

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
BETHANY COLLEGE  
LINDSBORG, KANSAS  
HAHN GYMNASIUM  
JUNE 7-9, 2018

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018

GATHERING MEAL AND WORSHIP

The Central States Synod Assembly was called to order by Bishop Roger Gustafson at 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, June 7, 2018, in Hahn Gymnasium on the campus of Bethany College, Lindsborg, KS. He welcomed voting members, guests, and visitors, noting the Assembly theme, *Sharing in Hope: God's Story, Our Voices*. He led the Assembly in the order for the Opening of the Assembly.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Gustafson acknowledged, with thanks, the hospitality of Bethany College in hosting the Assembly. He announced the College's sponsorship of a Thursday evening Ice Cream Social (in honor of International Chocolate Ice Cream Day). A word of thanks was expressed to the ELCA Mission Investment Fund and Lutheran Planned Giving for sponsoring Assembly break times. He recognized the ministry of Wartburg Theological Seminary and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Bishop Gustafson introduced the Rev. Ruben Duran as the representative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Rev. Duran is the Director and Team Leader for the ELCA Congregational Vitality Team; in that capacity, he oversees 412 new mission congregations throughout the ELCA.

The Global Musician Educators were introduced as worship leaders and song leaders for the Assembly.

The officers of the Synod were introduced: Dennis Allerheiligen, Vice-President; Pastor Loren Mai, Secretary; and Scott Schulte, Treasurer. Dallas Rakestraw, an attorney in Wichita, KS, was introduced as the Assembly Parliamentarian.

The members of the Synod Council and the Assembly Planning Team, as well as Area Ministry Deans, were recognized and thanked for their service.

Bishop Gustafson introduced the members of the Synod staff: Ms. Sandy Van Tuyl, Synod Administrator; Ms. Dawne Bockelman, Synod Administrator; Pastor Keith Hohly, Bishop's Associate; Pastor Susan Candea, Bishop's Associate and ½ time Director for Evangelical Mission; Pastor Donna Simon, ½ time Director for Evangelical Mission; Tim Anderson, Director of Communications; and the three adjunct staff members serving in Lutheran Campus Ministry, Pastor Rebecca Boardman (St. Louis), Pastor Kevin Clark (Kansas State University), and Pastor Shawn Norris (University of Kansas).

Will Jones, 14<sup>th</sup> president of Bethany College, was introduced; he welcomed the Assembly to the college and shared some of the advances made at Bethany in recent years.

Bishop Gustafson reflected on the Assembly theme, *Sharing in Hope: God's Story, Our Voices*. He then introduced Pastor Amy Truhe, Bethany College Campus Pastor, who led the Assembly in a prayer before the meal at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m. the Glocal Musician Educators introduced themselves and led the Assembly in music until 7:25 p.m.

The opening worship for the Assembly was held at 7:25 p.m. Bishop Roger Gustafson was the Preacher, and Pastor Odir Flores (Garden City, KS) was the Presiding Minister for the service of Holy Communion.

An ice cream social sponsored by Bethany College concluded the day's activities at 8:30 p.m. The Assembly was in recess until Friday morning at 8:30 a.m.

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018: PLENARY SESSION I.

The Assembly gathered for Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m. Pastor Ann Rundquist and Intern Kevin Beebe served as worship leaders, and the Glocal Musician Educators provided leadership for the service music. The service began and ended with prayer.

#### BISHOP GUSTAFSON'S REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY

Bishop Gustafson re-convened the Assembly and thanked the worship leaders. He noted that his report to the Assembly was posted on line and enclosed in the Assembly notebook. He emphasized the Assembly theme *Sharing in Hope*, and he spoke of the importance of evangelism. The Assembly participants divided into small groups to reflect on the action of God in their lives. Discussion at the tables followed. Pastor Donna Simon, Synod Director for Evangelical Mission, spoke about the congregational vitality initiative that the Synod is emphasizing; energy bars were distributed to remind the Assembly of that focus. The session concluded with a video story about Camp Tomah-Shinga.

A break was taken from 9:57 until 10:25 a.m. A word of thanks for the break was spoken to Lutheran Planned Giving and the ELCA Foundation.

