

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
South Dakota Synod Assembly
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Sioux Falls, SD
June 8-9, 2012**

The twenty-fifth annual Assembly of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, convened at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 8-9, 2012, with the theme *Wrapped in Christ's Love*.

A workshop with Rev. Jay Gamelin and Justin Rimbo was held June 7th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Registration began at 5:00 pm on Thursday, June 7th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls. An evening worship led by Rev. Jay Gamelin and Justin Rimbo was held in the Celebrate Center.

June 8, 2012

Registration opened at 8:00 am at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. New and youth voting member orientation was held. Yarn donations for St. Dysmas knitting ministry, and prayer shawls and baptismal blankets for congregations were received.

Opening worship with Holy Communion and the Opening of the Assembly were held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church sanctuary beginning at 10:15 am with Rev. Linda Norman presiding and Bishop David Zellmer preaching. Jeanette Clark was installed as pastor of Pueblo de Dios and Marty's Mug, Sioux Falls. The offering was divided between St. Dysmas and the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

The following individuals were introduced: Rev. Linda Norman, ELCA Treasurer; Rev. Jay Gamelin and Justin Rimbo, speakers and musicians; missionaries Mike Busbey (Nicaragua) and Christian Lehmann (Cameroon); Synod Staff: Lois Borchardt, Suzanne Hansen, AIM, Kevin Stillson, Cathy Larson, Crystal McCormick, Susan Marone, AIM, Pastor Bill Tesch, Kurt Osborne and Jim Schade; Assembly Planning Committee: Rev. Laura Overbo, Rev. Erik Olson, Christy Kimball, Mallorie Hansmann, Rev. Justin Neugebauer and Kathy Nelson; seminarians assigned to the South Dakota Synod: Jacqueline Braun, Jeanette Clark, Nicholas Collins, Jessica Daum, Trey Daum, Elizabeth (Betsy) Hoium and Cassandra Lamb.

Rev. Greg Wilcox, Good Samaritan Society, brought a greeting. Water bottles were provided to Assembly participants by the Good Samaritan Society.

The South Dakota Synod vision statement and core values were read.

Lunch and conference caucuses were held.

Plenary Session One

Plenary sessions were held in the Our Savior's Lutheran Church Celebrate Center. Bishop David Zellmer called the meeting to order and led the opening prayer.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Gary Steuck, Synod Vice President; Carla Borchardt, Synod Secretary; and Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Parliamentarian.

Lois Borchardt, Credentials Committee, reported: 468 voting members (141 – clergy, 183 lay female, 144 lay male), 53 visitors and advisory had registered as of 12:45 pm for a total attendance of 521.

Bishop Zellmer explained the voting devices and process. Several test votes were taken.

Bishop Zellmer directed voting members to the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure found in the Preliminary Report.

MSC to adopt the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, South Dakota Synod, ELCA.

(yes = 390, no = 8, abstain = 5)

SA.12.06.01

MSC to adopt the agenda as presented.

(yes = 398, no = 7, abstain = 5)

SA.12.06.02

MSC to allow Rev. Linda Norman to assume the role of the chair for discussion and actions pertaining to resolutions regarding the election of a bishop.

SA.12.06.03

Bishop Zellmer introduced Col. Mark Johnston, US Army, who brought greetings.

Rev. Bill Tesch presented a Bible study.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Rev. Linda Norman, ELCA Treasurer, who presented the State of the ELCA address including a video presentation from Bishop Mark Hanson.

A break was held with refreshments provided by Medary WELCA groups.

Plenary Session Two

The meeting resumed. Rev. Linda Norman assumed the Chair.

Rev. Norman introduced Rev. Velma Larson, Resolutions Committee, and called for consideration of Resolution 7.

Rev. Larson read Resolution 7: Resolution to Amend the South Dakota Synod Bylaws for the Election of a Bishop with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 7

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: 7A Substituted for 7

Subject: Resolution to amend the South Dakota Synod Bylaws for the Election of a Bishop

Source: The Bishop Elections Committee

WHEREAS, Walter May, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, and David Swartling, ELCA Secretary, have directed the synods of the ELCA who will be holding Bishop elections in 2012 and 2013 to: “review and follow carefully all the governing documents for the

election of a Bishop to ensure a proper process that cannot be challenged” (ELCA 2012 *Guidelines for Synod Bishop Elections*, page 3); and

WHEREAS, “electing a bishop is one of the most important responsibilities in the life of a synod in the ELCA and a key responsibility of the Synod Assembly” (ELCA 2012 *Guidelines for Synod Bishop Elections*, page 1); and

WHEREAS, electing a bishop by ecclesiastical ballot is the norm for most ELCA synods; and

WHEREAS, election by ecclesiastical ballot allows for the possibility of a large number of ordained ministers to be considered for the call of Synod Bishop; and

WHEREAS, election by ecclesiastical ballot would be good stewardship of synod resources and nominees’ time by eliminating the need to cover the travel expenses of numerous nominees for their participation in pre-Assembly open meetings; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, to amend the South Dakota Synod Constitution and Bylaws with the following additions and deletions (additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struck through~~):

S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The Bishop shall be a pastor who is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. ~~The process of nomination and election shall be as provided in the bylaws. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.~~

S9.04.01 Other election matters, such as the timing of speeches and question-and-answer sessions, shall be specified in continuing resolution S9.04.A12 of the South Dakota Synod Constitution, as approved by the Synod Assembly one (1) year prior to the assembly at which a bishop is to be elected.

S9.04.10 The process of the nomination and election of the Synod Bishop shall be supervised by the Bishop Elections Committee, which shall consist of three persons appointed by the Synod Council. The Bishop Elections Committee shall have final authority for all matters pertaining to the election.

~~**S9.04.11.** The Synod Council shall arrange for a synod study to be completed six months prior to the beginning of the bishop election process. The synod study shall focus upon the ministry of the synod, the role and responsibilities of the office of the bishop, and the needs and opportunities facing the synod. The study results shall be distributed to~~

~~synod leadership and congregations as candidates for the position of bishop are considered and nominated.~~

~~S9.04.12. Each congregation of this synod, no later than 120 days prior to the Synod Assembly, through its congregation council, may submit to the Conference Secretary the names of not more than three members of the ELCA clergy roster as congregational nominees to be included on the conference nominating ballot. Only names submitted by congregations may appear on the conference nominating ballot.~~

~~S9.04.13. The Conference Council, as constituted by each conference, meeting no sooner than 115 days nor later than 100 days prior to the Assembly, by majority, shall elect no more than seven persons from the conference nominating ballot and forward their names to the Synod Secretary. In the event that a Conference Council receives fewer than seven congregational nominees, all names shall be forwarded to the Synod Secretary.~~

~~S9.04.14. The Synod Secretary shall:~~

- ~~a. Ascertain the willingness of all persons named by the conference councils to serve in the office of Synod Bishop if nominated and elected, obtain biographical information from such persons and prepare the synod nominating ballot including all the names of those who respond affirmatively; and~~
- ~~b. distribute the synod nominating ballot and biographical information of the nominees to all pastors, congregational presidents, Conference Chairs and Conference Secretaries.~~

~~S9.04.15.~~

- ~~a. All conferences of this synod shall meet in assembly on the same day, not later than 65 days prior to the Synod Assembly, and each shall elect five persons, by majority vote, from the synod nominating ballot. These names shall be forwarded to the Synod Secretary.~~
- ~~b. The Conference Executive Committee shall devise a process to insure the biographical information on all candidates is available to all delegates at the Conference Assembly.~~
- ~~c. All names, except those receiving a majority, shall remain on the ballot for all votes until a full slate is elected.~~

~~S9.04.16. The five persons named by the greatest number of conferences shall be the nominees for Synod Bishop. If there are persons tied for the fifth position on the ballot, all shall appear if the resulting ballot has no more than seven names, or the Synod Nominating Committee shall break the tie to arrive at a ballot containing seven names.~~

~~S9.04.17. The Synod Secretary and the Synod Nominating Committee shall release the identity and number of conferences nominating any person nominated.~~

~~S9.04.18. The names of the nominees and biographical information about the candidates shall be distributed immediately to all pastors and congregational presidents, and shall be placed on the Synod Assembly ballot. There shall be no further nominations.~~

~~S9.04.19. Area open meetings shall be held in this synod at least 20 days prior to the Assembly where members of the synod congregations may meet the candidates. Expenses of the candidates shall be paid by this synod.~~

~~S9.04.20. No later than the first day of the Assembly the Synod Secretary shall provide biographical material on each candidate. The Assembly Agenda shall provide time for the candidates to address the assembly and answer questions prior to the first ballot.~~

~~S9.04.21. If no one receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the slate of candidates shall be reduced to the three (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes.~~

~~S9.04.22. If no one receives a majority of the votes cast on the second ballot, the slate of candidates on the third ballot shall be reduced to the two (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes. The candidates shall address the Synod Assembly before the third ballot vote is taken.~~

~~S9.04.23. A simple majority shall elect on the subsequent ballots.~~

MS to substitute resolution 7A for resolution 7.

