

2016 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly (IN DRAFT)

May 6 – 7, 2016

Can I Get a Witness?

St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN

Reports

Bishop's Report

Bishop Svennungsen shared her pride in the many ministries of our congregations. She lifted up her gratitude for her staff at the Synod office and their ministries. Bishop Svennungsen then shared many highlights and stories of impact over the past year in new and on-going ministries including Ecofaith, World Hunger (\$530K raised!), and others. Faith, public voice and racial justice were front and center in 2015-16. Our synod continued to discern what our voice is to be. Staffing updates mentioned in 2015 were shared. New starts Intertwine and Tapestry are continuing to grow in partners. New goals include a potential capital campaign, to focus on seminary scholarships for students from underrepresented populations; visiting each congregational council; and stewardship development. Bishop Svennungsen closed by sharing her thanks for this ministry and the staff that makes it possible.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by synod treasurer, Ty Inglis. Mr. Inglis gave a brief update on 2015/16 financial highlights and trends. Year ended with a \$27,000 deficit. Over 80% of congregations responded to a request for mission support intent earlier than usual. "Flat is the new up." Mr. Inglis also celebrated the missional and compassionate disbursements made in 2015/16. He concluded his report with words of thanks.

Vice President's Report

The Vice-President's Report was given by synod vice-president, Craig Johnson. Mr. Johnson gave another spirited annual report to the assembly highlighting his many visits throughout the synod's congregations over the past year.

ELCA Churchwide Report

Bishop Svennungsen introduced Ms. Maren Hulden, ELCA Church Council member from MAS, who then shared an informational conversation with Mr. Carlos Peña, ELCA Churchwide vice president. Highlights included the role and duties of VP, the current Churchwide capital campaign and its success, the upcoming Churchwide assembly, and Mr. Pena's perspective on our Church and its future as his term comes to an end after 13 years of service.

Vote and Reception of Bethlehem Lutheran – Twin Cities

Bishop Ann Svennungsen introduced the leadership of newly organized congregation Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Twin Cities, which merged Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis with Minnetonka Lutheran Church, Minnetonka., The church has made application for membership in the ELCA. Gail Nylin, council president of Bethlehem, shared the story of this exciting new partnership. Representatives from the congregation presented a copy of its charter/statement of intent and a copy of their constitution to Bishop Svennungsen

- **The assembly voted unanimously to accept Bethlehem Lutheran – Twin Cities into membership of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA**

Bishop Svennungsen declared this congregation as a duly organized and constituted congregation of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA.

Report from Companion Synods

Pastor Helge Voigt reported to the Assembly about the Leipzig District. Dr. Ibrahim Bitrus spoke to the Assembly about conditions challenging the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria.

Presentations

Telling the Story: Dr. Barbara Lundblad retold two bible stories, to accompany the theme of storytelling: the woman who was healed at the pool of Siloam, and the story of Zaccheus.

Storyteller Mike Mann led the Assembly in 3 presentations on the power of story, and how it relates to offering gracious invitation to others; the presentations included small group practice with telling and re-telling personal stories, as well as listening to the stories of others.

Resolutions and Memorials

- Voted to accept [RC2016-01, Resolution Addressing Racial Injustice](#)
- Voted to accept [RC 2016-02 Memorial Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery](#)
- Voted to accept [RC2016-03, Memorial Urging Stewardship of the Gift of Water, as amended](#)
- Voted to accept [RC 2016-04 Resolution Calling for the Dissolution of Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota, as amended](#)
- Voted to accept [RC2016-05, Revised 2016-2017 Budget](#) of \$2,984,000; with 50% of the \$2,984,000 congregational mission support designated mission support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA
- Voted to accept [RC2015-06, Proposed Budget for 2017 PROPOSED Synod Budget](#) of \$2,984,000 with 50% of congregational giving of the \$2,984,000 designated as mission support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA
- Voted to accept [RC2016-07 Resolution to Authorize the Synod Council to Begin the Process for a Potential Capital Campaign in the Minneapolis Area Synod.](#)

Nominations and Elections

Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the 2016 nominees for election, and asked for the unanimous election of the presented nominees, there being no further nominations from the assembly.

- **Voted to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees to synod council, committees and co-ministries.**

Elected were as follows: (L=Lay, R=Rostered)

Synod Council:

Name	Congregation and Conference
Felecia Boone, LF	Calvary, CE

Stuart Deuring, LM	Bethlehem TC, Minnetonka Campus, SM (PL)
Ross Eichelberger, LM	St. Andrew, SW
Josue Gonzalez, LM	Tapestry, CC
Diane Greve, RF	University Lutheran Church of Hope, CE
Leah Nelson, LF, Youth	Family of Christ, SW

Consultation Committee:

Chris Hagen, RM	Light of Christ
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Discipline Committee:

Name	Congregation
Audrey Erickson, LF	Mt. Carmel
Joel Quie, RM	Prairie Lutheran
Debi Selle, LF	Lyndale Lutheran
Wade Wacholz, LM	Shepherd of the Hills

ELCA Church Council Nominees:

Felecia Boone, LF	Calvary, Minneapolis
Cheryl Chatman, LF	Redeemer, Minneapolis

Announcements

New to the Synod

The following rostered leaders joined the Minneapolis Area Synod in 2015 and 2016:

Rev. Martha Schwehn Bardwell
 Rev. Brent Campbell
 Rev. Amy Chalupnik
 Rev. Karen Cherwien
 Rev. Matthew Fleming
 Rev. Elette Gamble
 Rev. Rebecca Gamble
 Rev. Dr. Christopher Hagen
 Rev. Arnold Hanson
 Rev. Mark Hendrickson
 Rev. David Hoadley
 Rev. Hollie Holt-Woehl
 Rev. Amber Ingalsbe
 Rev. Angela Jacobson
 Rev. Emmy Kegler
 Rev. Dr. Gary Kinkel
 Rev. Kristine Linner
 Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad
 Rev. Emily Meyer

Ms. Lynda Minnick, AiM
Rev. Arthur Montgomery
Rev. Arthur Murray
Ms. Nancy Olson, AiM
Rev. Stanley Olson
Rev. Stephanie Quick Espinoza
Rev. Gretchen Rode
Rev. Lawrence Ruegg
Rev. Christine Ruth
Rev. Christopher Smith
Rev. SiriAnna Strommen Campbell
Rev. Natalia Terfa
Rev. Adam Teske
Rev. Sarah Timian
Rev. Karen Treat
Rev. Susan Vikstrom
Rev. Jonathan Zielske

Introduction of others at the assembly

The following interns are serving in the Minneapolis Area Synod:

Patricia Beadle

Zion Evangelical, Minneapolis

Sheryl Bousu

Nokomis Heights, Minneapolis

Kristopher Coffman

St. Stephen, Bloomington

Mary Fiel

Long Lake Lutheran, Isanti

Anna Helgen

Mount Olive, Minneapolis

Tammy Jacobson

Oak Grove, Richfield

Michelle Lewis

Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer, Minneapolis

Paul Nichol

Prairie, Eden Prairie

Katelyn Rakotoarivelo

Faith-Lilac Way, Robbinsdale

Jacie Richmond

Trinity Lutheran Congregation & Augsburg College, Minneapolis

Kristin Skare

Alleluia, St. Michael

Louis Tillman

Redeemer, Minneapolis

Elise Tweten

Good Shepherd, Minneapolis

Wade Wacholz

Valley of Peace, Golden Valley

The following interns from the Minneapolis Area Synod are serving internships in other parts of the country:

Adam Connolly

Trinity Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN

Katie Escalante

Lake Chelan Lutheran Church, Chelan, WA

Miriam Samuelson-Roberts

Augustana Lutheran Church, West St. Paul, MN

Peter Carlson Schattauer

Gethsemane, Seattle, WA

Matthew Schroeder

Mount Calvary, Eagan, MN

Mary (Cate) Simler

Gloria Dei, St. Paul, MN

Servant of Christ Award

Ms. Jodi Harpstead, CEO of LSS, presented the 2015 Servant of Christ Award to Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis, to recognize the many ways this church supports the work and ministry of LSS.

Anniversary Honorees

The following were honored at a luncheon following Synod Assembly for celebrating milestone anniversaries:

Ordained Ministers

25 Years

Rev. David Lillejord

Rev. Suzanne Ferkey

Rev. Richard Rittmaster

Rev. David Lechelt

Rev. Joseph Crippen

Rev. Dr. Hans Wiersma

50 Years

Rev. Joel Wiberg

Rev. Arthur Montgomery

Rev. Glen Wheeler

Rev. Hilton Hammer
Rev. Donald Knecht
Rev. Raymond Sanders
Rev. Clyde Beissel
Rev. A Robert Molldrem
Rev. David Carlson
Rev. Nils Hellevik
Rev. Donald Luther
Rev. David Scherer

60 Years

Rev. Chandler Pauling
Rev. Orville Olson
Rev. John Lingen
Rev. John Trelstad
Rev. Herman Muus
Rev. Howard Rand
Rev. Richard Hofstad

Commissioned

25 Years

Rev. Mary Brown

The following congregations have significant anniversaries, which were announced on the Synod website:

Congregation Anniversaries

50 Years

Shepherd of the Lake, Prior Lake
Advent, Maple Grove

125 Years

Siloa, Braham
Long Lake, Isanti

150 Years

Augustana, Minneapolis
Zion, Buffalo

Credentials Report

The final Credentials Reports stated that the following voting members were registered and in attendance:

Clergy – 220
Rostered Lay - 15
Elected Lay - 288
Retired Rostered - 15
Total: 540

In accordance with 2009 Synod Assembly Resolution RC2009-3, the following ethnic information was reported concerning the voting membership:

516 Caucasian
8 African
7 African American
3 Asian
0 American Indian/Alaska Native
5 Latino/Latina
1 Multi-ethnic/Multi-racial
24 *Total persons of color or language other than English: 4.4%*

Thank You to the Synod Assembly Volunteers and Sponsors

Bishop Svennungsen once again thanked our hosts at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Synod staff members and all of the hard-working volunteers who helped make the 2016 Synod Assembly a great success, including the Floor Team of Interns, Synod Council members, and Rostered Leaders.

Announcement of 2017 Assembly

Bishop Svennungsen announced the dates for the 2017 Synod Assembly. The correct dates are May 5 and 6, 2017, at a location to be determined.