are stepping up in ways like never before.

Synod council "does the work of the church" but we are making disciples and preparing "what we need in not division not hatred but love wisdom and compassion for on another."

Melissa closed with "Say a prayer, set a stone, build a people."

Presentation of Flexible Assembly Bylaw

Melissa Peper Firestone

The proposed bylaw change can be found on page 2 of section 2: Actions. The 2017 Synod Assembly approved a bylaw change that allows for a flexible Assembly that constitutionally must meet at least once every 3 years. As our synod prepares for a biennial assembly (we are not anticipating a Synod Assembly in 2019). Synod Council charged a Flexible Assembly Taskforce to examine any and all issues involved with such a move. This taskforce has proposed a bylaw change necessary to allow for delayed start terms for Synod Council members.

The bylaw in question is S10.07.05 which currently states: "The terms of Synod Council Members shall begin on the first day of the second month following the adjournment of the assembly at which they are elected."

The taskforce has proposed changing S10.07.05 to read: "The terms of Synod Council members shall begin on July 1st of the year specified on the ballot by which they were elected."

The taskforce will continue its work and hoped to submit several additional proposals to the Synod Council at the September Council Meeting.

Presentation of Proposed Resolution

Jacob Henry

Bishop Daniel invited Synod Administrator Jacob Henry for a reading of the proposed resolution. Resolution SA 18.01 titled "Seminary Education Reform: can be found on page 50-53 of Section 2. The Resolutions Committee worked with the authors to ensure the resolution was in proper order before being presented to this assembly. The Proposed Resolution reads as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly calls upon the

Northwestern Ohio Synod Council to request that the ELCA Church Council

...

- 1) Recognize that seminary education in the ELCA has reached a moment of crisis, and commit itself to concrete reform in a timely manner;
- 2) Present to the entire church, prior to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, a proposal defining a central mission for seminaries of the ELCA and suggesting concrete reforms to the ELCA seminary system, written in plain language with actionable recommendations;
- 3) Strongly consider the following reforms in this proposal:
 - a. Consider calling upon ELCA seminaries to immediately “form a common theological education enterprise,” which would include regular collaboration and communication among seminaries and with the wider church¹⁰

Consider any necessary changes to the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws in order to enact the Baker Tilly Report’s model of a “limited central system” of seminary leadership. This model would create a central “parent board” governing all ELCA seminaries with the authority to provide financial oversight; set “explicit expectations relative to fiscal health, balanced budgets and level of assets;” and set basic academic standards. Individual seminary boards would retain oversight of everyday operations, academic decisions within the parent board’s basic standards, student services, and facility management.¹¹

- c. Consider the appropriate number of seminaries for the ELCA’s current and projected needs. This suggestion should consider not just location, but also a proper diversity of seminary cultures (e.g., rural and urban, residential and commuter-centric, traditionalist and progressive, large and small).
 - d. Consider basic curricular standards for all ELCA seminaries. For M.Div. programs, these would include but not be limited to Biblical study, Greek, Hebrew, Lutheran confessions, systematic theology, Church

history, worship and liturgics, administration, pastoral care and counseling, homiletics, teaching, evangelism, and discipleship. For diaconal and other programs, these would include but not be limited to any of the aforementioned areas deemed essential to the particular area of service.

- e. Consider ways to ensure that all seminaries provide freedom for students and faculty to engage in respectful disagreement on academic, theological, social, political and other matters, following the principles laid out in the University of Chicago's "Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression."¹
- f. Consider ways to ensure that all seminaries provide a healthy and nurturing environment for all students and faculty, including pastoral care and spiritual formation services, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, ideology or sexual orientation. However, this provision would not be interpreted as impeding freedom of expression or the church's Scriptural and confessional norms.
- g. Consider ways to ensure that all seminaries and any new "parent board" operate with as much transparency as possible under law
- h. Consider ways to maintain or expand the opportunity for students to attend non-ELCA divinity schools for some of the aforementioned curricular requirements, followed by a limited time in an ELCA seminary to fulfill requirements specific to the nature of rostered ministry in the ELCA. Consider whether encouraging this approach could further reduce the academic and financial burden on ELCA seminaries, while maintaining a superior theological education for all future rostered leaders.
- i. Consider methods for reducing the costs borne by seminary students, with a goal of tuition-free education for all students planning to pursue professional ministry in the ELCA.²

