

**THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
of the
EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD OF THE ELCA**

**MINUTES
HOLIDAY INN - FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
AND MANY LOCATIONS CONNECTED VIA ZOOM
AUGUST 14-16, 2020**

Theme: "Living Well"

Preface: Due to concerns for the health and well-being of all participants of the 2020 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly in a year when the global health crisis and rapid spread of COVID-19 have had a significant impact on large gatherings, travel, and rapidly changing public health recommendations, the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council took action to hold the 2020 Assembly solely by means of remote communication.

Unless otherwise noted in the body of the Minutes, all votes that would typically be conducted by showing green or red cards in favor of or in opposition to a motion, were conducted via the Zoom platform with participants indicating Yes or No.

Voting Member Check-In to the Zoom platform took place for one hour preceding the posted start time of each session. For credentialing purposes, once the session was officially called to order, no additional voting members were allowed into that particular session. The deadline for submitting additional resolutions was Noon on Saturday, August 15, 2020. Announcements and videos welcomed voting members during the check-in time.

VIDEOS – From Partner Ministries: Christus Rex, The Way (formerly known as Native American Christian Ministry), Crossroads, Red Willow Ministries, Dacotah O'Yate Lutheran Church, Park River Bible Camp

Friday, August 14 2020 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.) Opening Worship and Plenary Session One

OPENING WORSHIP: (6:30 p.m.)

Rev. Val Teppo led the Opening Worship. Some parts were pre-recorded by musicians and leaders from throughout the synod, others were live from Holiday Inn in Fargo. Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 65:1-2,5-13, Romans 6:1-5, and John 4:5-42. Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe preached on living well, reclaiming Jesus' love as we gather around Christ who is the Savior of the world.

Offerings given at the Assembly totaled \$9,491.92 to benefit South Sudan Lutheran Church in Fargo and ELCA Global Missions for the Central African Republic (Companion Synod of the Eastern North Dakota Synod.) *Announced via email following the Assembly.*

During worship, attendees on the Zoom platform experienced brief audio interference.

PLENARY ONE: (7:21 p.m.)

WELCOME TO THE ASSEMBLY: (7:21 p.m.)

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe formally opened the Assembly.

A welcome video reminded us that "it takes all of us." A second video presented a welcome from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and stories of ways ministries in the ELCA are thriving.

Interim Bishop Wohlrabe welcomed and introduced Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton who joined the Assembly via Zoom. She served as the Churchwide Representative for this year's Assembly. (Bishop Eaton joined via Zoom from Portland, Oregon.)

He also introduced Ms. Kylie Oversen, assembly parliamentarian.

FIRST CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Rev. Val Teppo, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, gave the first report of the Credentials Committee as follows:

VOTING MEMBERS:		
Rostered Leaders	103	33%
Lay	210	67%
Total voting members	313	

Interim Bishop Wohlrabe declared a quorum present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE:

SA.20.08.01 Ms. Beth Christianson-Melby, Our Savior's Lutheran, Hillsboro, moved and it was seconded to adopt the Agenda. **MOTION CARRIED**

SA.20.08.02 Mr. Leon Philpot, Portland Lutheran Parish, Portland, moved and it was seconded to adopt the Rules of Procedure. **MOTION CARRIED**
(see attached Voting Member Handbook document showing the Agenda, Rules of Procedure and other details regarding the Synod Assembly.)

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Dr. Larry Papenfuss, Chairperson of the Elections Committee, presented the committee's report. Names of nominees appeared in the voting member materials that had been distributed electronically prior to the Assembly.

The Bishop-Election Process was conducted according to the process described in the Synod Constitution. Dr. Papenfuss described the steps in that process and introduced the names of the pre-nominees.

Synod Council candidates were nominated by the Conferences during their 2019 caucuses at the Synod Assembly, with additional nominations due by 10:00 p.m. Friday.