#### BIBLE STUDY

Bishop Gustafson introduced Doctor Adam Pryor, Assistant Professor of Religion at Bethany College. Professor Pryor led the Assembly in a Bible study that focused on the Assembly theme of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Assembly then viewed a video story featuring the Gathering Table in Kansas City, MO.

#### CREDENTIALS REPORT

Jack King, a youth member of the Synod Council, was summoned to give the report of the Credentials Committee, as of 8:00 a.m., on Friday, June 8, 2018. The report follows:

290 Voting Members

196 Lay Voting Members (68%)

94 Clergy Voting Members (32%)

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Dennis Allerheiligen, Synod Vice-President, gave his report to the Assembly. He introduced the members of the Synod Council, noting particularly those whose terms were concluding at this Assembly. He thanked Assembly Voting Members for their service. He expressed gratitude to Bishop Gustafson and the Synod staff for their leadership. He also observed that the six-year term of the Bishop would end in 2019, necessitating an election at the 2019 Assembly. It was noted that a Bishop’s Election Task Force has been appointed to facilitate the preparation leading to the election and then guiding the election process, in conjunction with the ELCA staff.

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, nominees for a position on the ELCA Church Council, and Voting Members for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee, WI. For each ballot, Bishop Gustafson sought nominations from the floor.

(+ denotes incumbent)

SYNOD COUNCIL (3-year term)

Area 2	Female Clergy	+Rev. Lorna Paulus; Phillipsburg, KS
Area 5	Male Clergy	+Rev. Chad Langdon; Wichita, KS
Area 8	Female Layperson (flr.nom.)	Ms. Chelsea Deines; Nevada, MO
Area 9	Male Clergy	
Area 10	Male Layperson	+Mr. Daniel Lilienkamp; Bel-Nor, MO
At Large	Female Clergy	Rev. Kris Dietzen; Olathe, KS Rev. Donna Florio; Hanover, KS
At Large	Male Layperson (PC/L)	

NOMINEES FOR ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL (6-year term)

(ELCA Assembly to choose from two)

At Large	Female Layperson	Ms. Susan Boxberger; Olathe, KS Ms. Valorie Bratcher; Kansas City, MO Ms. Kristine Luber; Topeka, KS Ms. Mary Jo Moore; Kansas City, MO
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2019 CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBERS

Areas 1 and 2	Male Clergy	Rev. Jon Anderson; WaKeeney, KS
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Area 3	Female Clergy	Rev. Laura Smith; Assaria, KS
Area 4	Female Layperson	Ms. Mary Arie; Waterville, KS Ms. Julie Barstow; Manhattan, KS
Area 5	Female Clergy	Rev. Elizabeth Cummings; Haysville, KS
Area 6	Male Layperson	Mr. Lloyd Pinon; Topeka, KS
Area 7	Female Layperson	Ms. Susan Boxberger; Olathe, KS Ms. Patricia Phelan; Prairie Village, KS Ms. Heather Winker; Kansas City, MO Ms. Heather Yerion-Keck; Kansas City, MO
Area 8	Male Clergy	Rev. Chris Deines; Nevada, MO
Area 9	Female Layperson	
Area 10	Male Layperson	Mr. Daniel Lilienkamp; Bel-Nor, MO
At Large	Male Layperson (PC/L)	Mr. Donovan Lucas; St. Louis, MO (floor nomination)
At Large	Female Layperson (Youth/Young Adult)	Ms. Megan Mong; Salina, KS Ms. Grace Vannoy; Overland Park, KS

Note: PC/L denotes Person of Color/Language Other than English

The final two Voting Member positions of the Central States Synod delegation are filled this year by the Bishop (Male Clergy) and the Vice-President (Male Layperson).

#### TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF BUDGET FOR FYE 1/31/2020.

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 1/31/2018.

