

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
HYATT REGENCY HOTEL  
WICHITA, KANSAS  
JUNE 2-4, 2016

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016

Prior to the opening of the Central States Synod Assembly, Voting Members and visitors had the option to participate in Volunteer Service Opportunities in Wichita and a workshop. Those ministries included:

- Serving lunch to the neighborhood's homeless community (St. Paul's Lutheran Church)
- Serving a new mission start in Wichita's Latino area (Partners Ministry)
- Working at the Kansas Food Bank Warehouse (downtown Wichita)
- Planning 2017 Reformation Anniversary Hymn Festivals (Hyatt Regency Hotel)

The Central States Synod Assembly was called to order by Bishop Roger Gustafson at 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, June 2, 2016, in the Redbud Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita, Kansas. He welcomed voting members and guests, noting the Assembly theme *Giving in Hope*. He led the Assembly in the order for the Opening of the Assembly.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Colin Truhe, a youth member of the Synod Council, was called upon to present the report of the Credentials Committee, as of 3:00 p.m., on Thursday, June 2, 2016. The initial report follows:

123 Voting Members

48 Clergy (39% of voting members)

75 Lay Voting Members (61% of voting members)

Of the voting members, 2 were Persons of Color/Primary Language other than English

Of the voting members, 4 were Youth

18 Visitors

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Gustafson introduced the key-note speakers for the Assembly: Grace Duddy Pomroy, Financial Education Specialist at Portico Benefit Services; and Pastor Len Dale, recently retired Synod Director for Evangelical Mission.

The representatives of the ELCA were introduced: Pastor Ron Gluskamp, special guest and Director of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*; and Neil Bullock, Coordinator of the Macedonia Project in the ELCA Domestic Missions Unit.

Bishop Gustafson introduced the members of the Synod staff: Pastor Keith Hohly, Bishop's Associate for Leadership; Pastor Donna Simon, half-time Director for Evangelical Mission (Outreach); Pastor Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate for Administration and half-time Director for Evangelical Mission (Stewardship); Rick Moser, Assistant to the Bishop for Communication; Ms. Sandy Van Tuyl, Administrative Assistant; Ms. Dawne Bockelman, Administrative

Assistant; and the three adjunct staff members serving in campus ministry, Pastor Rebecca Boardman (St. Louis), Pastor Shawn Norris (University of Kansas), and Pastor Kevin Clark (Kansas State University).

The Rev. Don Compier of the Episcopal Church was introduced as an ecumenical guest; he brought greetings to the Assembly. A letter of greeting was received from Bishop Martin Field of the Western Missouri Diocese of the Episcopal Church.

Pastor Ivan Gonzalez of Wichita's Partners Ministry was introduced. He offered a prayer before the evening meal, which was then served.

An opening worship service was held in the Redbud Ballroom at 6:45 p.m. Pastor Donna Simon was the Presiding Minister, and Bishop Roger Gustafson was the Preacher on the theme of *God's Abundance*. A reception was held at 7:45 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016

Pastor Keith Hohly led the morning worship service at 8:15 a.m., in the Redbud Ballroom. The theme of the service was *Celebrating God's Abundance*. Neil Bullock, ELCA Representative, spoke on 2 Corinthians 9: 8-11. He brought greetings from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Pastor Stephen Boumann, Director of ELCA Congregational Ministries.

Bishop Roger Gustafson assumed the chair of the Assembly at 8:40 a.m. He introduced the members of the Synod Council: Dennis Allerheilgen, Vice-President; Scott Schulte, Treasurer; Pastor Loren Mai, Secretary; Valorie Bratcher; Pastor Katharine Redpath; Lois Viebrock; Mindy Tillberg; Pastor David Strommen; Austin Krug; Colin Truhe; Tom Nelson; Janis Hutchinson; Daniel Lilienkamp; Jill Hayden; Pastor Dan Friberg; Pastor Chad Langdon; Pastor Lorna Paulus; Suvana Badgett; Doug Reed; and Linda Sweany.