The Nominating Committee presented one name each for Multicultural Representative, Young Adult Representative, and Youth Representative to the Synod Council. Additional nominations were due by 10:00 p.m. Friday.

The Nominating Committee presented one name for an ordained member and three names for lay members of the Committee on Discipline. The Assembly was asked to elect one ordained and one lay member for this committee. Additional nominations were due by 10:00 p.m. Friday.

The Nominating Committee presented one name for Synod Secretary, Rev. Kyle Symanski. Additional nominations were due by 10:00 p.m. Friday.

Synod Council members, Committee on Discipline members, and the Synod Secretary were scheduled to be elected Saturday during Plenary Three.

STATE OF THE SYNOD ADDRESS:

Written reports were provided by Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe and Synod Vice-President, Dr. Phyllis Johnson. These reports were included in the voting member materials that were distributed electronically prior to the Assembly.

VIDEO - 2019-20 year in review

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

BALLOT ONE FOR BISHOP

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton explained both the role of the Bishop and the election process.

During the time when Presiding Bishop Eaton was speaking, participants on the Zoom platform lost the audio connection to Fargo. (approximately 8:29 p.m.) During this time of disconnection to audio, the participants on the Zoom platform were able to hear one another. Rev. Christopher Gaule, Grafton Lutheran, Grafton, serving as a member of the synod tech support team, acknowledged the technical difficulties. Not knowing when the issue would be fixed and aware that the ballot on Election Runner had been sent to voting members at 8:30 p.m., he invited voting members to go ahead and vote.

Background music filled in the missing audio link during this time.

The audio connection between Fargo and participants on the Zoom platform was restored at approximately 8:38 p.m. The business of the Assembly continued from the point where it had been interrupted.

Dr. Papenfuss explained the specifics for voting during ballot one for Bishop.

A question was raised by Mr. Leon Philpot, Portland Lutheran Parish, Portland. The ballot launched at 8:30 p.m. and people began voting even though the instructions to vote had not yet been given by Presiding Bishop Eaton.

Presiding Bishop Eaton said that the votes already cast would still count because people could only vote once. The voting window would remain open until 30 minutes after the close of Plenary One, even though the total time from the time the ballots launched would be more than 30 minutes. She asked that voting members refrain from early voting on subsequent ballots.

Following a few announcements and questions, a prayer was led by Ms. Kim Adams and her son Nati Adams.

Presiding Bishop Eaton announced that the first ballot would be open from 8:46 p.m. until 9:16 p.m. and that the Assembly would be in recess until Plenary Two begins on Saturday.

Saturday, August 15, 2020 (10:00 –11:30 a.m.) Plenary Session Two

PLENARY TWO: (10:06 a.m.)

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe noted that the drop in the Zoom connection Friday night affected only the livestream from Fargo.

Comments on the chat function included requests for the host to mute participants who were not the recognized speaker to minimize distracting background sounds. In Fargo, during the several minutes prior to the start of the plenary session, synod staff

read the names of several voting members who were scheduled to vote by alternate methods (text, email, phone) to confirm that they were present and viewing the Assembly with another voting member on the Zoom platform. After these names were read, Rev. Amy Kippen, First Lutheran, New Rockford, noted a few of these people identified that they were present and it appeared that staff could not hear them.

During Saturday's sessions, several brief interruptions to the audio feed were experienced by participants on Zoom.

"LIVING WELL" DEVOTION: (10:06 a.m.)

Deacon Terri Endres of Portico Benefit Services joined the Assembly from home via Zoom and offered a devotion based on John 4:5-42 to begin the day.

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe called the Assembly to order (10:18 a.m.)

Interim Bishop Wohlrabe relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Dr. Larry Papenfuss, Chairperson of the Elections Committee, presented the committee's report of ballot one of the bishop's election.

