

Minutes for the
2019 CENTRAL STATES SYNOD ASSEMBLY
June 6-8, 2019
at the Marriott Hotel
10800 Metcalf Ave, Overland Park, KS

June 6, 2019

OPENING

Bishop Roger Gustafson began the Assembly at 5:00pm with words of welcome, introductions, and prayer.

Rev. Kris Dietzen, co-chaplain for the Assembly, offered a prayer for the meal.

The Assembly shared a meal and celebrated opening worship.

Bishop Gustafson reconvened the Assembly at 7:45pm.

PLENARY 1

Bishop Gustafson turned the chair over to Mr. Bill Horne II, Vice President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

First Ballot for Election of Bishop

- Bill Horne offered remarks and instructions for the upcoming bishop's election.
 - He talked about the constitutional role of the Bishop.
 - He led us in prayer.
 - He outlined the ecclesiastical ballot process that we will be using.
- Theo Keesee delivered the following Credentials Report:
As of 7:30pm, there were 367 total voting members.

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Lay: 240 | 65% |
| Clergy: 127 | 35% |
- Rev. Zac Sturm led the assembly in prayer.
- The assembly cast the first ballot for synodical bishop.
- Bill Horne declared the first ballot closed at 8:40pm. He returned the chair to Bishop Gustafson.

Bishop Gustafson offered closing instructions.

Rev. Roger Lenander offered a closing prayer.

Plenary 1 was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

June 7, 2019

PLENARY 2

The assembly reconvened with opening prayer and worship at 8:00am.

Bishop Gustafson welcomed people back to assembly at 8:15am.

Greetings from the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod

Bishop Michael Girlinghouse brought greetings from the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod.

Results of the First Ballot

- Bill Horne presented the results from the first ballot.

Number of votes cast: 359
Number of illegal votes cast: 6
Number of legal votes cast: 353
Number of votes needed for election on this ballot (75%): 270

Those receiving votes:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|------------------------|---|
| Susan Candeia | 127 | Shawn Norris | 2 |
| Keith Hohly | 70 | Lesley Radius | 2 |
| Jennifer Thomas | 28 | Bethany Rutten-Kempees | 2 |
| Aimee Frye-Appell | 27 | Lewis Alexander | 1 |
| Peter Rehwaldt | 26 | Lee Bennight | 1 |
| David Strommen | 6 | Paul Bieber | 1 |
| Jay Grave | 5 | James Brandt | 1 |
| Chad Langdon | 4 | Jon Brudvig | 1 |
| Michael Peck | 4 | Tim Carey | 1 |
| David Whetter | 4 | Elizabeth Cummings | 1 |
| Roy Christell | 3 | Ashley Huber | 1 |
| Robert Dealey | 3 | Callista Isabelle | 1 |
| Kris Dietzen | 3 | Brian Maas | 1 |
| James Erdman | 3 | Steven Paulson | 1 |
| Janice Kibler | 3 | Winston Persaud | 1 |
| Mari Larson | 3 | Noni Strand | 1 |
| Alix Pridgen | 3 | Anita Strommen | 1 |
| Donna Simon | 3 | Phil Vickers | 1 |
| Gary Teske | 3 | Tom Wehrman | 1 |
| Peter Jacobson | 2 | Stephen Zeller | 1 |

- Those nominated for bishop were given until 10:00am to withdraw their name from the process.

Faith Practice #1

Bishop Gustafson welcomed Rev. Susan Candeia to the stage to talk about the first Faith Practice: Breath Prayer.

Greetings from the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri

The Right Reverend Martin Field, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri, brought greetings from the “Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.”