Substitute Resolution: 7A

Recommendation of Resolutions Committee: Do Pass

Action Taken: Adopted

(yes = 298 (68%), no = 126, abstain = 13)

Subject: Resolution to amend the South Dakota Synod Bylaws for the Election of a Bishop

From: The Bishop Elections Committee

WHEREAS, Walter May, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, and David Swartling, ELCA Secretary, have directed the synods of the ELCA who will be holding Bishop elections in 2012 and 2013 to: “review and follow carefully all the governing documents for the election of a Bishop to ensure a proper process that cannot be challenged” (ELCA 2012 *Guidelines for Synod Bishop Elections*, page 3); and

WHEREAS, “electing a bishop is one of the most important responsibilities in the life of a synod in the ELCA and a key responsibility of the Synod Assembly” (ELCA 2012 *Guidelines for Synod Bishop Elections*, page 1); and

WHEREAS, electing a bishop by ecclesiastical ballot is the norm for most ELCA synods; and

WHEREAS, election by ecclesiastical ballot allows for the possibility of a large number of ordained ministers to be considered for the call of Synod Bishop; and

WHEREAS, election by ecclesiastical ballot would be good stewardship of synod resources and nominees’ time by eliminating the need to cover the travel expenses of numerous nominees for their participation in pre-Assembly open meetings; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, to amend the South Dakota Synod Constitution and Bylaws with the following additions and deletions (additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struck through~~):

S9.04. The Bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The process of nomination and election shall be as provided in the bylaws.

S9.04.01 The Bishop shall be elected by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

S9.04.02 Other election matters, such as the process of identifying potential nominees leading to the election of a bishop, and the rules of procedure for the election of a bishop shall be specified in the continuing resolutions of the South Dakota Synod Constitution, as approved by the Synod Assembly one (1) year prior to the assembly at which a bishop is to be elected.

S9.04.10 The process of the nomination and election of the Synod Bishop shall be supervised by the Bishop Elections Committee, which shall consist of three persons appointed by the Synod Council. The Bishop Elections Committee shall have final authority for all matters pertaining to the election.

~~**S9.04.11. The Synod Council shall arrange for a synod study to be completed six months prior to the beginning of the bishop election process. The synod study shall focus upon the ministry of the synod, the role and responsibilities of the office of the bishop, and the needs and opportunities facing the synod. The study results shall be distributed to synod leadership and congregations as candidates for the position of bishop are considered and nominated.**~~

~~**S9.04.12. Each congregation of this synod, no later than 120 days prior to the Synod Assembly, through its congregation council, may submit to the Conference Secretary the names of not more than three members of the ELCA clergy roster as congregational nominees to be included on the conference nominating ballot. Only names submitted by congregations may appear on the conference nominating ballot.**~~

~~**S9.04.13. The Conference Council, as constituted by each conference, meeting no sooner than 115 days nor later than 100 days prior to the Assembly, by majority, shall elect no more than seven persons from the conference nominating ballot and forward their names to the Synod Secretary. In the event that a Conference Council receives fewer than seven congregational nominees, all names shall be forwarded to the Synod Secretary.**~~

~~**S9.04.14. The Synod Secretary shall:**~~

- ~~**c. Ascertain the willingness of all persons named by the conference councils to serve in the office of Synod Bishop if nominated and elected, obtain biographical information from such persons and prepare the synod nominating ballot including all the names of those who respond affirmatively; and**~~

- ~~d. distribute the synod nominating ballot and biographical information of the nominees to all pastors, congregational presidents, Conference Chairs and Conference Secretaries.~~

S9.04.15.

- ~~d. All conferences of this synod shall meet in assembly on the same day, not later than 65 days prior to the Synod Assembly, and each shall elect five persons, by majority vote, from the synod nominating ballot. These names shall be forwarded to the Synod Secretary.~~
- ~~e. The Conference Executive Committee shall devise a process to insure the biographical information on all candidates is available to all delegates at the Conference Assembly.~~
- ~~f. All names, except those receiving a majority, shall remain on the ballot for all votes until a full slate is elected.~~

~~S9.04.16. The five persons named by the greatest number of conferences shall be the nominees for Synod Bishop. If there are persons tied for the fifth position on the ballot, all shall appear if the resulting ballot has no more than seven names, or the Synod Nominating Committee shall break the tie to arrive at a ballot containing seven names.~~

~~S9.04.17. The Synod Secretary and the Synod Nominating Committee shall release the identity and number of conferences nominating any person nominated.~~

~~S9.04.18. The names of the nominees and biographical information about the candidates shall be distributed immediately to all pastors and congregational presidents, and shall be placed on the Synod Assembly ballot. There shall be no further nominations.~~

~~S9.04.19. Area open meetings shall be held in this synod at least 20 days prior to the Assembly where members of the synod congregations may meet the candidates. Expenses of the candidates shall be paid by this synod.~~

~~S9.04.20. No later than the first day of the Assembly the Synod Secretary shall provide biographical material on each candidate. The Assembly Agenda shall provide time for the candidates to address the assembly and answer questions prior to the first ballot.~~

~~S9.04.21. If no one receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the slate of candidates shall be reduced to the three (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes.~~

~~S9.04.22. If no one receives a majority of the votes cast on the second ballot, the slate of candidates on the third ballot shall be reduced to the two (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes. The candidates shall address the Synod Assembly before the third ballot vote is taken.~~

~~S9.04.23. A simple majority shall elect on the subsequent ballots.~~

Rev. Dwight Stensgaard, Calvary, Rapid City, introduced members of the Bishop Election Committee: Rev. Heidi Binstock, Our Savior's, Sioux Falls, and John Rasmussen, Grace, Sisseton. Rev. Stensgaard stated one of the important responsibilities of a synod is to elect the bishop. This is a sacred call process. The Bishop Election Committee sought advice from David

Swartling, ELCA Secretary, in preparation for the election of the South Dakota Synod bishop in 2013. The process used in the past has served the synod well, but areas were found which could be refined. The proposed amendments in resolution 7 were presented to conference assemblies in the spring. The proposed amendments in resolution 7A are a result of feedback received from the conference assemblies.

Rev. Norman clarified that both resolution 7 and resolution 7A were on the floor for discussion.

A voting member questioned why the wording, “the bishop shall be a pastor who is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” is included in resolution 7, but not in resolution 7A. It was clarified that this language is included in another section of the bylaws.

Rev. Jeff Sorenson, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, stated that 7A includes changes in format but not in content. Changes to the constitution require action either by two synod assemblies or at least six months notice prior to the synod assembly. However, bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the synod assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. S9.04 is part of the constitution. Therefore, language included in S9.04 in resolution 7 was moved to S9.01.04 as a bylaws amendment in resolution 7A.