Total ballots	301
Illegal ballots	1
Total number of legal ballots	300
Number of votes required for election	225 [75%]

Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth	70*	
Rev. Kristina Weber	53*	
Rev. Matt Valan	51*	
Rev. Jessica Daum	40*	
Rev. Michael Jacobson	34*	
Rev. Lynn Ronsberg	26*	
Rev. Ivy Schulz	22*	
Rev. Patrick Patterson	1	withdrew from consideration
Rev. Stephanie Tollefson	1	withdrew from consideration
Rev. Tiffany Jeske Sundeen	1*	
Rev. Charles Olmstead	1	withdrew from consideration

*Advanced to the second ballot

Presiding Bishop Eaton declared that there was no election.

There was an opportunity to practice voting via the Zoom pop-up ballot option.

Presiding Bishop Eaton returned the chair to Interim Bishop Wohlrabe.

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Dr. Larry Papenfuss, Chairperson of the Elections Committee, presented the committee's report of elections for other offices. No additional nominations were received.

ELCA CHURCHWIDE REPORT:

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton presented the ELCA Churchwide report

Bishop Eaton provided an update on what has been happening in the church especially during these months during the global pandemic. The COVID-19 response of the ELCA has helped to provide grants to ministries in 61 synods so far. Gifts received so far have totaled approximately \$1.6 million. The church has not closed. Photos from ministries shared on #ELCACHurchTogether show this. More than 132,000 people have been served through these grants. The ELCA World Hunger fund raised more than \$300,000 for Daily Bread grants. More than 200 congregations participated. Lutheran Disaster Response \$1.5 million has been distributed globally in 36 countries around the world. The church in Juba, South Sudan, is expanding with a new maternity ward. Working with global partners through the Lutheran World Federation, medical supplies, food, and other necessities have been provided.

She also shared a report of what was happening in the ELCA before the pandemic shifted ministry priorities and needs. She also shared that the ELCA Youth Gathering has been rescheduled to July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

SECOND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Rev. Val Teppo, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, gave the second report of the Credentials Committee as follows:

VOTING MEMBERS:

Rostered Leaders	102	32%
Lay	212	68%
Total voting members	314	

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe relinquished the chair to Synod Vice-President Dr. Phyllis Johnson.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:

On behalf of Rev. Kristina Weber, Secretary of the Synod, Vice-President Dr. Phyllis Johnson presented the certified Minutes from the 2019 Synod Assembly.

SA.20.08.03 Rev. Bonnie Weaver, Cando Lutheran, Cando, and Bisbee Lutheran, Bisbee, moved and it was seconded to approve the certified Minutes as the official Minutes of the Assembly. **MOTION CARRIED**

Dr. Johnson thanked Synod Attorney Kristy Albrecht for her assistance in guiding the Synod through the legal work to hold an all-digital gathering of the Assembly. She also thanked the Constitution Review Committee for their work to make recommendations for amendments to the Synod Constitution. She reminded the Assembly that congregations should also review their constitutions regularly, especially after the Churchwide Assembly updates the Model Constitution for Congregations every three years.

Related motion from June 17, 2020, Synod Council meeting.

SC.20.06.65 Rev. Sherri Frederikson moved and it was seconded by Rev. Chimezie Ukaonu to adopt the resolution as presented below regarding amending the Articles of Incorporation to create a new Article XV that reads as follows:

ARTICLE XV

As determined by the Synod Council, a meeting of the voting members of this corporation identified in Article VIII may, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 317A.450, be held solely by one or more means of remote communication. **MOTION CARRIED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE**

Vice-President Dr. Phyllis Johnson returned the chair to Interim Bishop Wohlrabe.

VIDEO - Mission Support in the ELCA

REPORT OF THE TREASURER:

Joe Askew, Treasurer of the Synod, presented the financial reports of the Synod for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2020. He reviewed the 2019 Endowment Fund financial report (FYE 1/31/20), the 2019 actual (audited) Synod Mission Plan (FYE 1/31/20), and the audit report which is available on the Synod website. He presented the approved and revised 2020 Mission Plan (FYE 1/31/21), and presented the proposed 2021 Synod Mission Plan (FYE 1/31/22).

