

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

South Dakota Synod Assembly

Our Saviors Lutheran Church

Sioux Falls, SD

May 31-June 1, 2019

The thirty-second annual Assembly of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, was held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, May 31-June 1, 2019, with the theme *Come Holy Spirit*.

On Friday, May 31, 2019, at 9:15 a.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT) the opening service of Holy Communion was held in the sanctuary of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. The Rev. David Zellmer, Bishop of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA delivered the sermon. The Rev. Justin Kosec presided.

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Friday, May 31, 2019

10:50 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Welcome and Order for Opening of the Synod Assembly

Bishop Zellmer called the assembly to order at the close of worship.

Greetings and Introductions

Bishop Zellmer made the following introductions: Synod Officers, Carla Borchardt, Vice-president; the Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Secretary; Erik Gilbertson, Treasurer. Other guests Brett Koenecke, Parliamentarian; Reid Christopherson, member of the ELCA Church Council; Betty Oldenkamp, Lutheran Social Services of SD; Paul Hanson, Executive Director of Lutheran Outdoors in SD; the Rev. Ann Rosendale, Campus Pastor at Augustana University; guest musicians Dakota Road; Bill Horne, Vice-President of the ELCA and Churchwide Representative. The chaplain for the assembly is the Rev Norm Eitheim, Bishop Emeritus.

The Synod staff was introduced as follows: the Rev. Charlie Bunk , Companion Synod Coordinator; Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Director of Communications; Lois Borchardt, Business Manager; Crystal McCormick, Candidacy/Mobility Coordinator; Deacon Susan Marone, Associate to the Bishop; Deacon Suzanne Hansen, Youth and Family Director; the Rev. Bill

Tesch, Director for Evangelical Mission; the Rev. Karen Ressel, Director of the Pine Ridge Retreat Center; and Kathy McHenry, Director of Lutheran Planned Giving of SD.

The assembly planning committee members were introduced. They include the Rev. Eric Ohrtmas, the Rev. Beverly Struckman, the Rev. Sami Johnson, Kelsey Lyndoe, Janice Peterson, the Rev. Erik Olson, and the Rev. Justin Kosec.

The Bishop Election Committee was introduced, the Rev. Lon Kvanli, the Rev. Sami Johnson, Dennis Thompson.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Kelsey Lyndoe reported at 9:15 a.m. there were 515 voting members present (Clergy 139; Lay female 225; Lay male 151; Total Lay voting members 376. This number includes 11 youth voting members and 14 voting members who identify as a person of color or whose language other than English). Total visitors and advisory members 52.

Consideration of the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

Bishop Zellmer directed voting members to the Synod Rules of Procedure distributed through the guidebook.

MSC to adopt the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for the 2019 Synod Assembly. SA.19.01

Consideration of the Order of Business

Bishop Zellmer directed voting members to the agenda. He noted that from time to time, he might ask for allowance on the agenda to best facilitate the work of the assembly.

MSC to adopt the agenda. SA.19.02

First Ballot for the Election of Bishop of the South Dakota Synod

Bishop Zellmer called upon Bill Horne, Vice-president of the ELCA, to preside over the first ballot for the Bishop of the South Dakota Synod. Horne shared reflections on the importance of this process, the role of the office of bishop in the church, as a pastor, and the bishop's relationship to other rostered leaders, congregations, and the wider church. Horne also explained the process by which the synod will elect a bishop, using an ecclesiastical ballot.

Horne called upon Bishop Emeritus Norm Eitheim to lead the assembly in a time of devotion and prayer.

Horne ordered paper ballots to be distributed to voting members.

Horne declared voting to be closed and directed that ballots be collected.

State of the ELCA

Bill Horne, Vice-president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, presented the State of the ELCA.

Horne spoke of his call as vice-president, a lay-volunteer position within the church. A video greeting from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was shown, highlighting some of the ministries that we are engaged in together throughout the world. As vice-president, Horne travels across the ELCA and has made an effort to be present in areas of the church that reflect diversity in all its ways.

A core focus for the future work of the churchwide organization is congregational vitality. He directed the assembly to find out more at ELCA.org/future.

Coming before the Churchwide Assembly this coming August is: a Social Statement on Faith, Sexism, and Justice. Read the full statement at elca.org/womenandjustice. Also before the assembly will be an apology to People of African Descent for the church's complicity in slavery and the legacy of racism still present today. While a difficult conversation and topic, the church is called to acts of repentance and reconciliation.