Rev. Kristin Ostercamp, St. John’s, Webster, questioned debating both resolutions at the same time. Rev. Norman clarified that both the original motion and the substitute motion were on the floor for debate.

Rev. Jeff Sorenson, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, stated the content of both resolutions is the same. Resolution 7A clarifies the content and includes formatting changes.

MSC to end debate.
SA.12.06.04

Rev. Norman clarified the vote is to substitute resolution 7A for resolution 7.

MSC to substitute resolution 7A for resolution 7.
(yes = 417, no = 12, abstain = 4)
SA.12.06.05

Rev. Norman called for debate on resolution 7A.

Rev. Will Olsen, Interim at Grace, Sturgis, stated he has been a pastor in South Dakota for a long time. The South Dakota Synod has been on the forefront of many activities, including creating a bishop election process that allows all members of all congregations to participate. He believes the current proposal is not a refinement of this process. Rather it negates the opportunity for individual congregation members to participate in the process. He is opposed to resolution 7A.

Rev. Bob Hansen, Interim at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Watertown, spoke in favor of the resolution stating he does not think it is taking a step backwards. Using the ecclesiastical ballot does not negate the opportunity for individual congregation members to participate in the process. The election takes place at the synod assembly and discussion during the assembly enhances the process.

Bruce Schumacher, Bethania, Rosholt, asked for clarification regarding the ecclesiastical ballot process. Rev. Stensgaard referenced S9.04.01 in the resolution. Any ordained minister in the ELCA is eligible for nomination for bishop. All registered voting members of the South Dakota Synod Assembly are eligible to cast a ballot.

Rev. Dan Ostercamp, St. John's, Webster, spoke against the resolution stating he appreciates the current process. It allows more time for conversation and interaction with candidates for bishop and more individuals can be involved in the process.

Rev. Jeff Otterman, St. James, Belle Fourche, spoke in favor of the resolution stating it is the fiscally responsible thing to do. The current process of open area meetings is expensive. The ecclesiastical ballot process gives opportunity for the Holy Spirit to act.

Brad Thompson, Trinity, Rapid City, spoke against the resolution stating the current process provides the best opportunity for interaction with the candidates.

Rev. Dana Lockhart, Grand River, Buffalo, spoke against the resolution stating there is not sufficient time at the synod assembly for conversation with candidates to learn what they think.

John Rasmussen, Grace, Sisseton, spoke in favor of the resolution. People who attend open area meetings are not always voting members who actually attend synod assembly and vote for the bishop. The open area meeting process is not a good use of resources. The majority of other synods use the ecclesiastical ballot process. Others who have participated in the process say it is an engaging Spirit lead process. It is viewed as a call process rather than a campaign and election process.

Rev. Kristin Ostercamp, St. John's, Webster, spoke against the resolution stating it is challenging if one of the names lifted up in the ecclesiastical ballot process is from another synod. It is difficult for them to be involved in the conversation/debate. The process does not allow adequate time for candidates to thoughtfully consider being involved in the process.

Rev. Heidi Binstock, Our Savior's, Sioux Falls, spoke in favor of the resolution stating it doesn't remove thoughtful consideration prior to the synod assembly. Voting members should carefully consider potential nominee names prior to the assembly. The proposed process does allow time for conversation prior to the assembly. The ecclesiastical ballot allows for nominations for the first ballot to be lifted up during the assembly. The number and names of candidates are not decided prior to the assembly. The proposed process is thoughtful and open, allowing for the Spirit to move/act.

Elayne Lande, Resurrection, Pierre, has spoken with several members of her congregation and does not feel she has enough information to vote on this issue.

Rev. Siri Sorenson, Grace, Sioux Falls, spoke in favor of the resolution stating candidates can be identified beforehand with the ecclesiastical ballot and opportunity for conversation is provided. But this process also provides the opportunity for openness and calls us to trust that the Spirit will move through the assembly discerning who God is calling to serve as bishop for the synod.

MSC to end debate.

(yes = 353, no = 76, abstain = 9)

SA.12.06.06

MSC to adopt Resolution 7A: Resolution to Amend the South Dakota Synod Bylaws for the Election of a Bishop.

(yes = 298 (68%), no = 126, abstain = 13)

SA.12.06.07

Rev. Norman called for consideration of resolution 8.

Rev. Velma Larson read Resolution 8: Resolution to Adopt to the South Dakota Synod Bylaws the Continuing Resolution Process for Nominating and Electing a Bishop with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 8

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: 8A Substituted for 8

Subject: Resolution to Adopt to the South Dakota Synod Bylaws the Continuing Resolution *Process For Nominating and Electing a Bishop.*

Source: The Bishop Elections Committee

WHEREAS, a process for nominating and electing a bishop accompanies the Bylaw of electing a Bishop by ecclesiastical ballot; therefore, be it

RESOLVED to adopt the following Continuing Resolution to the South Dakota Synod Bylaws:

S9.04.A12 Process for nominating and electing the Bishop

PROCESS OF POTENTIAL NOMINEES LEADING TO THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

1. An incumbent bishop shall announce to the Synod Council whether he or she is willing to serve a subsequent term. Such announcement shall take place no later than the Synod Council meeting in November prior to the Synod Assembly during which a bishop is to be elected.

2. The processes for identifying potential nominees for Bishop and election of a Bishop shall apply for all elections of a Bishop except where an incumbent Bishop is eligible for a second term. IN THOSE CASES, THE CONFERENCE NOMINATING PROCESS WOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED. If an incumbent bishop is willing to serve, and the conference nominating process is dropped, an ecclesiastical ballot for the election of a bishop continues as described in the amended S9.04.

3. When there is not an incumbent bishop who is willing and able to serve a subsequent term, the Synod Council shall arrange for a Synod study to be completed six months prior to the beginning of the election process. The Synod study and any strategic planning adopted by Synod Council shall be distributed to rostered members and congregations of the synod six months prior to the election, providing guidance throughout this synod as potential nominees for bishop are identified.

4. At the assembly of each conference prior to the election of a bishop, held no later than 75 days prior to Synod Assembly, the voting members will be asked to consider a set of

topics developed by Synod Council designed to clarify the vision for this synod's mission, the issues they deem important for this synod, and the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop. The secretary of each conference shall provide minutes of this discussion to the secretary of synod for use by the Synod Council.

5. At the same conference assembly, the voting members will be asked to identify currently rostered ELCA pastors whom the voting members believe have gifts desirable in a bishop. Identified pastors do not need to be members of the conference or of the South Dakota Synod. All ELCA pastors are encouraged to give permission to be considered in the discernment process.

6. After all voting members have had opportunity to identify potential nominees possessing gifts for the office of bishop, the voting members will, at the same assembly, engage in a process of their own determination to select up to three potential nominees, the names of whom are to be forwarded to the synod for inclusion among the potential nominees for the Office of Bishop.

7. The dean of each conference will contact the individuals selected by the conference to confirm their willingness to have their names included with those selected by all the conferences as possessing gifts for the office of bishop. If these individuals reaffirm their willingness to be so identified, the dean will facilitate their completion of a biographical information form developed by Synod Council. The potential nominees are to submit these completed forms to the secretary of synod within ten days of the conference assembly.

8. The secretary of synod will post on the synod website 45 days before the Synod Assembly begins the names and biographical information of the potential nominees for the Office of Bishop selected by the conferences. Other information also may be posted.

9. While these individuals are identified as potential nominees for the office of bishop, the South Dakota Synod will continue to use the ecclesiastical ballot in which the name of any ELCA ordained minister may be placed in nomination on the first ballot. Any person identified as a potential nominee must still be nominated on the first ballot by a voting member at the assembly.

10. The Synod Assembly will adopt Rules of Procedure for the Election of a Bishop based upon the ecclesiastical ballot as required by the South Dakota Synod Constitution.

PROPOSED RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

1. In accordance with the South Dakota Synod Constitution, the election of a bishop shall be by ecclesiastical ballot. There shall be no spoken nominations from the floor.