Mr. Askew noted that for the Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2020, 86% of what was shared with Churchwide came back to the Eastern North Dakota Synod as grants and other support.

Mr. Askew noted that congregational support accounts for 77% of funding for the synod. He thanked the congregations and members of the Assembly for their financial support through congregational giving as well as support from individuals during Giving Hearts Day.

SA 20.08.04 Rev. Erika Buller, Bethel Lutheran, Wahpeton, moved to receive the Treasurer's Report and it was seconded. **MOTION CARRIED**

See attached financial reports

RESOLUTIONS:

Rev. Beth Peterson, United Lutheran, Cavalier, Chairperson of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, presented the following resolution for consideration and adoption:

**RESOLUTION #1 2021 COMPENSATION AND POLICY GUIDELINES FOR
 ROSTERED MINISTERS AND LAY PAID STAFF**

WHEREAS, congregations of the Eastern North Dakota Synod request and appreciate the aid and counsel of their companion congregations in this synod and synod leadership in ascertaining fair, equitable, and adequate compensation and benefits for Rostered Ministers and professional staff; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council has discussed and approved these Guidelines and commends them to the 2020 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly and to the congregations of this synod for deliberation and use; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2020 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly adopt, approve, and commend to the congregations of this synod these guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Assembly approve the publication and distribution of these "Guidelines" to congregations of this Synod through the usual and appropriate means employed by the Synod office.

Submitted by the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council

Summary of Proposed Changes for 2021:

- o Rostered Minister Base Salaries – an increase of ~~1%~~ 1.5% plus \$500 for each year of service.
- o Increased pulpit supply rates from \$125 to \$150 per Sunday. 2nd service amount remains the same at \$50.
- o Modified language around health Insurance coverage to align with recommendations from Portico.

SA.20.08.05 The Committee on Reference and Counsel moved to adopt Resolution #1 as amended, so no second was required. **MOTION CARRIED**

Rev. Val Teppo, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, was monitoring the chat during the Assembly. She relayed to Interim Bishop Wohlrabe that Rev. Julie Johnson requested permission to speak to make an amendment.

Rev. Julie Johnson, Our Savior's, Hillsboro, made the amendment to correct the clerical error that appeared in the materials sent to voting members. The actual recommended increase to Rostered Minister Base Salaries is 1.5% (which was what the calculations in the graph in the voting member materials showed) instead of 1%.

During this exchange, participants on the Zoom platform briefly lost audio connection with Fargo. Interim Bishop Wohlrabe repeated for the voting members on Zoom that the amendment was made and seconded.

The Assembly voted via Zoom to approved both the amendment and subsequently the main motion as amended.

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

BALLOT TWO FOR BISHOP

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Dr. Larry Papenfuss explained the process for the second ballot.

The voting for the second and all subsequent ballots of the Bishop's Election was via the Zoom platform or via alternate method for those sharing devices.

Following announcements and questions, a prayer was led by Mr. Matuor Alier.

Presiding Bishop Eaton announced that the second ballot would be open for 5 minutes, beginning at 11:25 a.m.

Pre-recorded music was shared as the voting period was ending.

Presiding Bishop Eaton declared the second ballot closed at 11:32 a.m.

She announced that following the Table Grace from Park River Bible Camp, the Assembly would be in recess until Plenary Three begins on Saturday afternoon.

Saturday, August 15, 2020 continued (1:30 –3:00 p.m.) Plenary Session Three

PLENARY THREE: (1:32 p.m.)

Sister Michelle Walka, the artist who created "Come and See" the theme artwork that appeared on the cover of the bulletin for Friday's worship service, led a brief devotion and prayer.

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe called the Assembly to order (1:35 p.m.)

