

**Southeast Michigan Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Thirty-third Synod Assembly
May 14, 2022
Ann Arbor, Michigan**

Minutes

The Thirty-second Synod Assembly of the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America convened in a hybrid format, with many attending in person at Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, and many attending via Zoom, at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 14, 2022.

MORNING PRAYER

The Assembly began with morning prayer at 8:45 AM.

PLENARY SESSION I – Saturday, May 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Donald Kreiss called the Assembly to order for Plenary Session I at 9:00 AM and opened with The Order for the Opening of an Assembly. He commented on the fact that it is good to gather in person after what seems like a very long time, and that this is also the first hybrid assembly held in the Synod with voting members in the Assembly Hall and voting members attending via zoom. He thanked Synod Staff, Pastor Jim Debner and the staff of Zion Lutheran Church for making this assembly possible. The Bishop welcomed the voting members to the Assembly and made announcements. The Assembly offerings will go to support two ministries: Campus Ministries, including Lord of Light at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, and All Together Campus Ministry, and Samaritas' Refugee Resettlement.

ADOPTION OF STANDING RULES OF THE ASSEMBLY

Bishop Kreiss explained the rules under which the Assembly operates.

MOVED: It was moved and seconded to adopt the Standing Rules of the Assembly as recommended by the Synod Council.

SA.22.05.01 ADOPTED 164 yes, 0 no

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Bishop Kreiss presented the Agenda as proposed by the Synod Council.

MOVED: It was moved and seconded to adopt the Agenda as recommended by Synod Council.

SA.22.05.02 ADOPTED 161 yes, 0 no

INTRODUCTIONS

The Bishop introduced the following people:

Mr. Paul Archer, Hope/Dearborn, Vice-President of the Synod

Ms. Sonja Markwart, All Saints/Hartland, Secretary of the Synod

Mr. Daryl Hurley, Treasurer of the Synod, he was unable to be with us today
Pr. Alex Steward, Northwest Lower Synod, Parliamentarian
Mr. George Watson, Chair of the Elections Committee
Pr. Sara Freudenberg, Chair of the Resolutions Committee
Ms. Jo Ellyn Bernardin, representing the Nominations Committee

The Bishop introduced our Churchwide Representative. Dr. Ryan Cumming, who serves as the Education Director for ELCA World Hunger, a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Chelsea, and will present both the ELCA Churchwide Report, and a presentation that grows out of his work with ELCA World Hunger: "More than Food: Our Work Together through ELCA World Hunger". Also, Pr. Kjersten Sullivan, the Michigan representative of the ELCA's Churchwide Church Council, who sends a video greeting as she is attending the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod Assembly.

The Bishop also introduced those serving as Pages at the Assembly:

Vicar Charlie Martin, St. John in Capac
Vicar Janice Locke, St. John in Dundee
Vicar Carm Yero, Iroquois Avenue, Christ in Detroit
Vicar Amy Cooley Higgs, Antioch in Farmington Hills
Vicar Dylan Pyeatt, Lutheran Church of the Master in Troy and Micah 6

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Bishop Kreiss introduced Ms. Beth Fisher, St. John/Farmington Hills, Chair of the Credentials Committee. The report of the Credentials Committee was as follows: As of 9:00 AM May 14, 2022, a total of 226 persons had registered which included:

VOTING MEMBERS: 205 of which 80 (39%) were clergy and 125 (61%) were lay.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE/NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

The Bishop introduced Ms. Jo Ellyn Bernardin, All Saints/Hartland, who presented the Report of the Nominations Committee. The other members of the committee were: Ms. Beth Paulo and Pr. Jack Eggleston also assisted the committee.

The Bishop discussed the process for Nominations from the Floor. Nominations will be asked for after the announcement of each category. Raising your hand either in person or via zoom let's the chair of the assembly know that you will be submitting a nomination form before the elections take place. If there are new nominations, please submit them after we have addressed each category. And, be sure you have secured the assurance from the nominee that they are willing to serve.

SYNOD COUNCIL:

Conference #1- 3 year term (Elect 1)

Jo Ellyn Bernardin – All Saints/Hartland (lay female)
Diane Greble – St. John/Fowlerville (clergy female)

Bishop declared the nominations for Conference 1 closed.

Conference #4 - 3 year term (Elect 1)

Beth Paulo – King of Kings/Shelby Twp. (lay female)

Bishop declared the nominations for Conference 4 closed.

Conference #5 – 3 year term (Elect 1)

Geraldine Udell – First English/Grosse Pointe Woods (lay female)

Bishop declared the nominations for Conference 5 closed.

Conference #10 – 3 year term (Elect 1)

Elizabeth Friedman – Lord of Light/Ann Arbor (clergy female)

Bishop declared the nominations for Conference 10 closed.

Young Adult (18-30 Years) – 2 year term (Elect 1)

Willie Caldwell Jr. – Love Rising/Detroit (lay male)

Kristin McCarthy – Prince of Glory/Madison Heights, Good Shepherd/Royal Oak, Trinity/Clawson (clergy female)

Bishop declared the nominations for the Young Adult category closed.

Bishop Kreiss announced that nominations were complete for all positions.

MOVED: It was moved and seconded to close nominations for all positions.

SA.22.05.03 ADOPTED Yes 161, No 0

MOVED: It was moved and seconded to declare elected all those persons nominated to positions in which there were no contests.

SA.22.05.04 ADOPTED Yes 168, No 1

The Bishop declared the following persons duly elected:

SYNOD COUNCIL:

Conference 4 – 3 year term (Elect 1)

Beth Paulo – King of Kings/Shelby Twp

Conference 5 - 3 year term (Elect 1)

Geraldine Udell – First English/Grosse Pointe Woods

Conference 10 - 3 year term (Elect 1)

Elizabeth Friedman – Lord of Light/Ann Arbor

SYNOD COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

The Bishop introduced Ms. Valinda Vincent, a member of the Synod's Finance Committee, who presented a letter from our Auditor, Schreiber Advisors, P.C., regarding the Audit for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2022.

MOVED: It was moved and seconded to receive the letter from the auditor.
SA.22.05.05 ADOPTED Yes 172, No 0

The final report will be reviewed and accept the report of the auditor by the Synod Council upon its completion.