The Rev. Bob Vogel, Interim President of Bethany College, brought greetings to the Assembly and thanked participants for their support of the College. He noted that William Jones had been selected as the new President of Bethany College, starting his duties on July 1, 2016.

#### CREDENTIALS REPORT

Colin Truhe was summoned to give the report of the Credentials Committee, as of 7:30 a.m., on Friday, June 3. The report follows:

335 Voting Members

227 Lay Voting Members (67.8%)

108 Clergy Voting Members (32.2%)

Of the Voting Members, 8 were Persons of Color/Primary Language other than English

Of the Voting Members, 5 were Youth

31 Visitors

### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Bishop Gustafson introduced Grace Duddy Pomroy and Pastor Len Dale as the keynote speakers. Pastor Dale spoke of the adaptive challenge of moving stewardship from an annual financial campaign to a year-round understanding of living in God's abundance and giving in hope. Ms. Pomroy brought greetings from Portico Benefit Services and spoke to the Assembly about embracing stewardship as a lifestyle. She noted that stewardship is everything we do after we say, "I believe." Basing her remarks on the parable of the Good Samaritan, she pointed out that stewardship is love in action. She invited the Assembly to see stewardship through the lens of God's love and mercy.

From 9:55 until 10:40 a.m., Assembly participants attended the following workshops:

- Always Being Made New – the Campaign for the ELCA
- Living Stewardship in Church and Community
- Stewards of Justice and Peace in Community Organizing
- Creating a Narrative Congregational Budget and Year-Round Stewardship
- Stewardship as Companion to God's Mission in the World
- Stewardship Coaching and Your Congregation

A break was taken from 10:40 until 11:00 a.m.

At 11:00 a.m., Neil Bullock, the ELCA Representative to the Assembly, gave the Presentation of the ELCA. He thanked the Central States Synod for providing leadership in the ministry of the ELCA, and he expressed gratitude for the mission support remitted by the Synod to the ELCA. The Assembly reviewed a video featuring ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton that highlighted some of the ministries of the ELCA. The presentation invited the Assembly to consider the future direction of the Church. "What is God calling us to do?"

Bishop Gustafson thanked Neil Bullock for his presentation.

### TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF BUDGET FOR FYE 1/31/2018

Bishop Gustafson called on Scott Schulte, Synod Treasurer, to tell the story of the Synod budget. In his presentation, Scott Schulte referred the Assembly to the Budget/Finance section of the Assembly notebook and first highlighted the report that summarized the Synod's financial status at the close of the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2016. He noted that congregational mission support declined by nearly \$48,000 from the previous year. He applauded the Synod staff for again being diligent in keeping costs down through the past year. He observed that two annual appeals provided \$32,500 for Synod ministry. He thanked the individual members and congregations of the Synod for their generosity.

Scott Schulte remarked that total revenue and support for FYE 1/31/2016 totaled \$1,835,364—which was \$92,691 less than anticipated in the revised budget. Expenditures for the year were \$1,858,401—resulting in a deficit of \$23,036. This compared to a surplus of \$41,200 in the previous year. Congregational support for the year totaled \$1,719,020—which was a decrease of almost \$48,000 from the previous year (a 2.8% decrease). An attached report detailed the support received from each congregation of the Synod. On the advice of the Synod's auditors, the financial statements again recognize an amount for prepaid expenses related to the Mission

Fund Appeal; this amount of \$53,456 leads to the calculation of an overall year-end deficit of \$76,493. The Synod has continued to contribute to the ELCA Churchwide organization at a 50% rate. The total contributed to the ELCA was \$875,802—which was a decrease of \$15,727 (1.8%) from the previous year.

