

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2018 Synod Assembly Minutes

Davies Center, University of WI - Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI

Theme: Growing Young

Saturday and Sunday, June 2-3, 2018

Saturday Opening of the Assembly

The Synod Assembly day began with welcome at 9am by Bishop Rick Hoyme. Introduction of theme and Paul Oman of Drawn to the Word ministry. Paul was commissioned to paint an illustration of the theme, Growing Young. It was later announced the painting was to be placed for an assembly silent auction. \$950 was raised and donated to Malawi Pastor's Academy of Malawi. A warm thank you was also extended to the Heart of the North conference for leading worship today. Worship offering to be donated to Malawi Pastor's Academy.

Ordinations, anniversaries, and retirements were recognized as follows:

Ordination Anniversaries of 25 years:

Rev. Joel Bacon

Rev. Michael Vetch

Ordination Anniversaries of 50 years:

Rev. Michael Carlson

Rev. Curtis Rohland

Rev. William Stewart

Rev. Calvin Thoreson

Rev. Paul Tobiason

Rev. Eric Zingelman

Retirements Recognized

Rev. Loren Barker

Rev. Thomas Engesser

Rev. Gary Garnatz

Rev. Gail George

Rev. Dale Moe

Rev. Tom McShannock

Rev. Robert Schoenknecht

Opening and Orientation

The 2018 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin(NWSWI) Assembly opened with a welcome from Bishop Rick Hoyme using the dialogue as presented on page 2 of the Assembly Booklet.

Bishop Hoyme introduced those seated on the dais as follows: Lynn Fering, Synod Vice President; Lori Peper, Synod Secretary; Chris Boerger, ELCA Secretary; and Leslie Frost, Synod Parliamentarian.

Bishop Hoyme welcomed voting members and visitors. Visitors were instructed to sit around the perimeter of the assembly hall. The introduction of new seminary graduate Duane Sutherland, Tim Schroeder and Bridget Jones were made and followed by a warm welcome to former NWSWI Bishops Duane Peterson and Bob(Roxie) Berg.

Synod Assembly App

Justin Swanson of the Synod Council instructs assembly to follow twitter feed. Instructions for downloading synod assembly app offered.

Voting Device Instructions

Voting Device Test failed

**** Failure of voting devices required all assembly votes done by voice or paper.**

SA18.06.02.01

VOTED A motion to approve the agenda as printed on page 5 of the Assembly Booklet which is also on the assembly app. **Adopted**

SA18.06.02.02

VOTED A motion to approve the Assembly Guidelines as printed on page 20-22 of the assembly booklet. **Adopted**

Synod Council Meeting Minutes

The 2017 Synod Assembly minutes were approved by the Synod Council on September 09, 2017.

Resolution Reminder

Additional resolutions must be submitted before 11:00am June 2, 2018. If resolution is found to be in order, it will be forwarded to the resolutions committee for 2018 assembly vote.

Introduction to the Election of a Synodical Bishop

Reverend Chris Boerger, Secretary of the ELCA welcomed to the podium. The election of a new bishop is a call process. It is a prayerful, discernment process guided by the Holy Spirit. What do we ask a bishop to do? To be a pastor, servant and symbol of unity called to preach, teach and offer sacraments serving as a prayerful example to the churches of this synod. Accountable to the synod council and assembly as CEO is most importantly a baptized child of God. Guidelines for electing a bishop were reviewed.

Bishop Election Task Force representative, Al Arndt was welcomed to podium to present credentials report as follows:

Complete Morning Credentials Report

Clergy Voting Members 138

Retired Clergy 6

On Leave from Call 3

Lay Voting Members 280 (166 female, 123 male)

Young Adult Voting Members 4

Lay Persons of Color 2

Youth Voting Member 3

Total Voting Members 436

First Ballot for Bishop

Instructions given by Chris Boerger. Paper ballot distributed. Prayer led by Synod Council Member, Rev Marilyn Crossfield.

Synod Assembly Worship - 10:30am

Offering - Malawi Pastor's Academy

Ted Talk Address #1 - 11:45 - Growing Young

Rev Aaron Sturgis of Central Lutheran, Chippewa Falls

Young Adult Global Mission Address

Nate Zimdars of Ripon, WI spent a YAGM year in Senegal.