MOVED: It was moved to authorize Synod Council to review and approve the Report of the Auditor for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2022, when it is completed.
SA22.05.06 ADOPTED Yes 174, No 1

2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Daryl Hurley, Treasurer of the Synod, provided a video presentation of the 2024 budgets, including the proposed Operating Budget and the proposed Fund for Mission Budget. Niklaus Schillack, a member of Synod Council and the Council's Compensation Task Force, provided a video presentation which included the findings of the Compensation Task Force. Following the video presentations, there was time for questions with Ms. Vincent and Pr. Schillack.

REPORT OF THE CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE - STATE OF THE ELCA

Bishop Kreiss introduced Dr. Ryan Cumming. Dr. Cumming is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Chelsea, Michigan and serves as Program Director for Hunger Education for ELCA World Hunger. Dr. Cumming's presentation gave the report on the State of the ELCA. His presentation included a video presentation by The Reverend Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bishop made a number of announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The Bishop recessed Plenary Session I at 10:40 AM for a break. He reminded all attendees to remain logged in to the meeting while they took their break.

BREAK

The Assembly took a short break for refreshments.

PLENARY SESSION II – May 14, 2022

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bishop called Plenary II to order at 11:05 AM. He also made announcements.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Bishop Kreiss introduced Ms. Beth Fisher, St. John/Farmington Hills, Chair of the Credentials Committee. The report of the Credentials Committee was as follows: As of 10:50 AM May 14, 2022, a total of 226 persons had registered which included:

VOTING MEMBERS: 205 of which 80 (39%) were clergy and 125 (61%) were lay.

FIRST BALLOT

The Bishop gave balloting instructions. Voting then took place. The nominees were:

Synod Council:

Conference #1- 3 year term (Elect 1)

Jo Ellyn Bernardin – All Saints/Hartland (lay female)

Diane Greble – St. John/Fowlerville (clergy female)

Young Adult (18-30 Years) – 2 year term (Elect 1)

Willie Caldwell Jr. – Love Rising/Detroit (lay male)

Kristin McCarthy – Prince of Glory/Madison Heights, Good Shepherd/Royal Oak, Trinity/Clawson (clergy female)

MISSION MOMENT – CAMPUS MINISTRIES

A video message from the Campus Ministries in our Synod, including our newest Campus Ministry, All Together, was presented to the Assembly. Pastor Elizabeth Friedman of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Ann Arbor and Pastor Ben Adams of All Together Campus Ministry, serving Wayne State, University of Michigan/Dearborn and Henry Ford College were also introduced to the Assembly.

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE ON FIRST BALLOT

The Bishop asked Mr. George Watson to come forward to give the Report of the Elections Committee on the First Ballot. The Report of the Elections Committee was given by Mr. George Watson – St. James/Grosse Pointe Farms. The results of the First Ballot were as follows:

Synod Council:

Conference #1- 3 year term (Elect 1)

(168 votes cast; needed for election 85)

Jo Ellyn Bernardin – 86 votes

Diane Greble – 82 votes

The Bishop declared Jo Ellyn Bernardin elected.

Young Adult (18-30 Years) – 2 year term (Elect 1)

(176 votes cast; needed for election 89)

Willie Caldwell Jr. – 126 votes

Kristin McCarthy – 50 votes

The Bishop declared Willie Caldwell, Jr. elected.

MISSION MOMENT – ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ANN ARBOR

Pastors Jim Debner Anna Taylor-McCants and Vicky Lovell highlighted the good work being done at Zion including ministries and outreach.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

The Bishop relinquished the Chair to Mr. Paul Archer, Vice-President of the Synod, for the purpose of making the Bishop’s Report to the Assembly. The Bishop addressed the Assembly.

Bishop’s Report 2022

The Hybrid Synod Assembly May 14, 2022

Members and Friends of Southeast Michigan, Dear Ones in Christ,

Grace to you and peace, from God our Creator and Jesus who gives us a new commandment!

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching...” 2 Timothy 3:16

The writer of the letter we know as 2 Timothy (it’s only four chapters, snuggled in between 1 Timothy and Titus, second half of the Bible as I used to tell my confirmation students) was dedicated to spreading the Good News of Jesus, crucified and risen for the sake of the world. It’s classified as a “pastoral epistle,” a letter written to Timothy because he was a leader in a congregation. The letter was written in a time of considerable difficulty for the newly-formed church and provided a long and vivid list of the kind of people young Timothy should avoid. The writer also identified a number of false teachings that Timothy needed to fight against. And perhaps because Timothy had just been given a great deal to accomplish, the writer also offered strong words of encouragement for his ministry, nurtured by Timothy’s mother and grandmother: Eunice and Lois by name.

Specifically, the writer urged Timothy to *“proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching.”* It was good advice then and is good advice now, dear Ones, useful, you might say, not only as an inspired word but also as a reminder to each of us that the particular challenges we now face are not unique to us, and not in any way a sign that God has given up on God’s church.

Rather, it is our responsibility and our privilege to stand at the end of a long line of folks who understood and lived the truth that their relationship with Jesus was the source of their joy and the purpose of their life. Now, given all the other times in which we might have lived and served, we might not have chosen this one. However, and here is the first slice of good news I share with you in this report: we have been called to the work of the church for such a time as this, dear ones, and because the One who calls us is faithful, we can trust that we are and will be equipped for every good work.

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful...” Those words are an affirmation of faith. They are a theological declaration that the Bible contains vast oceans of resources and a nearly endless supply of encouragement, instruction, and exhortation, all leading toward our ongoing Christian formation. I also believe those words are a specific encouragement given to us today: if all scripture is useful, even the books with names we still can’t pronounce with confidence (“Habakkuk” always gives me pause) then each of us can certainly aspire to be useful as well: speaking a word of love, offering a sign of hope, reaching out a hand of welcome and support as we work to mend our broken world.

So here we are at Zion, Ann Arbor, and we--the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America-- have work to do together.

Some of it is routine. Some of it is urgent. And at this Assembly we have committed to gathering both in person and via technology. We're calling it a "hybrid" option, and very talented members of your Synod staff along with some very talented volunteers have worked very, very hard to ensure that we can all hear each other, that all voting members can have an opportunity to address the assembly should you desire to do so, and that we can vote in real time to make decisions and choices and to become better informed about how we--as the body of Christ--are engaged in the world.