Scott Schulte reported that the annual audit of the Synod financial records (for FYE 1/31/2016) had not yet been completed, due to additional clarifications needed on the accounting for the retirement of the Mission Fund Appeal loan. The audit of the previous year (FYE 1/31/2015) has been completed and copies of the financial statement are available. The FYE 1/31/2016 audit will be completed in August, and at that time a copy of the statements will be posted on the Synod website.

Information pertaining to the budget for the current year (FYE 1/31/2017) was made available. It was noted that the Synod Council had created a revised, or spending, budget since the approval by the 2015 Assembly of the original budget. Key changes that were made included the reduction of expectations by \$90,000 for support from congregations; lowering expectations for anticipated reimbursements by \$15,000; and the net reduction of one position in the Synod staff—resulting in a lowering of Salary & Benefits costs by \$81,000. The balanced spending budget for FYE 1/31/2017 was, therefore, \$105,000 lower than the approved budget.

Scott Schulte introduced the proposed Synod Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2018, noting that the Synod Assembly would be considering approval of that budget on Saturday. He pointed out that the projected support from congregations is estimated at \$1,750,000—the same amount of support anticipated in the current year spending budget (and \$90,000 less than the amount of mission support estimated in the original budget for the current year). The projected amount of Reimbursement/Other Income is the same as the amount in the current year spending budget—and \$15,000 less than the amount originally budgeted for the current year. The Synod Salaries and Benefits line item reflects staffing changes, a 2% across-the-board increase, and significant increases for both of the administrative assistants to reflect their expanded job responsibilities. The Rent and Occupancy line item is increased by \$1,200 to meet the terms of the rental agreement for the Synod office space. The Endowment Fund Loan Repayment item was eliminated because the Mission Fund Appeal loan repayment plan was completed in 2016. The changes that have been made will result in a balanced budget of \$1,832,750 for the FYE 1/31/2018.

Scott Schulte reminded participants of a Budget Hearing during the lunch hour. He thanked the members of the Synod Mission Budget Team for their service: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Melba Bangert, Dennis Allerheiligen, Rev. Loren Mai, Tom Nelson, Barbara Beadle (lead account for the Synod's bookkeeping service), and Rev. Susan Candea.

#### REPORT FROM TEAM 500

Pastor Brian Hiortdahl, Overland Park, KS, was introduced as the chair of Team 500, a Synod group planning for the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017. He spoke of activities being planned by the Team, as did other Team members. Pastor Mike Malone invited the Assembly participants to consider traveling to Germany on one of three Synod tours. Pat Bjuland publicized the celebratory worship service that will conclude the 2017

Synod Assembly in Kansas City; ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preach at the service. Mindy Tillberg spoke of the plans to plant 500 trees. Pastor Elizabeth Cummings encouraged Synod congregations to raise \$500 each for mission and service. Bishop Gustafson thanked the members of Team 500 for their leadership.

#### REPORT FROM PORTICO BENEFITS SERVICES

Grace Duddy Pomroy was again welcomed to the podium. She spoke of the ministry provided by Portico. A video accompanied her presentation.

A lunch break was taken at 12:00 Noon, with Susan Candea making announcements. Three hearings were available to Assembly participants during the lunch hour: a Budget Hearing, a Resolutions Hearing, and a Compensations Guidelines Hearing. Youth Voting Members met for lunch with the Bishop and Synod Council officers.

At 1:00 p.m., Bishop Gustafson reconvened the Assembly in the Redbud Ballroom.

#### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION #2

Grace Duddy Pomroy gave the second Keynote presentation. She encouraged the Assembly participants to assume leadership roles in stewardship endeavors and to see how God is speaking in lives of faith. The Assembly was challenged to see stories of hope in everyday surroundings and to develop a vision for ministry and mission.

A break was taken from 1:45 until 1:55 p.m., when the second session of workshops began.