Election Report of the First Ballot for Bishop

Rev Chris Boerger and Al Arndt offered a report of the first ballot as follows:

Nomination Ballot Results

John Sutherland - 84

Laurie Skow Anderson - 61

Ramie Bakken - 28

Greg Kaufmann - 22

Sarah Semmler-Smith - 13

Keith Ruehlow - 6

Valerian Ahles - 5

Mary Ann Bowman - 5

Mary Jorgensen Erickson - 5

Rolf Mork - 5

Amy Odgren - 5

Paul Oppedahl - 5

Lori Peper - 5

Grant Aaseng - 4

Joanne Conroy - 4

Brian Mundt - 4

Ralph Olson - 4

Duane Pederson - 4

Heather Wigdahl - 4
Nate Aaseng - 3
Eric Bakken - 3
Margaret Grant - 3
Larry Jorstad - 3
Daryl Kyle - 3
Will Mowchan - 3
Paul Oman - 3
Jeffrey Pederson - 3
Jay Ticknor - 3
David Anderson - 2
Randy Skow-Anderson - 2
Lowell Bolstad - 2
James Bump - 2
Maxine Gray - 2
Mark Hall - 2
Martin Halom - 2
Dale Moe - 2
Doug Olson - 2
Durk Peterson - 2
Peter Ruggles - 2
Paul Simmons - 2
Aaron Sturgis - 2
Josh Toufar - 2
Mike Vetch - 2
John David Whelan - 2
Keith Anderson - 1
Rollie Brockbrader - 1
Julie Brendan - 1
Michael Briggs - 1
Tom Bryan - 1
Eric Carlson - 1
Marilyn Crossfield - 1
David Christianson - 1
Dale Chesley - 1
Jason Clifton - 1
Susan Eidahl - 1
Christine Emerson - 1
Peter Friberg - 1
Robert Giese - 1
Diane House - 1
Karen Johnson - 1
Sandy Johnson - 1
Angie Kutney - 1
Annie Ladiner - 1
Ned Lenhart - 1

Peter Muschinske - 1
Brad Peterson - 1
Roger Pitman - 1
Peter Ruess - 1
Phil Ruge-Jones - 1
Timothy Schmidt - 1
Lucy Schottlekorb - 1
Eric Sevig - 1
Edward Zaiser - 1

Legal Votes Cast - 361

Illegal Votes Cast - 4

Total Votes Cast - 365

Votes Needed for Election - 271

**Announcement: All Biographies of Bishop Candidates due by 3pm.

Assembly Lunch Recess - 12pm

Rev Randy Skow-Anderson led rostered leaders in singing table grace for the assembly.

Assembly Reconvened - 1:15pm

Afternoon Credentials Report

434 voting members

Bishop's Report Overview

"Can't steer a car that isn't moving." It's the same with churches and synods. If your church is stuck, don't even try to steer it. Bishop's personal acronym: DRIVE: D - "Devote" time every day to Jesus. R - "Read" 32 books a year. I - "Invest" in key relationships. V - "Vision" make time every day to seek God's vision for your life. E - "Eating and Exercise"

Nominations Committee Report

Phyllis Beaström of the nominations committee presented nominees for Committees, Churchwide Assembly, and Synod Council as printed on page 24 of the Assembly Booklet. Biographical information included.

Election of Synod Council Members

SA18.06.02.03

Voted a motion was made to vote once for all unopposed council members by consensus. Seconded by all. **Adopted.**

Election of Synod Council Members as follows:

Apple River Conference (Clergy) Rev Marilyn Crossfield
Chequamegon Conference(Lay Male) Lyle Roe
Chippewa Valley Conference (Lay Male) Arvin Solsaa
Dairyland Conference (Lay Female) Kathy Boe

Heart of the North Conference (Clergy) Rev Luci Sesvold
Lake Superior Superior Conference(Lay Female) Magge Ericson
St Croix Valley Conference (Lay Female) Marcia Lindseth
Youth Representatives: Savannah Small and Sarah Buchli

Election of 2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

SA18.06.02.04

Voted a motion was made to vote once for all unopposed nominees by consensus.

Seconded by all. **Adopted**

Election of 2019 Churchwide Assembly Unopposed Voting Members as follows:

Tina Kuesel Lay Female Apple River Conference
Rev Angie Kutney Clergy Apple River Conference
Alan Jincinsky Lay Male Chequamegon Conference
Rev Amy Heinz Clergy Chequamegon Conference
Arvin Solsaa Lay Male Chippewa Valley Conference
Annie Halloin Lay Female Chippewa Valley Conference
Rev Jason Clifton Clergy Lake Superior Conference
Michael Kinney Lay Male Lake Superior Conference
Bonnie Wentzel Lay Female Lake Superior Conference
Kathy Enerson Lay Female St Croix Valley Conference
Youth Representative Savannah Small

SA18.06.02.05

Voted Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Election by card or paper vote. **Adopted.**

Election of 2019 Churchwide Assembly Opposed Voting Members as follows:

Sarah Semmler-Smith Clergy Chippewa Valley Conference
Arnie Rongstad Lay Male Dairyland Conference
Rev Rolf Morck Clergy Dairyland Conference
Ted Hakala Lay Male Heart of the North Conference
Rev Luci Sesvold Clergy Heart of the North Conference
Rev Annie Ladnier Clergy St Croix Valley Conference

Nominations Committee Report

Phyllis Beaström of the nomination committee presented nominees for the Synod Consultation Committee as printed on page 25 of the Assembly Booklet.

