

The four Resolutions as approved at the 2017 AR-OK Synod Assembly

Resolution SA17R1: Resolution for Prison Ministry Expense Reimbursement as follows:

WHEREAS the Synod Council has created a budget line item pursuant to a 2014 Assembly resolution; and

WHEREAS that Assembly resolution limits those budgeted sums to the reimbursement of "travel expense;" and

WHEREAS other needs for the ministry may from time to time command a higher priority than reimbursement of travel expense; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that sums budgeted by Synod Council for Synodically authorized prison ministry pursuant to a resolution of the 2014 Synod Assembly may in fact be utilized to reimburse necessary expenses other than those incurred in travel as approved by the Bishop in consultation as necessary with the Synod Council Executive Committee.

Resolution SA17R2: Resolution to Stop Using Polystyrene in Churches as follows.

Whereas, we see the despoiling of the environment as nothing less than the degradation of God's gracious gift of creation; and

Whereas, humans, in service to God, have special stewardship roles on behalf of the whole of creation and, being made in the image of God, are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth; and

Whereas, polystyrene (Styrofoam TM) containers are used for the intermediate transport of food products for minutes but their environmental impact lasts for centuries; and,

Whereas, there are commercially available products and packaging that can replace polystyrene without economic loss to local congregations; and,

Whereas, most community recycling centers will not accept polystyrene in their recycling program, especially if the Styrofoam contained any kind of food or beverage item; and

Whereas, because polystyrene breaks apart into smaller pieces easily, many of these pieces end up being ingested by birds, mammals and marine life with devastating consequences; therefore be it

Resolved, that all congregations and ministries in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod strongly urged to stop the use of polystyrene by the beginning of 2018 at the very latest; and be it finally

Resolved, that the AR-OK "Believe in Green (BiG) Network" work with congregations and clusters to find economical, more sustainable, and quality alternatives for polystyrene.

Resolved, that all congregations and ministries in the Arkansas-Oklahoma synod take steps to encourage restaurants in their respective communities to use containers other than polystyrene for the purpose of "take home" food by the beginning of 2018

Resolution SA17R3: Resolution to Amend the Synod Constitution as follows:

WHEREAS, the ELCA has provided an updated Model Constitution for Synods, including updated by-laws; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2017 Assembly of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopts the proposed Constitution of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, by-laws, and continuing resolutions as presented in Exhibit A to this resolution.

Resolution SA17R4: Resolution of Thanks as follows:

Whereas, at the 2017 Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Assembly God has richly blessed us through the efforts of many individuals and groups, and

Whereas, each person who has so graciously given of their time, energy, and ability deserves our appreciation;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod gathered in Assembly express our thanks to the following for their respective contributions to our Assembly:

To our Bishop, Mike Girlinghouse, for his caring and concern for the people, congregations, and rostered leaders of our Synod; for making Christ known through his leadership of our synod; and for his wife Terrie and her support for our Bishop.

To our Synod Staff, including Laura Bunch, Ida McAllister, Bill McAllister, Liz Albertson and Carl Hoffman, and the members of the Executive Committee and Synod Council.

To Bishop Guy Erwin for his keynote presentations and helping us think about the meaning of the Reformation for today.

To William Horne II, for sharing the Gospel with us on Friday evening, leading us through the Bishop's election process, and sharing the work of the Churchwide expression of the ELCA.

To Jeremy Fowler-Lindemulder and Trey Davis for leading the music for the beer and hymns celebration on Saturday evening.

To all those who participated in leading worship, especially those who led us through music: the United Lutheran Church Bluegrass Band, Trey Davis, and Eileen Miller and Liz Albertson for presiding on Sunday morning.

To Comunidad de Esperanza, Via de Cristo, Servant's Table, and the Cluster 5 Quilting Group for preparing and serving our meals and to Carol Rowe and Catherine King for providing our break time.

To the Oaks Community for sharing the celebration of its high school graduates with this assembly.

To Ida McAllister, Katherine Tooley and Vernetta Wilson who helped with registration.

To all those who contributed art for the art show.

To all the exhibitors, ministry partners, youth participants, voting members and guests.

To the Lord Almighty for the incredible weather that we have all enjoyed together.

To the members of the Elections Committee and the Reference and Counsel Committee for their service.

For all these gifts we offer God our thanks and praise. To God be the Glory!