

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America South Dakota Synod Assembly

Virtual Assembly
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD
June 4-5, 2021

The thirty-third annual Assembly of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, was held via simultaneous aural and visual communication throughout the South Dakota Synod, June 4-5, 2021, with the theme *Neighbors in Solidarity*. Assembly documents and resources were available through the ELCA Guide (Guidebook) app.

On Friday, June 4, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT), the opening service was streamed from the sanctuary of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. The Rev. Constanze Hagmaier, Bishop of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA, delivered the sermon.

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Friday, June 4, 2021

Welcome and Order for Opening of the Synod Assembly

Bishop Hagmaier called the assembly to order at the close of worship and welcomed all to the assembly.

Greetings and Introductions

Bishop Hagmaier made the following introductions: Rev. Amy Reumann, Senior Director for Witnessing in Society of the ELCA and Churchwide Representative; Willette Capers, Assistant Dean of Students for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at Augustana University as the keynote speaker; assembly chaplains, the Rev. Ann Rosendale, Campus Pastor at Augustana University and the Rev. Christy Hallenbeck Ask of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society; Synod Officers, Carla Borchardt, Vice-president; the Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Secretary; Erik Gilbertson, Treasurer; and Brett Koenecke, Parliamentarian.

Zoom Housekeeping

Being the first Virtual Assembly, Bishop Hagmaier overviewed how the meeting would be conducted and best practices for Zoom meetings.

The assembly practiced with the voting platform that will be in use throughout the assembly.

Consideration of the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

Bishop Hagmaier declared a quorum present and directed voting members to the Synod Rules of Procedure distributed through the Guidebook.

MSC to adopt the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for the 2021 Synod Assembly. SA.21.01

Consideration of the Order of Business

Bishop Hagmaier directed voting members to the agenda. She noted that she might ask for allowance on the agenda to best facilitate the work of the assembly from time to time.

MSC to adopt the agenda. SA.21.02

State of the ELCA

Rev. Amy Reumann, Senior Director for Witnessing in Society of the ELCA, brought greetings from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and presented the State of the ELCA address.

Ministry Partner Greetings

Kathy McHenry of Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota brought a video greeting, highlighting the blessing of the synod's seminary debt reduction programs. McHenry stressed the over \$1 million of student loan forgiveness that has been given to first-call pastors in the last 20 years.

Randy Bury, President and CEO of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, brought a video greeting sharing the society's mission as the largest network of senior care facilities in the nation. The pandemic has offered many challenges over the last year, and the organization looks forward to celebrating 100 years of ministry in 2022.

Neighbors in Solidarity

The Rev. Jonathan Steiner, Director of Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship and Outreach, shared Neighbors in Solidarity includes: Woyatan Lutheran Church; Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center; Pueblo de Dios; First Lutheran African Ministry; Church on the Street; LuMin with campus ministries at Black Hills School of Mines and Technology, Northern State University, South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota; and St. Dysmas Prison Ministries. The different Neighbor in Solidarity ministries will be introduced throughout the assembly.

Break

Announcements were made before the scheduled recess. Nominations are due by 12:30 p.m. central and the Resolutions deadline by 3:00 p.m. central.

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Friday, June 4, 2021

Voting Practice

Bishop Hagmaier led the assembly in voting device practice. Sample votes revealed that 63% of the assembly members were aware of the new hymnal resource, *All Creation Sings*; and 36% of members participated in the assembly as a group and 64% individually.

Keynote Speaker

Bishop Hagmaier introduced keynote speaker Willette Capers of Augustana University for a presentation titled "Won't You Be My Neighbor: Embracing Difference While Creating Belonging." Throughout the keynote, Ms. Capers addressed the following themes: The Acknowledgement of my Neighbors, What Does It Mean to Be a Neighbor, Characteristics of a Good Neighborhood, Next Steps, and Final Thoughts.

Voting Practice

More voting practice sharing favorite pie flavor and favorite gospel. Voting members gave strong preferences to the Gospels of Luke and John, each receiving 37% of responses.