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Dr. Larry Papenfuss, Chairperson of the Elections Committee, presented the committee's report of ballot two of the Bishop's Election.

Total ballots	306
Illegal ballots	1
Total number of legal ballots	305
Number of votes required for election	229 [75%]

Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth	109*
Rev. Kristina Weber	51*
Rev. Matt Valan	47*
Rev. Jessica Daum	30*
Rev. Michael Jacobson	28*
Rev. Lynn Ronsberg	17*
Rev. Ivy Schulz	15*
Rev. Tiffany Jeske Sundeen	8

*Advanced to the third ballot

Presiding Bishop Eaton declared that there was no election.

Presiding Bishop Eaton returned the chair to Interim Bishop Wohlrabe.

INTRODUCTION OF NOMINEES FOR SYNOD SECRETARY, SYNOD COUNCIL, AND COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE – MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Names of the candidates who were running unopposed were shared on the screen.

Results from Ballot 2 for Bishop were shown again on the screen at the request of a voting member.

THIRD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Rev. Val Teppo, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, gave the third report of the Credentials Committee as follows:

VOTING MEMBERS:		
Rostered Leaders	103	33%
Lay	212	67%
Total voting members	315	

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Interim Larry Wohlrabe announced that the aforementioned people were running unopposed.

BALLOT FOR SYNOD SECRETARY, SYNOD COUNCIL, AND COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE – MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

SA.20.08.06 Rev. Joe Larson, St. Mark's Lutheran, Fargo, moved and it was seconded to vote by acclamation to approve the slate presented by the Synod Nominating Committee for Synod Secretary, Synod Council, and Committee on Discipline – Minister of Word and Sacrament. **MOTION CARRIED.** See list below

Interim Bishop Wohlrabe declared that the following persons were elected to their respective offices:

EAND SYNOD SECRETARY (four-year term):

Rev. Kyle Symanski

EAND SYNOD COUNCIL (two-year term):

Fargo Conference	Rev. Joel Baranko , (ordained)
Grafton Conference	Ms. Rebecca Kjelland , (lay) <i>incumbent</i>
Grand Forks Conference	Rev. Jo Gast , (ordained)
Jamestown Conference	Mr. Jon Lillejord , (lay)
Mayville Conference	no nominee

Prairie Rose Conference **no nominee**

Spirit Lake Conference **Rev. Lori Pankratz**, (ordained)

Wahpeton Conference **Rev. David Bjorklund**, (ordained) **Mr. Steve Anderson**, (lay)
incumbent *incumbent*

Multi-cultural member to **SYNOD COUNCIL** (two year term):

Mr. Leon Philpot, Portland Lutheran Parish (Bang, Bruflat, Perry), Portland
incumbent

Young adult representative to **SYNOD COUNCIL** (one year term):

Ms. JaeLyn Lardy, Lutheran Church of the Cross, West Fargo
incumbent

Youth representative to **SYNOD COUNCIL** (one year term):

Mr. Will Nelson, Atonement Lutheran Church, Jamestown

COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE – ORDAINED (six-year term):

Rev. Diane Krumm – Prairie Rivers Parish, Wyndmere, Lidgerwood, Hankinson

A ballot was posted on the Zoom platform for the election of the lay member of the Committee on Discipline. A one minute voting window opened. Results were scheduled to be shared later during the Assembly.

Nominees for **COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE** (six-year term):

Lay (vote for 1)

Mr. Leon Philpot – Portland Lutheran Parish, Portland

Mr. Josh Rau – Ottawa and Sundahl, Aneta

Mr. Darren Sheggerud – Northwood Lutheran, Northwood

ADOPTION OF THE 2021 MISSION PLAN:

SA.20.08.07 Rev. David Bjorklund, First Lutheran, Enderlin, moved and it was seconded to adopt the 2021 Mission Plan as proposed. **MOTION CARRIED**

Rev. Julie Johnson, Our Savior's, Hillsboro, of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, presented the following resolution for consideration and adoption:

RESOLUTION #2 CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

WHEREAS, the Model Constitution for Synods has been revised by the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA to reflect the changes voted on by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a committee formed within our Eastern North Dakota Synod proposed changes to the EaND Synod Constitution to bring our Constitution into compliance with the current Model Constitution for Synods AND reflect current practices;

WHEREAS, a document outlining the proposed changes in detail is available on the synod website (<http://www.eandsynod.org/events/synod-assembly>); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2020 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly approve the changes made to our Constitution.