Meal Instructions

The Rev. Randy Gehring extended a greeting from Our Savior's Lutheran Church and offered orientation to the facilities.

The Bishop Emeritus Norm Eitrheim offered a table prayer, and the assembly stood in recess for Lunch and Conference caucuses.

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Friday, May 31, 2019

1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Introductions of Institutions of the Synod

Rachel Nelson, Lutheran Campus Ministry, brought a greeting from all of the Campus Ministry sites from across the synod.

Kathy McHenry brought a greeting from Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota.

The Rev. Ann Rosendale brought a greeting from Augustana University, one of the 26 colleges and universities of the ELCA.

The Rev. Greg Wilcox brought a greeting from the Good Samaritan Society and presented voting members with a gift water bottle.

Carla Borchardt gave instructions for the assembly and warned voting members of the financial consequences of losing voting devices.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Borchardt called for the credentials report. Kelsey Lyndoe reported at 1:00 p.m. there were 529 voting members present: clergy 141; lay female 231; lay male 157, total lay voting members 388.

Report of the First Ballot for Bishop

Borchardt called on Horne to present the results of the first ballot. Horne read the results and declared that no election had occurred. (Legal votes cast were 445.)

VOTE RESULTS

Tesch, Bill	85
Hagmeier, Constanze	60
Opoien, Tom	58
Binstock, Heidi	53
Wounded Head, Herb	24
Gehring, Randy	22
Senner, Rick	21
Stensgaard, Dwight	19
Vehar, Jonathan	18
Hackler, Scott	16
Fett, Randy	14
Otterman, Jeff	6
Hayes, Ramona	5
Lehman, Erica	4
Backer, Jeff	3
Eisele, Jeff	3
Boese, Trisha	2
Docken, Mark	2
Ehrke, Mindy	2
Halaas, Lorna	2
Rasmussen, Ingrid	2
Stjernholm, Paul	2
Whillock, Jeff	2
Anderson, Lando	1
Bolz Weber, Nadia	1
Currant, Amy	1

DeGroot-Nesdahl, Andrea	1
Gage, Ryan	1
Haber, Tonya	1
Johnson, Greg	1
Kauzlarich, Frank	1
Kosec, Justin	1
Matchan, Paul	1
Miller, Janet	1
Nelson, Layne	1
Ohrtman, Eric	1
Olson, Lars	1
Overboe, Dan	1
Piper, Becky	1
Ressel, Karen	1
Schold, David	1
Sorenson, Jeff	1
Westgaard, Gary	1

Voting Devices

Bishop Zellmer gave an orientation to voting with electronic devices, and the assembly was given questions to practice.

Report of the Synod

Bishop Zellmer thanked the synod for the past 12 years of ministry. He directed the assembly to his written report.

Introduction of Resolutions

Bishop Zellmer called upon the Rev. Craig Wexler, chair of the Resolutions Committee to present resolutions before the assembly.

Wexler directed voting members to Resolution #2: Elect Synod Council Members. Resolution #2 comes with a Do Pass recommendation from the Resolutions Committee and per the Synod Rules of Procedure, therefore, does not require a second.

MSC to adopt Resolution #2: Elect South Dakota Synod Council Members

SA.19.03

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, ELCA elect the following conference nominees to the South Dakota Synod Council for a term of four years:

Prairie Coteau Conference (Lay) Michael Miller, Summit
Prairie Coteau Conference (Lay) Pam Seefeldt, Clark
Medary Conference (Lay) Jim Iverson, Madison
Southeastern Conference (Clergy) the Rev. Jim Fowler, Vermillion
Northern Plains Conference (Lay) Stan Jung, Warner
Bear Butte Conference (Clergy) the Rev. Tera Kossow, Bison

Neighbors in Solidarity

The Rev. Jonathan Steiner introduced Neighbors in Solidarity, a way of walking along with mission partners through the three-fold process of “Listen, Pray, and Act”. The assembly was challenged during the break to meet leaders from the synod supported ministries.

Treasurer’s Report

Bishop Zellmer invited Erik Gilbertson to present the Treasurer’s Report and 2019 Mission Plan.

Gilbertson highlighted aspects of his report: the synod had a clean audit report for 2018, the 2019 financial year is on-track with a budget, and the proposed 2020 budget is based on a 1% increase in Mission Support.