Report of the Credentials Committee

The Rev. Jon Splichal Larson presented the first report of the Credentials Committee. Ministers of Word and Sacrament/Word and Service/Synod Authorized Ministers: 118; Lay Female: 105; Lay Male: 75; Lay Non-binary 2; Lay Declined-to-state 1; for a total of 183 Lay Voting members and 301 total voting members. Of the voting members, 3 are youth and 6 BIPOC. Five retired rostered leaders were registered as advisory members.

State of the Synod Report

To kick off the report, Bishop Hagmaier invited Joe Davis, a poet from the Minneapolis area, to share his perform his poem, "Show up." The idea of *showing up* has been the theme phrase of Bishop Hagmaier's term. She and her staff have shown up in all seven conferences, engaging in a listening process to explore the synod's future cumulating in a five-year vision for the synod and mission statement Journeying Together in Christ. One area of focus recognizes the essential humanity of all people. This has been done through the Justice Table, LSS, the LGBTQIA+2S advisory team, renewed ecumenical work, and initial connections with Native communities. Another focus is on networking congregations. The Bishop is on the advisory committee for Dialog Works and Wartburg Seminary as they develop learning tools for rural congregations called *Engaging God's Future: Building Courage, Confidence, and Capacity*. New ministry areas look to opportunities in virtual ministry, house church models, and connecting rural

congregations and ecumenical partners in new ways. Even with all of the challenges of 2020, Mission Support was received at 98%. The fiscal year ended with an extraordinary giving of \$144,000. The Synod Council has approved a plan for these extraordinary gifts to reinvest in the synod. Highlighting a few ways these gifts will be used: to launch a mission start congregation in Box Elder, development of a house church model for rural communities without an ELCA presence, support congregations in revitalization efforts, and grants for rostered leaders to grow in new ministry areas.

Elections of Synod Officers

Elections will be held for the positions of Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer. Biographical information for candidates for office is available in the Guidebook. The Rev. Christy Hallenbeck-Ask offered prayers for the candidates and the assembly.

The position of Vice-president is a four year-term and must not be a rostered minister. Mr. Dennis Thompson addressed the assembly for two minutes.

The Rev. Ryan Gage made a point of order to ask for the report of the Credentials Committee. The Rev. Jon Splichal Larson presented the first report of the Credentials Committee. Ministers of Word and Sacrament/Word and Service/Synod Authorized Ministers: 118; Lay Female: 105; Lay Male: 75; Lay Non-binary 2; Lay Declined-to-state 1; for a total of 183 Lay Voting members and 301 total voting members.

Bishop Hagmaier opened voting for the position of Vice-president. Voting was closed and the results presented with 284 votes to elect Dennis Thompson and one abstention.

MSC to elect Dennis Thompson to a four-year term as Vice-president.

SA.21.03

The position of Secretary is a four-year term and can be either a rostered minister or layperson. The Secretary can serve two consecutive terms, and if Rev. Vehar is re-elected, it would be for his second term. Pastor Vehar addressed the assembly for two minutes.

Bishop Hagmaier opened voting for the position of Secretary. Voting was closed and the results presented with 281 votes to elect the Rev. Jonathan Vehar and three abstentions.

MSC to elect The Rev. Jonathan Vehar to a four-year term as Secretary.

SA.21.04

The position of Treasurer is a four-year term and may be elected by the Synod Assembly or appointed by the Synod Council. The Treasurer can be either a rostered minister or layperson. Mr. Terry Johnson addressed the assembly for two minutes.

Bishop Hagmaier opened voting for the position of Treasurer. Voting was closed and the results presented with 278 votes to elect Terry Johnson and three abstentions.

MSC to elect Terry Johnson to a four-year term as Treasurer.

SA.21.05

Introduction of Resolutions

Bishop Hagmaier called upon the Rev. Becky Senner, chair of the Resolutions Committee, to present resolutions before the assembly. Senner directed voting members to Resolution #8: Resolution to Adopt Certain Amendments to the Constitution of the South Dakota Synod. Resolution #8 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 #8: Adoption of Certain Amendments to the Constitution

Yes 267, No 4

SA.21.06

Resolution # 8

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: adopted

Subject: Resolution to Adopt Certain Amendments to the Constitution of the South Dakota Synod

WHEREAS, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly adopted amendments to the model constitution for synods; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council at the March 2020 meeting, reviewed recommended changes and recommended to the Synod Assembly the adoption of non-required provisions of the model constitution for synods as amended in 2019, excluding S8.11.01, and including S7.32.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod amend the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the South Dakota Synod as follows:

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

CHAPTER 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY

S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those ~~designated as disabled~~ granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~congregations under development and~~ authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw ~~10.02.03, 10.01.04.~~, to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

S7.32. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, ~~The Synod Rules of Parliamentary Procedure~~ shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly.