Nominations Committee Report

Pat Bjuland gave a report from the Nominations Committee. She presented the following nominations:

- Synod Vice President: Nancy Nagel
- Treasurer: Scott Schulte
- Secretary: Rev. Chad Langdon and Rev. Kendra Nolde
- Synod Council At Large male: Dallas Rakestraw
- Synod Council At Large POC: Linda Lockhart
- Synod Council At Large Deacon: open
- Synod Council At Large Male Youth: Theo Keese
- Consultation Committee: Rev. Barbara Chapmann and Rev. Christyn Koschmann
- Consultation Committee: Rev. Donna Florio
- Discipline Committee: Rev. Zac Sturm
- Discipline Committee: Rev. Rick Raymer
- Discipline Committee: Rev. Kris Dietzen
- Discipline Committee: Alesia Roccia

Nominations were closed at 8:35am.

Vice President’s Report

Dennis Allerheiligan offered his report, with the following highlights:

- There are a lot of committees and a lot of ministry going on in the Central States Synod.
- He offered thanks for each of their ministries and encouraged people to get involved in the various ministries and committees of the synod.
- He recognized and offered thanks for the work of the Bishop’s Election Committee.
- He recognized and offered thanks for the work of the Synod Council.
- He recognized and offered thanks for the work of the Synod Staff and for the ministry of Bishop Roger Gustafson.

Treasurer’s Report

Scott Schulte offered a written Treasurer’s Report for 2018. Verbal highlights included:

- Total Revenue & Support for 2018 was \$1,713,549.
 - This was \$17,251 less than anticipated.
 - This was \$71,131 less than the previous year in 2017.
- Total Expenditures for 2018 were \$1,707,052.
 - This was \$23,748 less than budgeted.
- He showed a graph representing the historical trends, which demonstrate a steady decline in annual congregation support since 2009.
- He presented a graph showing congregation contributions by month in 2018.
- Our contributions to Churchwide for 2018 decreased by about \$33,000. Our total contribution to Churchwide was \$833,576.
- The annual audit is not yet complete.

Revised Budget for 2019

Scott Schulte presented a written, revised 2019 Budget. Verbal highlights included:

- We are anticipating a continued decrease in congregation support (\$40,000) and reimbursements (\$14,000).
- The revised 2019 budget shows a decrease in spending by \$55,000, by reducing:
 - Contribution to Churchwide
 - Synod Salaries & Benefits
 - Travel
 - Office Expenses
- There was a letter that went out recently to congregations explaining our current financial situation and encouraging congregations to look into automated giving programs.

Proposed Budget for 2020

Scott Schulte presented a proposed budget for 2020 in the form of a narrative budget. Verbal highlights included:

- The Executive Committee is working and has identified five broad Synod spending priorities, along with an estimated percentage that can serve as a target for budget allocation. These five priorities and percentages are:
 - Provide, maintain and grow congregation leadership (45%)
 - Nurturing mission through our congregations (20%)
 - Provide pastoral care and oversight for rostered ministers (15%)
 - Interpreting the work of the church (10%)
 - Strengthening relationships (10%)
- We are trying connect our spending to the priorities we have identified, and allocate our funds accordingly. These difficult conversations are starting and this is not a final draft of what this might look like.
 - Provide, maintain and grow congregation leadership (45%): \$400,191
This category includes allocation for:
 - Campus ministries
 - Outdoor ministries
 - Candidacy
 - PMA programs
 - Bethany College, Wartburg Seminary & Lutheran School of Theology
 - Nurturing mission through our congregations (20%): \$178,105
This category includes allocation for:
 - Call process
 - Conference ministries
 - Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership
 - Provide pastoral care and oversight for rostered ministers (15%): \$133,475
This category includes allocation for:
 - Clergy call process
 - Pastoral care
 - Conference deans

- Bishop's Theological Convocation
 - Interpreting the work of the church (10%): \$88,600
This category includes allocation for:
 - Bethany College
 - Teams & task forces
 - Strengthen relationships (10%): \$88,100
This category includes allocation for:
 - Hollis Renewal Center
 - Teams & Task forces
 - Synod Council & Exec Committee
 - Our estimated Churchwide contributions for 2020 will be: \$817,500
- To result in a balanced budget for 2020, we will need contributions totaling: \$1,706,951
- He recognized and offered thanks for the work of the Mission Budget Team.