SA18.06.02.06

Voted a motion was made to vote once for all unopposed nominees for the Consultation Committee members by consensus of the assembly. Seconded by all. **Adopted.**

Consultation Committee Members Elected as Follows:

Gerry Olson Barbara Solsaa
Rev Keith Ruehlow
Rev Mary Eide
Rev Peter Juggles
Trina Groen
Rev Christine Iverson

Mike Joosten

Nominations Committee Report

Phyllis Beaström of the Nominations Committee presented nominees for the Synod Discipline Committee as printed on page 25 of the Assembly Booklet.

SA18.06.02.07

Voted a motion was made to vote once for all unopposed nominees for the Discipline Committee by consensus of the assembly. Seconded by all. **Adopted.**

Discipline Committee Members Elected as Follows:

Rev Ned Lenhart
Rev Sandy Johnson
Renelle Gill
Lyle Roe

Ted Talk Address #2 - 1:50

Mindy Spencer Dykes, Cross Lutheran Church, Roberts, WI.

Second Ballot for Bishop

Instructions given by Christ Boerger. Paper Ballot Distributed. Prayer led by Synod Council Member, Jenny Niemann.

Resolutions Committee Report

Rev David Whelan of the Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 2 as printed on page 38 of the Assembly Booklet.

Resolution 2 - 2019 Minimum Salary Standards for Compensation and Benefits

SA 18.6.02.08

VOTED a motion was made to call for a vote on Resolution 2. **Adopted.**

ELCM Report 2:25pm

Assistant to the Bishop, John Sutherland presents Malawi Report by Video included greetings from brothers and sisters in Malawi. Needs continue to partner with ELCM in: Permaculture. Pastor's Academy. Motorcycles. Bed Nets. Scholarships for Travel to Malawi.

Ted Talk Address #3 Growing Young

Pastor Angie Kutney, Milltown Lutheran Church

Election Report of the Second Ballot for Bishop

Rev Chris Boerger and Al Arndt of the Bishop Election Task Force gives report of the Second Ballot for Bishop.

Second Ballot Results

Laurie Skow-Anderon - 131
John Sutherland - 126
Ramie Bakken - 59

Sarah Semmler-Smith - 39
Joanne Conroy - 16
Rolf Morck - 12
Paul Opendahl - 8
Ralph Olson - 8
Mike Vetch - 7
Margaret Grant - 4
Brian Mundt - 3
Micheal Briggs - 2
Peter Friberg - 2
Jeffrey Pedersen - 0
Peter Ruess - 0
Total Votes Cast 417
 Needed for Election 313

Resolution Committee Report

Rev David Whelan of the resolution committee presented resolution 1 as printed in assembly booklet page 36-37.

Resolution 1: Resolution 2019-20 Operating Mission Budget and Plan.

SA 18.6.02.09

VOTED A motion was made to call for a voice vote on Resolution 1. **Adopted.**

Mission Investment Fund Presentation

Rev Richard Wehrs, MIF regional manager greets assembly and offers video presentation.

Director of Evangelism and Mission Report

Synod DEM, Rev Laurie Skow Anderson reported on available synod grants. Mission and Outreach Grant Applications are due July 1, 2018. She encouraged reaching out into our communities with actions AND words that tell stories of a life lived in Christ. 2017 NWSWI Outreach Grant recipients video shared. Challenge to Congregations: Have an intentional mission and outreach plan!

Portico Report - 3:45pm

Jennifer Prinz shared Video Greetings and updates from Portico.

ELCA Churchwide Report - 3:50pm

Chris Boerger shared greetings from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. A video presented introduced Future Directions 2025 - ELCA's Future Focus. 2017 Current Fund Revenue and Support \$68.9M - Unaudited. NWSWI shared \$481,916 with Churchwide. We are losing 2.5% of our membership each year. Research reveals: Vital Congregations are communities of Jesus that nurture life changing relationship with God, one another and the world." In the coming years, we will be between 1,000 and 2,000 pastors short of filling pastoral vacancies of churches who can afford them. ELCA's Inter-religious policy statement is posted, comments encouraged. We are the bridge denomination the world looks to in ecumenical relations. 2018 Youth Gathering - over 30,000 registered.

Lutheran Disaster Response drew \$22.8 million collected. \$385,500 given from NWSWI. God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday: September 9, 2018. Online Directory directory.elca.org. You can reach Christ at: Chris.Boerger@elca.org

7 Bishop Candidates Question Response - 4:20 - 5:20pm. Candidate biographies distributed to the assembly. 8 candidate response explained by a numerical tie in position number 7.