CHAPTER 8: OFFICERS

S8.14. The synodical bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

CHAPTER 10: SYNOD COUNCIL

S10.08. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.

S10.078.01. 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.

CHAPTER 13: CONGREGATIONS

S13.25. This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence. Such synod administration shall continue only so long as necessary to complete the purposes for which it was requested by the congregation or until the congregation withdraws consent to continued administration.

S13.40. ~~Synodically Authorized~~ Synod-authorized Worshipping Communities

CHAPTER 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS

S14.14. Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a ~~Lutheran~~ congregation nearer to their place of residence.

S14.17. No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the ~~chair-president~~ of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

S14.42. No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the ~~chair~~ president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call

CHAPTER 15: FINANCIAL MATTERS

S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.

Senner directed voting members to Resolution #6: Land Acknowledgment. Resolution #6 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 #6: Land Acknowledgment

Yes 211, No 67

SA.21.07

Resolution #6

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: adopted

Subject: Land Acknowledgement Resolution

Source: Bear Butte Conference

WHEREAS, we, of the South Dakota Synod, have affirmed our baptismal calling to seek justice and peace; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in assembly, adopted a resolution in 2016 to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recognizes that the Oceti Sakowin, (the Seven Council Fires of the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota) the Arikara, and the Cheyenne, are the original inhabitants of South Dakota; and South Dakota is the current home of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and

WHEREAS, the land of South Dakota was taken by broken treaties and force; and

WHEREAS, healing and reconciliation is a process that begins with recognizing where we have been, so that we can move forward; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod leadership model a land acknowledgement at the start of all of its synod-level activities, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod invite other South Dakota ministries to do the same.

Nominating Ballot

The Nominating Ballot has been posted in the Guidebook.

All positions have been filled, and the nominations deadline has been closed.

MSC to adopt the nominating ballot and elect positions according to the stated terms.

Yes 278, No 2

SA.21.08

Discipline Committee: No Vacancy

Consultation Committee (six-year term, without consecutive re-election):

2 Rostered Ministers, 1 Lay Vacancy

Pastor Lori Hope (Crossroads Conference)

Pastor Laura Overbo (Medary Conference)

Darcie Bien (Medary Conference)

Support to Ministries: No Vacancy

Chapel in the Hills

Becky Hollibaugh, Rapid City (2nd term)

Barry Elder, Rapid City (1st term)

Synod Council Youth

Truman Stoller, St. John, Madison

Neighbors in Solidarity

Vicar Jonathan Old Horse brought a greeting on behalf of Woyatan Lutheran Church in Rapid City, SD, inviting all to worship with their community. Vicar Old Horse highlighted some of the unique ministries at Woyatan that bridge scripture with traditional Lakota practices such as the dance circle and brought attention to the Missing and Murdered Women mural located at Woyatan Lutheran.

Church on the Street is a ministry in the Sioux Falls area that offers a spiritual community for those who are under-housed. Reaching into the community, the church walks along many who find it difficult to enter the doors of traditional congregations.

First Lutheran African Ministry under the leadership of Abraham Gayatee is a congregation of members of African descent in Sioux Falls. The community meets weekly for worship and bible study, and seeks to be a place of welcome for immigrants.

Break

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Friday, June 4, 2021

Report of the Credentials Committee

Kelsey Lyndoe presented the report of the Credentials Committee.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament/Word and Service/Synod Authorized Ministers: 118; Lay Female: 107; Lay Male: 76; Lay Non-binary 2; Lay Declined-to-state 1; for 186 Lay Voting members and 304 total voting members. Of the voting members, 3 are youth and 6 BIPOC. Five retired rostered or on-leave-from-call leaders were registered as advisory members.