Mission Endowment Fund

Scott Schulte presented on the work of the Mission Endowment Fund. He summarized:

- This year they celebrate 20 years of giving away money.
- They receive money from planned gifts and bequests.
- This fund benefits leadership development.
- It is also used to support outreach within the Synod.

Greetings from Bethany College

President Will Jones from Bethany College brought greetings. He told of their new 5 year vision: that Bethany would offer "Inspired learning and informed faith." They have several new programs for continuing education for congregations and pastors. For the 2nd year in a row, they have welcomed the largest incoming freshmen class in Bethany's history. Things are going really well right now.

Keynote Presentation #1: Rev. Rich Melheim

Rev. Rich Melheim, our keynote speaker, was welcomed to the stage at 9:30am. He spoke about faith formation, creativity, building faith in the home, and bringing together different generations.

Plenary 2 was adjourned 10:00am as the assembly went into a morning break.

PLENARY 3

Bill Horne called the assembly back to order at 10:20am and opened with prayer.

Greetings from the Churchwide Expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bill Horne offered greetings and began his report from ELCA Churchwide by showing 2 videos. He encouraged the assembly to share these videos with their home congregations. His report also included:

- He recognized and thanked people from the Central States Synod who serve on various committees and boards at the Churchwide level.

- He presented the ELCA’s 5 Futures Directions for 2025:
 1. A Thriving Church: A thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people.
 2. An Equipping Church: A church equipping people for their baptismal vocations in the world and this church.
 3. A Welcoming Church: An inviting and welcoming church at reflects and embraces the diversity of our community and gifts and opportunities that diversity brings.
 4. A Visible Church: A visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice, peace, and reconciliation in communities and around the world.
 5. A well-governed, connected, and sustainable church.
- There are two main focuses coming from the Conference of Bishops, the ELCA Church Council, and other Churchwide organizations:
 - Congregational Vitality – communities of Jesus that nurture life changing relationships with God, one another, and the world.
 - Leadership
- He recognized and lifted up the new mission starts here in the Central States Synod and the work of our DEMs.
- The next social statement is called “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action,” and it will come before the Churchwide Assembly in August 2019.
- The ELCA will issue an apology to People of African Descent regarding the church’s complicity in slavery and the legacy of racism still present in the ELCA, United States and globally.
- The ELCA Church Council has unanimously recommend the proposed, “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: A policy statement of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.
- The Campaign for the ELCA will end soon. The Central States Synod contributed over \$680,000 to the Always Being Made New Campaign.
- The Fund for Leaders has provided \$2.6 million to help fund seminary scholarships.
- The Central States Synod has contributed \$434,000 toward ELCA World Hunger.
- The Central States Synod has contributed more than \$151,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response.
- The ELCA supports AMMPARO.
- There several upcoming national gatherings: WELCA, Rostered Ministers, and the Churchwide Assembly.
- He also highlighted the work of Living Lutheran magazine and the Three Sides Podcast.

Credentials Report

Theo Keesee delivered the following Credentials Report at 11:00am.

As of 10:00am, there were 378 total voting members.

Lay: 247 65%

Clergy: 131 35%

Greetings from Portico

Jennifer Prinz offered a video and greetings from Portico.

Elections

Voting machine instructions were given and tested.

Rev. Kris Deitzen led the Assembly in prayer.