From 1:55 until 2:45 p.m., Assembly participants attended the following workshops:

- Called Forward together in Christ: ELCA Future Directions Discussion
- Lutherans Restoring Creation
- Giving Hope: Glorifying God through Spiritual Gifts
- Creating a Narrative Congregational Budget and Year-Round Stewardship
- Stewards of Justice and Peace in Community Organizing
- Stewardship Coaching and Your Congregation

An afternoon break was taken from 2:45 until 3:15 p.m.

At 3:15 p.m., Bishop Gustafson reconvened the Assembly and welcomed Pastor Len Dale to the podium.

#### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION #3

Pastor Len Dale gave the third Keynote presentation. He invited the Assembly to live and give in hope. A video focused on the ministry of Sacred Heart Lutheran Church, Garden City, KS. Pastor Rick Raymer, Beloit, KS, and Diaconal Minister Susie Everingham, Manchester, MO, told stories of hope in their community contexts.

The Assembly recessed at 4:00 p.m., and Assembly participants proceeded to the third session of workshops.

From 4:10 until 5:00 p.m., Assembly participants attended the following workshops:

- How Does Your Congregation Encourage Healthy Lifestyles?
- Giving Hope: Glorifying God through Spiritual Gifts
- Called Forward together in Christ: ELCA Future Directions Discussion
- ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW – The Campaign for the ELCA
- Faithful Stewards, Lasting Impact

The Assembly was in recess at 5:00 p.m., until Saturday, June 4, at 8:15 a.m.

The Assembly banquet was held at 6:00 p.m. in the Redbud Ballroom. Pastor Ron Glusenkamp, Director of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening program. He spoke on the importance of gratitude. Bishop Gustafson and Susan Candea assisted with the celebration of ordination anniversaries of rostered persons. Video clips enabled participants to hear messages of the ELCA program, Young Adults in Global Mission; Lutheran World Relief; and Lutheran Campus Ministry. Pastor Len Dale was honored on the occasion of his retirement after 41 years in active ministry, including nearly 20 years as a Bishop's Associate in evangelism and stewardship. Pastor Susan Candea thanked the attendees and gave announcements. The program concluded at 8:00 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016

##### PLENARY SESSION II.

The Assembly gathered for the business session at 8:15 a.m., on Saturday, June 4, 2016. Pastor Rebecca Boardman, St. Louis, MO, led the Assembly in Morning Prayer. Bishop Roger Gustafson assumed the Chair and called for the report of the Credentials Committee.

##### CREDENTIALS REPORT

Colin Truhe presented the final report of the Credentials Committee, as of 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 4, 2016. The report follows:

- 358 Voting Members
  - 124 Clergy (35% of Voting Members)
  - 234 Lay Voting Members (65% of Voting Members); 129 female; 105 male
    - Includes 11 Voting Members who are Persons of Color/Language other than English
    - Includes 5 Voting Members who are Youth
- 34 Visitors
- 392 TOTAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION

Bishop Gustafson introduced the following seminary students who are preparing for ordination: Denise Rector, Teri Sutherlin, Melaku Tizazu, Phillip Hett, Philip Deng, and Patty Skinner.

Bishop Gustafson introduced a special guest from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, Pastor Joyshree Amanda Singh, who is a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary through December 2016.

Seminary graduates assigned to the Central States Synod were introduced: Barbara Jones and John Brudvig.

Team 500 announced the winners of the drawing for fine candy: Pastor David Whetter, Lenexa, KS; and Pastor Dinah Dutta, Emporia, KS.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Pat Bjuland, Overland Park, KS, was introduced as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. She presented the ballot for Synod Council members. For each ballot, Bishop Gustafson sought floor nominations.