Submitted by the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe stated the following:

In keeping with the Synod Constitution, signatures of at least one-fifth of the voting members are required to bring constitutional amendments before the Assembly. One-fifth of the voting members is 68. As of August 13, 2020, signatures of 68 individuals had been received.

SA.20.08.08 The Committee on Reference and Counsel moved to adopt Resolution #2, so no second was required. **MOTION CARRIED**
(see attached document showing all changes, including which items will need to be voted upon for a second time by the 2021 Assembly.)

REMARKS FROM BISHOP NOMINEES

Dr. Larry Papenfuss introduced the seven nominees for the office of Bishop who were invited to speak to the Assembly for 5 minutes each. The order in which nominees spoke was determined by the Nominating Committee who drew names prior to the start of the session.

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
BALLOT THREE FOR BISHOP

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Dr. Larry Papenfuss explained the process for the third ballot.

Following announcements and questions, a prayer was led by Deacon Tara Ulrich.

Presiding Bishop Eaton announced that the third ballot would be open for 5 minutes, beginning at 2:38 p.m.

Pre-recorded music was shared as the voting period was ending.

Presiding Bishop Eaton declared the third ballot closed at 2:43 p.m.

Presiding Bishop Eaton returned the chair to Interim Bishop Wohlrabe.

Interim Bishop Wohlrabe announced the results of the election of the lay member of the Committee on Discipline.

Nominees for **COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE** (six-year term):

	Votes received
Lay (vote for 1)	
Mr. Leon Philpot – Portland Lutheran Parish, Portland	117
Mr. Josh Rau – Ottawa and Sundahl, Aneta	79
Mr. Darren Sheggerud – Northwood Lutheran, Northwood	67

A majority was not achieved by any candidate. Total votes cast = 263

The next ballot was scheduled to occur later in the Assembly with Mr. Leon Philpot and Mr. Josh Rau appearing on the ballot.

VIDEO – Portico Benefits

VIDEO – Holy Innovations Grants

VIDEO – Companion Synod: Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic

Pre-recorded music played as the Assembly awaited results of ballot three for bishop. Voting members participating through the Zoom platform experienced some interruptions of the audio while the videos were shown.

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

RESULTS OF BALLOT THREE FOR BISHOP

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Dr. Larry Papenfuss, Chairperson of the Elections Committee, presented the committee's report of ballot three of the Bishop's Election.

Total ballots	313
Illegal ballots	0
Total number of legal ballots	313
Number of votes required for election	207 [66.7%] or [2/3] see posted
Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth	124*
Rev. Matt Valan	44*
Rev. Jessica Daum	40*
Rev. Michael Jacobson	36
Rev. Lynn Ronsberg	30
Rev. Kristina Weber	30
Rev. Ivy Schulz	9

*Advanced to the fourth ballot.

Presiding Bishop Eaton declared that there was no election.

Presiding Bishop Eaton returned the chair to Interim Bishop Wohlrabe.

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe recessed the Assembly at 3:09 p.m. until Plenary Four on Sunday.

Sunday, August 16, 2020 (9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.) All Synod Worship & Plenary Session Four

ALL SYNOD WORSHIP: (9:00 a.m.)

Musicians and readers pre-recorded

Musicians and readers from throughout the Synod participated with pre-recorded videos. Rev. Joe Larson presided and Rev. Val Teppo served as assisting minister.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preached on John 4:4-42.

