



SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD ASSEMBLY
The World is about to Turn for God has done Great things



Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly Minutes

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville
May 30-31, 2008

Friday, May 30, 2008 8:45 A.M.

Opening Worship Worship with Holy Communion was held at 8:45 a.m. Bishop Peter Rogness served as Presiding Minister and preached.

PLENARY SESSION I The assembly was called to order by Bishop Rogness.

Welcome Bishop Rogness introduced the Rev. Jeff Marion, lead pastor of Prince of Peace (Burnsville). Marion welcomed the assembly to Prince of Peace.

Credentials Report Bishop Rogness called on Ms. Maxine Enfield, chair of the Credentials Committee, for the Credentials Report. Ms. Enfield reported the following registrations:

Voting Members				367
Clergy	147	40 %		
Lay	220	60 %		
Male	97			
Female	123			
Others				95
Advisors	19			
Visitors	76			
Total Attendance				462

Motion: To accept the Credentials Report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.1)

Introductions Bishop Rogness introduced the individuals seated at or near the head table:

- Ms. Gail Olson, Synod Council Vice President, Trinity (Stillwater)
- Ms. Myrna Nelson, Synod Council Secretary, Church of the Redeemer (St. Paul)
- Ms. Carol Hood, Synod Council Treasurer, Mount Calvary (Eagan)
- The Rev. Daniel Brumm, Parliamentarian, St. Stephen the Martyr (White Bear Lake)
- Ms. Beth Helgen, Assembly Manager, Saint Paul Area Synod Staff
- Mr. Randy Smith, Assembly Secretary, Grace (Apple Valley)
- Mr. Carlos Peña, Vice President, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Ms. Amber Leberman, Web Manager and Associate Art Director, *The Lutheran*

Rules of Procedure Bishop Rogness referred the assembly to the Pre-Assembly Report and the Program Supplement, noting that both booklets were needed for the plenary sessions. The Proposed Rules of Procedure (Pre-Assembly Report, pages 11–17) were presented.

Motion: To adopt the Proposed Rules of Procedure as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report (pages 11–17).
ADOPTED (SA08.5.2)

Agenda

The Proposed Agenda (Pre-Assembly Report, pages 8–9) was presented.

Motion: To adopt the Proposed Agenda as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report (pages 8–9).

ADOPTED (SA08.5.3)

Nominating Committee Report

Bishop Rogness called on Mr. David Olsen, chair of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Olsen presented the Nominating Committee Report, noting that Synod Bishop elections are handled separately. Nominated by the committee were the following:

Synod Council Secretary, 4 yr. term *Lay* *Male/Female*
 Ms. Connie Wiegel, First (St. Paul)
 Ms. Jan Johnson, Redeemer (White Bear Lake)

Committee for Consultation, 6 yr. term *Lay* *Male/Female*
 Mr. Robert Eiselt, Trinity (Stillwater)
 Ms. Katherine Tellekson, Salem (West St. Paul)

Committee for Consultation, 6 yr. term *Clergy* *Male/Female*
 The Rev. Harvey Leuning, Gloria Dei (St. Paul)
 The Rev. Loren Mellum, Trinity (North Branch)
 The Rev. Dale Stiles, Fish Lake (Harris)

ELCA Church Council (2) *Clergy* *Male/Female*
Electing to nominate for election at 2009 Churchwide Assembly
 The Rev. Martin Ericson, Como Park (St. Paul)
 The Rev. Loren Mellum, Trinity (North Branch)
 The Rev. Kathryn Tiede, Living Waters (Lino Lakes)
 The Rev. Carol Tomer, Pilgrim (St. Paul)
 The Rev. Ted Vanderpan, Resurrection (Woodbury)
 The Rev. Bonnie Wilcox, Gustavus Adolphus (St. Paul)

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Clergy* *Male/Female*
 The Rev. Jeff Beebe, St. Paul's (Wyoming)
 The Rev. Kris Capel, Easter (Eagan)
 The Rev. Tim Housholder, St. Luke's (Cottage Grove)
 The Rev. Kris Linner, Trinity (Stillwater)
 The Rev. John Stiles, Holy Cross (Oakdale)
 The Rev. Paul Tidemann, Gloria Dei (St. Paul)
 The Rev. Stephan Turnbull, First (White Bear Lake)
 The Rev. Jim Weckwerth, Christ the Servant (Vadnais Heights)
 The Rev. John Wheelock, Trinity (Lindstrom)

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Clergy* *Male/Female*
 The Rev. William Siong, Hmong Central *Person of Color or Primary*
 (St. Paul) *Language other than English*

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Lay* *Male/Female*
 Ms. Sally Ea, Christ Lutheran Church on *Person of Color or Primary*
 Capital Hill (St. Paul) *Language other than English*

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Lay* *Female*
 Ms. Joan Duke, St. Paul-Reformation (St. Paul)
 Ms. Audrey Fairchild-Ehm, Prince of Peace (Roseville)

Ms. Judy Laabs-Foss, Trinity (Stillwater)
Ms. Barb Wojahn, Redeemer (White Bear Lake)
Ms. Verna Schwagmeyer, Luther Memorial (South St. Paul)
Ms. Julie Wright, All Saints (Cottage Grove)

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Members (3)

Lay Male

Mr. Bob Eiselt, Trinity (Stillwater)
Mr. Paul Hardt, Pilgrim (St. Paul)
Mr. David Laden, Como Park (St. Paul)
Mr. James Elton Morgan, Bethesda (Inver Grove Heights)
Mr. Jerry Neilson, Zion (Cottage Grove)
Mr. Dave Norhausen, St. Paul (Wyoming)
Mr. Brian Oberman, Living Waters (Lino Lakes)
Mr. John W. Osen, Immanuel (St. Paul)
Mr. Dave Rausch, Farmington (Farmington)
Mr. Roger Schwagmeyer, Luther Memorial (South St. Paul)
Mr. Marv Widmark, Spring Lake (North Branch)

Motion: To receive the Nominating Committee Report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.4)

Bishop Rogness called for floor nominations for each office on the common ballot. The following nominations were made:

ELCA Church Council (2)

Clergy Male/Female

Electing to nominate for election at 2009 Churchwide Assembly

The Rev. John Snider, St. Stephen's (West St. Paul)
The Rev. Kisten Thompson, On Leave from Call

No additional nominations were made and nominations were declared closed. Bishop Rogness stated that, in accordance with the St. Paul Area Synod constitution, conferences have the sole right to nominate two-thirds of the Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, with additional nominations by the assembly precluded. The following persons were selected by the conferences and were presented on the ballot for ratification:

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members – North Conference

The Rev. Paul Brown, Faith (Forest Lake)
Mr. Richard Helgerson, Zion (Chisago City)

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members – North Central Conference

The Rev. Craig Hanson, Roseville (Roseville)
Mr. Ronald Peterson, Galilee (Roseville)
Ms. Rebecca Westermeyer, Church of the Resurrection (Roseville)

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members – East Central Conference

The Rev. Zachary Thompson, Shepherd of the Valley (Afton)
Ms. Maxine Enfield, Our Savior (Stillwater)
Mr. David Olsen, Christ (Lake Elmo)
The Rev. John Keller, St. Andrew's (Mahtomedi)

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members – South Central Conference

The Rev. Bonnie Wilcox, Gustavus Adolphus (St. Paul)
Ms. Myrna Nelson, Church of the Redeemer (St. Paul)

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members – Southeast Conference

The Rev. Sarah Malm Lutter, Amazing Grace (Inver Grove Heights)
Ms. Janet Metcalfe, Augustana (West St. Paul)
Mr. Mark Rogosheske, St. Stephen (West St. Paul)

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members – South Conference

- The Rev. John Matthews, Grace (Apple Valley)
- The Rev. Chris Beckman, Highview Christiana (Farmington)
- Mr. Barry Fick, St. John’s (Lakeville)
- Ms. Carol Hood, Mount Calvary (Eagan)
- Ms. Kristi Graner, Hosanna! (Lakeville)
- Ms. Jennie Lightfoot, Prince of Peace (Burnsville)

Bishop’s Election

Bishop Rogness indicated it was tradition to have the Presiding Bishop or his/her designee chair the Bishop’s Election, then turned the chair over to Mr. Carlos Peña, Vice President of the ELCA. Mr. Peña stated the Bishop’s Election was an important process, but the election was also a call. Mr. Peña outlined some of the responsibilities of the Bishop, including being a pastor, providing pastoral leadership, being a servant and advisor, and being an evangelist. Mr. Peña indicated the Bishop was called not only serve the synod, but also the entire Church. Mr. Peña then provided an overview of the balloting process.

