



Legislative Update
Wednesday, August 7, 2019

Recognition of Secretary Boerger's Service

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger was recognized for his leadership in this church and his six years of service as secretary with the *Servus Dei* award. This award honors officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the completion of their terms.

Memorials Committee

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee; Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, addressed the memorial relating to recognizing the 50th anniversary of the decision to ordain women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament and the memorial regarding sanctuary. The sanctuary memorial and the other six memorials for discussion will continue to be addressed later in the day and throughout the week.

Category D1: 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

Moved;

Seconded;

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon, Southwest California, Western North Dakota, Northeastern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Nebraska, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Western Iowa, North/West Lower Michigan, Northeastern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Metropolitan New York, Upstate New York, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, and Virginia synods concerning the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament;

To encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women in 2020 and the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition in the United States recognize the diversity of gifts that women's ordination brings to this church;

To call upon synods, congregations and the churchwide organization to recognize the need for repentance and continued examination regarding equity for ministerial leadership and to collaborate in systemic work to address disparities based on gender and race for people in rostered ministry;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with other churchwide units, to conduct a gap analysis of rostered women, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by rostered women of color; and

To recognize the implementing resolutions for the proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action" as a response to the sexism and racism concerns raised by these memorials.

There was a motion to amend the main motion.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried;

Yes-824; No-75

To insert "**and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to remove the barriers to ordination for people in same-gendered relationships**" after the "Lutheran Tradition in the United States"

The memorial was amended.

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon, Southwest California, Western North Dakota, Northeastern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Nebraska, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Western Iowa, North/West Lower Michigan, Northeastern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Metropolitan New York, Upstate New York, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, and Virginia synods concerning the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament;

To encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women in 2020 and the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition in the United States **and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to remove the barriers to ordination for people in same-gendered relationships** and recognize the diversity of gifts that women's ordination brings to this church;

To call upon synods, congregations and the churchwide organization to recognize the need for repentance and continued examination regarding equity for ministerial leadership and to collaborate in systemic work to address disparities based on gender and race for people in rostered ministry;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with other churchwide units, to conduct a gap analysis of rostered women, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by rostered women of color; and

To recognize the implementing resolutions for the proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action" as a response to the sexism and racism concerns raised by these memorials.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

BY MAJORITY

CA19.03.10 To consider this memorial after the vote of the proposed social statement "Faith, Sexism, Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action" and its implementing resolutions.

Category A9: Sanctuary

Moved;

Seconded; To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Metropolitan New York Synod concerning sanctuary;

To reaffirm the long-term and growing commitment of this church to migrants and refugees and to the policy questions involved, as exemplified most recently in the comprehensive strategy Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO);

To recognize that the ELCA in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization are already taking the actions requested by this memorial; and

To request that appropriate staff on the AMMPARO team and the Domestic Mission, Global Mission, and Mission Advancement units review the existing strategies and practices by the five current sanctuary synods and develop a plan for additional tools that provide for education and discernment around sanctuary.

There was a motion to amend the memorial.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-718; No-191

Carried; To amend the motion to add "**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America declares itself a sanctuary church body.**" as the last clause.

There was motion to make an additional amendment to the memorial.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried;

By majority

To amend the motion to add “LIRS” in the fourth paragraph after “AMMPARO team.”

The amendment to the motion passed.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called for the orders of the day. Further discussion on the sanctuary memorial occurred in plenary session five.

Elections: First Common Ballot

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VIII: Report of the Nominating Committee; Addenda to tickets

The Elections Committee distributed ballots for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to elect members to the Church Council, boards of separately incorporated ministries, and boards of churchwide committees. There were 112 tickets for action. The deadline to return ballots to the ballot station was 2:15 p.m.

Elections: First Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Secretary

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton led the assembly in casting the first ballot for secretary. The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 9:37 a.m., 932 voting members had registered to cast ballots.

College Corporation Meetings

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Other, College Corporation Meetings.

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly recessed and convened sequentially at 3:44 p.m. as the college corporation meetings for Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa and Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. The 2019 Churchwide Assembly reconvened at 3:52 p.m.

Memorials Committee (continued)

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee; Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, led the assembly in continued discussion on memorials.

Category A9: Sanctuary

Moved;
Carried;

Passed by majority

To amend the memorial so that the last clause states:

To request the ELCA Church Council, in consultation with the appropriate churchwide units and offices, provide guidance for the three expressions of this church about what it means to be a sanctuary church body and provide a report to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

The amendment to the motion passed.

**ASSEMBLY
ACTION**

BY MAJORITY

**CA19.03.11 To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Metropolitan New York Synod concerning sanctuary;
To reaffirm the long-term and growing commitment of this church to migrants and refugees and to the policy questions involved, as exemplified most recently in the comprehensive strategy Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO);
To recognize that the ELCA in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization are already taking the actions requested by this memorial; and**

To request that appropriate staff on the AMMPARO team, LIRS and the Domestic Mission, Global Mission, and Mission Advancement units review the existing strategies and practices by the five current sanctuary synods and develop a plan for additional tools that provide for education and discernment around sanctuary;

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America declares itself a sanctuary church body; and

To request the ELCA Church Council, in consultation with the appropriate churchwide units and offices, provide guidance for the three expressions of this church about what it means to be a sanctuary church body and provide a report to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly; and

Category A2: Peacebuilding

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-656; NO-224

CA19.03.12 To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Sierra Pacific Synod concerning the creation of a U.S. Department of Peacebuilding but to decline to take action at this time.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Ms. Emma K. Wagner and Mr. James J.F. Jennings, co-chairs of the Reference and Counsel Committee, made the motion to adopt Motion A: “Resolution to Establish June 17th as Emmanuel 9 Day of Repentance” on behalf of the committee. An amendment was proposed to the resolution. After further discussion, Presiding Bishop Eaton called for the orders of the day. The motion will continue to be discussed tomorrow, Thursday, August 8.

Elections: Results of First Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2019 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Secretary, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

The Elections Committee presented the results of the first ballot for secretary. Of the 861 legal ballots cast, none of the nominees received the necessary 646 votes for election. Those who received votes are able to remove their names from being included on the second ballot for secretary. Names must be withdrawn by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8. The list of names on the first ballot can be found in the Guidebook app under the Report of the Elections Committee.

Deadlines for Thursday, August 8, 2019

12:00 p.m. Withdrawal from ballot for secretary

2:15 p.m. Second common ballot (if needed)