Several helpful resources for congregations are available through the ELCA at www.elca.org/resources/financial.

Gilbertson restated that the synod received a Clean, Unqualified Audit Opinion for the 2018 fiscal year. He credited Lois Borchardt, SD Synod Financial manager for her work.

70% of Mission Support goes to ministries (local, state, national, and international), 25% to staff wages and benefits, 5% overhead to support synod ministries, less than 1% for synod governance.

Presentation of the 2019 Mission Plan

The 2019 Mission Plan represents a 1% increase in the overall budget, which is based on estimated congregational pledges. No significant changes are being proposed. The proposed budget maintains current levels of support for the churchwide organization and partner ministries.

Introduction of Resolutions

Bishop Zellmer conceded the chair to Carla Borchardt. Borchardt called upon Wexler to present the next resolution before the assembly.

Wexler directed voting members to Resolution #5: Honor the Ministry of Bishop David Zellmer. Resolution #5 comes with a Do Pass recommendation from the Resolutions Committee and per the Synod Rules of Procedure, therefore, does not require a second.

**MSC to adopt Resolution #5: Honor the Ministry of Bishop David Zellmer
SA.19.04**

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod at this assembly give thanks to God for the ministry of the Rev. David Zellmer; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod confers upon Bishop David Zellmer the honorary title of Bishop Emeritus of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Mission Investment Fund Report

Bishop Zellmer called upon Paula Kitt, Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, to present the fund report. The Mission Investment Fund provides loans to ministries of the church. This ministry is possible because of the congregations and individuals who hold savings accounts with the fund.

Lutheran Social Services

Betty Oldenkamp, President of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota, brought a greeting from LSS. LSS serves in communities across our state, supporting those who live in poverty, financial education services, counseling services, and more.

LSS is currently in the Campaign for Hope, to strengthen the ministries of welcoming newcomers, pregnancy and adoption services, and financial services. All congregations are encouraged to participate in this campaign.

SD Coaching Network Report

The South Dakota Synod has begun a coaching network to support leaders and congregations in intentional conversation. Jamie Duprey introduced the ministry to build up strong leaders through a coaching process. Rostered Leaders and laypersons who are interested in the coaching process, either as a coach or to receive coaching, should contact Duprey.

Bishop Election – Second Ballot

Bishop Zellmer called upon Bill Horne to lead the assembly through the second ballot of Bishop of the South Dakota Synod.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Borchardt called for the credentials report. Kelsey Lyndoe reported at 2:10 p.m. there were 530 voting members present (Clergy 141; Lay female 231; Lay male 158; Total Lay voting members 389).

Horne overviewed the next steps in the election process.

Bishop Emeritus Norm Eitrheim to lead the assembly in a time of devotion and prayer.

Horne directed tellers to distribute paper ballots to voting members.

Horne declared voting to be closed and ordered ballots to be collected.

The assembly stood in recess.

At 3:30 PM, the assembly reconvened.

General Ballot

Bishop Zellmer introduced the general ballot. Each vacancy comes nominated from the corresponding conference.

MSC to election by unanimous consent the following:

Discipline Committee:

**Clergy – the Rev. Jeremy Dupry (Bear Butte Conference)
the Rev. Becky Piper (Bear Butte Conference)**

Consultation Committee:

Lay – John Rasmussen (Prairie Coteau Conference)

Support to Ministries:

Lay – Lloyal Saugstard, Our Savior's, Waubay

Evangelical Outreach Committee:

Lay – Lyndale Borgers, Howard, Medary Conference

Augustana Association:

Three Lay – Prairie Rivers Conference

Lisa Beck, First Lutheran, Mitchell

Delayne Persson, St. Paul's, Stickney

Vicki Persson, St Paul's, Stickney

SA.19.05

Lutherans Outdoors Annual Meeting

The South Dakota Synod Assembly also serves as the membership body for Lutherans Outdoors of South Dakota. At 10:30 a.m. Bishop Zellmer asked for a motion to recess for the LOSD annual meeting.

**MSC to recess as the South Dakota Synod Assembly
SA.19.06**

Lutherans Outdoors conducted their annual meeting.

Bishop Zellmer called for a motion to reconvene the Synod Assembly.