- Bishop Gustafson declared by acclamation the following people elected:
 - Synod Vice President: Nancy Nagel
 - Treasurer: Scott Schulte
 - Synod Council At Large Male: Dallas Rakestraw
 - Synod Council At Large POC: Linda Lockhart
 - Synod Council At Large Deacon: open
 - Synod Council At Large Male Youth: Theo Keesee
 - Consultation Committee: Rev. Donna Florio
 - Discipline Committee: Rev. Zac Sturm
 - Discipline Committee: Rev. Rick Raymer
 - Discipline Committee: Rev. Kris Dietzen
 - Discipline Committee: Alesia Roccia
- There was a vote for the election of Secretary, with the following results:
 - Rev. Chad Langdon 193
 - Rev. Kendra Nolde 166Rev. Chad Langdon was elected to the position of Secretary.
- There was a vote for election to the Consultation Committee, with the following results:
 - Rev. Barbara Chapmann 151
 - Rev. Christyn Koschmann 199Rev. Christyn Koschmann was elected to the Consultation Committee.

Second Ballot for Election of Bishop

- Updated results were shared of the first ballot for Bishop after nominees removed their names. The new ballot was as following:

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Susan Candea | David Whetter | Bethany Rutten-Kempees |
| Keith Hohly | Robert Dealey | Lewis Alexander |
| Aimee Frye-Appell | James Erdman | Paul Bieber |
| Peter Rehwaldt | Peter Jacobson | Steven Paulson |
| David Strommen | Lesley Radius | Anita Strommen |
- Rev. Zac Sturm led the assembly in prayer.
- The assembly cast the second ballot for synodical bishop.
- Bill Horne declared the first ballot closed at 11:40am.

Faith Practice #2

Rev. Keith Hohly was welcomed to the stage to talk about the second Faith Practice: Lectio Divina.

Rev. Roger Lenander offered a mealtime prayer.

Plenary 3 was adjourned at 12:05pm as the assembly broke for lunch.

PLENARY 4

Bishop Gustafson reconvened the assembly and welcomed Rev. Rich Melheim back to the stage at 1:15pm. He spoke about EduWorship: worship with education elements as Cross+Gen Ministry.

Faith Practice #3

Rev. Donna Simon introduced the third Faith Practice: Praying Christ into the Other.

Credentials Report

Theo Keesee presented the Credentials Report. As of 12:45pm, there were 380 total voting members.

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| Lay: | 247 | 65% |
| Clergy: | 133 | 35% |
| Lay Female: | 145 | |
| Clergy Female: | 47 | |
| Lay Male: | 102 | |
| Clergy Male: | 86 | |
| Female: | 192 | 51% |
| Male: | 188 | 49% |
| Total POC/LOE: | 13 | |
| Total Youth: | 9 | |
| Visitors: | 42 | |

Results of the Second Ballot

- At 2:00pm, Bill Horne presented the results from the first ballot.

Number of legal votes cast: 373

Number of votes needed for election on this ballot (75%): 280

No one was elected on this ballot.

The results were:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|------------------------|---|
| Susan Candea | 180 | James Erdman | 6 |
| Keith Hohly | 63 | Lewis Alexander | 2 |
| Aimee Frye-Appell | 29 | Peter Jacobson | 2 |
| Jennifer Thomas | 28 | Steven Paulson | 2 |
| Peter Rehwaldt | 26 | Lesley Radius | 2 |
| David Whetter | 13 | Bethany Rutten-Kempees | 2 |
| David Strommen | 12 | Paul Bieber | - |
| Robert Dealey | 6 | Anita Strommen | - |

- The assembly was given 15 minutes to read the biographical information submitted from the top 7 candidates.
- In random order, the top 7 candidates were each given 90 seconds to introduce themselves to the assembly. The candidates spoke in the following order: Peter Rehwaldt, Keith Hohly, David Strommen, Aimee Frye-Appell, Susan Candea, Jennifer Thomas, David Whetter.

Third Ballot for Election of Bishop

- Rev. Zac Sturm led the assembly in prayer for the third ballot.
- The assembly cast the third vote for synodical bishop.

- At 2:50pm Bill Horne declared the voting closed. Because voting machines were used, the results were available immediately.