Scott Schulte remarked that total revenue and support for FYE 1/31/2018 totaled \$1,784,680—which was \$3,874 more than anticipated in the revised spending budget, and \$30,142 more than the previous year. Expenditures for the year were \$1,759,463. Congregational support for the year totaled \$1,712,773—an increase of \$13,090 (0.8%) from the previous year. The Synod ended the year with a \$25,217 surplus. Spending reductions implemented during the year, along with the increase in support from congregations, helped to achieve the surplus. A graph showed the trend of congregational support over the past 20 years. An attached report detailed the support received from each congregation in the Synod. The Synod has continued to contribute to

the ELCA Churchwide organization at a 50% rate. The total contributed to the ELCA was \$866,742—which was an increase of \$13,009 (1.5%) from the previous year.

Scott Schulte reported that the annual audit of the Synod financial records (for FYE 1/31/2018) was completed, and it was considered a “clean” audit. Copies of the audit report were available at the Assembly, and an electronic version of the audit report was posted on the Synod web-site.

It was noted, with thanksgiving, that the Synod received two generous gifts during the FYE 1/31/2018: a total of \$383,607 from the estate of William Betker of Kansas City, MO (unrestricted), and a total of \$125,000 at the closing of Faith Lutheran Church, Prairie Village, KS (to increase the Eugene Hackler Scholarship Fund).

Scott Schulte noted that the Synod Council had revised the budget for the current year (FYE 1/31/2019). The revised spending budget reduced by \$23,000 the original budget approved by the 2017 Synod Assembly. Key changes that were made included the lowering expectations for reimbursements by \$23,000; the lowering of expenses for Synod Salaries and Benefits by \$15,500; the increasing of expenses for travel by \$2,000; the decreasing of expenses for the Region IV partnership by \$1,300; and the decreasing of the expected depreciation by \$2,800. The revised spending plan resulted in a balanced budget for the current year.

Scott Schulte introduced the proposed Synod Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2020, noting that the Synod Assembly would be considering approval of that budget on Saturday—with a budget hearing scheduled at Noon on Friday. The spending plan was explained in terms of a traditional format and as a Narrative Budget, including the following categories:

We Are Church Together	\$825,000
The Ministry Entrusted to the Synod	\$18,000
The Ministry of Oversight and Pastoral Care	\$699,647
The Ministry of ELCA Partnerships	\$58,825
The Ministry of Place and Property	\$99,600
Gathering and Planning	\$14,150

It was noted that the total proposed budget for FYE 1/31/2020 would be \$1,715,222. The projected support from congregations is estimated at \$1,640,000—a decrease of \$20,000 from the amount of support estimated in the revised budget for the current year. The projected amount of reimbursements/other income has been increased by \$4,400. On the expenditure side, the amount contributed to ELCA Churchwide will decrease to \$825,000 as a result of the decreased estimated support received from congregations (contribution rate remains at 50%). Synod salaries and benefits were set at \$508,147 to reflect a 1% increase for the entire staff and an additional increase for the administrative staff. The Campus Ministry Salaries and Benefits line item (in the Synod budget) was reduced by \$10,000 to \$135,000; this decrease is offset by using restricted funds that were originally set aside for campus ministry. The changes that have been made will result in a balanced budget of \$1,715,222 for the FYE 1/31/2020.

Scott Schulte thanked the members of the Synod Mission Budget Team for their service: Bishop Roger Gustafson, Dennis Allerheiligen, Rev. Loren Mai, Tom Nelson, Barbara Beadle (lead accountant for the Synod’s bookkeeping service), and Rev. Susan Candea.

Bishop Gustafson thanked Scott Schulte for his presentation. He then introduced the Rev. Cathy Schibler as the representative of Portico Benefits. She spoke briefly about Portico's ministry, and the Assembly viewed a video that highlighted this ministry of the ELCA. She thanked the Assembly for their partnership in ministry, and for taking care of the Church's professional leaders.

Pastor Susan Canda made announcements related to the lunch hour. It was noted that seven working lunch hearings/conversations were available to Assembly participants between 12:15 and 12:45 p.m. These included the following: Budget Hearing; Resolution Hearing; Compensation Guidelines Hearing; Central States Synod Constitution Hearing; Conversations with ELCA Global Mission Educators; Youth Lunch with the Bishop; and a Parish Ministry Associate Program. Pastor Scott Musselman led the Assembly in a table prayer at 11:50 a.m.