Synod Bishop, 6 yr. term	<i>Clergy</i>	<i>Male/Female</i>
	The Rev. Christopher Becker, Amazing Grace (Inver Grove Heights)	
	The Rev. James Erlandson, Church of the Redeemer (St. Paul)	
	The Rev. Peter Rogness, Saint Paul Area Synod	
	The Rev. Grant Stevensen, St. Matthew’s (St. Paul)	

Credentials Report

Mr. Peña called on Ms. Enfield for the Credentials Report. Ms. Enfield reported the following registrations:

Voting Members		395
Clergy	166	42 %
Lay	229	58 %
Male	104	
Female	125	
Others		107
Advisors	22	
Visitors	85	
Total Attendance		502

Motion: To accept the Credentials Report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.5)

First Ballot for Bishop

Mr. Peña instructed the pages to distribute the ballots. After allowing time for voting, Mr. Peña declared balloting closed, then turned the chair back to Bishop Rogness.

Churchwide Report

Bishop Rogness called on Mr. Peña to give the Churchwide Report. Mr. Peña explained that the ELCA Vice President was the only non-salaried lay position on the Church Council and serving as the Vice President has been a transformational experience, providing him an opportunity to travel throughout the United States, South America, Europe and even the Holy Land. During his travels, Mr. Peña stated that he experienced many different languages, customs, and worship styles, but the people were all God’s people and that if we are to continue to step forward as a church, the church needs to work for peace. Mr. Peña thanked the synod for its financial support and praised the leadership for the work they do, then shared a video message from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. Following the video, Mr. Peña indicated the theme of the assembly mirrored the work of the ELCA, but said much was left to be done. Mr. Peña then challenged the assembly in four specific areas: 1) participating in the Book of Faith initiative; 2) reacting to the social statement on human sexuality; 3) growing in biblical stewardship; and 4) sharing leadership with the whole church. Mr. Peña concluded his report by thanking the synod for its commitment to the ministry.

The Lutheran

Mr. Peña introduced Ms. Leberman who listed four reasons *The Lutheran* was good stewardship: 1) each issue has a study guide for ready-made adult education; 2) it shares the

joys and challenges of being a church; 3) church leadership write columns and articles challenging the membership; and 4) the inserts and reprints are great tools for education. Ms. Leberman asked the assembly to stop by the display area and let her know what *The Lutheran* was doing right, wrong, or what it could do better.

First Ballot for Bishop Results

Bishop Rogness turned the chair back to Mr. Peña, who called on the Rev. Mark Winkler, chair of the Elections Committee and chair of the Bishop Election Task Force. Winkler reported that, prior to the balloting, the Credentials Report had been amended:

Voting Members			408
Clergy	173	42 %	
Lay	235	58 %	
Male	107		
Female	128		
Others			107
Advisors	22		
Visitors	85		
Total Attendance			515

Winkler then reported the results of the First Ballot for Bishop:

Bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, 6 yr. term *Clergy* *Male/Female*

There were 405 valid ballots, 304 votes (75%) needed for election.

The Rev. Christopher Becker	25
The Rev. James Erlandson	16
The Rev. Peter Rogness	319
The Rev. Grant Stevensen	34
The Rev. Bill Bohline	4
The Rev. Lon Larson	2
The Rev. Alan Loose	2
The Rev. Nancy Maeker	1
The Rev. Jeff Marian	1
The Rev. Wayne Weissenbuehler	1

Mr. Peña declared Peter Rogness elected. The assembly responded with a standing ovation.

Word of Thanks

Bishop Rogness, joined on stage by his wife, Gerry, indicated this election was different than six years ago when they knew they were leaving the Milwaukee area. Bishop Rogness said this now felt like an affirmation, for which he was grateful.

Dwelling in the Word #1

Mr. Peña turned the chair back to Bishop Rogness. Bishop Rogness indicated the assembly would engage the ELCA initiative *Book of Faith – Lutherans Read the Bible*, including calling on people from the synod to share a “Dwelling in the Word” moment – a reflection of their own life and engagement with the Word of God. Bishop Rogness called on Ms. Sally Ea, senior at Tartan High School, member of Christ Lutheran on Capitol Hill (St. Paul) and co-president of the Council of Lutheran Youth Organization Presidents. Ms. Ea shared that prior to a trip she took, she hadn’t experienced poverty, but the women she met on that trip amazed her as they didn’t have much, but always had faith, turning to Scripture in times of trouble. Ms. Ea indicated she learned a great deal during the trip, recognizing that while she had the guidance of her parents and siblings while growing up and now needed to be her own light, she would always have God’s words to guide her.

Recess

Bishop Rogness declared the assembly to be in recess until 1:00 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION II

Ms. Gail Olson, Synod Council Vice President, called the assembly to order.

Credentials Report

Ms. Olson called on Ms. Enfield for the Credentials Report. Ms. Enfield reported the following registrations:

Voting Members			422
Clergy	183	43 %	
Lay	239	57 %	
Male	110		
Female	129		
Others			114
Advisors	22		
Visitors	92		
Total Attendance			536

Motion: To accept the Credentials Report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.6)

Synod Bishop’s Report

Ms. Olson called on Bishop Rogness to present the Synod Bishop’s Report. Bishop Rogness began by expressing his appreciation for the Synod Council and for the synod staff. Bishop Rogness singled out the Rev. Nancy Maeker for recognition, informing the assembly that she would be leaving the synod staff to become Acting Director of Minnesota Without Poverty at the Minnesota Council of Churches. The assembly recognized Maeker with a standing ovation. Bishop Rogness indicated his report is intended to be a broad overview of the work of the synod over the past year, but he decided to roll in a broad overview of life together. Bishop Rogness then challenged the assembly to think of the work of the synod as world turning, not ordinary. Bishop Rogness incorporated messages from various individuals to illustrate what we often think of as ordinary work really being the work of God touching people’s lives. Bishop Rogness stated that he hoped we were bold enough to think we’re capable of turning the world. Bishop Rogness concluded his report calling on the assembly to stand based on whether they had participated in various activities, continuing until the entire assembly was standing to illustrate how God was using them to turn the world.

Vice President’s Report

Ms. Olson turned the chair over to Bishop Rogness who then called on Ms. Olson to present the Vice President’s Report. Ms. Olson encouraged the assembly to read her report in the Pre-Assembly Report (page 28). Ms. Olson then painted a picture of a group preparing and enjoying a fancy feast, then having someone break the spell by announcing it was time to “do the dishes.” Ms. Olson then stated for congregations to continue to do good work, basic areas such as the constitution, must be cleaned up. Ms. Olson concluded her remarks by indicating resources were available to help congregations with reviewing their constitution, then directed the assembly to “Thank God for the Feast, then go home and do the dishes.”