**MSC to reconvene.
SA.19.07**

Results of the Second Ballot for Bishop

Horne announced the results of the Second Ballot for Bishop and declared no election had occurred. Legal votes cast were 523, and 75% or 393 were needed for an election.

Tesch, Bill	128
Hagmaier, Constanze	83
Binstock, Heidi	71
Opoien, Tom	61
Wounded Head, Herb	40
Gehring, Randy	27
Senner, Rick	23
Vehar, Jonathan	20
Stensgaard, Dwight	19
Fett, Randy	16
Hackler, Scott	12
Backer, Jeff	4
Haber, Tonia	3
Lehman, Erica	3
Otterman, Jeff	3
Current, Amy	2
Hayes, Ramona	2
Matchan, Paul	2
Ohrtman, Eric	2

Anderson, Lando	1
Miller, Janet	1
Johnson, Greg	0
Kauzlarich, Frank	0
Olson, Lars	0
Westgard, Gary	0

Borchardt announced that Cheryl Lundeen is the winner of the drawing for early registration. Options for the afternoon breakout sessions were described.

Bishop Emeritus Norm Eitrheim led the assembly in a table blessing.

The assembly stood in recess.

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Saturday, June 1, 2019

9:30 AM-10:30 AM

Bishop Zellmer introduced those new to the synod. The Rev. Bailey Fossum, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Paulson, and three seminarians assigned, Jonathan Doland, Matthew Spoden, Erik Thone.

Greeting from Brian Kringen Director of Chapter of the Hills. The chapel is celebrating 50 years of ministry this year, and many thanks are given to the individuals and congregations who support the presence of the chapel in the Black Hills.

Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, President of Augustana University, brought a greeting from the university, highlighting the strategic plan that focuses on preparing students both educationally and spiritually for living out a vocation in the world.

Bishop Zellmer invited Bill Horne to chair the assembly through the bishop election. Horne gave instructions for the next step in the process.

The top seven nominees for Bishop of the South Dakota Synod were given five minutes to address the assembly. The order for speeches was selected by random draw as follows: the Rev. Heidi Binstock, the Rev. Tom Opoien, the Rev. Bill Tesch, the Rev. Rick Senner, the Rev. Randy Gehring, the Rev. Herb Wounded Head, the Rev. Constanze Hagmaier.

Following the speeches, voting members were given ten minutes for prayer and discussion.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Kelsey Lyndoe reported that at 9:50 a.m. there were 537 voting members present (Clergy 144; Lay female 234; Lay male 159; Total Lay voting members 393).

Third Ballot for Bishop

Horne gave voting members instructions for electronic voting.

Bishop Emeritus Norm Eitrheim led the assembly in a time of devotion and prayer.

Horne directed voting members to cast their ballots using the electronic voting devices.

Horne ordered voting closed and the results to be displayed.

Results of the third ballot were subsequently ruled invalid by the Bishop Election Committee.

Borchardt resumed the chair for announcements.

The assembly recessed.

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Saturday, June 1, 2019

11:15 AM- 1:00 PM

Bishop Elections Q&A

Bishop Emeritus Norm Eitrheim was called upon to lead the assembly in prayer as the Fourth Plenary Session began.

Horne overviewed the Question and Answer period for the top three nominees for bishop. A two-minute response was allowed for each question. The order for nominees to answer questions was selected by random draw as follows: the Rev. Bill Tesch, the Rev. Constanze Hagmaier, and the Rev. Heidi Binstock.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Mara Stillson reported that at 11:30 a.m. there were 537 voting members present (Clergy 144; Lay female 234; Lay male 159; Total Lay voting members 393).

Fourth Ballot for Bishop

Horne gave instructions for voting by electronic device.

Bishop Emeritus Norm Eitrheim led the assembly in a time of devotion and prayer.

Horne directed voting members to cast their ballots using the electronic voting devices.

Horne ordered voting closed and the results to be displayed.

Results of the fourth ballot were subsequently ruled invalid by the Bishop Election Committee.

Adoption of the Mission Plan

Bishop Zellmer assumed the chair and called upon Gilbertson to present the 2020 Mission Plan.

The mission plan represents a 1% increase over 2019.