Treasurer's Report

Bishop Hagmaier invited Erik Gilbertson to present the Treasurer's Report and 2022 Mission Plan.

Gilbertson highlighted aspects of his report: the synod had a clean audit report for 2019 and 2020. The 2021 financial year is on track with the budget, and the proposed 2022 budget is based on a 3% increase in Mission Support. There was no increase in the Mission Plan in 2020 since the Synod Assembly did not meet to approve a plan. The Mission Plan is similar to prior years.

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 2019 and 2020 fiscal years. The full audit report is available in the Guidebook. In addition, he credited Lois Borchardt, SD Synod Financial manager, for her work.

Gilbertson stated mission support is distributed with 71-72% to ministries (local, state, national, and international), 23-24% to staff wages and benefits, 4-5% to overhead to support synod ministries, and less than 1% for synod governance and committees.

There were no significant changes to the Mission Plan in 2019. However, support to partner organizations did receive 100% planned support in 2020. The Synod also received a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in 2020 that has been forgiven.

Presentation of the 2022 Mission Plan

The 2022 Mission Plan represents a 3% increase in the overall budget based on estimated congregational pledges. No significant changes are being proposed, with staff expenses representing a less than 1% decrease over the previous year. The proposed budget maintains the current percent of support for the Churchwide Organization and partner ministries.

Portico Benefits Services

Deacon Terri Endres, the regional representative for Portico Benefits Services, offered a video greeting. Portico provides a holistic approach to supporting the physical and mental health of church leaders and staff.

Introduction of Resolutions

Senner presented resolutions to be considered *En Bloc*. Resolution #3 – Medicaid Expansion had been removed for separate consideration.

MSC to accept the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee and approve En Bloc Resolution #1 – Elect South Dakota Synod Council Members, Resolution #4 – Elect 2022 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, Resolution #5 – Support ELCA World Hunger Efforts, Resolution #7 -- Recognition of Dr. Carla Borchardt, Resolution #9 -- Synod Council Ratification.

Yes 267, No 4

SA.21.09

Resolution #1

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: adopted

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:

Medary Conference (Rostered)
Crossroads Conference (Lay)
Northern Plains Conference (Lay)
Prairie Rivers Conference (Lay)

Rev. Jackie Braun, Sinai/Volga
Anne Rieck McFarland, Sioux Falls
Kelly Nelson, Pierre
Bonny Hansen, Mitchell

Resolution # 4

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: adopted

Subject: Elect 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Source: Resolutions Committee

RESOLVED, that the 2021 South Dakota Synod Assembly elect the following voting members and alternates to the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, August 8-12, Columbus, OH, nominated by conferences and the Synod Council:

PRAIRIE COTEAU CONFERENCE – One Rostered, One Lay Male (*changed to female)

Rostered Voting Member: Rev. Dr. Ramona Hayes, Langford

Rostered Alternate: Rev. Alex Smith, Webster

Lay Female Voting Member: Annelies Seffrood, Summit

Lay Female Alternate: TBD

MEDARY CONFERENCE – One Rostered, One Lay Female

Rostered Voting Member: Rev. Cassandra Lamb, Brookings

Rostered Alternate: Rev. Jonathan Dolan, De Smet

Lay Female Voting Member: Tiffany Lewis, Bruce

Lay Female Alternate: TBD

CROSSROADS CONFERENCE – One Rostered, One Lay Female, One Lay Male

Rostered Voting Member: Rev. Chris Matson, Sioux Falls

Rostered Alternate: Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Sioux Falls

Lay Female Voting Member: Makenna Wallin, Sioux Falls

Lay Female Alternate: Cheryl Lundeen, Sioux Falls

Lay Male Voting Member: Sawyer Vanden Heuvel, Sioux Falls

Lay Male Alternate: Bill Woods, Sioux Falls

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE – One Rostered, One Lay Male