As you have seen already, we will use portions of our time today to accomplish the "business" of the church, adopting a budget for the next year, and electing leaders who will help steward our shared life until we meet again in Assembly next year. I hope that you will appreciate the work that has gone into this event, even as we also find out in real time the challenges and the obstacles that come with this type of hybrid event.

So I ask for your patience if we need to work out any hiccups in the technology of this brave new world, and I thank you for the patience you have already shown, the patience that has allowed us to get this far already. The second bit of good news I have to offer in this report is the assurance that we are committed to the agenda adopted by the Synod Council, and that any matter we should not have time to deal with appropriately will be passed back to Council.

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19

That's the prophet Isaiah speaking God's word to the Children of Israel who were at that time thoroughly tired of their exile and desperately eager to get back to a place that was familiar to them. By this point in the COVID pandemic I think that most of us can recognize the feeling of wanting to return to what we knew. And yet COVID hangs on, even here, even now, appearing in new variants that are more contagious but less lethal. Meanwhile, highly effective vaccines are now widely available. For this we give thanks to God.

So after two years, what I hope we have learned is that we need to continue to offer our members and friends the room and the options to choose the practices and protocols that work for each of us. Large dispensers of hand sanitizer are here to stay, dear ones, as well as mask-wearing, and I think it's not a bad idea to have pre-packaged communion set-ups available for those who are not comfortable coming forward with others. While ushers continue to do fine work in our congregations, passing the offering plate may be a custom we have to give up for the foreseeable future. Also it has been my observation that "sharing the peace" has become a much more nuanced activity, and that we are paying better attention to the preferences about physical contact of those around us. These are all good and mostly new things.

The other new thing we have seen spring forth is the use of technology: both on Sunday mornings and during the week. Though we've all had experience by now of the zoom meeting that went waaaaayyyy too long, there is absolutely a place for that technology that allows us to save both travel time and to reduce our carbon footprints. We're doing Bible study, confirmation, council meetings, rostered leaders, and staff meetings all looking at each other in the little boxes. Most of us would still prefer to meet in person, but let us be grateful for the option that allows us more ways to connect.

And by this time, I know that almost every one of our congregations has developed a means to offer worship to those who cannot physically join the congregation on Sunday morning. We're doing live streams, facebook live, and recording services or sermons for downloading later. As the weather begins to warm up (and we do expect that, dear ones, though it's been a long, cold Spring) we expect a resurgence of worship done outdoors. Again, while being present with those we love is wonderful, how great it is to be able to use technology to connect with those who have moved away or are simply unable--for a whole host of reasons--to be present. I don't think that this is going to change anytime soon and expect that we will need to acquire both the right equipment and the expertise that will allow congregations to create opportunities for virtual worship.

The past two years have also been a time of great trial in many of our parishes. You may have heard me say that though I do not believe COVID changed the trajectory of any congregation, it certainly had the power to speed things up. And so it has: during the past two years three of our congregations took faithful and difficult decisions to end their ministry:

Christ the Redeemer in Adrian
St. Andrew's in Bloomfield Hills
St. Mark in Ypsilanti

In each case congregational leaders were supported by neighboring pastors, conference deans and Synod staff. Members were invited to explore other ELCA congregations nearby, and in each case leaders got assistance and advice as they allocated the resources of the parish. So I am pleased to tell you that some of the pots and pans used for the feeding ministry at Christ the Redeemer have worked their way over to our new "FedUP" ministry. Likewise, St. Andrew made a gift to support the training and equipping of interim ministers, and St. Mark shared its monitors and some of its electronics with its sister congregation, Emmanuel of Ypsilanti, and gifted its building to Zion, Ann Arbor.

We are also moving into a time when we are beginning to see "organic" development of what we call in the Synod office "area mission strategies." By that I mean COVID has created an opportunity for neighboring congregations to begin new chapters in ministry on their own initiative, usually with some form of shared pastoral leadership.

So, we see:

Prince of Glory, Madison Heights Trinity, Clawson, and Good Shepherd, Royal Oak

Living into an arrangement whereby each congregation shares both office staff and pastors. Prs. Joel Brandt and Kristin McCarthy provide worship leadership, Christian formation and pastoral care for the three parishes, and together leaders and members at all three places continue to develop the particular gifts and relationships that come with decades of ministry in a community.

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Meanwhile, in the greater Port Huron area we see:

St. Paul and St. Martin, both in Port Huron, along with Pilgrim, Marysville

Being served by pastors Brandon Hunt and Mike Opfermann. There is less formal structure there, and Brandon and Mike are each called their own congregations, but together these pastors and their elected leadership are beginning to envision what a shared and comprehensive ministry strategy might look like, without any of the congregations or their leaders feeling a need to be in competition with the other for members or resources.

So in the "Thumb" and all across the Synod, pastors and congregations have begun sharing some aspects of their ministry online, cooperating for instance in confirmation classes and Bible studies. This adaptation allows members of different congregations to develop friendships and familiarities that are enormously helpful as we look ahead, remembering that we really are the body of Christ, and that we really are better together.

Also, in the north of the Synod,

Salem, Flint and King of Glory, Flushing

These congregations are both served by the redoubtable Pr. Monica Villareal, who, in addition to all her other tasks, continues to advocate for safe drinking water for Flint residents.

Salem and King of Glory share historic ties and King of Glory has just welcomed members of Trinity Episcopal Church to share space as they have moved out of their building. While it is very early days for that relationship, it is good for all of us to remember that one of our particular gifts as the ELCA is an openness to ecumenical partnerships, and a commitment to being "connective tissue" in the body of Christ.

One further and final example of the kind of new ministry going on during this time: Calvary, Clarkston has partnered with Shalom, Pinckney. It's what is called the "Anchor Church Model," and it's intended to

create new opportunities for mission between the two congregations and to offer Shalom space and support during a time of transition.

Prs. Jonathan Heierman and Dan Quagliata lead those congregations while Dan completes candidacy with the ELCA.

I also need to offer thanks to leaders in both places who have undertaken this new way of doing ministry with an enormous amount of patience, faithfulness, and willingness to keep experimenting and evolving for the sake of the gospel.