2. Any ordained minister in the ELCA is eligible for nomination for bishop. A valid ballot is to contain the nominee's full name as found in the clergy roster. All registered voting members of the South Dakota Synod Assembly shall be eligible to cast a ballot.

3. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the first ballot shall be necessary for the election of a bishop.

4. If no election occurs, the first ballot is the nominating ballot. This ballot becomes the total slate of nominees.

5. Clergy who are nominated on the nominating ballot and desire that their name be retained on subsequent ballots shall submit a completed biographical form to the secretary of synod. This may be done electronically for candidates not present.

6. Clergy nominated on the first ballot shall have the right to withdraw their names from subsequent ballots before the casting of the second ballot. A form requesting the name to be withdrawn must be secured from the Synod Secretary and must be returned to the secretary of synod by (insert time and day). This may be done electronically for candidates not present.

7. On the second and all subsequent ballots, the order of listing of the nominees on the ballot shall be from the greatest number of ballots cast to the least. Ties shall be listed alphabetically. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election.

8. Following the report of the second ballot, biographical data for the seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of ballots cast on the second ballot shall be distributed to all voting members.

9. Before the casting of the third ballot, the seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of ballots cast on the second ballot shall be invited to the stage and be introduced by name to the members of the assembly. There shall be no applause before, during, or after each individual introduction. After time has been allotted for all voting members to read the biographical information of the seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of ballots cast on the second ballot, these seven persons (plus ties) will be invited to address the assembly on a subject of their own choosing, with each speech limited to five minutes. If any such person is not present at the assembly, the individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to speak on her or his behalf. A time keeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allocated time and when the allocated time has elapsed. The sequence of the speeches shall be determined by lot. There shall be no applause before, during, or after individual speeches; only after all have spoken is there to be such affirmation. There shall be ten minutes' time allotted after these speeches for voting members to engage in prayer, reflection on the speeches, and informal conversation with other voting members before the third ballot is cast.

10. Two-thirds of the vote shall be necessary for election on the third ballot.

11. Prior to the fourth ballot for synod bishop, the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer period. The period shall be moderated by the designated presider for the election process. The same six questions shall be asked of each of the nominees. Only one nominee shall be in the assembly room at a time. The order that the nominees shall appear on stage to answer the questions shall be determined by the draw of names. Each nominee shall have a maximum of two minutes to respond to each question. If any nominee is not present at the assembly, that individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to answer on her or his behalf. A time keeper will indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of allotted time and when the allotted time has ended.

Questions to be asked shall be determined by a committee appointed by Synod Council. Any voting member of the Synod Assembly may submit questions in a sealed envelope to the secretary of the synod, or the secretary's designee (list date, day, and time certain for the deadline). The time for the question-and-answer period shall be a maximum of 45 minutes. There shall be no applause before, during, or after each answer; only after the question-and answer period has come to an end is there to be such affirmation.

12. Prior to the casting of the fourth ballot, there will be time for prayer, reflection on the speeches, and informal conversation with other voting members. 60% of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the fourth ballot.

13. On ballots after the fourth ballot, the ballots shall be limited to the two nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes cast.

14. On all subsequent ballots a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election.

15. The results of each ballot shall be printed, distributed, and announced to the assembly.

MS to substitute resolution 8A for resolution 8.

Resolution: 8A

Recommendation of Resolutions Committee: Do Pass

Action Taken: Adopted as Amended

(yes = 410 (94.5%), no = 16, abstain = 7)

Subject: Resolution to Adopt to the South Dakota Synod Bylaws the Continuing Resolutions *Process of Identifying Potential Nominees Leading to the Election of a Bishop* and *Rules of Procedure for the Election of a Bishop*

Source: Bishop Elections Committee

WHEREAS, a process for nominating and electing a bishop accompanies the Bylaw of electing a Bishop by ecclesiastical ballot; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, to adopt the following Continuing Resolution to the South Dakota Synod Bylaws:

S9.04.A12 PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL NOMINEES LEADING TO THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

1. An incumbent bishop shall announce to the Synod Council whether he or she is willing to serve a subsequent term. Such announcement shall take place no later than the Synod Council meeting in November prior to the Synod Assembly during which a bishop is to be elected.

2. The processes for identifying potential nominees for Bishop and election of a Bishop shall apply for all elections of a Bishop except where an incumbent Bishop is eligible for a second term. IN THOSE CASES, PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL NOMINEES AT THE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLIES WOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED. If an incumbent bishop is willing to serve, and the conference nominating process is dropped,

an ecclesiastical ballot for the election of a bishop continues as described in the amended S9.04.

3. Where there is not an incumbent bishop who is willing and able to serve a subsequent term, the Synod Council shall arrange for a synod study to be completed six months prior to the beginning of the election process. The synod study and any strategic planning adopted by the Synod Council shall be distributed to rostered members and congregations of the synod six months prior to the election, providing guidance throughout this synod as potential nominees for bishop are identified.

4. At the assembly of each conference prior to the election of a bishop, held no later than 75 days prior to Synod Assembly, the voting members will be asked to consider a set of topics developed by the Synod Council designed to clarify the vision for this synod's mission, the issues they deem important for this synod, and the gifts desirable and necessary in a bishop. The secretary of each conference shall provide minutes of this discussion to the secretary of the synod for use by the Synod Council.

5. At the same conference assembly, the voting members will be asked to identify currently rostered ELCA pastors whom the voting members believe have gifts desirable in a bishop. Identified pastors do not need to be members of the conference or of the South Dakota Synod. All ELCA pastors are encouraged to give permission to be considered in the discernment process

6. After all voting members have had opportunity to identify potential nominees possessing gifts for the office of bishop, the voting members will, at the same assembly, engage in a process of their own determination to select up to three potential nominees, the names of whom are to be forwarded to the synod for inclusion among the potential nominees for the office of bishop.

7. The dean of each conference will contact the individuals selected by the conference to confirm their willingness to have their names included with those selected by all the conferences as possessing gifts for the office of bishop. If these individuals reaffirm their willingness to be so identified, the dean will facilitate their completion of a biographical information form developed by the Synod Council. The potential nominees are to submit these completed forms to the secretary of the synod within ten days of the conference assembly.

8. The secretary of the synod will post on the synod website 45 days before the Synod Assembly begins the names and biographical information of the potential nominees for the office of bishop selected by the conferences. Other information also may be posted.

9. While these individuals are identified as potential nominees for the office of bishop, the South Dakota Synod will continue to use the ecclesiastical ballot in which the name of any ELCA ordained minister may be placed in nomination on the first ballot. Any person identified as a potential nominee must still be nominated on the first ballot by a voting member at the assembly.

10. The Synod Assembly will adopt Rules of Procedure for the Election of a Bishop based upon the ecclesiastical ballot as required by the South Dakota Synod Constitution.