Results of the Third Ballot

- Bill Horne presented the results of the third ballot.

Number of legal votes cast: 364
 Number of votes needed for election on this ballot (66%): 243
 No one was elected on this ballot.

The results were:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Susan Candea | 173 |
| Dave Whetter | 40 |
| Keith Hohly | 36 |
| Aimee Frye-Appell | 35 |
| Peter Rehwaldt | 31 |
| David Strommen | 25 |
| Jennifer Thomas | 24 |

The top three candidates move forward.

Resolutions

Rev. Phil Vickers, chair of the Resolutions Committee, was welcomed to the stage at 3:00pm. These resolutions all come properly before the Assembly and have already been moved and seconded.

SA 19.01 Lutherans Restoring Creation

The resolution was opened for discussion.

- Rev. Janice Hawley proposed an amendment adding a 6th bullet: *“To utilize the ELCA’s Caring for Creation Coaching to increase and inspire progress while raising up new leaders.”*
 - The amendment was seconded.
 - It was noted that those submitting the resolution would accept the amendment.
 - The amendment was accepted.
- Rev. Noni Strand spoke in favor of the resolution
- Rev. Rachel Pryor spoke in favor of the resolution
- Rev. Karen Scheer spoke in favor of the resolution

The final form of the resolution before the assembly reads:

Therefore, be it resolved that the congregations of the Central States Synod will

- continue to commit to become “green congregations” with the formation of Green Teams (or Creation Care Teams),
- educate members about new partnerships between the ELCA and ecoAmerica through its Blessed Tomorrow program (<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy/Environment>) and between the Central States Synod and Kansas Interfaith Action (<https://www.kansasinterfaithaction.org/news>),

- utilize those partnerships to provide guidance, resources, and empowerment for advocacy and action on behalf of those most affected by the effects of climate change,
- connect with the CSS Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table* to share your stories as we continue to create a network of Creation Care across the Synod,
- strengthen our personal and communal commitments as stewards of God’s Creation,
- and to utilize the ELCA’s Caring for Creation Coaching to increase and inspire progress while raising up new leaders.

SA 19.01 was adopted by a vote of 306 – 25.

SA 19.02 Lutheran Senior Services

The resolution was opened for discussion.

- Rev. Roy Christell spoke in favor of the resolution.
- Rev. Ashley Huber spoke to the resolution.
- Rev. Dan McKnight proposed the following amendment:
All congregations of the Central States Synod will use provided intercessory prayer and the synod-provided information and messaging with a preference for green alternatives, including social media and video storytelling on the third weekend of September 2019.

This resolution was tabled.

SA 19.03 Designation of Bethany Lutheran Home Association Sunday

The resolution was opened for discussion.

- Rev. Jim Strassen spoke in favor of this resolution.
- Genevieve Bishop spoke in favor of this resolution.

The final form of this resolution before the assembly reads:

In an effort to enhance the gifts given by our Central States Synod congregations and take advantage of Match Madness matching gift opportunities in the Salina, Lindsborg, and McPherson area, the Board requests your continued prayers and financial support, and

Further, the Board requests adoption at the 2019 Central States Synod Assembly that Bethany Home Sunday be observed on March 1, 2020, in support of our mission as a ministry partner of the ELCA.

SA 19.03 was adopted by a vote of 306 – 10.

Plenary 4 was adjourned at 3:25pm as the assembly went into an afternoon break.

PLENARY 5

The assembly reconvened at 3:45pm in 3 separate rooms for a question and answer period with the top three candidates for bishop. These candidates are Susan Candea, David Whetter, and Keith Hohly. Each of the candidates answered questions in separate rooms. They were asked to answer 4 questions in each room, and given 5 minutes to answer each question.

Plenary 5 was adjourned at 4:55pm and the assembly moved into a break.

PLENARY 6

The assembly reconvened at 5:15pm. There were no changes to the credentials.