“So that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”

And while we see the Holy Spirit moving in new ways through the congregations of our Synod, I am delighted to welcome two newly ordained pastors to the Southeast Michigan Synod:

Pr. Jeff Ogonowski (ordained January 15) has been called to serve at St. Philip, Trenton, and

Pr. Karole Langset (ordained February 26) has been called to serve at Emmanuel, Southfield

Both these leaders have been prepared for ministry during the pandemic, and both of them have been very fine additions to our roster in Southeast Michigan.

I also want to express my appreciation for those who are here with us and preparing for ordained ministry in Christ’s church and also Southeast Michigan. Serving in this Assembly are current interns:

Dylan Pyeatt, serving at Micah 6, Pontiac and Church of the Master in Troy

Carm Yero, serving at Christ Iroquois Avenue in Detroit

Amy Cooley Higgs, serving at Antioch in Farmington Hills

Janice Locke, serving at St. John in Dundee

Charlie Martin, who is completing his internship at St. Paul, Capac

In addition to these partners in ministry we have a number of folks who have answered a call to serve and are following a path to rostered ministry. There are too many of them to name here and now, but I hope that you are reassured, as I am, that God keeps calling people into ministry and that they keep saying “yes.” I also want to say thanks for your vigorous support of the Bishop’s Seminarian Fund, which has allowed us to help these candidates with some of their expenses associated with seminary education. It is a great joy to be able to send checks once a year, and to remind those who receive them that members of the Southeast Michigan Synod are holding them in prayer.

And while I am saying “thanks,” let me identify some of those who have been working with grace and dedication during this remarkable year. I want to start with members of Synod staff: Pr. Sean Ewbank and Pr. Jack Eggleston, Ms. Robin McCants and Ms. Beth Fisher. And as always, Ms. Tracy Johnson does our bookkeeping with accuracy and efficiency.

I hope that all of them are well known to you by now, and that you share with me a sense of profound gratitude for their skill, their patience, and their fierce dedication to serving Christ’s church.

Beyond those inadequate words of thanks, I also need to get into some details here.

You will remember that after 16 months of a courageous struggle with her illness, Pr. Lauren Kirsh-Carr died this past Good Friday. I thank you for your expressions of love and concern for her colleagues and her family that you shared with us.

During that entire time that Lauren was unable to work, Beth, Robin, and Sean did a great job of picking up parts of her portfolio, so that each of us acquired a new set of responsibilities in order to keep Synod ministry going forward.

Pr. Jack Eggleston meanwhile, who had stepped away from the Synod office in order to return to parish ministry, returned to work in the Synod office on a part time basis, and filled in with the grace, competence and wisdom that have always characterized his ministry. When I asked Jack if he could help out his only question was “When do you need me to start?” So even though he had been looking forward to a less hectic schedule he picked up the load without hesitation, although I suspect Connie may have had a few things to say when he told her.

Jack, as you prepare a second time to begin a re-ordering of your daily and weekly commitments to serving in Southeast Michigan, I want to say a very personal thank you for your friendship, your care, and your prayers during the time we've worked together. You have been a model of the best kind of servant leadership, and I have learned so much from watching your example and listening to your insights.

Will you join me in thanking Jack? Thank you, dear friend. That's the first thing I need to share with you.

The second thing is this: though the reason for and the timing of this transition are hugely painful, I have asked Pr. Jen Kiefer (Dean and Synod Director of Worship) to take a position on Synod staff as Assistant to the Bishop. I was very gratified when, after prayer and discernment, Pr. Kiefer accepted the offer.

I would like you to be aware that both my consideration of and conversation with Pr. Kiefer began when I understood that Pr. Kirsh-Carr would not be able to return to work in the foreseeable future. Pr. Kirsh-Carr's death and the announcement of Pr. Kiefer's acceptance of the position were regrettably close in time, but that was a function of the timing of congregation council meetings and the most recent meeting of the Synod Council.

I look forward to working with Pr. Kiefer in this new capacity, and trust that you will welcome her onto Synod staff.

I am grateful also for the Conference Deans who have truly served as partners in ministry during this time:

Nathan Allen
Mike Opfermann
Jonathan Heierman
David Parker and Jamey Authier
Denise Grant
Lindsey Anderson and Robin McCants
Rick Hogan
Sara Freudenberg
Jen Kiefer
Lori Carey, who just took over from Alex Clark
Paul Walters

They convene meetings of their conferences on a regular basis, help lead congregations through pastoral transitions, and provide counsel and advice both to their colleagues and to me.

Thank you.

I need also to say thanks to our Directors who are responsible for overseeing specific areas of ministry: Pr. Denise Russell who manages our Candidacy process and Ms. Lisa Jeffreys who guides our Synod Youth.

Mr. Paul Archer serves as your Synod Vice President.

Ms. Sonja Markwart is our Synod Secretary

and Mr. Daryl Hurley serves as our Synod Treasurer.

As you know, Daryl is unable to be here with us today as he has to be a proud father at his daughter's graduation with a Master's in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania. I am grateful therefore that Ms. Valinda Vincent graciously offered to reprise her role as Synod Treasurer for this meeting, and is here with us to answer questions about the budget.

And let me say thanks as well to the members of our Synod Council, elected in Assembly and offering their time and commitment to serve as stewards of our common life. My thanks to:

Jo Ellyn Bernardin
Matthew Bode
Michelle Carlson
Andrew Chavanak
Elizabeth Friedman
Rick Hogan

Michael Johnson
Shavaughn Joyce
Jakob LeBlanc
Nik Schillack
Joyce Partika Staib
Beth Paulo
Maggie Priestaf
Monique Taylor-McCants
Gerry Udell
Rusty Ward

All these volunteer positions require a significant investment in time and talent and each of these leaders serves with grace and dedication. Let me offer them your thanks for their service, as I thank them for their friendship and commitment during these past years.

So.

“For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone” Exodus 18:18b

I realize I used that line in my report last year, but I could not think of a better one.

Let me begin this portion of my report with ***thanks*** for your prayers and your care during this extraordinary time in our life together. I have been moved and strengthened by your patience and your willingness to keep adapting to new circumstances, and by the opportunity to gather again as the COVID numbers have indicated that it was safe to do so.

I also want to observe with you that even though we are gathering again--in most places--we are still not where we were or who we were before the pandemic started more than two years ago. At the beginning of this report, I shared with you some of what I've noticed as I've traveled around the Synod: the small but significant changes in our worship life, for instance. I expect some of those changes are already well on their way to the “That’s the way we’ve always done it,” stage.