### PLENARY SESSION II

The Global Mission Educators led the Assembly in music to open the afternoon session at 1:05 p.m. Bishop Gustafson called the Assembly to order at 1:18 p.m. and introduced the election process for the Synod Council positions and the ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members. Sister Mary Arie led the Assembly in prayer prior to voting.

### ELECTIONS

Bishop Gustafson declared the following persons elected to their respective positions:

Synod Council – Area 2	The Rev. Lorna Paulus
Synod Council – Area 5	The Rev. Chad Langdon
Synod Council – Area 8	Ms. Chelsea Deines
Synod Council – Area 10	Mr. Daniel Lilienkamp
2019 CWA – Areas 1 and 2	The Rev. Jon Anderson
2019 CWA – Area 3	The Rev. Laura Smith
2019 CWA – Area 5	The Rev. Elizabeth Cummings
2019 CWA – Area 6	Mr. Lloyd Pinon
2019 CWA – Area 8	Rev. Chris Deines
2019 CWA – Area 10	Mr. Daniel Lilienkamp
2019 CWA – At Large	Mr. Donovan Lucas

In the five contested elections, Assembly Voting Members voted by ballot to decide the top finishers:

Ballot #6 (vote for one)	Rev. Kris Dietzen	Rev. Donna Florio
Ballot #8 (vote for two)	Ms. Susan Boxberger	Ms. Valorie Bratcher
	Ms. Kristin Luber	Ms. Mary Jo Moore
Ballot #11 (vote for one)	Ms. Mary Arie	Ms. Julie Barstow
Ballot #14 (vote for one)	Ms. Susan Boxberger	Ms. Patricia Phelan
	Ms. Heather Winker	Ms. Heather Yerian-Keck
Ballot #19 (vote for one)	Ms. Megan Mong	Ms. Grace Vannoy

Voting members cast their ballots.

Michael Martinez and Nancy Maier were introduced as representatives of MOSAIC.

Bishop Gustafson introduced the Rev. Brian Hiortdahl, the Chair of Team 500, which has coordinated the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Pastor Hiortdahl spoke of the activities sponsored by Team 500 and thanked the members of the Team for their service. A video clip was shown.

### APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRAL STATES SYNOD

The Assembly considered amendments to the constitution and by-laws of the Synod—as approved by the Synod Council on November 11, 2017. It was observed that required provisions of the constitution cannot be amended by a Synod Assembly; they are mandated by the ELCA. Non-required provisions may be amended by a 2/3 vote. By-laws can only be amended by a 2/3 vote; amendments to Continuing Resolutions must be approved by a majority vote.

It was MSC (by the required 2/3) to amend the designated non-required provisions in the Synod Constitution.

It was MSC to amend the designated by-laws to the Synod Constitution.

It was MSC to amend the designated Continuing Resolutions in the Synod Constitution.

A break was taken from 2:00 until 2:15 p.m., to facilitate movement of participants to workshop sites.

### WORKSHOP SESSION #1

From 2:15 until 3:30 p.m., Assembly participants attended the following workshops:

- Detectives of Divinity
- Cross-Generational Engagement
- Planting Seeds to be the Church
- Evangelism through Short Term Missions
- Evangelism Begins with B
- Evangelism in the City: What Can We All Learn?
- Volunteer Service Project: Ashby House, Salina (until 5:00)

A break was taken from 3:30 until 3:45 p.m.

### WORKSHOP SESSION #2

From 3:45 until 5:00 p.m., Assembly participants attended the following workshops:

- #OurVoice – Inviting Millennials into God’s Story
- Engaging One Another Missionally to Become Multicultural Church
- Sharing It All: Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and Jesus
- Public Mission: Social Action and Advocacy
- God’s Story in Many Languages and Many Lands
- God’s Story in Creation: This Changes Everything

The Assembly was in recess at 5:00 p.m., until Saturday, June 9, at 8:30 a.m.