S9.04.B12 RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

- 1. In accordance with the South Dakota Synod Constitution, the election of a bishop shall be by ecclesiastical ballot. There shall be no spoken nominations from the floor.**
- 2. Any ordained minister in the ELCA is eligible for nomination for bishop. A valid ballot is to contain the nominee's full name as found in the clergy roster. All registered voting members of the South Dakota Synod Assembly shall be eligible to cast a ballot.**
- 3. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the first ballot shall be necessary for the election of a bishop.**
- 4. If no election occurs, the first ballot is the nominating ballot. This ballot becomes the total slate of nominees.**
- 5. Clergy who are nominated on the nominating ballot and desire that their name be retained on subsequent ballots shall submit a complete biographical form to the secretary of the synod. This may be done electronically for candidates not present.**
- 6. Clergy nominated on the first ballot shall have the right to withdraw their names from subsequent ballots before the casting of the second ballot. A form requesting the name to be withdrawn must be secured from the synod secretary and must be returned to the secretary of the synod by (insert time and day). This may be done electronically for candidates not present.**
- 7. On the second and all subsequent ballots, the order of listing of the nominees on the ballot shall be from the greatest number of ballots cast to the least. Ties shall be listed alphabetically. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election.**
- 8. Following the report of the second ballot, biographical data for the seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of ballots cast on the second ballot shall be distributed to all voting members.**
- 9. Before the casting of the third ballot, the seven nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of ballots cast on the second ballot shall be invited to the stage and be introduced by name to the members of the assembly. There shall be no applause before, during, or after each individual introduction. After time has been allotted for all voting members to read the biographical information of the seven nominees (plus ties) will be invited to address the assembly on a subject of their own choosing, with each speech limited to five minutes. If any such person is not present at the assembly, the individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to speak on her or his behalf. A time keeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allocated time and when the allocated time has elapsed. The sequence of the speeches shall be determined by lot. There shall be no applause before, during, or after individual speeches; only after all have spoken is there to be such affirmation. There shall be ten minutes' time allotted after these speeches for voting members to engage in prayer, reflection on the speeches, and informal conversation with other voting members before the third ballot is cast.**
- 10. Two-thirds of the vote shall be necessary for election on the third ballot.**

11. Prior to the fourth ballot for synod bishop, the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer period. The period shall be moderated by the designated presider for the election process. The same six questions shall be asked of each of the nominees. Only one nominee shall be in the assembly room at a time. The order that the nominees shall appear on stage to answer the questions shall be determined by the draw of name. Each nominee shall have a maximum of two minutes to respond to each question. If any nominee is not present at the assembly, that individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to answer on her or his behalf. A time keeper will indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allotted time and when the allotted time has ended.

Questions to be asked shall be determined by a committee appointed by the Synod Council. Any voting member of the Synod Assembly may submit questions in a sealed envelope to the secretary of the synod, or the secretary's designee (list date, day, and time certain for the deadline). The time for the question-and-answer period shall be a maximum of 45 minutes. There shall be no applause before, during, or after each answer; only after the question-and-answer period has come to an end is there to be such affirmation.

12. Prior to the casting of the fourth ballot, there will be time for prayer, reflection on the speeches, and informal conversation with other voting members. Sixty percent of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the fourth ballot.

13. On ballots after the fourth ballot, the ballots shall be limited to the two nominees (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes cast.

14. On all subsequent ballots a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election.

15. The results of each ballot shall be printed, distributed, and announced to the assembly.

Rev. Dwight Stensgaard, Calvary, Rapid City, spoke in favor of resolution 8A stating it describes the processes to identify potential nominees and elect a bishop at the Synod Assembly. The substitute resolution clarifies what should properly be placed in bylaws versus continuing resolutions.

Rev. Jeff Sorenson, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, spoke in favor of the substitute resolution stating it clearly defines the processes for identifying potential nominees and electing the bishop.

MSC to substitute resolution 8A for resolution 8.

(yes = 387, no = 25, abstain = 12)

SA.12.06.08

Rev. Norman clarified debate now related to resolution 8A.

Dianne Kludt, Sherman Lutheran, Sherman, questioned the timeline if the current bishop is eligible for re-election. The resolution states the bishop must notify the synod by November whether he/she is willing to serve a subsequent term. If he/she is not willing, a synod study is to be completed six months prior to the Synod Assembly. Is this enough time?

Rev. Dwight Stensgaard, Calvary, Rapid City, stated this could be accomplished.

MS to amend Resolution 8A section S9.04.A12 by striking portions of number 2 and 3:

2. The processes for identifying potential nominees for Bishop and election of a Bishop shall apply for all elections of a Bishop, ~~except where an incumbent Bishop is eligible for a second term. IN THOSE CASES, THE PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL NOMINEES AT THE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLIES WOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED. If an incumbent bishop is willing to serve, and the conference nominating identifying process is dropped, an ecclesiastical ballot for the election of a bishop continues as described in the amended S9.04.~~

3. ~~When there is not an incumbent bishop who is willing and able to serve a subsequent term, †~~ The Synod Council shall arrange for a Synod study to be completed six months prior to the beginning of the election process. The Synod study and any strategic planning adopted by Synod Council shall be distributed to rostered members and congregations of the synod six months prior to the election, providing guidance throughout this synod as potential nominees for bishop are identified.

Rev. Jeff Sorenson, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, spoke in favor of the amendment stating the synod study process should be used even when an incumbent bishop is willing to serve a subsequent term. It is good to have a time of re-evaluation. The amendments remove a two-tiered process.

Rev. Bob Hansen, Interim, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Watertown, spoke in favor of the amendment stating he is not in favor of a two tiered system. A self study would be helpful in setting priorities in both situations.

Rev. Dwight Stensgaard, Calvary, Rapid City, stated a healthy and wonderful discussion is occurring regarding this process. He supports the amendment.

Orland Geigle, Pollock Lutheran, Pollock, spoke in favor of the amendment and the synod study process.

MSC to amend Resolution 8A section S9.04.A12 by striking portions of number 2 and 3:

2. The processes for identifying potential nominees for Bishop and election of a Bishop shall apply for all elections of a Bishop, ~~except where an incumbent Bishop is eligible for a second term. IN THOSE CASES, THE PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL NOMINEES AT THE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLIES WOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED. If an incumbent bishop is willing to serve, and the conference nominating identifying process is dropped, an ecclesiastical ballot for the election of a bishop continues as described in the amended S9.04.~~

3. ~~When there is not an incumbent bishop who is willing and able to serve a subsequent term, †~~ The Synod Council shall arrange for a Synod study to be completed six months prior to the beginning of the election process. The Synod study and any strategic planning adopted by Synod Council shall be distributed to rostered members and congregations of the synod six months prior to the election,

providing guidance throughout this synod as potential nominees for bishop are identified.

(yes = 398, no = 19, abstain = 9)

SA.12.06.09

John Rasmussen, Grace, Sisseton, stated he has been privileged to serve with Pastors Dwight Stensgaard and Heidi Binstock on the Bishop Election Committee. Resolution 7A sets policy and resolution 8A sets the procedure. Prayerful and thoughtful consideration was given throughout the revision process. He is in favor of the amended resolution.

MSC to adopt Resolution 8A: Resolution to Adopt to the South Dakota Synod Bylaws the Continuing Resolutions Process of Identifying Potential Nominees Leading to the Election of a Bishop and Rules of Procedure for the Election of a Bishop as amended.

(yes = 410 (94.5%), no = 16, abstain = 7)

SA.12.06.10

Gary Steuck assumed the Chair, thanking Rev. Linda Norman for her leadership through this process.

Bishop Zellmer assumed the Chair. Members of the assembly expressed their appreciation for Rev. Norman's leadership.

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 2.

Rev. Velma Larson read Resolution 2: 2013 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 2

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: Adopted

(yes = 361, no = 25, abstain = 3)

Subject: 2013 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff

Source: Committee for Support to Ministries and its Compensation Task Force from Bear Butte Conference

RESOLVED, that the "2013 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy" and "2013 Compensation for Lay Staff," prepared by a task force of the Bear Butte Conference 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 2012 South Dakota Synod Assembly.

Mary O'Donnell, Redfield, member of the Support to Ministries Committee, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Rev. John Paulson, Our Savior's, Wessington Springs, stated not all voting members had copies of the guidelines. Additional copies were distributed.

Rev. Arthur Weitschat, Concordia, Kadoka, urged caution with statements number 6 on page 36 (regarding spouses of pastors) and number 2 on page 37 (regarding former pastors).

MSC to adopt Resolution 2: 2013 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff.

(yes = 361, no = 25, abstain = 3)

SA.12.06.11

Cathy Larson presented a Mission Interpreter story.

Rev. Becky Piper, Our Savior's, Hermosa, presented a Bible study.

Bishop Zellmer presented the State of the Synod address. Bishop Zellmer's report can be found in the Preliminary Report.

