

# Report of the Secretary

The responsibilities of the secretary of the synod are found in the Constitution of the Northern Illinois Synod. As secretary I have kept the minutes of Synod Council and Executive Committee meetings and have overseen the printing and distribution of those documents. Along with keeping the minutes of the Synod Council, the Executive Committee and Synod Assembly meetings the secretary also attests to all instruments requiring the signature and seal of the bishop. An archive of important documents is kept by the synod. The secretary is also charged with forwarding a certified list of voting members for the Churchwide Assembly to the secretary of the ELCA. (S8.32)

The Minutes Review Committee has examined and certified the minutes of the 2008 Synod Assembly and submitted them to the Synod Council for correction and approval. The minutes are printed and distributed with the Assembly materials. A protocol copy of the 2008 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly has been archived by the synod and copies filed with the secretary of the ELCA.

It is a privilege to serve Christ and his people in the Northern Illinois Synod as secretary. Under the leadership of our missionary bishop this synod is blessed with a conscientious and hard working staff, an excellent synod council, and a mission focus that understands that what we do is “God’s Work, Our Hands.” Our relationships with the other synods in the ELCA and throughout the international Lutheran communion remain strong and vibrant. We gain much and give much through our many partnerships. Truly this is a good time to be the church in mission.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Gary Erickson, Synod Secretary

Northern Illinois Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Twenty-First Annual Assembly  
June 13 – 14, 2008

Centennial Hall, Augustana College  
Rock Island, Illinois  
First Plenary Session  
Friday, June 13, 2008 9:55 am

*(Note: the abbreviation “BOR” followed by numerals indicates “Bulletin of Reports” and the page reference. Resolutions are numbered “R” followed by a numeral. The actions of the Assembly are indexed. The index of actions is found at the end of the minutes.)*

### **Gathering Hymn**

The Assembly rose to sing “God is Here,”

### **Order for Opening of the Assembly**

Bishop Gary Wollersheim led the Order for the Opening of the Assembly. Those gathered then sang “The Church’s One Foundation.”

### **Greetings**

Bishop Wollersheim welcomed the voting members, visitors and guests to the Assembly. He reminded the Assembly that the commitment to Christ makes Christ’s work happen.

### **Welcome from Augustana College**

Pr. Julio Cruz, Associate Chaplain at Augustana College, was introduced to the Assembly. He brought greetings on behalf of college President Steven Bahls. Pr. Cruz spoke to the college’s work to bring as much diversity to the campus as possible. His greeting was met with applause.

### **Introductions**

Guests, the head table, the Synod Council and Synod Staff were introduced and invited to stand when Bishop Wollersheim read their names.

#### ELCA Representative

Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, ELCA Treasurer

#### Bible Study Leader

Dr. Diane Jacobson, Professor of Old Testament, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

#### Board of Pensions Representative

Ms. Polly Bergerson, Regional Representative, Member Services

Campus Ministry

Pr. Marcus Pera, ELCA Coordinator for Campus Ministry, Regions 3, 5 and 6  
(Note: Pr. Pera attended the Assembly on Saturday, June 14)  
Pr. Diane Dardón, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University

Augsburg Fortress Representative

Mr. Patrick Buckley, Inside Sales

ELCA Stewardship Consultant

Mr. Keith Mundy, Director for Area Ministry Stewardship Staff

Interns serving in the Synod were introduced

Ms. Joy Alsop (Christ, Belvidere)  
Mr. Ebassa Berhanu (Alpine, Rockford)  
Ms. Melissa Bills (Trinity, Rockford)  
Ms. Elizabeth Davis (Zion, Rockford)  
Mr. Jeff Davis (Luther Valley, Wisconsin)  
Ms. Ellen Mills (St. John, Somonauk)  
Ms. Jamie Wallace (Salem, Sandwich)  
Ms. Terrie Wilder (St. Mark, Polo)

Agencies and Institutions

MOSAIC

Mr. Larry Lee, Support Services Coordinator

ILLOWA Lutheran Coalition

Pr. Kurt Nordby

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

Mr. Russell Senti, Director  
Ms. Susan Senti, Webmaster  
Mr. George Davis, Property Manager

Lutherdale Ministries

Mr. Jeffrey Bloom, Executive Director

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Pr. Frederick Aigner, President and CEO  
Pr. Daniel Schwick, Director of the Office of Church and Government Relations  
Ms. Kathy Hall, Senior Development Director

Northern Illinois Synod Women's Organization

Ms. Amy Laurin, President

Lutheran Men in Mission

Mr. Dennis Melgren

Lutheran Youth Organization

Mr. Kevin Rogers, President

### Host Congregation

Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline, IL

### Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Mr. Mark Van Scharrel, Vice President for Advancement

Ms. Jessica Nipp, Director of Advancement

### Head Table

Ms. Sandra Musch, Assistant to the Bishop

Pr. Frank Moyer, Parliamentarian

Pr. Gary Erickson, Synod Secretary

Ms. Esther Prabhakar, Synod Vice President

Mr. Mic Brooks, Synod Treasurer

### Synod Council Members

Mr. Bill Bartlett

Ms. DiAnne Beynon

Ms. Beth Nelson Chase

Mr. James Hankins

Pr. Robert Hansen

Pr. Donald Knowles

Pr. Kim Lee-Brown

Pr. Mark Luepke

Pr. Richard Meier

Dr. Randall Mullin

Mr. Kevin Rogers

Mr. George Sanchez

Ms. Jerilyn Strohecker

Those introduced were greeted with applause.