But more than those things, I have seen in my visits congregations and congregational leaders really searching for a new equilibrium, or a new “normal.” The abrupt interruption in the patterns of our life together--especially our habit of gathering on Sunday morning--that began in March of 2020 continues to cause disruption and uncertainty. No one except the most dedicated church secretaries charged with keeping membership rolls up to date really has an accurate idea of exactly who has continued to be connected. We spent an enormous amount of time and a great deal of effort reassuring folks that it was possible to create a real worshiping community online. Many, some, at least a few (?) of those folks will have taken that lesson to heart and will only rarely appear again in our church buildings. And who can blame them, when I expect that almost all of us got to experience Sunday worship sitting in pajamas on our couch at home with a cup of coffee in hand?

As I've thought about this, I've thought about the work of a church historian with the delightful name of Phyllis Tickle who died in 2015. It was my pleasure to hear her lecture at Trinity Seminary a number of years ago, and she went for nearly three hours straight without looking at her notes and in perfect command of her material. She was amazing.

Anyway, I have been thinking of her because she was a leader in the “emergence church movement,” and perhaps her best known book was “The Great Emergence--How Christianity is Changing and Why.” That’s for reading when you’ve got a fair amount of time on your hands, but the image that she uses is one that has stuck with me since that lecture.

Every 500 years or so, she said, the church has a “garage sale,” where it gets rid of the things (practices, doctrines, means and methods) it has decided it no longer needs, and goes about an extensive remodeling. So, for example, 500 years ago we were in the middle of the Reformation, a religious revolution focused around the writings of one Martin Luther that led to the diversity of Christianity that we know today.

500 years before that (we’re talking the 11th century now) the Christian church split east/west with the Orthodox going one way and the Roman Catholics going another.

500 years before that (the early 500s for those keeping track) as the Roman empire collapsed around them, leaders in the Christian movement moved out of cities and towns and set up monasteries that kept the gospel and the legacy of Graeco-Roman civilization alive.

And of course, 500 years before that a rabbi named Jesus was wandering around Palestine, gathering disciples and giving his followers a new commandment.

Now you are under no obligation to agree with Dr. Tickle's argument, and it's certainly possible that the timing of those events is purely and simply a matter of coincidence.

For myself, I find comfort in patterns and am grateful for the suggestion that there is an observable cycle to church history. Of course, what this means is that we, dear ones, have the privilege of participating in one of those great moments of the church's garage sale.

Let me offer some immediate comfort: Dr. Tickle was quick to point out that "garage sale" does not mean older practices disappear never to be seen again, Not at all. Instead, what happens in these 500-year intervals is that the Church has developed more diversity and found new ways to be faithful in many places, while preserving meaningful practices in others.

As an example, here in Southeast Michigan I commend to you the residents of St. Augustine's House, a small but vibrant community and the only Lutheran monastery in North America. In my experience the brothers do not expect the rest of us to give up our lives and join them in remote Oxford, but instead they maintain a style of life and faith that is anciently Christian and profoundly meaningful to them and to their guests.

But if you are willing to go along with me for a little while, what all this suggests is that we find ourselves in this time of great change, a moment when it is not at all clear what new habits are being born and what old customs are being given up. It is, let us be honest, an exciting but anxious time when the only thing we can be certain of is much of what we are familiar with is likely to be changing.

Now in some ways I believe we in Southeast Michigan Synod have already stepped into this time of transition. We are, for instance, deeply grateful for the ministry and leadership gifts of folks we know as "Licensed Lay Ministers," those who have spent two years in adult Christian formation to be equipped for preaching, pastoral care, and helping with the administration of a local parish. LLMs are not pastors, (though some of them do go on to seminary and rostered service) but they are prepared to serve the gospel and local congregations in ways that are absolutely vital. Without LLMs a number of our smaller congregations would have no regular worship leadership.

I also want to celebrate and bring to your attention a resurgence of campus ministry that is currently taking place here in the Synod. You got a "mission moment" this morning that highlighted some of the fine work that is taking place both here at Lord of Light in Ann Arbor at U of M, and also at All Together ministry, begun only last year and serving the student communities at Wayne State, U of M Dearborn, and Henry Ford College. We're doing that in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, incidentally. Both those ministries are supported by benevolence dollars from SEMI, dear ones, which means that your congregation is taking part in bringing the good news to a new generation of students and community members. Well done!

FedUP! Will be serving us lunch in just a few minutes, and you're going to love it! It is a non-traditional ministry centered around a food truck and rooted in the idea that all God's children have a right to healthy, affordable food. FedUP and its ordained leader, Pr. Anna Taylor-McCants are based out of Zion, Ann Arbor and serve throughout Washtenaw county.

This ministry is shaped by a conviction that the gospel can be clearly heard when the community gathers around the needs of its most vulnerable: in this case, children and families who experience food insecurity as a part of their regular lives. Lots of our congregations in Southeast Michigan do a fantastic job at supplying and working at food pantries in their own communities. FedUP takes that idea one step further by bringing tasty prepared food out to folks where they live and work and go to school. And again, FedUP

is supported in part by benevolence dollars provided by the national church as well as local congregations, which means dear ones, that your congregation is helping feed hungry people. Well done!

As a last example, I want to point to Living Water Ministry, our camping ministry we share with our siblings in NWL Michigan Synod as well as the Episcopal Diocese. Let me acknowledge: the idea of Christian camping is not a new one. What is new, however, is that this summer, because of visionary leadership, strong fundraising, and the careful stewardship of the proceeds from the sale of Michi-Lu-Ca, there will be no charge for campers to come and spend a week at Stoney Lake.

Did you hear me, dear ones? No charge. Amazing.

What makes it more amazing is that camps across the country, like many of our ministries, took a big hit the past two summers when it was not possible to welcome campers. And some of them have had to close. By way of wonderful contrast, our Executive Director: CJ Clark, and our Associate Director: Nicole McCarthy and the Board of Living Water Ministry have positioned this shared ministry so that it is not only healthy but is fiscally solid enough so that all registered campers will be welcomed without charge.