Speaking to a world where the Jesus they think they know is not the Jesus they need to know. The woman encountered a living, breathing Jesus in person at her well. The woman has lived through the tragedy of re-establishing households multiple times. She is a survivor. Each opening in their encounter leads to another opening with depth and truth. Jesus sees and knows a real woman. When the woman is seen and known, she can see and know Jesus. Jesus sees and knows us. With Jesus, we can truly live well.

A digital procession of women who have served in Eastern North Dakota and/or were ordained in Eastern North Dakota was included in the worship service to mark the 50th anniversary of women's ordination in the ELCA and its predecessor church bodies, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the ELCA and its predecessor church bodies, and the 10th anniversary since the policy change that enabled LGBTQIA+ ministers to serve publicly out and in partnered relationships in the ELCA.

During the worship service, congregational milestones and ordination anniversaries were recognized for those ordained 25, 50, 60, and 65 years.

125 years – Davenport Lutheran Church, Davenport

100 years – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Jamestown
Havana Trinity Lutheran Church, Havana
Sharon Lutheran Church, Grand Forks
First Lutheran Church, New Rockford

25 Years	Rev. Karl W. Glamm Rev. Michael O'Berg	Ch. Col. David L. Johnson
50 years	Rev. Norman A. Anderson Rev. Russell L. Pollock	Rev. David V. Hyland Rev. Donald G. Swenson
60 years	Rev. James T. Alger Rev. Nels Lillejord	Rev. Daniel G. Faust
65 years	Rev. Harold O. Vold	

The worship service ended at 10:03 a.m. Voting members participating through the Zoom platform experienced periods of very low volume during some of the live portions of worship.

Announcement slides resumed following worship.

VIDEO – Bread of Life Trophy

Awarded to Rev. Elwood Rieke for many years of service dedicated to making sure all are fed.

VIDEO – Ordination and Installation of the Rev. Jessica Miller at the Neighborhood Church, Fargo

PLENARY FOUR: (10:30 a.m.)

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe called the Assembly to order (10:33 a.m.)

Interim Bishop Wohlrabe thanked Bishop Eaton, Pastor Joe Larson, Pastor Val Teppo, Assembly musicians, and Red River Worship for their leadership during worship.

He noted the significance of the 50th anniversary of women's ordination in the ELCA and its predecessor church bodies, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the ELCA and its predecessor church bodies, and the 10th anniversary since the policy change that enabled LGBTQIA+ ministers to serve publicly out and in partnered relationships in the ELCA.

Offerings given at the Assembly benefit ELCA Global Missions for the Central African Republic (Companion Synod of the Eastern North Dakota Synod) and South Sudan Lutheran Church in Fargo.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT:

Dr. Phyllis Johnson, Vice-President of the Synod, welcomed those elected to serve on the Synod Council and offered thanks to departing Synod Council members:

- Ms. Dianne Billey
- Rev. Peter Coen-Tuff
- Rev. Sherri Frederikson
- Rev. Julie Johnson
- Rev. Tim Stoa
- Rev. Chimezie Ukaonu
- Rev. Kristina Weber
- Rev. Tom Westcott

She also thanked Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe, Nominating Committee Chair Dr. Larry Papenfuss, Synod Secretary Rev. Kristina Weber, and Synod Staff: Jakelle Hoffmann, Alia Bartell, Sarah Baumgarten, Shar Gumke, and Rev. Jessica Daum.

FOURTH CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Rev. Val Teppo, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, gave the fourth report of the Credentials Committee as follows:

VOTING MEMBERS:		
Rostered Leaders	94	31%
Lay	211	69%
Total voting members	305	

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH BISHOP NOMINEES

The three nominees for the office of Bishop, Rev. Matt Valan, Rev. Jessica Daum, and Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth, participated in a 45 minute Question and Answer Session. Questions were asked by Dr. Larry Papenfuss from questions that were submitted by voting members of the Assembly. Each participant had up to 2 minutes to answer each question. The order in which nominees answered the questions alternated among the three nominees.