Rostered Voting Member: Rev. David Bentz, Elk Point

Rostered Alternate: Rev. Jeff Otterman, Yankton

Lay Male Voting Member: Mike Gillis, Yankton

Lay Male Alternate: David Spencer, Yankton

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

Rostered Voting Member: Rev. Leland Armbright, Aberdeen

Rostered Alternate: Deacon Kris Wollman, Pierre

Lay Female Voting Member: Mary O'Donnell, Tulare

Lay Female Alternate: Donna Crook, Redfield

Lay Male Voting Member: Greg Dean, Pierre

Lay Male Alternate: Stan Jung, Warner

PRAIRIE RIVERS CONFERENCE – One Rostered, One Lay Female (*changed to male)

Rostered Voting Member: Rev. Becky Senner, Bridgewater

Rostered Alternate: Rev. Mindy Ehrke, Presho

Lay Male Voting Member: Jeff Tveit, Chamberlain

Lay Male Alternate: Holly Paulson, Wessington Springs

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

Rostered Voting Member: Rev. Pam Power, Custer

Rostered Alternate: Rev. Erik Thone, Rapid City

Lay Female Voting Member: Cheryl Chapman, Rapid City

Lay Female Alternate: Deb Holz, Rapid City

Lay Male Voting Member: Malcom Chapman, Rapid City

Lay Male Alternate: Nicholas Breining, Pine Ridge

NOMINATED BY THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD COUNCIL

Youth: Truman Stoller, Madison

Youth Alternate: TBD

Youth (BIPOC):

Youth Alternate (BIPOC):

Synod Bishop: Bishop Constanze Hagmaier, Sioux Falls

Synod Vice President: Dennis Thompson

Resolution #5**Recommendation: Do Pass****Action Taken: adopted****Subject: Support ELCA World Hunger Efforts****Source:** The South Dakota Synod Hunger Team; Pastor Erika Lehmann, Chair; and the Bear Butte Conference

WHEREAS, ELCA World Hunger provides immediate relief to those who are hungry, and connects people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income, for long-term, sustainable change, and

WHEREAS, ELCA World Hunger effectively reaches more places than we could ever do alone by working with congregations, global companion churches, Lutheran World Federation and other partners like Bread for the World, Church World Service, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Lutheran World Relief, and by funding relief and development projects that assist our sisters and brothers in need, and

WHEREAS, ELCA World Hunger engages members of the ELCA through education and advocacy to help change the systems that perpetuate poverty, and we believe that God uses our hands to serve and love our neighbor, and uses our voices through our advocacy efforts to restore our world, and that through faithful advocacy we live out our Lutheran belief that governments can help advance the common good,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that our synod congregations be challenged to set aside at least one Sunday or special service each year to reflect on caring for those who are hungry and to bring an awareness of the work and ministry of ELCA World Hunger domestically and internationally, such as by participating in Souper Bowl Sunday, ELCA Good Gifts, or the 40 Days of Lent; and strive to educate members using ELCA World Hunger educational videos and other materials;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that congregations support state and local efforts to alleviate hunger; both by direct providing of food and through advocacy such as participation in Bread for the World's annual "Offering of Letters" and by signing up for ELCA Advocacy's Action Alerts at <http://support.elca.org/>

Resolution # 7**Recommendation: Do Pass****Action Taken: adopted****Subject: Recognition of Leadership by Dr. Carla Borchardt****Source: Resolution Committee**

WHEREAS, Dr. Carla Borchardt has now completed her terms of service to the South Dakota Synod-ELCA, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Borchardt has faithfully served the South Dakota Synod-ELCA through her work on the synod council as Crossroads representative through the term of 1999-2005; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Borchardt served the synod council as secretary from 2005-2013, presenting accurate renditions of actions taken at council meetings and synod assembly; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Borchardt led the South Dakota Synod-ELCA for two terms as Vice-President from 2013-2021, through the myriad of changes as a faithful child of God;

Therefore let it be RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod-ELCA, at this assembly, give thanks to God for the presence of Dr. Carla Borchardt and the faithful witness to the gospel given as she has led the South Dakota Synod-ELCA through ministry to the congregations, our neighbors in solidarity, and to the world;

And let it be further resolved that each of us learn from the example of this service to recognize and accept the call to service in the manner in which God has gifted us.