	Proposed 2020
INCOME	
MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS	1,823,305
Program Ministry Income	
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,000
Other Income Streams	
SD Synod Mission Support	37,000
DEM Support Staff	10,000
Interest Income	7,500
SDS Transportation LLC Income	12,472
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000
Misc Income	503
TOTAL INCOME	1,960,780
EXPENSES	
CHURCHWIDE MISSION	Proposed 2020
Mission Support to ELCA	820,487
% of Mission Support	45.0%
Region III	8,702
SHARED MINISTRIES	
South Dakota Sustained Ministries	
Campus Ministry	128,919
Campus Ministry Capital	

	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	58,300
Heartland Ephphatha	6,325
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605
South Dakota Supported Ministries	
SD Ministries Support	16,650
Luther Seminary	73,110
Lutheran Social Services	73,110
Lutherans Outdoors	36,462
Church Colleges	6,325
Chapel in the Hills	1
Good Samaritan Society	1
Total Shared Ministries	403,838

	Proposed 2020
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES	
Staff Leadership	
Bishop	107,500
Associate Tesch	10,606
Associate Marone	89,017
Bishop/Associate Benefits	69,991
SDS Travel	35,734
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	18,800
Program Ministries	
Native American Ministry	74,265
Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator	15,814
Companion Synod Coordinator	11,993

Support Staff and Office	
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	148,859
Resource Center Supplies	150
Synod Office Expenses	66,222
Augustana College	20,949
Synod Leadership	
Synod Council	7,000
Support to Ministries Committee	2,600
Candidacy Committee	4,500
Electronic Communications	1,750
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,700
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	500
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500
Mission Strategy Committee	2,000
Ministry Projects	
Stewardship Project	500
Continuing Education Projects	250
Outreach Ministries	
Multicultural Center/Woyatan	15,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000
Companion Synods	500
Contingency	
	16,053
Subtotal SD Synod Ministries	727,753
Total Expense	1,960,780
Net Total	0

**MSC to adopt as presented the 2020 Mission Plan for the South Dakota Synod.
SA.19.08**

2020 Compensation and Guidelines

Bishop Zellmer invited Scott Parsley, chair of the Compensation and Guidelines Committee, to present the 2020 guidelines.

The proposal comes from a committee from the Prairie Rivers Conference and represents a 2% increase in the compensation package over 2019.

Wexler presented Resolution #1: Compensation and Guidelines for Rostered Ministers and Lay Staff. Resolution #1 comes with a Do Pass recommendation and does not require a second.

**MSC to adopt Resolution #1: 2020 Compensation and Guidelines for Rostered Ministers and Lay Staff.
SA.19.09**

RESOLVED, that the “2020 Compensation and Guidelines for Rostered Ministers and Lay Staff,” prepared by a task force for the Committee for Support to Ministries and recommended by the committee for adoption, be adopted as the policy of the South Dakota Synod by the 2019 South Dakota Synod Assembly.

Resolutions

Wexler presented Resolution #3: Election of the Board of Directors of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota. Resolution #3 comes with a Do Pass recommendation and does not require a second.

Betty Oldenkamp was permitted to speak to the assembly.

**MSC to adopt Resolution #3: Election of the Board of Directors of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota
SA.19.10**

Be it Resolved, to amend S9.01.11 of the bylaws of the South Dakota Synod by striking:

~~This Synod shall elect persons to serve on the Board of Directors of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota as follows: each conference elect one layperson, the SD Synod Assembly elects two laypersons and four rostered ministers.~~

And inserting:

The Synod Council shall elect three rostered ministers to serve on the Board of Directors of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota.

Wexler presented Resolution #6: A Proposal to Amend the SD Synod Constitution to Increase the Involvement of retired rostered ministers. Resolution #6 comes with no recommendation.

Moved to amend the bylaws of the South Dakota Synod.
Seconded.

Be it Resolved: to amend the bylaws of the South Dakota Synod by adding S.22.01:

All retired rostered leaders on the roster of this synod shall caucus prior to the first business session and elect up to 10% of their number on the roster of this synod to be voting members of the Synod Assembly; all others shall be advisory members with voice but not vote. Ministers of Word and Sacrament elected to be voting members under this section shall be counted as ministers of Word and Sacrament members of the Synod Assembly, and not as lay persons, for purposes of S7.21. All other rostered leaders elected to be voting members under this section shall be counted as lay members of the Synod Assembly.

The assembly debated the resolution.

MSC to move the previous question.
SA.19.11

The resolution was defeated.