Keynote Address Part 1

Bishop Rogness invited Dr. Tony Campolo, professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, to give part one of his keynote address. In his remarks, Dr. Campolo indicated every day must be a day of rebirth and renewal – that one experience will not carry us for the rest of our lives. Dr. Campolo stated that the Spirit within us drives us to connect and compels us to connect with those who are in need. Dr. Campolo said that when the Holy Spirit is in you, you are compelled to love in a very special way and that you can’t have a personal relationship with Jesus without having a personal relationship with the poor and those in need. Dr. Campolo stated that when Christ invades you, you become aware of Christ being in those in need. Dr. Campolo indicated mainline churches are dying and it’s because we’re not reaching out. Dr. Campolo then stated that when we were born, we were the only one that was crying – everyone else was happy. Then he asked, “When you die, will you be the one that’s happy and everyone else is sad?” Dr. Campolo concluded the first portion of his address by asking if, upon death, you will have testimonies of how you made a difference in others lives or just a title. Dr. Campolo then prayed for us to have both titles and testimonies, but advised if we had to make a choice, go for the testimonies.

Book of Faith Initiative Introduction Bishop Rogness indicated that, in 2005, the Churchwide Assembly resolved to launch a new initiative, *Book of Faith – Lutherans Read the Bible*. Bishop Rogness said that over the next two years, there will be several resources, including *Opening the Book of Faith* (an introduction to the initiative), *Adult Bible Study* (resources published by Augsburg Fortress, providing a comprehensive Lutheran approach to engaging Scripture using the four methods of study introduced in *Opening the Book of Faith*), and *Lutheran Study Bible* (a New Revised Standard Version translation of the Bible integrating solid study material with articles and notes on Lutheran perspectives and principles for Bible study). Bishop Rogness stated the there will also be online resources at ELCA.org. Bishop Rogness indicated that during the assembly, time would be taken to immerse into the initiative.

Book of Faith Part 1 Bishop Rogness introduced the Rev. Rolf Jacobson, associate professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary. Jacobson stated that only 6-9 percent of Lutheran adults participate in Bible study and that we’re becoming biblically illiterate. Jacobson indicated this was an opportunity, yet an uphill battle against church culture where Scripture is not a regular way of life. Jacobson asked the assembly to engage in table discussions and share a story from when they were five years old or a rule from their house. After time for discussion, Jacobson stated that talking about what you hear others saying forces you into speech and the realization everyone has some expertise in their own story – even if they don’t feel versed in scripture. Jacobson then focused on Deuteronomy 5:1-3 for the remainder of the study, stating the Bible isn’t about ancient history, but about our story and that the whole point is the living – the Bible tells us who we are.

Credentials Report Bishop Rogness called on Ms. Enfield for the Credentials Report. Ms. Enfield reported the following registrations:

Congregations Registered				109
Voting Members				434
Clergy	193	44 %		
Lay	241	56 %		
Male	111			
Female	130			
Others				119
Advisors	23			
Visitors	96			
Total Attendance				553

Motion: To accept the Credentials Report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.7)

First Common Ballot Bishop Rogness gave general instructions to the assembly concerning the balloting process, then instructed the pages to distribute the ballots. Time was allotted for the assembly to vote, then Bishop Rogness declared balloting closed.

Dwelling in the Word #2 Bishop Rogness called on Ms. Megan Torgerson, a 2007 graduate of Luther Seminary and winner of the Preaching Fellowship, for the second Dwelling in the Word. Ms. Torgerson related that her grandfather passed away at 89 and, despite dementia, indicated he had lived a good life. While opening sympathy cards following the funeral, Ms. Torgerson stated one made her furious – indicating they would pray for her if she came to their church, as it was too late for her loved one, but that she could still be saved. Ms. Torgerson said the intent was good, but it missed the mark because it was trying to make her afraid. Ms. Torgerson indicated she had been taught not to be afraid, having been loved by God. Ms. Torgerson concluded that rather than being afraid, she’ll rely on faith of being loved – no matter what.

Reference and Counsel Report Bishop Rogness called on Mr. Jerry Neilson, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee. Mr. Neilson explained the work of the committee, indicating the recommendations of the committee were printed following each resolution in the Pre-Assembly Report (pages 44–50).

Mr. Neilson concluded his report by stating no resolutions were received after the deadline and that if anyone intended to propose amendments, the amendments should be prepared in writing and handed in.

Resolutions Bishop Rogness invited Mr. Neilson to present the resolutions for discussion and action. Mr. Neilson read the resolved section of each resolution, then indicated the Reference and Counsel Committee's recommendation concerning the resolution.

Resolution 08-1 ELCA World Hunger Appeal Support

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches us: "If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear. My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love." (I John 3:17-18, *The Message*); and

WHEREAS, of the 6.7 billion people on earth, nearly 13 percent (854 million) are hungry;* and

WHEREAS, 11 percent of U.S. households experience hunger or the risk of hunger;* and

WHEREAS, concern for the hungry is one aspect of this synod's vision to end poverty, and

WHEREAS, the ELCA World Hunger Appeal is this church's primary effort for addressing both domestic and global hunger; and

WHEREAS, if every baptized ELCA member gave \$5 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal annually, the church would reach its goal of raising \$25 million for its efforts to end hunger close to home and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the most recent statistics indicate that \$20.1 million was given to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal in 2006 by congregations and individuals of the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, the latest information available indicates that in 2007 our Saint Paul Area Synod members contributed less than \$2 per each of our 160,000 baptized members toward the ELCA World Hunger Appeal; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Area Synod, meeting in assembly, challenge its congregations to increase their giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal by \$1 per baptized member in 2008 and an additional \$1 per baptized member in 2009 and again in 2010 which would lift this synod's giving to the ELCA's World Hunger Appeal goal of \$5 per baptized member in 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such generous outpouring of gifts be a means of expressing our gratitude for all the gifts we have received from our Lord and willingly shared for the needs of the hungry and impoverished.

*Information from the ELCA World Hunger Program and the Saint Paul Area Synod 2008.

Motion: To adopt Resolution 08-1.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.8)

Resolution 08-2 A Memorial to Amend Policies on the ELCA's Ministry Rosters

WHEREAS, the ELCA has repeatedly welcomed gay and lesbian people into its life (including resolutions of the 1991, 1995, 1999, 2005, and 2007 Churchwide Assemblies); and

WHEREAS, some congregations throughout the ELCA are faithfully and effectively served by qualified ministers who are in a committed same-gender relationship; and

WHEREAS, in April 2009 (well before this synod's 2009 assembly), the ELCA Church

Council will decide which recommendations concerning the ELCA's ministry rosters it will make to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, and this synod desires to communicate its views concerning rostered ministry as the Church Council prepares its recommendations on the matter; and

WHEREAS, a congregation that wishes to call as its minister an otherwise-qualified person in a committed same-gender partnership should be permitted to do so, while at the same time a congregation that does not wish to call such a minister cannot and should not be forced to do so; and

WHEREAS, the document known as *Vision and Expectations*, the document known as *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*, and the policy on reinstatement to the rosters of this church may be amended by the Church Council at the direction, by a simple-majority vote, of the Churchwide Assembly (see Preliminary Minutes of the 10th Churchwide Assembly, pages 64 and 80, explanations by Presiding Bishop Hanson and Secretary Almen); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this synod, meeting in assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to take the following actions:

- To direct the Committee on Appeals to develop an amendment to the document known as *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* that removes provisions precluding "practicing homosexual persons" from the rosters of this church; and
- To direct the Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, to develop an amendment to the document known as *Vision and Expectations* that removes provisions requiring persons who are "homosexual in their self-understanding" to "abstain from homosexual sexual relationships;" and
- To direct the Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, to develop an amendment to the document known as *Vision and Expectations* that inserts the following: "Ministers in a same-gender partnership are expected to uphold the same standard as all ministers, namely, to live in fidelity to their partner within a relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful;" and
- To direct the Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, to develop an amendment to the policy on reinstatement to the rosters of this church that permits the reinstatement of persons who have resigned or been removed solely because they were in a same-gender relationship, even though that relationship was mutual, chaste, faithful, and committed, without the requirement of five years off the roster;
- To direct the Church Council to take the steps necessary to amend *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*, *Vision and Expectations*, and the policy on reinstatement to the rosters of this church in conformity with the amendments developed (pursuant to the preceding directions) by the Committee on Appeals and the Vocation and Education unit.