Fourth Ballot for Election of Bishop

- Rev. Zac Sturm led the assembly in prayer for the fourth ballot.
- The assembly cast the fourth vote for synodical bishop.
- At 5:25pm Bill Horne declared the voting closed. Because voting machines were used, the results were available immediately.

Results of the Fourth Ballot

- Bill Horne presented the results of the fourth ballot.

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Number of legal votes cast: | 367 | |
| Number of votes needed for election on this ballot (60%): | | 221 |

No one was elected on this ballot.

The results were:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Susan Candea | 191 |
| David Whetter | 142 |
| Keith Hohly | 34 |
- Bill Horne returned the chair to Bishop Gustafson.

Plenary 6 was adjourned at 5:30pm. The assembly shared dinner together, including recognizing anniversaries of ordination and celebrating the ministry of retiring Bishop Roger Gustafson.

June 8, 2019

PLENARY 7

The assembly reconvened at 8:00am on Saturday, June 8.

Credentials Report

Theo Keesee presented the Credentials Report. As of 8:00am, there were 380 total voting members.

| | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| Lay: | 247 | 65% |
| Clergy: | 133 | 35% |
| Lay Female: | 145 | |
| Clergy Female: | 47 | |
| Lay Male: | 102 | |
| Clergy Male: | 86 | |
| Female: | 192 | 51% |
| Male: | 188 | 49% |
| Total POC/LOE: | 13 | |
| Total Youth: | 9 | |
| Visitors: | 42 | |

Fifth Ballot for Election of Bishop

- Bill Horne assumed the chair at 8:07am.
- Rev. Zac Sturm led the assembly in prayer for the fifth ballot.
- The assembly cast the fifth vote for synodical bishop.
- At 8:15am Bill Horne declared the voting closed. Because voting machines were used, the results were available immediately.

Results of the Fifth Ballot

- Bill Horne presented the results of the fifth ballot.
- A majority of legal votes cast are required for election. There were 354 legal votes cast. There are 178 votes required for election.
- The results were:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Susan Candea | 223 |
| David Whetter | 131 |
- **Rev. Susan Candea was elected Bishop of the Central States Synod of the ELCA.**

Bill Horne returned the chair to Bishop Gustafson.

Proposed Budget for 2020

Scott Schulte presented for approval the FYE 2021 Budget.

- **The assembly voted and approved the FYE 2021 Budget by a vote of 317 – 6.**

Resolutions

Rev. Phil Vickers, chair of the Resolutions Committee, was welcomed to the stage. These resolutions all come properly before the Assembly and have already been moved and seconded.

SA 19.02 Lutheran Senior Services

This resolution was removed from the table and opened for discussion.

- Rev. Dan McKnight withdrew his previous motion and instead offered a motion to amend the resolution by placing the words “*or other materials*” after the words “provided bulletin inserts.”
 - The amendment was seconded.
 - The amendment was approved by a voice vote.

The final form of this resolution before the assembly reads:

Therefore, be it resolved, all congregations of the Central States Synod will use the provided bulletin inserts or other materials, and the suggested intercessory prayer on the third weekend of September 2019 as a way of informing our brothers and sisters in Christ of how God is at work through this ministry with seniors.

And be it further resolved that we offer a loud and boisterous “Because Jesus Lives, We Love and Serve! Alleluia!” for the work of ministry being done through Lutheran Senior Services.

SA 19.02 was adopted by a voice vote.

SA 19.04 A Season of Global Awareness

The resolution was opened for discussion.

- Rev. Gary Teske spoke in favor of the resolution.

The final form of this resolution before the assembly reads:

Be it resolved that the Epiphany Season be designated as a “Season of Global Awareness” for all congregations within the Central States Synod and that congregations intentionally lift up the church around the world through prayer, song, publicity and in any way appropriate to the context of the congregation.