Resolution #9

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: adopted

Subject: Resolution to Ratified Election of Synod Council Members Elected by Synod Council

WHEREAS, the 2020 South Dakota Synod Assembly was cancelled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council acted in its capacity as stewards of the synod's ministries in filling vacancies on the Synod Council; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council adopted Continuing Resolution S9.01.A20 in order to maintain staggered terms for Synod Council members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in congruent to S9.01.A20, ratify the elections of the following Synod Council members to terms expiring in 2024:

Caylee White Eagle (Youth)

Rev. Ramona Hayes (Prairie Coteau, Clergy)

Dave Poppens (Crossroads, Lay Male)

Rhonda Hansen (Southeastern, Lay Female)

Rev. David Lund (Northern Plains, Clergy)

Dave Anderson (Prairie Rivers, Lay Male)

Malcom Chapman (Bear Butte, Lay Male)

Compensation Guidelines

The Rev. Justin Kosec and Annelies Seffrood presented the report of the Compensation Guidelines Task Force. Before each assembly, the Support to Ministries Committee appoints a task force to review guidelines. This year the task force was established from the Prairie Coteau Conference.

Significant changes being proposed by the Task Force include:

- 1) Combining the guidelines for Rostered Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service into one document.
- 2) A 1.5% increase in the base salary. There was no increase in 2020 as no new guidelines were adopted.
- 3) Offering a range for the Housing Allowance from 30%-50% of base salary instead of 50%.

The Task Force also identified for further study: rate for pulpit supply, housing equity allowance, additional compensation for multi-point parishes, parental leave, and practical guidelines for sabbaticals.

Break

Ministry Celebration

It is a joy to gather and celebrate anniversaries of congregations and the ordination of rostered ministers. A complete listing of 2021 celebrations can be found in the Guidebook.

Breakout Rooms

The assembly recessed to breakout rooms for education and discussion on various topics; voting members could select the offerings of their choice.

Announcements

The assembly returned from breakout rooms. The same procedures for check-in for the following day will be followed.

Pastor Christine Hallenbeck Ask closed the day in prayer.

On Saturday, June 5, 2021, at 9:15 a.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT), the second day of the South Dakota Synod Assembly began with worship. The Rev. Amy Reumann gave the message, and the Synod Council was Installed.

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Saturday, June 5, 2021

Lutherans Outdoors Annual Meeting

Following worship, the assembly recessed for the Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota Annual Meeting.

The Assembly reconvened.

Neighbors in Solidarity

A video greeting was received from Pueblo de Dios, a bilingual Neighbors in Solidarity partner ministry in Sioux Falls.

Voting Practice

Of those participating in the practice voting, 83% have attended an LO camp, and most, 32% of voting members preferred Chocolate Chip cookies.

Keynote

Willette Capers of Augustana University delivered part 2 of the keynote address, "Won't You Be My Neighbor."

Recess

Report of Associates to the Bishop

The Rev. Renee Splichal Larson, Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy, Congregation and Rostered Minister Accompaniment, thanked the congregations of the synod for all the ways that rostered leaders are nurtured. There are currently 36 candidates for rostered ministry in different stages to become pastors and deacons in the ELCA. These candidates were supported financially in the 2019-2020 school year at over \$180,000 and \$148,000 in the 2020-2021 school year. Since 2019, 56 rostered leaders have received a combined \$173,000 in seminary debt reduction scholarships. In addition, 12 congregations served as internship sites participating in the development of new pastors. Currently, there are around 30 congregations at some stage in the call process. Of the 11 churches that have completed the ministry site profiles, 9 of them are interviewing candidates. It is a priority of the synod to aid congregations in finding pastors and supporting them with interim ministry during vacancy times. In addition, Pastor Splichal Larson noted the over \$14,000 raised for Nicaragua to replace seed after the devastating hurricane last year.

The Rev. Jonathan Steiner, Associate to the Bishop for Stewardship and Outreach and Director for Evangelical Mission, highlighted opportunities using FaithX to gain a bird's eye view of the community around a congregation, looking at the neighborhood's demographics that can help

plan for mission and ministry. In addition, Pastor Steiner works with the Justice Table, in particular around racial justice. The table is divided into four areas: Immigration and Refugees, Hunger and Poverty, LGBTQIA2S+, Indigenous peoples.