Motion: To adopt Resolution 08-2.

Motion to Amend: To amend the TITLE and the RESOLVED of Resolution 08-2 to read as follows:

A Resolution to Amend Policies on the ELCA's Ministry Rosters

RESOLVED, that this synod, meeting in assembly, direct the Synod Council to submit a resolution to the ELCA Church Council to take the following actions regarding the ELCA's ministry rosters:

Motion to Amend
ADOPTED (SA08.5.10)

Motion to

Defer: To postpone consideration of Resolution 08-2 until after the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

DEFEATED (SA08.5.11)

Original Motion (as amended):

ADOPTED (SA08.5.9)

Resolution 08-3 A Memorial Encouraging Same-Gender Couples' Promises of Lifelong Fidelity

WHEREAS, we discern the Holy Spirit's work in the 2005 Churchwide Assembly as (1) affirming that the current disagreements on homosexuality are between people of faith seeking to live in faithful obedience to the command of Jesus Christ and the call of the Holy Spirit, (2) leading the church to live together amidst our disagreements, (3) inviting continued communication, openness and understanding among all members of this church; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Churchwide Assembly affirmed its trust for pastors and congregations as they discern ways to provide faithful pastoral care for all to whom they minister, including persons in a committed same-gender partnership; and

WHEREAS, many congregations in the ELCA count as valued members and leaders baptized persons who are in a committed same-gender relationship and who desire to make public their promises of love and fidelity, seek to invite God into their relationship to help in the fulfillment of their promises, and long for the blessing of their church communities and the fullness of the prayers, encouragement and consolation that these communities of faith provide; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of states have legally defined and recognized relationship between two persons of the same gender and many in this church's congregations are entering into such relationships; and

WHEREAS, many congregations in the ELCA yearn to provide pastoral care for the same-gender couples among their members by witnessing and supporting their promises of lifelong fidelity and by offering support in the name of God as they fulfill these promises; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this synod, meeting in assembly, encourage pastors and congregations to provide pastoral care to same-gender couples by witnessing or affirming their promises of lifelong fidelity, and by invoking God's help and offering the congregation's support as they fulfill these promises; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this synod, meeting in assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to direct the ELCA Worship and Liturgical Resources section to develop resources to assist pastors and congregations who wish to provide pastoral care to same-gender couples by witnessing or affirming their promises of lifelong fidelity, and by invoking God's guidance and offering the congregation's support as they fulfill these promises.

Motion: To adopt Resolution 08-3.

Motion to

Amend: To amend the TITLE and the second RESOLVED of Resolution 08-3 to read as follows:

A Resolution Encouraging Same-Gender Couple's Promises of Lifelong Fidelity

RESOLVED, that this synod, meeting in assembly, direct the Synod Council to submit a resolution to the ELCA Church Council to direct the ELCA Worship and Liturgical Resources section to develop resources to assist pastors and congregations who wish to provide pastoral care to same-gender

couples by witnessing or affirming their promises of lifelong fidelity, and by invoking God's guidance and offering the congregation's support as they fulfill these promises.

Motion to Amend

ADOPTED (SA08.5.13)

Original Motion (as amended):

ADOPTED (SA08.5.12)

Resolution 08-4 A Resolution Against Violence and Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

WHEREAS, violence, crime, and discrimination against anyone on the basis of either sexual orientation or gender identity violate the personhood of beloved children of God, whom this church is bound by the Gospel to protect; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council has expressed the ELCA's "strong opposition to all forms of verbal or physical harassment or assault of persons because of their sexual orientation" (Church Council Action CC93.03.37); and

WHEREAS, the Church Council (in the same action) has expressed the ELCA's "support for legislation, referendums, and policies to protect the civil rights of all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation, and to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public services and accommodations" on account of the same; and

WHEREAS, violence, crime, and discrimination are also perpetrated on many people on account of their gender identity – often but not always in conjunction with their sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Congress and many state legislatures continue to consider (and some state legislatures have passed) laws that include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories by which a crime can be defined as a hate crime, as well as laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this synod, meeting in assembly, deplore in the name of Jesus Christ all violence, crime, and discrimination perpetrated on account of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this synod, meeting in assembly, direct the synod council to submit a resolution to the Church Council to amend Church Council action CC93.03.37 so that it incorporates gender identity along with sexual orientation in terms of the ELCA's (a) opposition to harassment or assault as well as (b) support for legislation protecting civil rights and prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, and public services and accommodations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this synod, meeting in assembly, call upon Congress and the state legislature to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories by which a crime can be defined as a hate crime; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this synod, meeting in assembly, call upon Congress and the state legislature to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories in which discrimination is forbidden in employment, housing, and public services and accommodations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this synod, meeting in assembly, direct this synod's bishop to express the preceding positions, in writing or in person, to each federal and state legislator representing any part of this synod's territory.

Motion: To adopt Resolution 08-4.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.14)

Dwelling in the Word #3 Bishop Rogness called on the Rev. Vern Anderson, co-pastor at Good Shepherd (Inver Grove Heights) and Colonel and State Command Chaplain for the Minnesota National Guard, for the third Dwelling in the Word. Anderson indicated that 24 years ago, he was sworn in as a Chaplain in the Guard. When at Camp Ripley, he went into the chapel and found tracts and a bunch of small green books – little green powerful books – placed by the Gideons. Anderson stated that the book went into his pocket every time he went into training, to drills, or led Bible studies, and he used it as help when talking to soldiers about life issues. Anderson indicated that he doesn't always know what to say to soldiers being sent into harms way, but the little green book does. Anderson stated that Psalm 139 is used during invocation, as a word of promise to soldiers and as comfort to families worrying until their soldier comes back. He concluded his remarks by thanking the Lord for the little green book.

Dinner Banquet Bishop Rogness declared the assembly to be in recess until 6:15 p.m. During the dinner banquet, the assembly was entertained by the Barbary Coast Dixieland Band.

PLENARY SESSION III Bishop Rogness called the assembly to order.

Credentials Report Bishop Rogness called on Ms. Enfield for the Credentials Report. Ms. Enfield reported the following registrations:

Congregations Registered				109
Voting Members				439
Clergy	195	44 %		
Lay	244	56 %		
Male	112			
Female	132			
Others				122
Advisors	23			
Visitors	99			
Total Attendance				561

Motion: To accept the Credentials Report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.15)

Recognition Bishop Rogness acknowledged and thanked those members leaving the Synod Council:
The Rev. Lynne Lorenzen
Ms. Myrna Nelson
The Rev. Ted Vanderpan
Ms. Marlene Walsten

Bishop Rogness recognized the tenth anniversary of Ms. Elaine Brant beginning ministry, at age 75, as a Diaconal Minister.