### ASSEMBLY BANQUET

The Assembly Banquet was held at 5:45 p.m., in Hahn Gymnasium. Bishop Gustafson welcomed the Assembly to dinner. Pastor Harry Grinstead led the Assembly in a table prayer. After the meal, and throughout the evening, the Global Mission Educators provided music. Video stories of the three Campus Ministry sites were viewed. Bishop Gustafson and Pastor Susan Candea led the celebration of ordination anniversaries of rostered persons. The evening program concluded at 8:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2018

#### PLENARY SESSION III

The Assembly gathered in Hahn Gymnasium at 8:30 a.m. for Morning Prayer, led by the Rev. Melaku Tizazu and Jill Duis, PMA. Music was again provided by the Global Mission Educators. At 8:45 a.m., Bishop Gustafson convened the Assembly and called upon Dr. Adam Pryor to lead a Bible study on the Assembly theme. At the conclusion of the study, Bishop Gustafson thanked Dr. Pryor for his leadership.

#### ELCA PRESENTATION

Bishop Gustafson welcomed the Rev. Ruben Duran to the podium for a “State of the Church” Presentation. Pastor Duran serves as the Director of Congregational Vitality in the ELCA; his calling focuses on new ministries and renewing ministries. He brought greetings from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. He thanked Pastor Susan Candea and Pastor Donna Simon for their work as Directors for Evangelical Mission, and he stressed the importance of doing mission with a Lutheran context. He thanked the Synod for Mission Support and for generous contributions to the World Hunger Appeal and the Campaign for the ELCA. He also expressed gratitude for the ministry of Bishop Gustafson and the Synod staff. His remarks highlighted the upcoming National Youth Gathering and the “God’s Work; Our Hands” initiative. Finally, he gave thanks for the faithful mission and ministry that is carried out by the individual members and the congregations of the Central States Synod.

Bishop Gustafson thanked Pastor Duran and presented him with a gift from the Synod. It was noted that Pastor Duran would be the preacher at the closing worship service.

#### CREDENTIALS REPORT

Grace Vannoy, a Youth member of the Synod Council, presented the report of the Credentials Committee, as of 2:00 p.m., on Friday, June 8, 2018. The report follows:

335 Voting Members

223 Lay Voting Members (67% of Voting Members); 127 female; 96 male

112 Clergy Voting Members (33% of Voting Members); 39 female; 73 male

Total includes 7 Voting Members who are Persons of Color/Primary Language Other Than English

Total includes 4 Youth (under 18) and 12 Young Adults (18-30)



41 Visitors

376 TOTAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION

ELECTION RESULTS

Bishop Gustafson announced the results of the elections; the results follow:

Ballot #6 – Synod Council At Large	Rev. Kris Dietzen	117
	Rev. Donna Florio	131 *
Ballot #8 - Nominees for ELCA Church Council	Ms. Susan Boxberger	140 *
	Ms. Kristine Luber	163 *
	Ms. Valorie Bratcher	110
	Mrs. Mary Jo Moore	97
Ballot #11 – 2019 CWA Area 4	Ms. Mary Arie	87
	Ms. Julie Barstow	151 *
Ballot #14 – 2019 CWA Area 7	Ms. Susan Boxberger	67
	Ms. Patricia Phelan	63
	Ms. Heather Winker	56
	Ms. Heather Yerion-Keck	37
Ballot #19 – 2019 CWA At Large (Youth)	Ms. Grace Vannoy	83
	Ms. Megan Mong	150 *

Bishop Gustafson declared elections on all ballots except for #14, which would require a second ballot.

PMA Nancy Mitchell was called to offer a prayer prior to action on the budget and other matters of business.

CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 1/31/2020.

Bishop Gustafson declared that the proposed budget for FYE 1/31/2020 was properly before the Assembly. Scott Schulte, Treasurer, proceeded to the podium for budget interpretation and to address questions and concerns. It was observed 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 moved and seconded to approve the budget for FYE 1/31/2020.