(+ denotes incumbent)

|                       | <u>SYNOD COUNCIL OFFICER</u> (4-year term) |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Secretary             | Clergy or Layperson                        | +Rev. Loren Mai; Lindsborg, KS                         |
|                       | <u>SYNOD COUNCIL</u> (3-year term)         |  |
| Area 1                | Male Layperson                             | +Mr. Doug Reed; Winona, KS                             |
| Area 4                | Male Layperson                             | +Mr. Tom Nelson; Olsburg, KS                           |
| At Large/Lay Rostered | Female Layperson                           | +Ms. Mindy Tillberg; Salina, KS                        |
| At Large (PC/L)       | Male or Female Layperson                   | Ms. Linda Lockhart; Kirkwood, MO<br>(floor nomination) |
| At Large (youth)      | Male Layperson (2-year)                    | Mr. Jack King; St. Peters, MO<br>(floor nomination)    |

NOTE: PC/L denotes Person of Color or Primary Language other than English.

Bishop Gustafson declared nominations closed for each ballot. A word of thanks was expressed to the members of the Nominating Committee for their work. It was noted that the elections would be held later in the session.

#### REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Bishop Gustafson presented his report. He highlighted the theme of the 2015 Assembly, *Leading with Hope*, as a building block for the 2016 theme, *Giving in Hope*. He noted the trend of increasing pastoral retirements and declining seminary enrollments. As he spoke also of declining traditional giving by congregations, he remarked on the Synod staff transitions and a reduction in the staff. He focused on the hope embodied in new models of ministry—ordained and lay. He encouraged the Assembly to work together as the Church and to live life together in the service of Jesus. Finally, he thanked the Synod staff for their ministry, and he expressed his gratitude for the mission carried out by the Synod congregations. The Assembly thanked Bishop Gustafson for his report and his ministry.

### VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, presented his report to the Assembly. As he completed the first year of his term, he pointed to his participation in the Area Ministry "Paloozas" and the Kansas Leadership Center as highlights. He thanked Bishop Gustafson, the Synod staff, and the Synod Council officers and members for their partnership and mutual ministry. He also expressed gratitude to the Voting Members, including the youth, for their participation in the Synod Assembly.

### ELECTIONS

Prior to the casting of ballots for the elections, Pastor Kevin Clark, Manhattan, KS, led the Assembly in prayer. Bishop Gustafson announced that voting was in order. The Voting Members cast their ballots.

### CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 1/31/2018

Bishop Gustafson declared that the proposed budget for FYE 1/31/2018 was property before the Assembly. Scott Schulte, Treasurer, proceeded to the podium for budget interpretation and to address questions and concerns. Scott Schulte noted that the budget had been recommended by the Synod Council for passage, and that it was the responsibility of the Assembly to approve it.

It was voted to approve the budget proposed for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2018 in the amount of \$1,832,750. Scott Schulte was thanked for his presentation and his work as Treasurer.

### APPROVAL OF 2017 SALARY GUIDELINES

Bishop Gustafson introduced Kathy Nevans, Independence, MO, as the Chair of the Synod Compensation Guidelines Task Force. Ms. Nevans presented the 2017 Synod Guidelines for Professional Leaders, as proposed by the Compensation Guidelines Task Force, and as recommended for approval by the Synod Council in March.

It was MSC to adopt the Compensation Guidelines for 2017, as presented to the Assembly. Gratitude was expressed to the members of the Task Force for their work.

### CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Bishop Gustafson introduced Pastor Adam Wutka, Great Bend, Kansas, as the Chair of the Resolutions Committee. Pastor Wutka presented resolutions for the consideration of the Assembly.

### SA.16.01. MEMORIAL ON ECO-REFORMATION IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

It was MSC:

That the Central States Synod, meeting in Assembly and recognizing the need for ongoing reformation of the ELCA in the context of climate change, memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to make stewardship of the earth and ecological justice major themes in ELCA planning and activities leading up to and following the observance of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.



SA.16.02. BETHANY COLLEGE SUNDAY.

It was MSC:

That the Central States Synod and its member congregations will recognize the Sunday on or after October 15 each year (the third Sunday of October) as Bethany College Sunday.

Bethany College, established October 15, 1881, is the only ELCA college within the Central States Synod.