Bishop Rogness read the names of pastors and rostered lay ministers who reached milestones of their ordination, commissioning, or consecration this year:

Ordained 25 Years

The Rev. Brian Black
Ms. Miriam Campbell, AiM
Ms. Ina Mae Glommen, AiM
The Rev. Lynn Pagliarini
The Rev. Elisa Richardson
The Rev. John Snider
Ms. Eleanor Swanson, AiM

The Rev. Susan Tjornehoj

Ordained 40 Years

The Rev. Robert Albers
The Rev. Gary F. Anderson
The Rev. Eldon DeWeerth
The Rev. John Drier
The Rev. William Eisenmann
The Rev. Gary Langness
The Rev. Erik Saxvik
The Rev. James Sbertoli
The Rev. William Strom
The Rev. George Weinman

Ordained 50 Years

The Rev. Richard Borgstrom
The Rev. Erland Carlson
The Rev. Lowell Erdahl
The Rev. Raymond Geist
The Rev. Lawrence Martin
The Rev. Paul Ofstedal
The Rev. Kenneth Roufs
The Rev. Thomas Schultz

Ordained 55 Years

The Rev. Roald Carlson
The Rev. Lowell Helstedt
The Rev. Gerhard Vorland

Ordained 60 Years

The Rev. Marbury Anderson

Ordained 65 Years

The Rev. Robert Hurty

Ordained 70 Years

The Rev. Leman Olsenius

Bishop Rogness recognized congregations celebrating anniversaries:

50 Years

Redeemer (White Bear Lake)

75 Years

Lakeview (Maplewood)

100 Years

Gloria Dei (St. Paul)

125 Years

St. Paul – Reformation (St. Paul)

150 Years

Our Savior (Stillwater)

Bishop Rogness thanked retired pastors and rostered lay ministers for their service:

The Rev. Joel Bexell
The Rev. Richard Carlson
The Rev. Esther Dant
The Rev. Donna Erickson
The Rev. Stephen Hokonson
Ms. Virginia Power, AiM
The Rev. James Sbertoli

Bishop Rogness welcomed pastors and rostered lay ministers who moved into the synod this year:

The Rev. Roger Allmendinger, Arlington Hills (St. Paul)
The Rev. Joel Bexell, Retired
The Rev. Eyglo Bjarnadottir, Hazelden (Center City)
The Rev. Claire Cassel, St. Joseph's Hospital and Prince of Peace (Burnsville)
The Rev. Laura Duffee, Christus Victor (Apple Valley)
The Rev. Larry Drumm, Retired
The Rev. Erik Feig, Prince of Peace (Burnsville)
The Rev. Julie GebbenGreen, Edgumbe Presbyterian
The Rev. Brian Gutzmann, HealthEast
The Rev. Jennifer Hackbarth, On Leave from Call
Ms. Sandra Hammerlind, AiM, Luther Seminary
The Rev. John Hogenson, St. Andrew's (Mahtomedi)
The Rev. Keith Homstad, On Leave from Call
The Rev. Thomas Jenkins, Atonement (New Brighton)
Sister Amy Lindquist, Hospitality Center for Chinese
The Rev. William Loughmiller, Retired
The Rev. Jeff Marian, Prince of Peace (Burnsville)
The Rev. Bonnie Nash, Cerenity Health Care
The Rev. Dana Nelson, Iglesia Luterana Evangelica Perumana (Lima, Peru)
The Rev. Katie Nelson, Lyngblomsten (St. Paul)
The Rev. Deb Ost, Allina Health Care
The Rev. David Person, St. Luke (St. Paul)
The Rev. Roger Prescott, Retired
The Rev. Gerry Rafferty, Luther Seminary
The Rev. David Rogge, Abiding Savior (Mounds View)
The Rev. Michael Rogness, Retired
The Rev. Cynthia Senarighi, St. Andrew's (Mahtomedi)
The Rev. Carol Sinykin, Abiding Savior (Mounds View)
The Rev. Susanne Smith, All Saints (Cottage Grove)
The Rev. Diane Sponheim, Shepherd of the Valley (Apple Valley)
The Rev. Chris Stuebing, Shepherd of the Valley (Apple Valley)
The Rev. Kathryn Tiede, Living Waters (Lino Lakes)
The Rev. Angela Way, First (White Bear Lake)
The Rev. Wayne Weissenbuehler, Pilgrim (St. Paul)
The Rev. Michael Wittkamper, Mission Jamaica
The Rev. Mark Woeltge, First (Taylors Falls)

Bishop Rogness prayed in remembrance of pastors who passed away during the past year:

The Rev. Donald Sponheim, *October 5, 2007*
The Rev. Stephen Mahan, *March 10, 2008*

Bishop Rogness thanked the following congregations for their hospitality and arrangements they provided during synod-wide events held this past year:

Augustana (West St. Paul)
Christ the King (New Brighton)
Church of the Redeemer (St. Paul)
Christ Lutheran on Capitol Hill (St. Paul)
Como Park (St. Paul)
Gloria Dei (St. Paul)
Grace (St. Paul)
Gustavus Adolphus (St. Paul)
King of Kings (Woodbury)
Immanuel (St. Paul)
Incarnation (Shoreview)

Luther Seminary
 Prince of Peace (Burnsville)
 Roseville (Roseville)
 St. Mark's (North St. Paul)
 St. Michael's (Roseville)
 Shepherd of the Valley (Apple Valley)

First Common Ballot Results Bishop Rogness called on the Rev. Mark Winkler who gave the results of the first common ballot:

Synod Council Secretary, 4 yr. term *Lay* *Male/Female*
 There were 339 valid ballots, 170 needed for election.
 Ms. Connie Wiegel 233
 Ms. Jan Johnson 106
 Bishop Rogness declared Ms. Wiegel elected.

Committee for Consultation, 6 yr. term *Lay* *Male/Female*
 There were 341 valid ballots, 171 needed for election.
 Mr. Robert Eiselt 105
 Ms. Katherine Tellekson 236
 Bishop Rogness declared Ms. Tellekson elected.

Committee for Consultation, 6 yr. term *Clergy* *Male/Female*
 There were 343 valid ballots, 172 needed for election.
 Rev. Harvey Leuning 121
 Rev. Loren Mellum 123
 Rev. Dale Stiles 99
 Bishop Rogness indicated the Rev. Leuning and the Rev. Mellum would appear on the second ballot.

ELCA Church Council (2) *Clergy* *Male/Female*
Electing to nominate for election at 2009 Churchwide Assembly
 There were 332 valid ballots, 166 needed for election.
 Rev. Martin Ericson 76
 Rev. Loren Mellum 63
 Rev. John Snider 70
 Rev. Kisten Thompson 72
 Rev. Kathryn Tiede 130
 Rev. Carol Tomer 86
 Rev. Ted Vanderpan 46
 Rev. Bonnie Wilcox 125
 Bishop Rogness indicated the Rev. Ericson, the Rev. Tiede, the Rev. Tomer and the Rev. Wilcox would appear on the second ballot.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Clergy* *Male/Female*
 There were 331 valid ballots, 166 needed for election.
 The Rev. Jeff Beebe 41
 The Rev. Kris Capel 29
 The Rev. Tim Housholder 44
 The Rev. Kris Linner 29
 The Rev. John Stiles 34
 The Rev. Paul Tidemann 89
 The Rev. Stephan Turnbull 12
 The Rev. Jim Weckwerth 21
 The Rev. John Wheelock 32
 Bishop Rogness indicated Rev. Beebe, Rev. Housholder, Rev. Stiles, Rev. Tidemann, and Rev. Wheelock would appear on the second ballot.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Clergy* *Male/Female*

Person of Color or Primary Language other than English

There were 342 valid ballots, 172 needed for election.

The Rev. William Siong 342

Bishop Rogness declared Rev. Siong elected.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Lay* *Male/Female*

Person of Color or Primary Language other than English

There were 341 valid ballots, 172 needed for election.

Ms. Sally Ea 341

Bishop Rogness declared Ms. Ea elected.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Lay* *Female*

There were 335 valid ballots, 168 needed for election.