## **Credentials Committee Report**

Pr. Janet Lepp was invited on stage to give the report. Registered at the time of the Assembly opening were 75 Clergy voting members, 12 retired Clergy voting members, 231 lay voting members, 1 Diaconal Minister voting member, 7 Associate in Ministry voting members, 1 retired Associate in Ministry voting member for a total of 327 voting members. Of the voting members 27% were clergy and 73% lay. Visitors registered number 67 for a grand total of 394 present.

Bishop Wollersheim ruled that a quorum was present.

## **Adoption of the Assembly Rules**

**ACTION SA-08-06-01** (Secretary Erickson on behalf of the Synod Council)

That the rules found on pages 3 – 8 in the BOR be adopted as the rules of the Assembly.

Motion carried.

## **Assembly Committee Appointments**

Bishop Wollersheim called upon Secretary Erickson to introduce the members of the various committees as appointed by the Synod Council. Secretary Erickson, on behalf of the Synod Council, read the names of the persons appointed to serve on the various committees.

### Courtesy Committee

Ms. Gayle Kuespert, Chairperson (Bethlehem, Rockford – North Conference)  
Pr. Joanne Adrian (Emmanuel, Paynes Point – Central Conference)  
Mr. Jon Gustafson (Salem, Moline – West Conference)

### Credentials Committee

Pr. Janet Lepp, Chairperson (St. James, Rock Island – West Conference)  
Ms. Mary Dorsch (First, Princeton – South Conference)  
Mr. Tom Jones (Shepherd of the Hills, Scales Mound – Northwest Conference)

### Election Committee

Pr. Brant Clements, Chairperson (St. Paul, Nachusa – Central Conference)  
Ms. Jane Atteberry (Christ, Belvidere – North Conference)  
Pr. Karen Capel (St. James, Forreston – Central Conference)  
Mr. Bill Colvin (First, DeKalb – Northeast Conference)  
Mr. Richard Holmes (Immanuel, Altona – Southwest Conference)  
Ms. Dorothy St. Angel (Trinity, Rockford – North Conference)  
Pr. David Ufkes (Immanuel, Marseilles – South Conference)  
Dr. David Renneke, Advisor (St. James, Rock Island – West Conference)

### Minutes Review Committee

Pr. Robert Burton, Chairperson (Bethesda, Morrison – Central Conference)  
Ms. Pam Bennett (Trinity, Rockford – North Conference)  
Mr. Alan Sullivan (Bethlehem, Joliet – East Conference)

### Parliamentarian

Pr. Frank Moyer

### Resolutions Committee

Pr. Scott Schmidt, Chairperson (Trinity, Manlius – Central Conference)  
Ms. Paula Larson (Our Savior's, Seneca – East Conference)  
Pr. Tom Larson (Trinity, Galesburg – Southwest Conference)  
Ms. Pam Staver (St. John, Elizabeth – Northwest Conference)  
Mr. Nord Swanstrom (Our Savior's, Rockford – North Conference)  
Pr. Frank Moyer, Parliamentarian  
Pr. Jeffrey Clements, Staff Liaison

## **Adoption of the Agenda**

Secretary Erickson called the Assembly's attention to BOR 10, under the Bishop's Report, stating that the agenda should read "Recognize Ordination and Commissioning Anniversaries.

**ACTION SA-08-06-02** (Secretary Erickson on behalf of the Synod Council)

That the agenda for the Synod Assembly prepared by the Synod Council, and found on pages 9 – 16 of the BOR, with the one change noted, be adopted as the agenda for the 2008 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. Motion Carried.

**Nominating Committee Report**

Bishop Wollersheim called upon Nominating Committee Chairperson, Pr. Steven Erickson, to present the committee's report. After the names for each position were read the Assembly was given opportunity to make additional nominations. One additional nomination was received. Ms. Erin Clark was nominated for position 17D – Lay Female Nominees for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. The required 10 signatures and her biographical information were submitted. Bishop Wollersheim declared Erin Clark for position 17D.