1. John Sutherland
2. Paul Oppedahl
3. Joanne Conroy
4. Sarah Semmler-Smith
5. Ramie Bakken
6. Rolf Morck
7. Laurie Skow Anderson
8. Ralph Olson

Vice President, Lynn Fering addressed the assembly.

Announcements regarding dinner and invitation made to attend a Bishop's Farewell affair after dinner. Lynn led the assembly in table grace.

Break for Dinner - 5:20pm

Third Ballot for Bishop - 6:30pm

Instructions given by Christ Boerger. Paper Ballot Distributed. Prayer led by Synod Council Member, Rev Lucy Shottelkorb. Vote.

Evening Credentials Report

430 voting members

Assembly Reconvened for a time of Farewell to Bishop Hoyme - 7pm

Preliminary Election Report of the Third Ballot for Bishop

Rev Chris Boerger and Al Arndt of the Bishop Election Task Force gave report of the Third Ballot.

Third Ballot Results

Laurie Skow Anderson - 133

John Sutherland - 78

Sarah Semler-Smith - 68

Ramie Bakken - 51

Joanne Conroy - 33

Ralph Olsen - 15

Rolf Morck - 12

Paul Oppendahl - 7

Total Legal Votes Cast - 397

Votes needed for Election - 265

Sunday Morning Opening of Assembly 8:00am

Vice President Lynn Fering greets the assembly. Voting devices collected.

Opening Devotions 8:15am

Chris Boerger offered devotions regarding the choosing of a leader and the election of the young, biblical David. Guitarist, Rev Steve Meyer led the assembly in song and asked for a blessing on the guitar to be brought to Malawi and gifted to the people.

Bold Generosity Update

Lynn Fering invites Bishop Hoyme to the podium for an update on the Bold Generosity campaign. 63 congregations have pledged, \$350,000 received.

Ted Talk Address #4 Darrel Kyle of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Nabagamom.

Three Final Candidates for Bishop Forum - 9am.

1. Sarah Semmler-Smith
2. John Sutherland
3. Laurie Skow-Anderson.

Morning Credentials Report

438 Voting Members Present

Fourth Ballot for Bishop - 10:40am

Instructions given by Christ Boerger. Paper Ballot Distributed. Prayer led by Synod Council Member, Rev Paul Simmons. Vote.

Lutheran Social Services Report

Hector Colon, President and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan addresses the assembly.

Election Report of the Fourth Ballot for Bishop

Rev Chris Boerger and Al Arndt of the Bishop Election Task Force gave report of the Fourth Ballot.

Fourth Ballot Results

Laurie Skow-Anderson 149

John Sutherland - 138

Sarah Semmler-Smith - 122

Total Votes Cast 408

Votes needed for Election 245

Recess for Brunch - 11am

Assembly Reconvenes - 12pm

Bishop Hoyme addressed the assembly offering thanks to Synod Council, Bishop Elections Task Force Lynn Fering, Rev Kurt Jacobson, Rev Erin Nelson, Phyllis Beasom , Rev Greg Kaufmann, Liz Bartsch, and Al Arndt. He also thanked Prayer Partner support by Sandy Johnson, Jamie Brieske, Steve Meyers, Diane House, Bram Semmler-Smith, Brad Peterson, Barbara Solsaa, Natalie Leske, and Aaron Sturgis, Synod Staff, and Melinda Halom for paraments and stoles that express the assembly theme, Growing Young.

Final Two Candidates for Bishop Forum - 11:30am

1. Laurie Skow-Anderson
2. John Sutherland

Credentials Report

438 Voting Members

Fourth Ballot for Bishop - 12:20pm

Instructions given by Christ Boerger. Paper Ballot Distributed. Prayer led by Synod Council Member, Rev Rolf Morck. Vote.

Bishop Eaton's Leadership Initiative

Rev Ramie Bakken - Video Greeting from ELCA.org/leaders encouraged the assembly to begin now to identify and nominate future leaders from within the congregations for word and sacrament ministry.

Bishop Rick Hoyme - 12:45pm

Introduced and thanked the Bishop Election Task Force and Synod Staff

Synod Assembly 2019 Announcement

May 4, 2019 @ Trinity Lutheran Church, Eau Claire

Election Report of the Fifth Ballot for Bishop

Rev Chris Boerger and Al Arndt of the Bishop Election Task Force gave report of the Fifth Ballot.

Fifth Ballot Results

Laurie Skow Anderson 228

John Sutherland 187

Total Votes Cast 415

Votes Needed for Election 208

******Congratulations to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin's new Bishop
the Rev Dr Laurie Skow-Anderson!!***

Closing of the Assembly - 1pm

Bishop Rick Hoyme made final announcements and led the assembly in the closing liturgy on page 21 of the assembly booklet and declared the 2018 NWSWI Assembly officially closed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev Lori L Peper
Secretary, NWSWI Council