The good news is that the weeks of camp this coming summer are almost full. The bad news is that if you haven't already registered, you may be out of luck this summer. The good news: there will be summer next year too, and there is hope that we can figure out how to develop a sustainable funding stream that will allow this ministry to go forward. And again, Living Water Ministry is supported in part by the benevolence dollars you provide through your congregational giving. Well done!

Apart from these examples of local ministry, it is my hope to convene a two-day workshop this summer, open to pastors and congregational leaders, to think together and to learn more about best practices for stewardship in a post-COVID church. It is my observation that we are living into a time in the life of our church when we are more and more dependent on the great generosity of a number of givers that gets smaller every year. This is not a healthy model for us to build on.

The encouraging news is that there are folks in the church (or who serve other religious institutions) who know a great deal about these trends, and whose particular gift it is to think deeply and practically about how best to help members grow in their faith by growing in their giving.

I am working at setting up dates and locations for this event but will let you know as soon as possible so that you can make plans both to attend and to consider how to put what you learn into practice before the end of the year.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO DIED.

Pr. Fred Gross	4/21/2021
Pr. David Bracklein	4/22/2021
Pr. Paul Gateman	5/4/2021
Pr. Jerry Volv	8/12/2021
Pr. Eugene Nissen	9/27/2021
Pr. Carey Mack	10/16/2021
Pr. Bill Paul	10/24/2021
Deacon Peggy Vuylsteke	3/2/2022
Pr. Lauren Kirsh-Carr	4/15/2022

“By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
Dear ones, I come to the end of this report with a deep sense of gratitude and a profound sense of being loved and prayed for by many of you all throughout the Synod. That is a blessing I treasure.
I want to share with you two personal notes.

First:

Some of you have asked “What happened?” to the sabbatical I had planned for the summer of 2020. The theme of it was “Pilgrimage,” and Kristin and I hoped to visit three of the historic pilgrimage sites in the west. It was our plan to visit Rome first, and then to spend two weeks on the “Camino de Santiago.” the

historic pilgrimage trail through Spain that ends at Compostela. We would end the trip with time in England, visiting Canterbury Cathedral. It was all planned and nearly all booked.

Then COVID.

2020 was impossible, and 2021 not any better. We had considered trying to put things together for this summer, but when we were planning it was still too early to tell whether we could do and see the things we hoped, or whether the entire visit would be done with masks and distancing and badly timed closures. So, unless global trends radically reverse themselves, (and we have learned that anything is possible these days) it is our plan to take this long awaited sabbatical next summer, leaving in June as soon as the school year has ended. I would ask for your prayers as we plan once more, and your hopes for a healthier world, at least as far as COVID is concerned.

The second thing I want to share with you is my discernment about my call going forward. I name this because my second term as bishop will end when we gather next year at the Synod Assembly in Port Huron, at the Blue Water Convention Center.

It has been an enormous privilege to serve in this office and to get to know and to work with so many of you in so many congregations. I feel like I am still learning, and that (most days) it is a great joy to serve. :) I am also aware that I am now the longest serving bishop in Southeast Michigan, and like it or not, have become a senior member of the Conference of Bishops for the ELCA.

But here's the thing, dear ones: after much discernment and prayer, and a great deal of conversation with colleagues and Kristin, I still believe that I am called to this office and would welcome the chance to continue serving as your bishop for a third time. You don't have to make that decision now, of course, and there are a number of fine pastors in the Synod and beyond who have the gifts to serve you well and faithfully. I just want you to know that I am both willing to and excited by the prospect of continuing to grow together in service and love.

So with thanks to you, and love to Kristin, I will end here for now. May God continue to bless and strengthen us for all that lies ahead.

Bishop Don Kreiss Southeast Michigan Synod May 14, 2022

MOVED: It was moved and supported to receive the Report of the Bishop.
SA.22.05.07 ADOPTED Yes, 168, No, 1

Mr. Archer then returned the Chair to Bishop Kreiss.

PARTNER MINISTRY - ELCA FOUNDATION

The Bishop introduced Sonja Markwart, who serves as the Regional Gift Planner for the Southeast Michigan Synod, with the ELCA Foundation to address the assembly.

PARTNER MINISTRY – HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

The Bishop introduced Pastor Dana Runestad to address the assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bishop made a number of announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The Bishop recessed Plenary Session II at 12:20 PM for lunch.

BREAK

The Assembly took a break for lunch.

PLENARY SESSION III – May 14, 2022

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bishop called Plenary III to order at 1:35 PM. He also made announcements.

DR. RYAN CUMMING

Bishop Kreiss introduced Dr. Ryan Cumming. Dr. Cumming is the Program Director of Hunger Education with ELCA World Hunger where he directs the development of ELCA World Hunger's educational resources, researches trends in hunger and poverty, and assists with communications with partners and congregations. Dr. Cumming addressed the assembly.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Bishop Kreiss introduced Ms. Beth Fisher St. John/Farmington Hills Chair of the Credentials Committee. The report of the Credentials Committee was as follows: As of 1:30 PM May 14, 2022 a total of 226 persons had registered which included:

VOTING MEMBERS: 205 of which 80 (39%) were clergy and 125 (61%) were lay.

RESOLUTIONS

The Bishop introduced Pr. Sara Freudenburg, Chair – Emmanuel/Livonia, Pr. Sharon Smith – St. George/Brighton, and Pr. Jack Eggleston – Synod Staff. Pr. Freudenburg then presented the report of the Resolutions Committee.

MOVED: It was moved and seconded to suspend the rules for the purpose of avoiding the reading of the Resolutions.

SA.22.05.8 ADOPTED Yes 165, No 3

The report of the Committee on Resolution 2022-01 was as follows:

Resolution 2022-01

LIVING WATER MINISTRIES WELCOME TO ALL

Rationale:

The ELCA social statement on human sexuality titled, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," holds four distinct positions for people of varying bound consciences to coexist, including a position that has resulted in the full inclusion for members of the LGBTQIA+ community in the life and leadership of the church in various contexts and expressions.

The life and work of Jesus Christ often emphasizes the inclusion of marginalized and oppressed people, and the mission statement and core values of Living Water Ministries calls the organization to serve "all of God's children" and uphold a "Welcome to all" which

has prompted us to submit this resolution.