In the partnership with the churchwide expression of the ELCA, the South Dakota Synod has received since 2020, \$125,000 in grants to mission congregations, \$45,000 in COVID-19 Relief, \$30,000 relief funds, \$75,000 "Big Ideas" grant for Church on the Street, and seed funds for a new start congregation in Box Elder.

The Revitalization Task Force seeks to give congregations a toolkit of resources to help churches come out of the pandemic renewed in the work that God is calling us to.

In closing, Pastor Steiner challenged each congregation to find ways to connect with Neighbor in Solidarity ministries, first by including Neighbors in Solidarity as a line item in the church budget and second by getting to know the leaders and ministry of one partner on a more personal level.

2022 ELCA Youth Gathering

Kelsey Lyndoe was invited to report on the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in 2022. Under the theme, Boundless God, young people will grow in faith by being challenged to live out their faith each day. More information can be found at www.elca.org/gathering. In addition, congregations can again partner with LOSD for transportation and adult leader training.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

Pastor Senner brought forward Resolution #2, 2022 Compensation and Guidelines. The resolution comes with a do pass recommendation from the Resolutions Committee.

Bishop Hagmaier called upon the Rev. Jeff Sorensen to present his amendment as follows:

RESOLVED, that the "2022 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 amended to 1) insert on page 4, "minimum" to read, "the minimum guidelines," 2) on page 7, to strike "30-"to read "50 percent of base salary", and strike the column referring to a 30 percent housing allowance, be adopted as the policy of the South Dakota Synod by the 2021 South Dakota Synod Assembly.

MSC to adopt the amendment

Yes 137, No 125

SA.21.10

There being no further discussion, the amended resolution was brought to a vote.

RESOLVED, that the "2022 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 as amended to 1) insert on page 4, "minimum" to read, "the minimum guidelines," 2) on page 7, to strike "30-"to read "50 percent of base salary", and strike the column referring to a 30 percent housing allowance, be adopted as the policy of the South Dakota Synod by the 2021 South Dakota Synod Assembly.

MSC to adopt as amended.

Yes 199, No 70

SA.21.11

Resolution #2

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: adopted as amended

Subject: 2022 Compensation and Guidelines for Rostered Ministers and Lay Staff

Source: Committee for Support to Ministries and its Compensation Task Force

RESOLVED, that the "2022 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 2021 South Dakota Synod Assembly.

2022 Mission Plan

Erik Gilbertson offered a chance for the assembly to ask questions about the 2022 Mission Plan. There was one question asking about the line item for companion synods. Funds to support companion synods come as designated gifts or funds from the churchwide organization and are not included in the Mission Plan.

MSC to adopt the 2022 Mission Plan.

Yes 253, No 8

SA.21.12

	Proposed 2022
INCOME	
MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS	1,852,981
Program Ministry Income	
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,000
Other Income Streams	
SD Synod Mission Support	28,866
DEM Support Staff	10,000

Interest Income	10,000
SDS Transportation LLC Income	5,000
Misc Income	1,000
TOTAL INCOME	1,952,847
EXPENSES	
CHURCHWIDE MISSION	Proposed 2022
Mission Support to ELCA	833,842
% of Mission Support	45.0%
Region III	7,260
SHARED MINISTRIES	
South Dakota Sustained Ministries	
Campus Ministry	130,412
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	58,300
Heartland Ephphatha	6,398
Youth Ministry	3,605
South Dakota Supported Ministries	
SD Ministries Support	12,990
Luther Seminary	73,957
Lutheran Social Services	73,957
Lutherans Outdoors	36,884
Church Colleges	6,398
Chapel in the Hills	1
Good Samaritan Society	1

Total Shared Ministries	403,933
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SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES	
Staff Leadership	
Bishop	96,123
Associate Director of Evangelical Mission	6,186
Associate Mobility/Candidacy	78,925
Bishop/Associate Benefits	84,838
SDS Travel	21,000
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	16,300
Program Ministries	
Native American Ministry	95,730
Synod Youth Gathering Coordinator	6,959
Companion Synod Coordinator	12,397
Support Staff and Office	
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	159,736
Resource Center Supplies	300
Synod Office Expenses	66,885
Augustana University	20,887
Synod Leadership	
Synod Council	3,000
Support to Ministries Committee	2,100
Candidacy Committee	2,250
Electronic Communications	4,500
Multicultural Ministry Committee	1,550
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500