Marnie Dahle-Backer, Credentials Committee, reported: 479 voting members (142 – clergy, 188 – lay female, 149 – lay male), and 59 visitors and advisory had registered as of 3:45 pm for a total attendance of 538.

Rev. Lance Lindgren, Nominations Committee, directed voting members to the 2012 Ballot.

Bishop Zellmer called for additional nominations for Synod Council Youth Representative.

MSC to nominate Barbara Henke, Canton Lutheran, Canton, for Synod Council Youth Representative.

SA.12.06.12

MSC to close nominations.

SA.12.06.13

MSC to elect Kayla Koterwski, Peace, Sioux Falls, as Synod Council Youth Representative.

(Koterwski = 224, Henke = 100, abstain = 50)

SA.12.06.14

Rev. Lance Lindgren presented two clergy and four lay nominations for the Discipline Committee. Bishop Zellmer called for additional nominations. None were received.

MSC to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Rev. Velma Larson, Faith United Lutheran Volin; Rev. Steve Martins, Dalesburg Vermillion and Brule Creek, Elk Point; Brenda Bode, Salem Lutheran, Mt. Vernon; Brenda Veldheer, Salem Lutheran, Mt. Vernon; Paul Knecht, Lutheran Memorial, Pierre; and Doug Torgert, East Side, Sioux Falls to six year terms on the Discipline Committee.

SA.12.06.15

Rev. Lance Lindgren presented nominations for Lutheran Social Services Board of Directors. Bishop Zellmer called for additional nominations. None were received.

MSC to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Bobbi Brown, Northern Plains Conference; Mike Jamison, Crossroads Conference; and Jack Mortenson, Prairie Rivers Conference to three year terms on the Lutheran Social Services Board of Directors.

SA.12.06.16

Rev. Ericka Lehmann presented information about the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Holy Cow awards were presented to Our Savior's, Sioux Falls, and Immanuel, Mud Butte.

The evening meal, sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and celebration were held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Those celebrating rostered ministry anniversaries were recognized.

25th: Wanda Hernes, AIM, Rev. Daryl Schubert, Rev. Debra Hippen, Rev. Donald Block, Rev. Ericka Lehmann, Rev. Erma Wolf, Rev. Hans Sacrison, Rev. Richard Bowman, Rev. Rick Senner, Rev. Steven Brandsrud, Rev. Suzanne Benidt

50th: Rev. August Borchardt, Rev. Dale Jenson, Rev. Don Niedringhaus, Rev. Donovan Salberg, Rev. Glen Peterson, Rev. Richard Peterson

55th: Rev. George Nielson, Rev. James Hanson, Rev. LeRoy Flagstad, Rev. Martin Haase

60th: Rev. Gerald Koehler, Rev. Kenneth Dugan, Rev. Noble Kile, Rev. Robert Raabe

Those who have retired were recognized: Rev. Jeffrey Buettern, Rev. Mary Feistner, Rev. Albert Goldammer, Rev. Larry Jerke, Rev. Donald Mohr, and Rev. Leslie Svendsen.

Rev. Jay Gamelin presented the keynote address.

June 9, 2012

The Mission Prayer Breakfast was held in the Gathering Place at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Morning worship with Holy Communion was held in the Our Savior's Celebrate Center with Bishop David Zellmer presiding and Rev. Linda Norman preaching. The offering was divided between St. Dymas and the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

Plenary Session Three

Bishop Zellmer led the opening prayer.

The Assembly recessed.

The Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota Annual Meeting was held.

The Assembly reconvened.

Rev. Ann Rosendale, Associate Pastor, brought greetings from Augustana College.

Rev. Marlin Wangsness brought greetings from St. Dymas.

Jesse Fonkert presented information about the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

A break sponsored by Augustana College was held.

Plenary Session Four

Paul Chekola presented a Mission Interpreter story.

Rev. Lori Hope, St. Mark's, Sioux Falls, presented a Bible study.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Rev. Fred Gaiser, Luther Seminary.

Lois Borchardt, Credentials Committee, reported 486 voting members (145 – clergy, 191 – lay female, 150 – lay male) and 60 visitors and advisory had registered as of 11: 30 am for a total attendance of 546.

Bishop Zellmer called upon Erik Gilbertson, South Dakota Synod Treasurer, who presented the Treasurer's Report including 2011 Mission Plan results, 2012 Mission Plan revisions and the proposed 2013 Mission Plan.

MSC to accept the Treasurer's Report.

(yes = 326, no = 6, abstain = 2)

SA.12.06.17

Bishop Zellmer announced every congregation may have a gift of a green stole crafted in Nicaragua and a baptismal shawl or blanket gifted from South Dakota Synod congregations.

The Assembly recessed for lunch.

Plenary Session Five

The Assembly reconvened.

Teresa Nygaard, Canton Lutheran, Canton, presented a Mission Interpreter story.

Rev. Tony Haglund, Canton Lutheran, Canton, presented a Bible study.

Roe Eidsness, Credentials Committee, reported 486 voting members (145 – clergy, 191 – lay female, 150 – lay male) and 60 visitors and advisory had registered as of 11: 30 am for a total attendance of 546.

Bishop Zellmer called upon Treasurer Erik Gilbertson to present the Proposed 2013 Mission Plan.

	Proposed 2013
INCOME	
MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS	\$1,692,242
Program Ministry Income	
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,001
Other Program Income	-
Woyatan Income (EOCM Grant)	12,000
Other Income Streams	
SD Synod Mission Support	40,550
DEM Support Staff	15,000
Interest Income	13,500

SDS Transportation LLC Income	5,000
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,848,293
EXPENSES	
	Proposed
CHURCHWIDE MISSION	2013
Mission Support to ELCA	769,970
% of Mission Support	45.5%
Region III	15,790
SHARED MINISTRIES	
South Dakota Sustained Ministries	
Campus Ministry	120,082
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	48,410
Heartland Ephphatha	5,891
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605
South Dakota Supported Ministries	
SD Ministries Support	4,928
Luther Seminary	68,099
Lutheran Social Services	68,099
Lutherans Outdoors	33,963
Church Colleges	5,891
Flandreau Indian School Chaplaincy	13,522
Association of Christian Churches	2,000
Chapel in the Hills	1
Good Samaritan Society	1
Expense from Mission Support	375,522
	Proposed
	2013
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES	
Staff Leadership	
Bishop	97,588
Associate Tesch	10,294
Associate Marone	74,735
Bishop/Associate Benefits	61,469
SDS Travel	49,500
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	9,485
DEM Travel	-
Program Ministries	

Native American Ministry	74,821
Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator	13,622
Companion Synod Coordinator	10,425
Support Staff and Office	
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	134,431
Resource Center Supplies	250
Synod Office Expenses	57,884
Augustana College	19,233
Synod Leadership	
Synod Council	6,000
Support to Ministries Committee	6,000
Candidacy Committee	6,000
Electronic Communications	2,500
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,700
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	2,000
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500
Mission Strategy Committee	2,000
Ministry Projects	
Stewardship Project	4,000
Congregational Initiative Grants	1,236
Continuing Education Projects	1,000
Rural Ministry Projects	500
Woyatan Program Expenses	12,000
Outreach Ministries	
Multicultural Center	15,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000
Companion Synods	1,000
Contingency	6,838
Subtotal SD Synod Ministries	687,011
Total Expense	\$1,848,293
Net Total	0

MSC to adopt the Proposed 2013 Mission Plan.

(yes = 325, no = 8, abstain = 2)

SA.12.06.18

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 1.

Rev. Velma Larson read Resolution 1: Elect South Dakota Synod Council Members with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 1

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: Adopted
(voice vote)

Subject: Elect South Dakota Synod Council Members
Source: Resolutions Committee

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 (Clergy)	Rev. Jan FitzGibbon, Webster
Crossroads Conference (Lay Male)	Alex Jensen, Sioux Falls
Southeastern Conference (Lay Female)	Christy Kimball, Vermillion
Northern Plains Conference (Clergy)	Rev. Deb Grismer, Aberdeen
Prairie Rivers Conference (Lay Male)	Lorne Tilberg, Mitchell
Bear Butte Conference (Lay Female)	LuAnn Denke, Rapid City

MSC to adopt Resolution 1: Elect South Dakota Synod Council Members.
SA.12.06.19

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 3.