It was MSC (194-57) to amend the budget in the following manner:

Income Line #1 – Increase “Income from Congregations” by \$40,000; new total is \$1,680,000  
Expense Line #7 – Increase “ELCA Churchwide” by \$20,000; new total is \$845,000  
Expense Line #42 – Increase “Campus Ministry” by \$10,000; new total is \$145,000  
Expense Line #63 – Increase “Seminaries” by \$10,000; new total is \$30,000

It was voted to approve the budget as amended for FYE 1/31/2020 in the amount of \$1,755,222.

### RESULT OF ELECTION

The result of the election on ballot #14 was now reported:

#14 – 2019 CWA Area 7	Ms. Susan Boxberger	122
	Ms. Patricia Phelan	126 *

Patricia Phelan was declared elected.

### APPROVAL OF 2019 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

Bishop Gustafson introduced Dede Patterson as a member of the Synod Compensation Guidelines Task Force. Ms. Patterson presented the 2019 Synod Guidelines for Professional Leaders, as proposed by the Compensation Guidelines Task Force, and as recommended for approval by the Synod Council on March 17, 2018.

After a prayer of discernment by Bishop Gustafson, it was MSC to adopt the Compensation Guidelines for 2019. Gratitude was expressed to the members of the Task Force for their work.

The Assembly viewed a video story that focused on the ministry of Hollis Renewal Center.

### REPORT ON RESOLUTION SA.17.06. “REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS.”

The 2017 Synod Assembly requested that a Task Force explore the possibility of the Central States Synod becoming a Sanctuary Synod. Pastor John Backus, a member of the Task Force, was invited to give an oral report of the findings of the group; a printed report was also available in the Assembly notebook. The Task Force took no position on the question raised, but provided resource material for interested congregations and individuals.

### CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Bishop Gustafson introduced Pastor Philip Vickers, Mission Hills, KS, as the Chair of the Resolutions Committee. Bishop Gustafson offered a prayer of discernment, and Pastor Vickers presented resolutions for the consideration of the Assembly.

#### SA.18.01. RESOLUTION TO BECOME “GREEN CONGREGATIONS.”

It was MSC:

That the congregations of the Central States Synod be encouraged to become “green congregations” by forming a Green Team in the congregation that will:

- (1) Evaluate the building and grounds of the congregation and take a minimum of two steps each year to help reduce the congregation’s negative impact upon the environment.
- (2) Educate and encourage its membership on the ways in which they can help care for God’s creation in their everyday lives by living simply and walking lightly on the earth.
- (3) Encourage personal “green discipleship” and actions to conserve energy and/or use renewable energy and supporting policies that seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- (4) Communicate with and respond to the work of the Central States Synod Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC) Mission Table, which serves as a resource for all Synod congregations. Further resources are available at [www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org). LRC is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

#### SA.18.02. 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,

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 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.

That **Sunday, October 7, 2018**, 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.

That **Sunday, May 5, 2019**, 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.

#### SA.18.03. LUTHERAN FAMILY & CHILDREN’S SERVICES OF MISSOURI.

It was MSC:

That all congregations of the Central States Synod will use the provided bulletin inserts (by Lutheran Family & Children’s Services of Missouri) and suggested prayer on the weekend of Mother’s Day, May 11 & 12, 2019, as a way of strengthening our communities one child and one family at a time.

#### SA.18.04. MEMORIAL ON THE ELCA’S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN.

It was MSC:

To transmit the following memorial to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

That we call upon all synods in their 2020 assemblies to include celebration and special recognition of ordained women upon the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of authorizing this ordination practice; and

That we call upon congregations throughout the ELCA to participate in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women in our church through worship services, Bible studies and other efforts to celebrate and recognize the importance and contributions of ordained women; and

That we call upon this church to renew efforts in education on the intersection of the sins of sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism, and develop healing interventions offering hope and support to those who experience these sins to the point of despair about ministry; and

That we urge all congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization in 2020 to conduct a gender analysis wherein each can develop strategies to promote and protect gender equity and justice, with particular focus on addressing the areas of preparation for ministry, call process including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education; and

That we call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women and trans gender individuals comparable compensation with that of ordained men in all calls by 2025, reporting the outcome of this action step at the Churchwide Assembly in 2026; and

That we call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women access to ministry roles where women are currently underrepresented, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by women of color receiving viable first and second calls; and

That we call upon the churchwide expression's Domestic Mission Unit to develop, undertake, and successfully complete a strategy specifically related to the debt of women of color after seminary; and

That we request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide in 2025 updated research on achievement of these initiatives and other matters pertinent to the full and just participation of ordained women in this church; and

That we request all church publications to plan features in 2020 on the ordination of women, lifting up the amazing talents and gifts this church has received from its ordained women, the barriers ordained women still experience in this church, and the steps outlined in this memorial to overcome these barriers; and

That we invite the prayers of all members of this church for the successful outcome of these initiatives.