50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

The Rev. Lynnae Sorensen invited the congregations of the synod to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women celebration in 2020. Leading up to the assembly congregations are encouraged to make stoles to display.

The assembly recessed for lunch.

PLENARY SESSION FIVE

Saturday, June 1, 2019

2:00 PM- 5:00 PM

Bishop Election Process

Horne informed the assembly that the Bishop Election Committee had ruled the results of the third and fourth ballot invalid due to an irregularity with the electronic voting system. Horne invited the Rev. Lon Kvanli, chair of the Bishop Election Committee, to explain the decision. Given unclear instructions in the voting procedure, the committee did not feel confident that the ballot results reflected the total of potential votes. Voting commenced again with the third ballot and was done by written ballot to ensure the integrity of the process.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Mara Stillson reported that at 1:36 p.m. there were 537 voting members present (Clergy 144; Lay female 234; Lay male 159; Total Lay voting members 393).

Third Ballot for Bishop

Bishop Emeritus Norm Eithreim led the assembly in prayer.

Horne instructed paper ballots to be distributed and voting to begin.

Horne declared voting closed and ballots were collected.

Report on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery

Bishop Zellmer reported on a 2018 memorial calling for the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. The memorial was sent to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly where it was adopted. Material is being developed to help congregations engage in conversation on the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and what it means for our world today.

World Hunger Presentation (Holy Cow Award)

The Rev. Erika Lehman presented the Holy Cow Award. The award is given to two congregations each year who have made a significant financial contribution to ELCA World Hunger, either in terms of large gifts or in per capita giving. Lehman also encourages congregations who have not given to ELCA World Hunger to consider a gift this year. The winning congregations for 2018 are Pollock Lutheran Church, Pollock, SD and Grace Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD.

Results of the Third Ballot

Horne presented the results of the third ballot for Bishop and declared no election had occurred. Legal votes cast were 509, and 2/3 or 340 needed for election.

the Rev. Bill Tesch – 165

the Rev. Constanze Hagmaier – 120

the Rev. Heidi Binstock – 120

the Rev. Tom Opoien – 47

the Rev. Randy Gehring – 28

the Rev. Herb Wounded Head – 18

the Rev. Rick Senner – 10

Fourth Ballot for Bishop

The top three nominees moved to the fourth ballot. 60% of votes were needed for election. Horne ordered the paper ballots to be distributed.

Bishop Emeritus Norm Eitrheim offered a prayer.

Horne declared voting to begin.

Horne declared voting closed and ordered ballots collected.

Assembly Thank You's

Bishop Zellmer offered gratitude on behalf of the assembly to Bishop Emeritus Norm Eitrheim as assembly chaplain, the staff and members of Our Savior's Lutheran, Dakota Road for music leadership, Bill Horne, Assembly Planning Committee, and Synod Staff.

Results of the Fourth Ballot

Horne announced the results of the Fourth Ballot. Legal votes cast were 492 with 60% or 296 needed for election. the Rev. Bill Tesch – 190

the Rev. Constanze Hagmaier – 158

the Rev. Heidi Binstock – 144

Horne declared there was no election.

Fifth Ballot for Bishop

The top two nominees appeared on the fifth ballot.

Horne ordered distribution of the fifth paper ballot.

Bishop Emeritus Norm Eitrheim offered a prayer.

Horne declared voting to begin.

Horne declared voting closed and ordered ballots be collected.

Bishop Zellmer reflected on his time as bishop of the South Dakota Synod as the assembly awaited results of the Fifth Ballot. Dakota Road led the assembly in joyful singing.

Bishop Zellmer thanked the Elections Committee.
The Synod Staff were invited forward and thanked by the assembly.

Horn was invited to present the results of the Fifth Ballot.

Results of the Fifth Ballot

Horne announced the results of the fifth ballot for bishop. Legal votes cast were 497 with 249 votes needed for election.

the Rev. Constanze Hagmaier – 250

the Rev. Bill Tesch – 247

Horne declared the Rev. Constanze Hagmaier Bishop-Elect of the South Dakota Synod.

Bishop-Elect Constanze Hagmaier addressed the assembly.

Closing of the Assembly

Bishop Zellmer led the assembly in a closing litany.

The 2019 South Dakota Synod Assembly was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



The Rev. Jonathan Vehar
South Dakota Synod Secretary