Ms. Joan Duke 93

Ms. Audrey Fairchild-Ehm 72

Ms. Judy Laabs-Foss 71

Ms. Barb Wojahn 28

Ms. Verna Schwagmeyer 24

Ms. Julie Wright 47

Bishop Rogness indicated Ms. Duke, Ms. Fairchild-Ehm and Ms. Laabs-Foss would appear on the second ballot.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Members (3) *Lay* *Male*

There were 321 valid ballots, 161 needed for election.

Mr. Bob Eiselt 85

Mr. Paul Hardt 121

Mr. David Laden 154

Mr. James Elton Morgan 25

Mr. Jerry Neilson 77

Mr. Dave Norhausen 73

Mr. Brian Oberman 97

Mr. John W. Osen 68

Mr. Dave Rausch 88

Mr. Roger Schwagmeyer 46

Mr. Marv Widmark 58

Bishop Rogness indicated Mr. Eiselt, Mr. Hardt, Mr. Laden, Mr. Neilson, Mr. Oberman and Mr. Rausch would appear on the second ballot.

Bishop Rogness declared all conference delegates to be ratified.

Motion: To accept the elections report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.16)

Resolutions Bishop Rogness called on Mr. Neilson to resume the presentation of resolutions for discussion and action.

Resolution 08-5 Resolution in Support of the ELCA Book of Faith Initiative

WHEREAS, all the baptized when they affirm their baptism promise “to hear the Word of God” and “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;”

WHEREAS, all parents and sponsors covenant to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of their children and nurture them in faith and prayer;

WHEREAS, pastors at their ordination vow to be diligent in their study of the Holy Scriptures;

WHEREAS, the ELCA has begun a Book of Faith Initiative inviting everyone to join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become part of the initiative (see www.elca.org/bookoffaith); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we become a Book of Faith synod, committing ourselves to live in and from the Word of God in all our meetings, assemblies and events, so that as we regularly and increasingly hear, read, study, share and are engaged by God’s Word, we lead by example in faithful service and holy living; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the bishop of our synod – who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church” – in coordination with the synod advocate lead this initiative personally and through collaborative programmatic work with congregations of the synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all voting members of this synod assembly covenant together to begin a regular practice of Bible study and prayer, gathering with others in their congregation and/or community to speak and hear the Word from one another; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we celebrate and continue to support and strengthen those places where Scripture is already taught and engaged, such as Women of the ELCA Bible studies, camping and campus ministries, lay schools, congregational councils, Sunday school and other congregational groups; and be it

RESOLVED, that we encourage all congregations to become a Book of Faith congregation, which will find expression by exploring new opportunities for engaging the Bible; sending sufficient numbers of members to synod events for training as Bible study leaders; including biblical study as an integral part of all meetings and groups, in order to become more fluent in the first language of faith – the language of Scripture – that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

Motion: To adopt Resolution 08-5.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.17)

Dwelling in the Word #4

Bishop Rogness called on Mr. David Laden, member of Como Park (St. Paul) and former Synod Council treasurer, for the fourth Dwelling in the Word. Mr. Laden indicated that early in his church involvement, a conversation turned to sharing of stories and he was taken with how precise other’s stories were – that there were specific circumstances that led to their acceptance of Christ. Mr. Laden said much later, while serving as a volunteer with Billy Graham Crusades, conversation again turned to stories, but he still didn’t have one. Mr. Laden shared that sometime during personal study or other learning, he heard the words of Christ. Mr. Laden reminded the assembly that as Lutherans, we are all people of the Word and encouraged us to be diligent.

Keynote Address Part 2 Bishop Rogness called on Dr. Campolo for the second part of his keynote address. In his address, Dr. Campolo discussed power versus authority. According to Dr. Campolo, authority comes through sacrifice and is obeying because you want to. Dr. Campolo said power has the ability to coerce and doesn't have a place in the church. Dr. Campolo indicated the church goes the way of power because it doesn't have authority due to not being very sacrificial. Dr. Campolo stated the church is the only organization in the world that should exist for the benefit of its non-members. Dr. Campolo stated we're willing to be Christian – up to a point – but Jesus is calling us to go beyond that point. Dr. Campolo indicated the reality is that young people are leaving the church, not because they don't have time for the church, but because they don't see the kind of sacrifice Jesus made. Dr. Campolo concluded his remarks by stating that sometimes revival happens not when you get a lot of new people into the church, but when you get a bunch of old people out of the church, then reminded the assembly that the King has one more move.

Opening Worship Offering Bishop Rogness reported that \$10,840 had been collected in the opening worship offering. The offering will be directed to Crossing Bridges.

Recess Following a closing prayer, Bishop Rogness declared the assembly to be in recess until Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 31, 2008 8:30 A.M.

Morning Prayer A service of Morning Prayer was conducted, with Bishop Rogness, Rev. Kristen Capel (Easter – Eagan), and the Rev. Julie Rogness (Christ – Lake Elmo) serving as prayer leaders.

PLENARY SESSION IV Bishop Rogness called the assembly to order.

Credentials Report Bishop Rogness called on Ms. Enfield for the Credentials Report. Ms. Enfield reported the following registrations:

Congregations Registered		109
Voting Members		451
Clergy	196	43 %
Lay	255	57 %
Male	118	
Female	137	
Others		131
Advisors	24	
Visitors	107	
Total Attendance		582

Motion: To accept the Credentials Report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.18)

Second Common Ballot Bishop Rogness requested the pages distribute the second ballot. Time was allowed for the assembly to vote, then Bishop Rogness declared balloting closed.

Crossing Bridges Bishop Rogness indicated there was good news to share in the report on Crossing Bridges, the mission appeal launched in 2006 with a goal of \$2 million. Bishop Rogness introduced the Rev. Gary Anderson, Director of Crossing Bridges, and Ms. Janet Thompson and the Rev. Paul Harrington, co-chairs of the appeal. The trio reminded the assembly that the appeal began two years ago and has four thrusts: 1) Bridges to Future Leaders; 2) Bridges to Ending Poverty; 3)

Bridges to New Missions; and 4) Bridges to Iringa. The group stated that needs are so great that funds raised to date are beginning to be spent, rather than waiting until the appeal is over. The group reported that 58 congregations had made a pledge so far. The group, expressing gratitude for participants' generosity, announced a total of \$1,857,296 (excluding the Opening Worship offering) had been raised. The group concluded their report by challenging the assembly to have 100 percent of the synod's congregations participating in the appeal.

**Bylaw
Amendment**

Bishop Rogness called on Ms. Myrna Nelson, Synod Council Secretary, for presentation of the proposed bylaw amendment. Ms. Nelson read the amendment and provided the rationale for the change.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaw S11.11.21.

The Synod Council shall establish committees as necessary to carry out the responsibilities assigned to it. ~~The description of such committees shall be set forth in the bylaws.~~

Motion: To adopt the amendment to provision S11.11.21. of the synod constitution.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.19)

**Bylaw
Amendment
Notification**

Bishop Rogness notified the assembly of a proposed change to Bylaw S10.01.07, indicating notification was need this year to enable ratification of the change next year.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaw S10.01.07.

Advisory members to the Synod Council shall be seated with voice, but not vote. Those members shall include:

- a. The Synod representative of the Regional Steering Committee;
- b. Chairpersons of duly approved synod auxiliaries;
- c. Synod assistants to the bishop;
- d. Five members of the Council of Deans;
- e. Voting member of the ELCA Church Council from the Saint Paul Area Synod or, if there is no member from the Saint Paul Area Synod, the Minneapolis Area Synod.

**Treasurer's
Report**

Bishop Rogness introduced Ms. Carol Hood, Synod Council Treasurer, who gave the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Hood directed the assembly to the Pre-Assembly Report (pages 52–53), then highlighted various aspects of the budget.

Motion: To adopt the Treasurer's Report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.20)

2009 Budget

Bishop Rogness called on Ms. Hood to present the 2009 Proposed Budget. Ms. Hood directed the assembly to the budget and commentary printed in the Pre-Assembly Report (pages 52–58).