RESOLVED that the Southeast Michigan Synod approve Living Water Ministries to enter the process to become a Reconciling in Christ organization. This would result in Living Water Ministries discerning and seeking this designation, publicly declaring its intent and ability to provide safe space for all constituents, including those who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and formally revising policies and procedures as necessary to do so.

Submitted by Pastor Kristin McCarthy - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Royal Oak, Prince of Glory Lutheran Church in Madison Heights, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Clawson.

The resolution committee recommends adoption of this resolution.

The Assembly then voted on the motion to adopt Resolution 2022-1
SA.22.05.9 ADOPTED Yes 163, No 8

Pr. Freudenburg then presented the report of the Resolutions Committee
The report of the Committee on Resolution 2022-02 was as follows:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2022-02 Compensation Equity

Rationale:

Working in the church is a calling more than mere employment. Still, Jesus often talked about money, yet we remain hesitant to do that. It is unclear to many how compensation is determined for our beloved synod staff, especially assistants to the bishop. We want to know that leaders in the synod are paid justly and equitably. Non-ordained staff should receive the same compensation as rostered clergy when years of service, experience and relevant professional leadership are taken into consideration.

Various duties, responsibilities, and functions are all necessary to do the work of the Church. The Apostle Paul wrote, “As it is, there are many parts but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you! And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you.’ ...God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” [I Corinthians 12:20-22, 24-26]

The maxim, “Preach the gospel at all times and use words if necessary,” captures the value of the various positions held in the synod and its congregations. Whether tasked with administration, teaching, community organizing, program development, procurements and application of resources, advocacy, preaching, political activism, or administering the sacraments, all staff of the synod are engaged in ministry to bring about the kin-dom of God in our time. Martin Luther’s precept of the priesthood of all believers contraindicates inequitable compensation of clergy and laity.

A system that values clergy over lay staff fails to speak clearly to the societal problem of pay

inequities between marginalized people and people of privilege. For every dollar that a white man makes, a Black man makes 87 cents, a white woman 83 cents, a Black woman 64 cents, an Indigenous woman 60 cents, and a Latina 57 cents. We can model and address this when we ensure that there is pay equity for members of the synod staff.

The question about compensation for lay synod staff was raised at the 2021 Synod Assembly. We can now take this opportunity to become a leader in the ELCA for equitable compensation for all ministers of the gospel, providing a model for congregations and public witness in the world.

Resolved, that the Synod Council be directed to develop equitable compensation policies that address pay equity by the 2023 Synod Assembly and within the 2024 budget. Development of these policies will be informed by outside consultants (e.g. Paychex), research from others synods in the ELCA, pay equity policies in other organizations particularly in the nonprofit sector and input of the BRRICK Team and Diversity Task Force; and

Resolved, that compensation equity be established as policy in this synod regardless of lay or rostered status, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, race, age, class, ability, disability and other marginal identities. The compensation equity policy shall establish criteria such as years of service and experience, professional skills without regard to clergy or rostered status; and

Resolved, that the Synod Council will establish a task force to develop principals, resources and recommendations to help congregations address compensation equity as part of their practice and public witness.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rev. Anna Taylor-McCants, FedUp Ministries and Zion Lutheran Church Ann Arbor

Shavaughn Joyce, Revelation Lutheran Church, Detroit

Monique Taylor-McCants, Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor

Rev. Kelsay Parker, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Shelby Township

Rev. Lindsey Anderson, Love Rising Lutheran Church, Detroit

Rev. Michael Johnson, Love Rising Lutheran Church, Detroit

Rev. Jen Herrmann, Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, Pontiac

John Wohl, Love Rising Lutheran Church, Detroit

Rev. David Steele, Love Rising Lutheran Church, Detroit

David Corliss, LLM, Trinity Lutheran Church, Riga

Pastor Joel Brandt moved to amend the Resolution to state

Proposed Amendment:

Resolved, that the Synod Council be directed to develop equitable compensation policies that address pay equity by the 2023 Synod Assembly ~~and within the 2024 budget~~. Development of these policies will be informed by outside consultants (e.g. Paychex), research from others synods in the ELCA, pay equity policies in other organizations particularly in the nonprofit sector and input of the BRRICK Team and Diversity Task Force; and

The motion was seconded.

Discussion: The intent was for the resolution to state that it would be within the 2025 budget.

The intent was for this not to be shelved but that there is a due date on the resolution.

Motion to Amend the Amendment:

Resolved, that the Synod Council be directed to develop equitable compensation policies that address pay equity by the 2023 Synod Assembly and within the 2025 budget. Development of these policies will be informed by outside consultants (e.g. Paychex), research from others synods in the ELCA, pay equity policies in other organizations particularly in the nonprofit sector and input of the BRRICK Team and Diversity Task Force; and

The Assembly voted on whether to adopt the Amendment to the Amendment:

SA.22.05.10 ADOPTED Yes 154, No 13

The Assembly voted on whether to adopt the Amendment:

SA.22.05.11 ADOPTED Yes 150, No 6

The Amended Resolution 2022-2 now reads as follows:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2022-02 - AMENDED Compensation Equity

Rationale:

Working in the church is a calling more than mere employment. Still, Jesus often talked about money, yet we remain hesitant to do that. It is unclear to many how compensation is determined for our beloved synod staff, especially assistants to the bishop. We want to know that leaders in the synod are paid justly and equitably. Non-ordained staff should receive the same compensation as rostered clergy when years of service, experience and relevant professional leadership are taken into consideration.

Various duties, responsibilities, and functions are all necessary to do the work of the Church. The Apostle Paul wrote, “As it is, there are many parts but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you! And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you.’ ...God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” [I Corinthians 12:20-22, 24-26]

The maxim, “Preach the gospel at all times and use words if necessary,” captures the value of the various positions held in the synod and its congregations. Whether tasked with administration, teaching, community organizing, program development, procurements and application of resources, advocacy, preaching, political activism, or administering the sacraments, all staff of the synod are engaged in ministry to bring about the kin-dom of God in our time. Martin Luther’s precept of the priesthood of all believers contraindicates inequitable compensation of clergy and laity.

A system that values clergy over lay staff fails to speak clearly to the societal problem of pay inequities between marginalized people and people of privilege. For every dollar that a white man makes, a Black man makes 87 cents, a white woman 83 cents, a Black woman 64 cents, an Indigenous woman 60 cents, and a Latina 57 cents. We can model and address this when we

ensure that there is pay equity for members of the synod staff.