Be it also resolved that the congregations of the Central States Synod designate at least one Sunday during the Epiphany Season as a “Sunday of Celebration for the Global Church.” This Sunday would focus not only on our Companion Synods in Papua New Guinea and Russia, but also the Global Ministry we share in through the Global Mission Arm of the ELCA such as Missionary Sponsorship, Young Adults in Global Mission, and our support of Projects that promote the witness of the Gospel, works of compassion and Justice ministry around the world.

Be it also resolved that Sunday, October 6th, 2019 shall be designated as a Sunday of solidarity with and prayer for our Companion Synod in Russia, the “Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and Far East” (ELCUSFE) with a special focus on the Far Eastern Deanery. This date was chosen because the first Sunday in October is widely observed by the churches in Russia as a harvest Sunday when they give thanks and celebrate the completion of the fall harvest.

Be it also resolved that Sunday, April 26th, 2020 be designated as a Sunday of solidarity with, and prayer for our Companion District, the Kotte District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG). This date is chosen because it is Easter 3 when the story of the Walk to Emmaus is often read, a story often used to illustrate the Accompaniment Model of Global Mission. Another lesson often read is the story of Jesus having breakfast with Peter and the Disciples on the shore of lake Tiberias and calling on Peter to “Feed my sheep.” This is also a lesson that reminds us of our vocation to feed God’s sheep throughout the world.

The Central States Synod Companion Synod Team will provide resources for mission education and worship for the Epiphany Season, and additionally, prayer requests, recent news and communications from our Companion Churches prior to the two Companion Synod Sundays to help us to “accompany one another” in our journey as followers, servants and witnesses to Jesus Christ in our respective parts of God’s world.

AS 19.04 was adopted by a voice vote.

SA 19.05 Memorial for Increased Accountability in Cases of Sexual Misconduct

The resolution was opened for discussion.

- Robert Hannah moved to amend the resolution by:
 - Adding to last bullet point: *“and encourage prompt reporting of incidents of sexual misconduct and sexism.”*
 - And adding a bullet point: *“Commit to processes which carefully evaluate claims of misconduct, and match a response to the conduct.*
 - The amendment was seconded.
 - There was discussion of the amendment:
 - Robert Hannah spoke in favor of it.
 - Rev. Micah Sievenpiper spoke in opposition to the amendment.
 - Emily McCullen spoke in opposition to the amendment.
 - The amendment was defeated by a vote of 225 – 73.
- Stephen Phelps spoke in opposition to the resolution.
- Mike Schmidt spoke in favor of the resolution.
- Rev. Jennifer Thomas spoke in opposition to the resolution.
- Robert Hannah spoke to the resolution.
- Rev. Liz Kocher moved to amend the resolution by:
 - After the reference to Trustworthy Servants, adding: *“, or equivalent guide to clergy conduct in a timely manner including voices from women, non-gender conforming persons, lay and rostered leaders, people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, and people representing multiple generations.”*
 - The amendment was seconded.
 - There was discussion of the amendment:
 - Fran Lance spoke against the amendment.

- Amendment was approved by voice vote.
- Rev. Peter Rehwaldt spoke in favor of the amended resolution.
- Ann Kyle asked a question about the amended resolution.
- Mikayla Purcell spoke in opposition to the amended resolution.
- Rev. Micah Sievenpiper spoke in favor of the amended resolution.
- Jacqueline Thorton spoke in favor of the amended resolution.
- Rev. Roy Christell called the question. It was seconded and approved by voice vote.

The final form of this resolution before the assembly reads:

Be it resolved that the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) clearly and explicitly renounces sexism and sexual misconduct in all its forms and its continued impact on the church and the communities that we serve. Further, we repent of all the ways in which we have been complicit, either explicitly or implicitly, in acts of sexism and sexual misconduct. We also commit to higher standards of accountability for those who commit acts of sexism or sexual misconduct, thus fulfilling the promise of Jesus that the truth has the power to set us free of the powers of sin and evil that attempt to bind us.