#### SA.18.05. LUTHERAN SENIOR SERVICES.

It was MSC:

That all congregations of the Central States Synod will use the provided bulletin inserts (by Lutheran Senior Services) and the suggested intercessory prayer on the weekend of **September 15-16, 2018**, as a way of informing our brothers and sisters in Christ of how God is at work through this ministry with seniors; and

That we offer a loud and boisterous "Alleluia, Praise God from Whom all blessings flow" for the work of ministry being done through Lutheran Senior Services.

The Assembly boisterously offered the words "Alleluia, Praise God from Whom all blessings flow."

SA.18.06. CONGREGATIONS THAT HAVE LEFT THE ELCA.

It was MSC:

That the Central States Synod in Assembly give thanks for the following congregations that have left the ELCA, and the partnership in mission and ministry we shared over the years:

Trinity Lutheran Church; Abilene, KS  
Salem Lutheran Church; Axtell, KS  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church; Norway, KS

And that the Chaplain of this Assembly lead us in prayer for all of Christ's Church.

PMA Nancy Mitchell led the Assembly in prayer.

SA.18.07. CONGREGATIONS THAT HAVE CLOSED.

It was MSC:

That the Central States Synod in Assembly remember in gratitude the life of these communities of the faithful over the years—and that have closed since the last Synod Assembly:

Faith Lutheran Church; Prairie Village, KS  
Children's Memorial Lutheran Church; Kansas City, MO

And that the Chaplain of the assembly lead the assembly in a prayer of thanksgiving for the ministries carried out in these congregations.

PMA Nancy Mitchell led the Assembly in prayer.

SA.18.08. RETIREMENTS.

It was MSC:

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. William Peterson  
The Rev. John Lundin  
The Rev. Martin Rafanan  
The Rev. Michael Haar  
The Rev. Michael Kerr  
The Rev. Karen Scherer  
The Rev. Michael Ide  
The Rev. Tom Kamprath  
The Rev. Michael Brecke  
The Rev. Bruce Freeman  
The Rev. Keith Holste  
The Rev. Penny Holste

The Assembly stood and applauded.

SA.18.09. FAITHFUL DEPARTED.

It was MSC:

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. Walter H. Evenson  
The Rev. Duane E. Levin  
The Rev. Stanley Rogge  
The Rev. James F. Hennig  
The Rev. Robert S. Kreier

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

A word of thanks was extended to Pastor Phil Vickers and other members of the Resolutions Committee—and the Parliamentarian—for their fine work.

Bishop Gustafson recessed the meeting of the Synod Assembly at 11:20 a.m.

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 to elect 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: 3-year terms – The Rev. Tim Leaf; The Rev. Amy Truhe; Mr. Eric Anderson; Ms. Debbie Jacobson.

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 at 11:26 p.m.

2019 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2019 Synod Assembly will be held June 6-8, 2019, at the Marriott Hotel, Overland Park, KS.

The Assembly concluded with a Service of Holy Communion at 11:35 a.m., in Hahn Gymnasium. Bishop Roger Gustafson and Pastor Kendra Nolde officiated, and Pastor Ruben Duran was the Preacher. Music leadership was provided by the Glocal Musician Educators. The order for the Closing of a Synod Assembly was a part of the service. The Assembly offering was divided equally among the following: Mosaic at Ellsworth, KS; ELCA Youth Gathering (Scholarships for youth from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands); and New Ministries in the

Central States Synod. The service concluded at 12:45 p.m., at which time the Assembly was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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