Motion: To adopt the 2009 Proposed Budget.

Motion to

Amend: To reduce the 2009 Proposed Budget for Synod Ministry Initiatives, Companion Synod – Iringa/Tanzania from \$25,000 to \$21,000 and to increase the Synod Ministry Initiatives, Companion Synod – Guatemala from \$4,000 to \$8,000.

ADOPTED (SA08.5.22)

Original Motion (as amended):

ADOPTED (SA08.5.21)

		2006	2007		2008		2009
		Actual	Synod Council Revised	Actual	Synod Assembly Approved	Synod Council Revised	Proposed
INCOME							
Congregational Mission Support		2,232,497	2,288,000	2,256,040	2,345,200	2,335,200	2,358,000
Salary offset - churchwide stewardship		23,300	23,900	23,887	23,900	24,500	24,500
Salary offset - Crossing Bridges & Comp. Synods						24,000	30,000
Interest / Miscellaneous		24,523	20,000	34,082	20,000	20,000	20,000
Transfer from Reserves							
TOTAL INCOME		2,280,320	2,331,900	2,314,009	2,389,100	2,403,700	2,432,500
EXPENDITURES							
I. Synodical Support - ELCA Churchwide Mission	50%	1,116,249	1,144,000	1,128,020	1,172,600	1,167,600	1,179,000
II. Synodical Partnership Ministries							
Luther Seminary		118,132	112,967	111,389	111,000	111,000	112,000
Lutheran Campus Ministry		133,414	136,731	134,821	140,000	140,000	141,200
Colleges/Universities		11,453	5,000	4,930	5,000	5,000	5,000
Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in MN		13,350	13,682	13,491	10,900	10,900	11,000
MN Council of Churches		36,546	31,455	31,016	32,000	32,000	32,300
Southeast Asian Ministry		10,180	10,433	10,287	10,700	10,700	10,800
Region 3		19,646	20,592	20,304	20,600	20,600	21,000
Planned Giving Partnership			3,000	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Eastern MN Resource Center		19,000	8,000	7,917	-	-	-
Ecumenical Relations			800		-	-	-
Other Support		208	600	300	600	600	600
<i>Subtotal</i>		361,929	343,260	334,455	335,800	335,800	338,900
III. Synod Three-fold Vision							
Equipping Leadership Team		2,446	2,500	2,370	2,500	2,500	2,500
Inviting Leadership Team		858	1,500	1,302	1,500	1,500	1,500
Ending Poverty Leadership Team		3,351	5,000	4,840	5,000	5,000	5,000
<i>Subtotal</i>		6,654	9,000	8,511	9,000	9,000	9,000
IV. Synod Ministry Initiatives							
Companion Synod - Iringa/Tanzania		25,009	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Companion Synod - Guatemala		706	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
Urban Strategy		20,586	21,000	21,310	21,000	21,000	21,000
Committees/Task Forces/Training Events		3,638		775	3,000	3,000	3,000
<i>Subtotal</i>		49,939	47,000	48,085	50,000	50,000	53,000
V. Synodical Support of Leaders and Congregations							
Candidacy		18,825	10,500	5,656	10,500	10,500	9,500
Call Process		334	1,000	1,531	1,000	1,000	1,500
First Call Theological Education (Koinonia Center, Colleague Groups)		1,237	750	197	750	750	500
Rostered Support (Counseling, other rostered support, continuing education)		2,511	5,000	2,576	5,000	5,000	3,000
Assistance to Congregations		2,435	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Children, Youth and Family		13,079	12,000	9,021	12,000	12,000	12,000
Gatherings for Rostered Persons (Ministeriums, Theological Conferences)		(1,701)	1,000	1,347	1,000	1,000	1,000
Conference Assemblies		340	750	568	750	750	750
Communications (publications and electronic)		10,413	17,000	14,828	17,000	17,000	16,000
<i>Subtotal</i>		47,474	50,000	35,725	50,000	50,000	46,250
VI. Synod Staff Ministry							
Personnel		550,988	603,976	607,554	631,150	650,150	670,000
Continuing Education		-	3,000	1,753	3,000	3,000	3,000
Office		80,463	85,040	98,841	90,000	90,600	90,000
General Expenses		37,598	41,624	36,357	42,550	42,550	38,350
Synod Council & related		3,908	5,000	2,623	5,000	5,000	5,000
<i>Subtotal</i>		672,957	738,640	747,128	771,700	791,300	806,350
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		2,255,201	2,331,900	2,301,923	2,389,100	2,403,700	2,432,500

Keynote Address Part 3 Bishop Rogness reintroduced Dr. Campolo, who gave the third and final portion of the keynote address. Dr. Campolo began his address by stating the just before the crucifixion, Jesus had met with the disciples in the Upper Room and told them he would be leaving, but that if he left, he would come again and be in them. Dr. Campolo then said there was a big difference between Christ being with us versus Christ being in us. Dr. Campolo indicated Christ will only be in us if we surrender, but when we do, we become the church and become the living body of Christ. Dr. Campolo indicated that we are the physical body of Christ today, in the same sense that Christ was in the body of Jesus. Dr. Campolo said that Jesus could only connect to one individual at a time, but we, as the body of Christ, can each connect to another individual, enabling us to do even greater things. Dr. Campolo stated the we need to start getting young people optimistic about the future, challenging them to be agents to change the world. Dr. Campolo concluded his address by saying the when we surrender and become the body of Christ, we become people who are the voice for those with no voice and that the world would get the Good News: It's Friday, but Sunday's coming!

Fund for Leaders in Mission Bishop Rogness reminded the assembly that as part of the Crossing Bridges campaign, the synod indicated it would raise \$500,000 for assistance to seminary candidates from our synod. Bishop Rogness explained that the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission has two timely angles to their work: 1) synods now have synodical accounts within that fund; and 2) the fund has received three large donations intended to match on a one-for-two basis all gifts given over a three-year period. Bishop Rogness said that a plan constructed to gather a Circle of Leaders with gifts of \$10,000 or more has met with phenomenal response, securing gifts and matches totaling \$437,500 in only two months. Bishop Rogness then introduced the Rev. Paul Hanson, Director for the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission. Hanson stated that over the next several years, pastors will be retiring at a faster pace than they are replaced by new pastors. Hanson said that the ELCA's new pastors are bright and offer wonderful leadership, however, on average, they leave seminary with debt of \$40,000 – almost twice what they can afford on a starting pastor's salary. Hanson stated the synod is taking up that issue, with the goal of everyone going into ministry having significant financial help and coming out not having to think about debt. He thanked the assembly for its support and challenged the assembly to finish the appeal.

Second Common Ballot Results Bishop Rogness called on the Rev. Winkler who reported the results of the second common ballot:

Committee for Consultation, 6 yr. term *Clergy* *Male/Female*
 There were 323 valid ballots, 162 needed for election.
 The Rev. Harvey Leuning 143
 The Rev. Loren Mellum 180
 Bishop Rogness declared the Rev. Mellum elected.

ELCA Church Council (2) *Clergy* *Male/Female*
Electing to nominate for election at 2009 Churchwide Assembly
 There were 324 valid ballots, 163 needed for election.
 The Rev. Martin Ericson 141
 The Rev. Kathryn Tiede 179
 The Rev. Carol Tomer 95
 The Rev. Bonnie Wilcox 203
 Bishop Rogness declared the Rev. Tiede and the Rev. Wilcox nominated and indicated Their names would be forwarded for election at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Clergy* *Male/Female*
 There were 318 valid ballots, 160 needed for election.
 The Rev. Jeff Beebe 47
 The Rev. Tim Housholder 66
 The Rev. John Stiles 44
 The Rev. Paul Tidemann 124

The Rev. John Wheelock 38
Bishop Rogness indicated the Rev. Housholder and the Rev. Tidemann would appear on the third ballot.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Lay Female*

There were 320 valid ballots, 161 needed for election.