Be it further resolved that the Central States Synod memorializes the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to clearly and explicitly renounce sexism and sexual misconduct in all its forms as well as its continued impact on the church and the communities that we serve.

Be it further resolved that the ELCA Churchwide Assembly is called upon to repent of all the ways in which we have been complicit, either explicitly or implicitly, in acts of sexism and sexual misconduct and then commit to higher standards of accountability for those who commit acts of sexism or sexual misconduct, by enacting the following measures:

- Direct the crafting of “Trustworthy Servants of the People of God”, or equivalent guide to clergy conduct in a timely manner including voices from women, non-gender conforming persons, lay and rostered leaders, people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, and people representing multiple generations, so that it frees and empowers victims of sexual misconduct, who are either in candidacy or rostered, to come forward without fear of being removed from the candidacy process/roster or experiencing other forms of recrimination.
- Direct the seminaries and colleges/universities of the ELCA to take steps to increase the visibility of Title IX policies. (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that provides: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.)
- Commit to a renewed diligence on matters pertaining to sexual misconduct which prevents misconduct from being dismissed or hidden.

SA 19.05 was adopted by a vote of 237 – 72.

SA 19.06 Retirements

The resolution was opened for discussion as the following names were read:
Rev. Bruce Freeman, Rev. Bruce Adamson, Rev. David Miller, Rev. Brian Elster,
Rev. Steven Little, Rev. David Fulton, Rev. Kendra Nolde, Rev. James Bennett,
Rev. Lawrence Block

The final form of this resolution before the assembly reads:

Resolved, That the Central States Synod in Assembly expresses appreciation to the above-named retired persons by standing and giving applause in thanksgiving for them and their service to the Church.

SA 19.06 was approved by a voice vote and the assembly stood and gave applause.

SA 19.07 Faithful Departed

The resolution was opened for discussion as the following names were read:
Rev. Donald Fallon, Rev. A. Karl Boehmke, Rev. Kenneth J. Knutson, Rev. Sally Fahrenthold, Rev. Gerald Buss, Rev. Henry Liskey, Rev. John Mann, Rev. Edward Schroeder, Rev. Raymond A. Mai.

The final form of this resolution before the assembly reads:

Resolved, That the Central States Synod in Assembly stands to sing praise for our faithful departed rostered leaders, in the words of the hymn, "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" verses 1 & 4.

SA 19.07 was approved by a voice vote and the assembly stood and sang.

Compensation Guidelines

Rev. Mari Larson, chair of the Compensation Guidelines Committee, was welcomed to the stage to present the Compensation Guidelines for approval by the assembly. It was opened for discussion.

- Rev. Michael Kern moved to amend the compensation guidelines. There was a math error in one of the columns. The amendment corrects this math error.
 - The amendment was seconded.
 - The amendment was approved by a voice vote.
- Rev. Chris Deines spoke in favor of the amended compensation guidelines.
- Rev. Michael Kern spoke in favor of the amended compensation guidelines.
- **The amended Compensation Guidelines were approved by a vote of 291 – 8.**

Issues of Conscience

Issues of Conscience were voiced beginning at 9:20am.

Bethany Home Association

The Synod Assembly recessed at 9:26am to move into the Bethany Home Association meeting, led by Rev. Jim Strassen.

- The Bethany Home Association elected the following people to terms of office:
 - Rev. Tim Carey 3 year term
 - Mike Losik 3 year term
 - Gelen Swenson 3 year term
 - Connie Dorf 3 year term

Judy Murphy 1 year term

- The Bethany Home Association meeting adjourned at 9:33am.

CLOSING

The assembly gathered for closing worship at 10:00am.

At closing worship, the Officers and new Synod Council members were installed.

Bishop Roger Gustafson declared the 2019 Central States Synod Assembly closed at 11:18am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rev. Chad Langdon

Central States Synod Secretary