SA.16.03. DESIGNATION OF BETHANY LUTHERAN HOME SUNDAY.

It was MSC:

That the 2016 Central States Synod Assembly designate Sunday, November 6, 2016, as “Bethany Home Sunday in November 2016” in support of our (the Home’s) mission as a ministry partner of the ELCA.

Bethany Lutheran Home was established by the Augustana Lutheran Synod Convention held at Elim Lutheran Church in Marquette, Kansas, in November 1911. The Bethany Home Association Board of Directors hereby acknowledges the gift(s) of love and financial support awarded pursuant to the resolution adopted in 2015 by the Central States Synod Assembly in support of “the Bethany Home Sunday in November 2015” and looks forward to such continued support.

SA.16.04. A SEASON OF GLOBAL AWARENESS – REMEMBERING OUR COMPANION SYNODS.

It was MSC:

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; and,

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. This Sunday should also be a time to lift up local international ministries such as Ethnic Specific ministries within the Central States Synod, and congregational mission trips to places such as Latin America or the Caribbean.

The 2015 Central States Synod Assembly designated **Sunday, June 12, 2016**, as a Sunday of solidarity with, and prayer for, our Companion District, the Kate District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG).

That **Sunday, June 11, 2017**, be designated as a Sunday of solidarity with, and prayer for, our Companion District, the Kate District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG). *This date is chosen because it was in the summer of 1876 that the first Lutheran missionary arrived in Papua New Guinea to begin mission work among the ancestors of the Christians of the Kate District.*

The 2015 Central States Synod Assembly designated **Sunday, September 18, 2016**, 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.

That **Sunday, September 17, 2017**, 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 it was on September 17, 1992, that the church building that had been confiscated by the Soviets in 1935 was formally returned to the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran in Vladivostok and this marks the beginning of the resurrection of the Lutheran Church in Eastern Russia.*

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.

#### SA.16.05. CLOSED CONGREGATIONS.

By common consent, the following resolution was approved:

That the Central States Synod in Assembly remember in gratitude the lives of the following communities of the faithful that have closed since the last Synod Assembly:

Iglesia Luterana de la Resurreccion; Garden City, KS

Scherer Memorial Lutheran Church; Chapman, KS

Chinese Lutheran Church; Creve Coeur, MO; and

That the Chaplain of the Assembly lead the Assembly in a prayer of thanksgiving for the ministries carried out in these congregations.

Pastor Shawn Norris led the Assembly in a prayer of thanksgiving.

#### SA.16.06. CONGREGATIONS THAT HAVE LEFT THE ELCA.

By common consent, the following resolution was adopted:

That the Central States Synod in Assembly give thanks for First Lutheran Church, LaCrosse, Kansas, (which has left the ELCA), and the partnership in mission and ministry we shared over the years; and,

That the Chaplain of this Assembly lead us in prayer for all of Christ’s Church.

Pastor Shawn Norris led the Assembly in prayer.

#### SA.16.07. NEWLY FORMED CONGREGATIONS AND PARISHES.

By common consent, the following resolution was adopted:

That the Central States Synod in Assembly recognize and welcome the following new community of faith and ministry in the Central States Synod of the ELCA by a round of applause:

Iglesia Luterana Sagrado Corazon de Jesus (Sacred Heart of Jesus Lutheran Church); Garden City, Kansas. This is a congregation under development.

The Assembly joined in applause.

SA.16.08. RETIREMENTS.

By common consent, the following resolution was adopted:

That the Central States Synod in Assembly expresses appreciation to the following retired persons (since the last Assembly) by standing and giving applause in thanksgiving for them and their service to the Church:

The Rev. Edward Merckel (from St. Paul, Lohman, MO)  
The Rev. John Ashcraft, Jr. (from Grace, Osage City, KS)  
The Rev. George Tim Rahn (On Leave from Call)  
Ms. Shirley Talbot, Diaconal Minister (On Leave from Call)  
The Rev. Elliott Anderson (from St. Paul; West Plains, MO)  
The Rev. Sacia Vik (On Leave from Call)  
The Rev. Leonard Dale, Jr. (from ELCA Churchwide and Central States Synod staff)  
The Rev. Richard Perry (from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, IL)

The Assembly stood and applauded.