Ms. Joan Duke	123
Ms. Audrey Fairchild-Ehm	99
Ms. Judy Laabs-Foss	99

Bishop Rogness indicated all three would appear on the third ballot.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Members (3) *Lay Male*

There were 323 valid ballots, 162 needed for election.

Mr. Bob Eiselt	139
Mr. Paul Hardt	158
Mr. David Laden	203
Mr. Jerry Neilson	96
Mr. Brian Oberman	155
Mr. Dave Rausch	129

Bishop Rogness declared Mr. Laden elected and indicated Mr. Eiselt, Mr. Hardt, Mr. Oberman and Mr. Rausch would appear on the third ballot.

Motion: To accept the Elections Report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.23)

Bishop Rogness informed the assembly that, excluding the Bishop and the Synod Council Vice President, only one member from a congregation can be elected and that in the event two from the same congregation are elected on the third ballot, the individual with the highest vote total will be declared elected and the other individual will be ruled ineligible, with voting continuing as though that person was no longer on the ballot.

**Third
Common
Ballot**

Bishop Rogness requested the pages distribute the third ballot. After time was allowed for the assembly to vote, Bishop Rogness declared balloting closed.

**Book of Faith
Part 2**

After clarifying the Book of Faith initiative was about the Bible (not a book called “Book of Faith”), Bishop Rogness reintroduced the Rev. Jacobson. Jacobson indicated the current culture is that clergy opens the Bible and that a high percentage of laity haven’t attended a Bible study. He then challenged the assembly to imagine a synod where 10 percent of its congregations signed up as a Book of Faith congregation, where 25 percent of its members had participated in a Bible study, and where people brought their Bibles to church and churches had Bibles to use and/or give to those who didn’t have one. Jacobson stated the nature of our faith is that it be discovered and rediscovered and that the Book of Faith initiative is the rediscovery of who we are and who we’re meant to be. Jacobson stated he first got a sense of the of a crisis within the ELCA when he was on an internship and found a family who had invited him for dinner had no idea how to say a table prayer. Jacobson said they didn’t know the basics and he developed a sense that we’ve taken for granted who we are. Jacobson admitted culture was very difficult to change, however he challenged the assembly to make the Book of Faith so constant that you live a life where the Word of God is always part of you. Jacobson indicated he didn’t know why people didn’t attend Bible studies, but stated we will need to change the way the Bible is taught and the way students learn the Bible.

**Dwelling in the
Word #5**

Bishop Rogness introduced Ms. Dawn Alitz, a rostered diaconal minister and active volunteer at Light of the World (Farmington), working on faith formation. Ms. Alitz shared a memory of when her baby was six months old and trying food for the first time, the phone rang, with the caller asking if they would be the Holy Family for a church service. Ms. Alitz said that at the same time, all the food went flying and she wondered if this was what the Holy Family was really like. Ms. Alitz said she then realized that her daughter had just opened Scripture for her and has continued to teach her many things.

Recess Bishop Rogness stated the assembly was in recess until 12:45 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION V Bishop Rogness called the assembly to order.

Dwelling in the Word #6 Bishop Rogness called on his brother, the Rev. Andrew Rogness, for the final Dwelling in the Word. Rogness shared that nine months ago, he was at the Mayo Clinic and was diagnosed with cancer and given a prognosis of 2-6 years. He stated that his first reaction was that everything was surreal, followed by a more philosophical reaction. Rogness related that he was now 60 had had been given the gift of a relatively long life, while their brother's life was cut short at age 24. He acknowledged that he also indulged in a little self pity, but stated that only gets you so far. Rev. Rogness said that he remembered his own advice of facing your fears and taking care of what you can, realizing it would be okay even if your worst fears came true. Rev. Rogness said his thoughts turned to Psalm 23, not dwelling on "the shadow of death", but on "The Lord is my Shepherd." Rev. Rogness shared that when his soul feels thin, he thinks of "He restores my soul" and that helps him resist the urge to fall back into self pity. Rev. Rogness stated he was blessed with a number of people praying for him, the "great cloud of witnesses," and that he trusted in the mystery of prayer. Rev. Rogness said God gives us hope and with that hope, he thought he could extend the prognosis. Rev. Rogness closed by asking the assembly to recite Psalm 23 together.

Credentials Report Bishop Rogness called on Ms. Enfield for the final Credentials Report. Ms. Enfield reported the following registrations:

Congregations Registered				109
Voting Members				452
Clergy	196	43 %		
Lay	256	57 %		
Male	118			
Female	138			
Others				133
Advisors	24			
Visitors	109			
Total Attendance				585

Motion: To accept the final Credentials Report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.24)

Third Common Ballot Results Bishop Rogness called on the Rev. Winkler who reported the results of the third common ballot:

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Clergy* *Male/Female*
There were 298 valid ballots, 150 needed for election.
The Rev. Tim Housholder 108
The Rev. Paul Tidemann 190
Bishop Rogness declared the Rev. Tidemann elected.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Lay* *Female*
There were 304 valid ballots, 153 needed for election.
Ms. Joan Duke 122
Ms. Audrey Fairchild-Ehm 94
Ms. Judy Laabs-Foss 88
Bishop Rogness indicated Ms. Duke and Ms. Fairchild-Ehm would appear on the fourth ballot.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Members (2) *Lay* *Male*
There were 302 valid ballots, 152 needed for election.

Mr. Bob Eiselt	107
Mr. Paul Hardt	159
Mr. Brian Oberman	158
Mr. Dave Rausch	123

Bishop Rogness declared Mr. Hardt and Mr. Oberman elected.

Motion: To accept the Elections Report.
ADOPTED (SA08.5.25)

Fourth Common Ballot Bishop Rogness requested the pages distribute the fourth ballot. After time was allowed for the assembly to vote, Bishop Rogness declared balloting closed.

Servant of Christ Award Bishop Rogness called on the Rev. Alan Loose, Director of Congregational Partnership and Advocacy with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, for the presentation of the *Servant of Christ* award. Loose provided a background of the award, then presented the award to Church of the Resurrection (Roseville).

Future Together Bishop Rogness indicated he wished to share some thoughts concerning his second term as Bishop. Bishop Rogness indicated that 30-40 years ago, 20 percent of a congregation's budget went to the synod, but today the average is 6 percent, just 4 percent in the Saint Paul Area Synod. Bishop Rogness stated this change requires the synod to be careful about where it puts its energies and resources. Bishop Rogness indicated the Church wasn't dying, just changing, and that the Saint Paul Area Synod was incredibly gifted and strong. Bishop Rogness stated his vision of four core values: 1) relationships are more important than programs; 2) outreach is fundamental; 3) we are repairers of the breach; and 4) being Lutheran is an asset. Bishop Rogness concluded his remarks by saying God is in the business of turning us around and making us different.

Fourth Common Ballot Results Bishop Rogness called on the Rev. Winkler who reported the results of the fourth common ballot:

ELCA Churchwide Assembly At-Large Voting Member *Lay* *Female*
 There were 247 valid ballots, 124 needed for election.
 Ms. Joan Duke 119
 Ms. Audrey Fairchild-Ehm 128
 Bishop Rogness declared Ms. Fairchild-Ehm elected.

Sending Video During the assembly, a film crew asked attendees questions such as "How do you see that the world is about to turn?" and "Where in your life, your congregation, your community or the world is God at work – shaping, sculpting, and transforming creation?" A video showing a variety of the responses was shown.

Closing Worship The Closing Worship was held and those elected to positions of leadership were installed. Following the installation, Bishop Rogness declared the 2008 St. Paul Area Synod Assembly closed.