The question about compensation for lay synod staff was raised at the 2021 Synod Assembly. We can now take this opportunity to become a leader in the ELCA for equitable compensation for all ministers of the gospel, providing a model for congregations and public witness in the world.

Resolved, that the Synod Council be directed to develop equitable compensation policies that address pay equity by the 2023 Synod Assembly and within the 2025 budget. Development of these policies will be informed by outside consultants (e.g. Paychex), research from others synods in the ELCA, pay equity policies in other organizations particularly in the nonprofit sector and input of the BRRICK Team and Diversity Task Force; and

Resolved, that compensation equity be established as policy in this synod regardless of lay or rostered status, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, race, age, class, ability, disability and other marginal identities. The compensation equity policy shall establish criteria such as years of service and experience, professional skills without regard to clergy or rostered status; and

Resolved, that the Synod Council will establish a task force to develop principals, resources and recommendations to help congregations address compensation equity as part of their practice and public witness.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rev. Anna Taylor-McCants, FedUp Ministries and Zion Lutheran Church Ann Arbor

Shavaughn Joyce, Revelation Lutheran Church, Detroit

Monique Taylor-McCants, Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor

Rev. Kelsay Parker, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Shelby Township

Rev. Lindsey Anderson, Love Rising Lutheran Church, Detroit

Rev. Michael Johnson, Love Rising Lutheran Church, Detroit

Rev. Jen Herrmann, Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, Pontiac

John Wohl, Love Rising Lutheran Church, Detroit

Rev. David Steele, Love Rising Lutheran Church, Detroit

David Corliss, LLM, Trinity Lutheran Church, Riga

The Assembly then voted on the motion to adopt Resolution 2022-2 as amended
SA19.05.12 ADOPTED Yes 144, No 20

The Memorial which was submitted will be considered by Synod Council. The time allotted did not allow for the Assembly to consider the Memorial listed below.

Memorial 2022-1

Creation of ELCA Strategy Regarding Black Migrants

Rationale

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the years 2015 – 2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent (<https://www.un.org/en/observances/decade-people-african-descent>). Persons of African descent are the most marginalized persons throughout the world, due to the history of colonialism, slave trade, and human trafficking. This legacy continues to cause instability for people of African descent.

Many factors contribute to this ongoing instability. Refugees and internally displaced Africans are often hosted by other African countries or communities within their own countries. These host sites do not have adequate resources to support refugees; therefore these refugees and migrants constitute some of the poorest and most marginalized groups.

Furthermore, African descent migrants may experience discrimination in their access to justice. They face alarmingly higher rates of police violence, and they are frequently subject to racial profiling.

People of the African diaspora in the U.S., Europe, and the Caribbean have made great contributions to societies that enrich all of us. All people deserve the same right to full protection, equal humanitarian aid, full access to justice and due process under U.S. and international immigration laws.

Resolved, that the 2022 Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly to create, fund, and staff a comprehensive strategy that advocates for policies and laws that welcome, receive and support Black migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers; and that provides funding for programs and partners that accompany Black migrants (in particular those in transit in European countries and across Latin borders to the U.S.); and

Resolved, that the 2022 Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, utilizing the support and consultation of appropriate units of this church* and affiliated agencies, expand, staff and fund the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Resources and Opportunities) strategy to offer assistance and support for Black migrants in transit, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. This will include the development of worship and prayer resources that recognize holidays, events, and activities that will encourage solidarity with migrants.

*Directors of African Descent Ministries, African National Ministries, the Service and Justice Home Area, Advocacy, and the Lutheran Office for World Community.

Submitted by:
Unity Lutheran Church, Congregation Council
Ken Grant, Genesis Lutheran Church

The resolution committee recommends adoption of this memorial.

SYNOD COUNCIL ACTION ITEM
ADOPTION OF 2024 BUDGET

The Bishop stated that it was time to vote on the budgets as presented in Plenary Session I, earlier in the day.

MOVED: It was moved and seconded to adopt the 2024 Operating Budget.

The Assembly then voted on the motion to adopt the budget.
SA.22.05.13 ADOPTED Yes 147, No 2

MOVED: It was moved and seconded to adopt the 2024 Fund for Mission Budget.

The Assembly then voted on the motion to adopt the budget.
SA.22.05.14 ADOPTED Yes 152, No 1

The Bishop thanked Treasurer Hurley and the Finance Team for their faithful stewardship in preparing the budgets and management of the finances of the church.

MISSION MOMENT: SAMARITAS' REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

Bishop Kreiss invited Pastor Beth Birkholz to speak about the work of our partner, Samaritas. Pastor Birkholz then addressed the assembly.

CHURCHWIDE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTATION

Pr. Kjersten Sullivan's video message regarding Churchwide Council was shown to the assembly.

VICE PRESIDENT PAUL ARCHER

Paul Archer thanked the Assembly for their work today. He reminded the assembly that the approved budget for 2024 is significantly higher and we need increased mission support to allow the council to support the budget. Vice President Archer urged the members of the assembly to discuss mission support with their congregations.

WORSHIP

The Synod concluded with a celebration the Holy Eucharist with Bishop Donald Kreiss Presiding and Preaching.

Worship included Anniversaries of Congregations and Rostered Leaders:

The service concluded with the Order for the Closing of the Assembly.

The following Congregational Anniversaries were honored and the Assembly offered applause for the milestones reached in the Synod:

Acknowledgement of Anniversaries

Congregations:

St. John, Romeo – 150 Years
St. Paul, Temperance – 100 Years
Hope Lutheran, Dearborn – 75 years
Good Shepherd, Royal Oak – 75 years
Pilgrim, Marysville – 75 years
Lord of Light, Ann Arbor – 50 years

Ordination Anniversaries:

25 years

Michael Walters
Paul Walters
Regina Johnson
Susan Sprowls
Bill Kirsh-Carr

50 years

Al Nelson
Barry Osterbur
Thomas Scherger

55 years

Tim Lentner

60 years

Jay Haite
Marvin Wittkopf
Ronald Rein

65 years

Paul Schubert

ADJOURNMENT

The Thirty-third Synod Assembly concluded at 4:30 PM with the Order for Blessing at the Close of the Assembly..

Respectfully,
Sonja M. Markwart, Secretary