Rev. Velma Larson read Resolution 3: Elect 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 3
Recommendation: Do Pass
Action Taken: Adopted
(voice vote)

Subject: Elect 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members
Source: Resolutions Committee

RESOLVED, that the 2012 South Dakota Synod Assembly elect the following voting members and alternates to the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, August 12-18, Pittsburgh, PA, nominated by conferences and the Synod Council:

PRAIRIE COTEAU CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Female
Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Robin Wanner-Schaunaman, Clark
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Janet Miller, Bristol

Lay Female Voting Member: Barbara Bunk, Langford
Lay Female Alternate: Wanda Franzen, Britton

MEDARY CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Female, One Lay Male
Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Elizabeth Pagnotta, Madison
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Rick Senner, Howard

Lay Female Voting Member: Lisa Hinkley, De Smet
Lay Female Alternate: Coleen Liebsch, Arlington

Lay Male Voting Member: Mark Hinkley, De Smet

Lay Male Alternate: Steve Rhody, Toronto

CROSSROADS CONFERENCE – Two Clergy, One Lay Female, Two Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Ann Rosendale, Sioux Falls
Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Jeff Eisele, Sioux Falls
Clergy 1st Alternate: Rev. Amy Eisenmann, Sioux Falls
Clergy 2nd Alternate: Rev. Wayne Gallipo, Tea

Lay Female Voting Member: Angela Koterwski, Tea
Lay Female Alternate: Teresa Nygaard, Davis

Lay Male Voting Member: Mark Koterwski, Tea
Lay Male Voting Member: Kevin Stillson, Sioux Falls
Lay Male 1st Alternate: Ron Nygaard, Davis
Lay Male 2nd Alternate: Alex Jensen, Sioux Falls

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Female

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. David Wildermuth, Yankton
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Trisha Boese, Vermillion

Lay Female Voting Member: Beverly Wildermuth, Yankton
Lay Female Alternate: Jill Munger, Vermillion

NORTHERN PLAINS CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Female, One Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Ryan Gage, Eureka
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Dennis Fonkert, Mobridge

Lay Female Voting Member: Janice Jasmer, Leola
Lay Female Alternate: Jaimie Odde, Pollock

Lay Male Voting Member: Richard Jasmer, Leola
Lay Male Alternate: Mike Brumbaugh, Aberdeen

PRAIRIE RIVERS CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Christopher (Chris) Baesler, Mitchell
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Scotland

Lay Male Voting Member: Travis Gerlach, Parkston
Lay Male Alternate: Ron Lauck, Corsica

BEAR BUTTE CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Female, One Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Jeff Otterman, Belle Fourche
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Tom Opoien, Custer

Lay Female Voting Member: LuAnn Denke, Rapid City
Lay Female Alternate: Kim Johnson, Rapid City

Lay Male Voting Member: Jim Bishop, Rapid City
Lay Male Alternate: Tom Martin, Rapid City

NOMINATED BY THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD COUNCIL

Youth Male:

Youth Male Alternate:

Youth Female:

Youth Female Alternate:

Synod Secretary:

Carla Borchardt, Secretary

Synod Vice President:

Gary Steuck, Mobridge

Synod Bishop:

Bishop David B. Zellmer, Sioux Falls

**MSC to adopt Resolution 3: Elect 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members.
SA.12.06.20**

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 4.

Rev. Velma Larson read Resolution 4: 50 Golden Years of Serving and Caring with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 4

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: Adopted

(voice vote)

Subject: 50 Golden Years of Serving and Caring

Source: Medary Conference

WHEREAS, within the American Lutheran Church (ALC) homes for the elderly were formed, each directly owned and operated by congregations of the American Lutheran Church, and were given affiliation status by the Church; and

WHEREAS, at one point in the history of the Church, nearly 300 nursing homes were in the United States, with four located within the South Dakota District of the American Lutheran Church, including Bethel Lutheran Home; Madison, Bethesda Home; Beresford (the first nursing home in South Dakota), Bethesda Home; Webster, and Bethesda Home of Aberdeen; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Lutheran Home, Madison is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, having opened its doors to serve elderly men and women in and around the Madison area; and

WHEREAS, Bethel has met the ever-changing needs of area seniors in these 50 years by developing congregate housing, assisted living, adult day services, twin homes, in addition to the original 59-bed skilled nursing home, and operates the only childcare center in Madison today; and

WHEREAS, today these four facilities, when joined with Bethany Lutheran Home, Sioux Falls, are the only five long-term care facilities in South Dakota today directly owned and operated by Lutheran congregations, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod within the 2012 Synod Assembly, congratulates Bethel Lutheran Home, Madison, for 50 years of service and caring to those who have been and are served today within the Bethel Community; and be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod within the 2012 Synod Assembly do recognize those pastors, and assembly voting members who represent the congregations that own and operate these five social ministry organizations, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we call upon all voting members to express their support today by affirmation and thanks, and to encourage all congregations in the South Dakota to uphold in prayer and through their stewardship, the boards of directors, the staff who provide the care given, and all who are served by these partners in ministry - all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jim Iverson, Trinity, Madison, and administrator of Bethel Lutheran Home, spoke in favor of the resolution stating one of every 50 Americans is served by a Lutheran social service organization. These facilities are owned and operated by congregations. Mr. Iverson thanked assembly participants for their support.

Rev. Becky Senner, Oldham/St. John's, Oldham/Ramona, spoke in favor of the resolution, expressing appreciation for the 13 owner congregations and Mr. Iverson for his leadership.

**MSC to adopt Resolution 4: 50 Golden Years of Serving and Caring.
SA.12.06.21**

MS to consider Resolution 5: Vicar Voice and Vote.

**Resolution: 5
Recommendation: No Recommendation
Action Taken: Adopted as Amended
(yes = 233, no = 99, abstain = 14)**

**Subject: Vicar Voice and Vote
Source: American Lutheran Church, De Smet, SD**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the South Dakota Synod to extend hospitality, and

WHEREAS, licensed lay ministers have voice and vote at the South Dakota Synod Assembly, and

WHEREAS, ELCA and other pastors called or contracted in congregations of our Synod are granted voice and vote at the South Dakota Synod Assembly, and

WHEREAS, seminarians provide fresh perspective, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that ELCA seminarians serving as interns/vicars in congregations of the South Dakota Synod be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the South Dakota Synod Assembly during the period of such service in a congregation of the South Dakota Synod.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ELCA seminarians serving as interns/vicars in congregations of the South Dakota Synod be granted the privilege of both voice and vote at the 2012 South Dakota Synod Assembly.

MS to amend Resolution 5

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod seek for ways to allow ELCA seminarians serving as interns/vicars in congregations of the South Dakota Synod to be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the South Dakota Synod Assembly during the period of such service in a congregation of the South Dakota Synod.

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ELCA seminarians serving as interns/vicars in congregations of the South Dakota Synod be granted the privilege of both voice and vote at the 2012 South Dakota Synod Assembly.~~

Bishop Zellmer stated he has checked with David Swartling, ELCA Secretary, who ruled the original resolution 5 unconstitutional.

Rev. Randy Koeller, American Lutheran, DeSmet, spoke in favor of the amended resolution stating he remembers when voting membership was opened to many other types of rostered leaders. The landscape of pastoral education has changed in our synod making it harder to distinguish between different types of educational preparation and role. Interns are isolated as a type of person who are not granted voice and vote at the assembly.

Jim Bishop, South Canyon, Rapid City, spoke in favor of the amendment stating it gives the younger generation voice and vote at assembly.