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- 4) Urge all ELCA seminaries to refrain from further significant structural change, until the 2022 Churchwide Assembly acts upon any proposal for reform

Authored by:
Pastor Robbie Ketcham, St Petri Toledo
Pastor Kelley Ketcham, Augsburg Toledo
Pastor Adam Sornchai, St John (Windfall) Cardington

The Resolutions Committee makes no recommendation to the assembly on course of action but has worked with the authors and the Churchwide Office of the Secretary to ensure the resolution is in proper order.

Bishop Daniel reminded the assembly that all of the presentations made this morning will have time for discussion and voting during the afternoon session.

Caroline Guy, our Coordinator of Communications and Technology introduces our keynote speaker the Reverend Dr. Mark Throntveit, Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. He studied at St. Olaf College, Luther Seminary, Union Seminary, and in Cambridge, England. He has been an ordained Lutheran pastor since 1975. Dr. Throntveit is well published, writing commentaries on Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah.

At the conclusion of the keynote, the assembly broke into workshops and a time for lunch discussion groups. The same workshops were offered during both workshop sessions (before and after the lunch break) to allow for greater shared learning opportunities. The assembly reconvened for the Afternoon Session at 2:15 pm.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Bishop Daniel offered a short prayer of gathering and turned the floor over to Synod Council Vice-President, Melissa Peper Firestone for bylaw discussion and voting.

Bylaw change proposal and discussion. A voice motion from the floor was made to approve with a second coming from the floor. Seeing no discussion, a vote was made and the Bylaw Change was approved.

General Elections

Pastor Cindy Ritter

Bishop Daniel stated that if there is no objection, we will now elect by unanimous consent all those persons nominated to Synod Council positions, in which there was only one person nominated. Their names were listed on the screen and includes those who will begin their terms in 2018 and 2019. Hearing no objection, it was declared the following persons duly elected by unanimous consent:

2018 Synod Council At-Large Lay: Christina Sue Wheeler

2018 Synod Council At Large Minority: Cindy Milbry

2018 Synod Council Vice-President: Melissa Peper Firestone

2019 Synod Council North Central Clergy: Pastor Mark Allen Wentz

2019 Synod Council Southwest Lay: Diana Key Schneider

2019 Synod Council At -Large Lay: Cynthia (Cindy) Marie Harris

2019 Synod Council At-Large Youth/Young Adult: Jari Nicole Knowlton Simard

Bishop Daniel then stated if there was no objection, we will now elect by unanimous consent all those persons nominated to Churchwide Assembly Voting Member positions, in which there was only one person nominated. Their names were listed on the screen. Having no objection, he then declared the following persons duly elected by unanimous consent:

Maumee Valley Clergy: Pastor Melinda (Mindy) Elliott

Central Clergy: Pastor Clayton John Bailey

Eastern Lay Male: Alan Jacob Mehlow

At Large Minority: Louis Trevell Johnson

Southwest Lay Male: James Raabe

Maumee Valley Lay Female: Calla M Gilson

Bishop Daniel continued if there is no objection, we will now elect by unanimous consent all those persons nominated to Nominating Committee positions, in which there was only one person nominated. Their names are listed on the screen and include those who will begin their terms in 2018 and 2019. Having heard no objection, he declared the following persons duly elected by unanimous consent:

2018 Toledo Area Conference: Tracey J Merrithew

2018 At Large Lay: David G Myerholtz

2019 At Large Lay: Jari Nicole Knowlton Simard

We then moved on to the remaining slate of candidates making use of the voting devices. The following were elected:

For Synod Council 3-year term, beginning in 2018

Southeast Clergy: Jarrod James Schaa

Synod Council Southwest Clergy: Janine M Foster

For Synod Council 3-year term, beginning in 2019

Toledo Area Clergy: Edward Daniel Strietelmeier

Central Clergy: Steven C Ramsey

Eastern Lay: Michelle Ann Schaffer

For Churchwide Voting Members

Southeast Clergy: Sarah Schaaf

Southwest Clergy: Janine Foster

North Central Clergy: Christina L Young

Eastern Clergy: Kathleen Ann Suggitt

Toledo Area Clergy: Kelley Marie Ketcham

North Central Lay Male: Howard "Ardy" Gonyer

Central Lay Female: Wendy Sue Bailey

Southeast Lay Female: Jillian Marie Russell

At Large Young Adult: Elizabeth E. Clark

For Discipline Committee, Clergy, (2 positions) 6-year term beginning in 2018:

Steve M Bauerle

Anita (Ann) Marshall

For Discipline Committee, Lay, 6-year term beginning in 2018:

Hans Giller

For Discipline Committee, Clergy, 6-year term, beginning in 2019:

Jody Vanetta Rice

For Discipline Committee, Lay, 6-year term, beginning in 2019:

Laurie Y Swartz

Appreciation from the assembly was shown by applause for all those who were willing to put their names forward for nomination.

Budget Discussion and Vote

Jacob Henry

A motion to adopt the proposed 2019-2020 Budget and proposed 2020-2021 budgets. Budget was offered from the floor as well as second.

Mic #1: Dr. Brad Binau, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, moved a change in interpretive budget line #4 changed from TEEM program to scholarship program. A 2nd was offered by Ann Marshall. Dr. Binau explained that funds would go directly to candidates and that would help with clarification. No discussion followed. Voting on amendment followed with voice vote: the amendment was carried.

No discussion was offered and a vote was taken using the electronic voting devices. The Proposed 2019-2020 Budget and Proposed 2020-2021 Budgets were passed.

Compensation Guidelines Discussion and Vote

Deacon Sherry Krieger

A motion to adopt the 2019 Compensation Guidelines as well as a second was offered from the floor. During discussion, Rev. Vicky Combs questioned how many members did not have a copy of the 2019 Compensation Guidelines and it was discovered that there were a few that did not have a copy of the Guidelines. The motion was tabled until more copies were provided, and all had a copy in front of them.

A vote was held with the electronic voting devices. The 2019-20 Compensation Guidelines were adopted.

Resolution Discussion and Vote

Bishop Daniel Beaudoin

A motion from the floor as well as a second was offered to move Resolution SA 18.01 titled Seminary Education Reform (pages 50-53, Section 2).

The following discussion was held prior to the vote: Dr. Brad Binau asked permission for Dean Kathryn Kleinhaus to speak. Dean Kleinhaus shared that Trinity Seminary intended to provide strong theological education. Information concerning idea of creating shared we are governed by the University that we are a part of and collaborative kind of work is already taking place. Good things are happening and the ELCA church council already affirms what is happening.

An electronic vote was then held and the Resolution passed.

ELCA Report

Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock

Bishop Daniel then introduced the Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock, our Churchwide Representative who serves as the Executive for Administration in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

Rev. Dr. Bullock gave thanks for NWOS and the ministry of our Bishop and the NWOS. Kent Wilson Director of Develop mission and others who have served the wider church. We then viewed a slide show of 2017 "Always being made new." We are church, we are Lutheran, we church together

Mission support thanks was given to NWOS. Contributions for 2017 for Always being made new helped to build new congregations: mission investment fund totaled \$6 million dollars in total from this synod. Over \$330,000 for ELCA World hunger, \$43,500 Hunger Grants have come back to this synod---- \$282,000 for Lutheran disaster response. Partners with us for congregation's renewal: Salem, Redeemer, LIFT partnership with new starts in Fremont and St. Johns at the Bay. ELCA fund for leaders endowment—3 seminary students received in this synod, 2017 NWOS sponsored 12 missionaries in 6 locations, YAGM in Argentina, and companion synods in Serbia, Tanzania ELCT.

The Youth Gathering count is now 620 youth from this synod. Over 30,000 folks to be in Houston TX. Keep this on your prayer list. "Grace is the free gift from God. "

Following the conclusion of assembly business, there was the Blessing of the Youth Gathering Participants and the Closing of the Synod Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Seibert
NWOS Secretary