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

BALLOT FOUR FOR BISHOP

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Dr. Larry Papenfuss explained the process for the fourth ballot.

Following announcements and questions, a prayer was led by Ms. Hannah Papenfuss.

Presiding Bishop Eaton announced that the fourth ballot would be open for 5 minutes, beginning at 11:15 a.m.

Presiding Bishop Eaton declared the fourth ballot closed at 11:20 a.m.

Presiding Bishop Eaton returned the chair to Interim Bishop Wohlrabe.

OTHER BUSINESS AND RESOLUTIONS

A ballot was posted on the Zoom platform for the election of the lay member of the Committee on Discipline. A one minute voting window opened. Results were announced by Interim Bishop Wohlrabe following the video from Partner Ministries.

Nominees for **COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE** (six-year term):

	Votes received (*elected)
Lay (vote for 1)	
Mr. Leon Philpot – Portland Lutheran Parish, Portland	160*
Mr. Josh Rau – Ottawa and Sundahl, Aneta	104

Total votes cast = 264

VIDEOS – From Partner Ministries: Christus Rex Campus Ministry at UND

Interim Bishop Wohlrabe declared that Mr. Leon Philpot of Portland Lutheran Parish, Portland, was elected to the Committee on Discipline as a lay member.

Interim Bishop Wohlrabe relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

RESULTS OF BALLOT FOUR FOR BISHOP

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Dr. Larry Papenfuss, Chairperson of the Elections Committee, presented the committee's report of ballot four of the Bishop's Election.

Total ballots	299
Illegal ballots	0
Total number of legal ballots	299
Number of votes required for election	180 [60%]
Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth	149*
Rev. Jessica Daum	107*
Rev. Matt Valan	43

*Advanced to the fifth ballot.

Presiding Bishop Eaton declared that there was no election.

BALLOT FIVE FOR BISHOP

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton explained the process for the fifth ballot.

Following announcements and questions, a prayer was led by Dr. John Pederson.

Presiding Bishop Eaton announced that the fifth ballot would be open for 5 minutes, beginning at 11:31 a.m.

Presiding Bishop Eaton declared the fifth ballot closed at 11:36 a.m.

Presiding Bishop Eaton returned the chair to Interim Bishop Wohlrabe.

VIDEOS – From Partner Ministries: The Way (formerly known as Native American Christian Ministry), Crossroads Campus Ministry at NDSU, Red Willow Ministries

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Dr. Larry Papenfuss, Chairperson of the Elections Committee, presented the committee's report of ballot five of the Bishop's Election.

Total ballots	297
Illegal ballots	1
Total number of legal ballots	296
Number of votes required for election	149 [a majority]
Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth	168*
Rev. Jessica Daum	128

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton declared the Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth elected as Bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod.

Presiding Bishop Eaton thanked Rev. Jessica Daum for her openness to participating in this process and offered a prayer.

Presiding Bishop Eaton returned the chair to Interim Bishop Wohlrabe.

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe thanked all the candidates who participated in the Bishop's Election process, the Assembly Planning Team: Rev. Val Teppo, Rev. Cassie Anderson, Sister Michelle Walka, and Red River Worship, Synod Staff, and Jakelle Hoffmann/Synod Assembly Manager.

Interim Bishop Wohlrabe announced that the 2021 Synod Assembly will be held June 5-6, 2021.

Bishop-Elect Tessa Moon Leiseth addressed the Assembly and offered her thanks.

Interim Bishop Larry Wohlrabe presented a mask with an ELCA logo and a letter to Bishop-Elect Tessa Moon Leiseth and congratulated her on behalf of the Assembly.

CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY: 11:56 a.m.

Interim Bishop Wohlrabe closed the Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Kristina Weber, Secretary of the Synod