Mission Strategy Table	2,000
Outreach Ministries	
Multicultural Center/Woyatan	19,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000
Contingency	1,446
Subtotal SD Synod Ministries	707,812
Total Expense	1,952,847
Net Total	0

The Holy Cow Award

The Rev. Erika Lehmann presented the Holy Cow Award to recognize congregation giving to ELCA World Hunger. Two churches are selected, one for the overall gift and one for per-member giving. The winning churches are Grace Lutheran Church, Sisseton, SD, and Benton Lutheran Church in Crooks, SD. In 2020, 84 congregations in the South Dakota Synod gave \$323,894 to ELCA World Hunger.

Companion Synod Coordinator

The Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson is the new coordinator for the companion synod relationships with Cameroon and Nicaragua. He thanked congregations for the commitment in support and prayer for these partners in the gospel in the global church. A video greeting was brought by the Rev. Claudia Soliette Lopez Ortega, a missionary in the Nicaragua Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

Pastor Senner brought forward Resolution #3, Expanding Healthcare Coverage for the Poor in South Dakota.

MSC to adopt Resolution #3, Expand Healthcare Coverage for the Poor.

Yes 168, No 83

SA.21.13

Resolution #3

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: adopted

Subject: Resolution on Expanding Health Coverage to the Poor in South Dakota

Source: Crossroads, Medary, and Bear Butte Conferences

Whereas, Jesus said he would be found among the poorest people as we help them; and we live every day affirming our baptismal promises to strive for justice and to serve others following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, who healed the sick and spoke up for the marginalized; and

Whereas, Although someday there may be other options to provide for healthcare for our lowest-income uninsured neighbors, South Dakota currently has an option for Medicaid expansion, which would cover all the lowest-income adults ages 19-64, and which is the reality in 38 other states; and

Whereas, Medicaid expansion would end a serious health inequity, would cover vast unmet medical needs that cannot be met by the churches and other non-profits in addition to what they do already, and would save lives and provide treatments for disabilities, mental health and addictions. It would not only pay for healthcare but also support health workers and facilities, especially rural ones, and improve the general economy of the state; and

Whereas, Medicaid expansion would help prevent bankruptcies, hunger, and family financial havoc, and to turn down the federal funds available for this healthcare is to “walk by on the other side of the road” where an estimated 40,000 South Dakotans could be receiving needed health coverage; and

Whereas, South Dakota could provide Medicaid expansion for several years with no cost to the state, by accepting the new 2021 federal incentive covering all of South Dakota’s state share; and

Whereas, churches are encouraged by the Biblical witness and the ELCA to advocate for people in need;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that, with boldness of faith and love of neighbor, the South Dakota Synod ELCA urge South Dakota’s Governor and Legislature and state voters to secure the blessing of healthcare for the lowest-income South Dakotans by adopting Medicaid expansion for South Dakota; and

Be It Further Resolved, that congregations and conferences and the South Dakota Synod ELCA be provided with information encouraging and enabling them to advocate directly for this coverage, urging compassion and health for the poor; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Bishop of the South Dakota Synod communicate this resolution to the Governor and Legislature of South Dakota in a timely fashion.

Closing of the Assembly

There being no further business of the assembly, Bishop Hagmaier took a moment to thank Dr. Carla Borchardt, who has served in a leadership role in the synod since 1999, including two terms as Vice-president. Dr. Borchardt thanked the synod and looked forward to the ways we will continue to journey together. Bishop Hagmaier also thanked Erik Gilbertson, who has served since 2010 as Treasurer of the Synod. He has worked to present clear reports and advice to guide the fiscal policy of the synod. He thanked the synod for the chance to serve and continue to cheer on the synod's work.

The 2022 Synod Assembly will be June 3-4, 2022, in Sioux Falls, SD.

Other announcements of upcoming events were shared; information can be found on the synod website.

The 2021 South Dakota Synod Assembly was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Jonathan Vehar
South Dakota Synod Secretary