SA.16.09. FAITHFUL DEPARTED.

By common consent, the following resolution was adopted:

That the Central States Synod in Assembly stands to sing our praises in the words of the hymn *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (stanzas 1 and 4), remembering before God with reverence and affection those workers in the Kingdom of God who have passed through the gates of death to life eternal since our last convening, and thanking God for their faithful service:

The Rev. C.J. Christensen  
The Rev. H.O. Lindeblad  
The Rev. John R. Gerry  
The Rev. Maynard O. Hansen  
The Rev. Gary C. Voss  
The Rev. Roy C. Moore, Jr.  
The Rev. Kenneth H. Will  
The Rev. John J. Walker

The Assembly stood and sang *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (stanzas 1 and 4).

A word of thanks was extended to Pastor Adam Wutka and other members of the Resolutions Committee for their fine work.

ISSUES OF CONSCIENCE.

There were no Assembly participants who expressed remarks on issues of conscience. The following Voting Members spoke words of personal privilege: Pastor Jennifer Owen, Diaconal Minister Eva Creydt-Schulte, Stephen Phelps, and Nancy Pennington.

Bishop Gustafson recessed the meeting of the Synod Assembly.

The Assembly proceeded to serve as the Bethany Home Association in order to elect persons to fill positions on the Board of Directors of Bethany Lutheran Home, Lindsborg, KS.

MEETING OF THE BETHANY HOME ASSOCIATION

Pastor Jim Strasen, President of the Bethany Home Board of Directors, called the meeting of the Bethany Home Association to order. He advised the Voting Members of their responsibility of electing members to the Board of Directors of Bethany Lutheran Home to 3-year terms, Pastor Strasen prayed for discernment prior to the election.

It was MSC to elect the following persons to terms on the Bethany Home Board of Directors: The Rev. Loren Mai; Mr. Mike Losik; and Mr. Galen Swenson.

The nominees were declared elected to the Bethany Home Board of Directors. Pastor Strasen thanked the Assembly for the support of Bethany Home. The meeting of the Bethany Home Association was adjourned.

Bishop Gustafson re-convened the business meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Pat Bjuland was called on to give the results of the elections, which follow:

|                               |                    |     |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Synod Secretary               | The Rev. Loren Mai | 298 |
| Area Ministry 1               | Mr. Doug Reed      | 297 |
| Area Ministry 4               | Mr. Tom Nelson     | 296 |
| At Large – Rostered layperson | Ms. Mindy Tillberg | 281 |
| At Large – PC/L               | Ms. Linda Lockhart | 283 |
| At Large – Youth              | Mr. Jack King      | 293 |

Bishop Gustafson declared the above persons elected to their respective positions.

Bishop Gustafson noted that June 4 was “National Cheese Day.” He also gave thanks for the birth of his grandchild.

The Synod Assembly was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. A break was taken until 10:30 a.m., when the closing worship service began.

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Assembly concluded with a festival worship service at 10:30 a.m., in the Redbud Ballroom. The theme of the service was *Sharing God’s Abundance*. The Rev. Peter Jacobson, Wichita, KS, presided at the Service of Holy Communion, and the Rev. Len Dale preached. Ms. Linda Martin served as the Assisting Minister. The service included the installation of the newly-elected members of the Synod Council. The order for the Closing of a Synod Assembly was also a part of the service. The service concluded at 11:50 a.m.

The 2017 Synod Assembly will be held June 8-10, 2017, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Loren D. Mai  
Secretary, Central States Synod