Rev. Arthur Weitschat, Concordia, Kadoka, spoke in favor of the amendment stating interns are in training and learning about the life and work of congregations and the synod. They should be granted voice and vote.

MSC to amend resolution 5.

(yes = 319, no = 22, abstain = 3)

SA.12.06.22

Bishop Zellmer stated the amended resolution has implications beyond the South Dakota Synod and if adopted, further discussion with the Synod Council, Conference of Bishops, Church Council and ELCA Office of the Secretary will be necessary. The amended resolution also has ramifications for the candidacy committee and seminary committees.

Rev. Duane Neugebauer, Trinity, Chamberlain, spoke in favor of the amended resolution stating he has supervised an intern who served as the only clergy for a congregation. It is important for congregations such as this to have clergy voice and vote representation at assembly.

Rev. Ramona Hayes, Peace, Herreid, stated she is in her first call and questioned whether seminarians called to the synod are included in the action.

Rev. Randy Koeller, American Lutheran, DeSmet, stated there are many different types of ministers serving in congregations. His opinion is that seminarians holding a call to congregations in the synod should be allowed voice and vote.

Bishop Zellmer stated an ordained seminarian who has accepted call and been installed does have voice and vote at assembly.

MSC to close debate.

(Yes = 330, no = 10, abstain = 3)

SA.12.06.23

MSC to adopt Resolution 5: Vicar Voice and Vote as amended.

(yes = 233, no = 99, abstain = 14)

SA.12.06.24

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 6.

Rev. Velma Larson read Resolution 6: Evangelical Outreach Committee and Multi-Cultural Committee Proposed Bylaw Change with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 6

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: Adopted

(yes = 311 (94%), no = 14, abstain = 6)

**Subject: Evangelical Outreach Committee and Multi-Cultural Committee Proposed
Bylaw Change**

Source: Synod Council

WHEREAS, with the advent of the ELCA's plan for new and renewing evangelizing congregations, along with the addition of the position of the Director of Evangelical Mission, there is a need to provide a formal structure and leadership for the essential planning and oversight related to mission and multicultural ministries; and

WHEREAS, both of these proposed committees currently function as ad-hoc task forces related to the Outreach Board of the South Dakota Synod Council; and

WHEREAS, both consume a small budget for meeting expenses and travel which is typically under spent, meaning it is likely that those budgets would not need to increase, therefore be it

RESOLVED, to amend the South Dakota Synod Constitution and Bylaws with the following additions:

**S11.07 The Evangelical Outreach Committee
The Evangelical Outreach Committee shall be composed of the Director of Evangelical Mission, and two persons, one lay person and one ordained minister, elected by each conference, and up to five additional members appointed by the Bishop. Conference elected members shall serve three-year terms with provision for a second term. Vacancies of conference elected members shall be filled by the conference in which the vacancy occurs in consultation with the Director of Evangelical Mission. Each conference is encouraged to seek members representing a diversity of backgrounds and cultures.**

The Evangelical Outreach Committee shall:

- a. Oversee the discernment and funding process for new, redeveloping, ethnic specific and renewing congregations.**
- b. Submit to the South Dakota Synod Assembly a strategic plan for mission in South Dakota that includes as a part of its plan: the development of new congregations, the renewal of congregations, the development of ethnic specific ministries, and the development of ministries with the poor.**
- c. Plan for and assist in the development of Local Area Mission Strategy tables which will conduct and carry out mission planning at the local level.**
- d. Conduct annual reviews of funded ministries and report stories from each mission field to all the congregations of the South Dakota Synod.**
- e. Maintain a relationship of mutual accountability with congregations, synod and the Churchwide organization for the benefit of new and renewing congregations.**
- f. Seek generous financial giving, prayers and participation from churches and individuals toward the cause of new and renewing congregations, ethnic specific ministries and ministries with the poor.**

The Multi-cultural Committee

S11.07.33

The Multi-cultural Committee shall be composed of the Director of Evangelical Mission, and two persons, one lay person and one ordained minister, elected by each conference, and up to five additional members appointed by the Bishop. Conference elected members shall serve three-year terms with provision for a second term. Vacancies of conference elected members shall be filled by the conference in which the vacancy occurs in consultation with the Director of Evangelical Mission. Each conference is encouraged to seek members representing a diversity of backgrounds and cultures.

The Multi-cultural committee shall:

- a. Advise the Evangelical Outreach Committee on matters related to the oversight and funding of ethnic specific congregations.**
- b. Develop strategies to help us become a more multicultural church.**
- c. Advocate with and for ethnic communities at every level of ministry and leadership in our Synod, and stand in solidarity with people who experience injustice.**
- d. Teach the people of our Synod how to listen and interact with different cultures, so that there may be a mutual blessing.**
- e. Encourage congregations and leaders who are involved in multicultural ministry.**
- f. Seek generous giving and participation from churches, individuals and organizations toward the cause of multicultural ministry.**

Rev. Bill Tesch, Assistant to the Bishop, spoke in favor of the resolution stating ad hoc task forces currently operate under the Synod Council, but more formal structure and collaboration is needed as increased numbers of new or renewing multi-cultural congregations are formed.

MSC to adopt Resolution 6: Evangelical Outreach Committee and Multi-Cultural Committee Proposed Bylaw Change.

(yes = 311, no = 14, abstain = 6)

SA.12.06.25

Bishop Zellmer stated Resolution 10: Resolution to Call for a Vote on the Document "Process for Nominating and Electing the Bishop" was addressed by resolutions 7A and 8A.

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 11.

Rev. Velma Larson read Resolution 11: Proposed South Dakota Synod Constitution and Bylaws Changes with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 11

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: Adopted

(yes = 303 (92%), no = 15, abstain = 12)

Subject: Proposed South Dakota Synod Constitution and Bylaws Changes

Source: Synod Council Constitution Review Committee

WHEREAS, the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly approved amendment changes to the model Constitution for Synods, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, to amend the South Dakota Synod Constitution and Bylaws with the following additions and deletions (additions are underlined, deletions are ~~struck through~~):

S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the Synod Assembly.

- a. **The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.**
- b. **If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the Synod Council after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. ~~in cooperation with the Synod Council.~~**

S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant an ordained minister from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the

Synod Assembly during the period of that ordained minister's service in a congregation of this church.

S8.23. In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office.

S10.06. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected ~~be a member in good standing on a roster of this synod, if an ordained minister, or to be a confirmed member of a congregation of this synod, if a layperson~~, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.

S10.01.11. The two youth members of the Synod Council shall be elected by the Synod Assembly upon nomination of this synod's ~~Lutheran Youth Organization~~ Nominating Committee for two-year terms.

S10.01.12. The synod presidents of the Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission and ~~Lutheran Youth Organization~~, and others designated by the Synod Council shall be advisors to the Synod Council with voice, but no vote.

S10.07.01 To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

S13.40 Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities

S13.41 Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

Carla Borchardt, South Dakota Synod Secretary, explained the 2011 Churchwide Assembly approved amendment changes to the model constitution for synods. The Synod Constitution and Bylaws Committee reviewed the recommended changes and presents these additions and deletions for consideration.

MSC to adopt Resolution 11: Proposed South Dakota Synod Constitution and Bylaws Changes.

(yes = 303 (92%), no = 15, abstain = 12)

SA.12.06.26

Bishop Zellmer stated Resolution 9: Resolution to Amend the Bylaw Amendments was addressed by resolutions 7A and 8A.

Rev. Velma Larson thanked members of the Resolutions Committee for their work.

Bishop Zellmer announced a new synod banner has been created and hung above the synod office door.

An electronic evaluation of the assembly was conducted.

Bishop Zellmer installed members of the South Dakota Synod Council.

Bishop Zellmer thanked Parliamentarian Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Secretary Carla Borchardt and Vice President Gary Steuck for their service; the assembly for their work and Our Savior's for their hospitality.

Bishop Zellmer led the closing of the assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Borchardt
Secretary, South Dakota Synod