Pr. Erickson made two additions to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members nominated from conferences. He invited the Assembly to turn to BOR 31 and add at 27A Mr. Alan Wold (Shepherd of the Valley, Rockford – North Conference) and, at 28A Pr. Rebecca Gordon (Nativity, Wonder Lake – Northeast Conference).

Bishop Wollersheim declared the nominations closed and the ballot, as amended, was moved for consideration by the Assembly.

**ACTION SA-08-06-03**

That the nominations as amended be closed and become the ballot for the 2008 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Bishop Wollersheim called on Synod Treasurer, Mr. Mic Brooks, to give his report to the Assembly. Treasurer Brooks pointed out his written report in the BOR and commented on the clean audit report given to the synod. The Treasurer commented that Mission Support was up over the previous year and he thanked the Assembly for the faithful and generous support of their congregations. He noted that the synod was able to pay Agencies and Institutions at 100% of budget. He then thanked Ms. Sandra Musch and Ms. June Cain for their work and support.

**ACTION SA-08-06-04** (Secretary Erickson on behalf of the Synod Council)

Whereas, the report of the Treasurer for Fiscal-Year 2007 has been duly audited and declared to be a fair representation of the financial condition of the Synod; be it resolved that the report of the Treasurer be received with thanks.

The resolution was accepted with applause.

**First Reading of the Proposed Budget**

Bishop Wollersheim stated that we would not vote on the proposed 2009 budget at this time since the first reading of the budget takes place in the first plenary session. He reminded the Assembly that the adoption of the budget would take place during the 4th plenary session.

Secretary Erickson, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved that the budget prepared by the Finance Committee and adopted by the Synod Council, page 62 in the BOR, be adopted as

the budget for Fiscal-Year 2009 for the Northern Illinois Synod. This motion required no second.

Treasurer Brooks then commented on proposed budget line 18 noting that this line was consolidated into other lines, and line 24 reflected the actual use of the Employee Assistance Program.

### **Explanation of the Balloting Process**

Pr. Brant Clements, Chairperson, Elections Committee, was invited on to the stage to explain the balloting procedure. The tellers then distributed the ballots.

The Assembly was informed that the ballots would be collected at 6:45 pm Friday, June 13, in Centennial Hall.

Pr. Robert Dealey, Shepherd of the Hill, Lockport, rose for a point of order. He stated a correction in the Nominee Biographies under item 7A, BOR 39, stating that the biography should read "...Central/Southern Illinois Synod Candidacy Chair" rather than "choir."

### **Bishop's Report**

Bishop Wollersheim asked Vice President Prabhakar to assume the chair so he might present his report.

The report began with a choir composed of members from the delegation that traveled to Arcot Lutheran Church, Tamil Nadu, India, to celebrate the Companion Synod relationship between Arcot and the Northern Illinois Synod. The bishop then spoke of the wonderful work being done by the people of Arcot Lutheran Church.

Bishop Wollersheim invited Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University Campus Pastor Diane Dardón to the podium. Pr. Dardón thanked the bishop and the synod for the wonderful and generous outpouring of support following the February 14, 2008, shootings on the campus in DeKalb. Pr. Dardón then spoke of how Lutheran Campus ministry was moving forward in bold ways with a proposal to expand the campus ministry position to full-time. She spoke about campus ministry as a mission that will outlast anyone in the campus pastor position. This mission, she stated, is God's work in the synod's hands. Her report was greeted with a standing ovation.

Bishop Wollersheim resumed the podium and commented on some of initiatives currently ongoing in the synod: wellness, greening, educational debt retirement for rostered leaders, and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Pastors who joined the synod within the past year were introduced.

Pr. Howard Buchholz II (Living Hope, Frankfort)

Pr.-elect Raket Evenson (New Life, Bolingbrook)

Pr. Norman Femrite (First, Princeton)

Pr.-elect Robert Franek (Faith, Wataga)

Pr. Sue Ellen Grudt (Shepherd of the Prairie, Huntley)

Pr.-elect P. J. Malin (Cross of Glory, Homer Glen)

Pr. Reid Matthias (Our Savior's, Rockford)

Pr. Daniel Metzger (Messiah, Joliet)

Pr. Roy Nelson (First, DeKalb)

Pr. Sharon Rogers (Light of Christ, Algonquin)

Pr. Christine Schoon (Trinity, Ottawa)

The pastors new to the synod were greeted with applause.

The bishop then introduced rostered leaders who were celebrating commissioning and ordination anniversaries.

5 Years - 2003

Pr. Lee Bennight, Pr. Laura Koppenhoefer, Pr. Margo Peterson, Pr. Richard Likeness, Pr. Randy Willers.

10 Years - 1998

Pr. William Dahlberg, Pr. Jeffrey Schlesinger.

15 Years - 1993

Pr. Alan Creighton, Pr. Barbara Rapp, Pr. Paul Uhl, Pr. Kris Ann Zierke.

20 Years - 1988

Pr. Joanne Adrian, Pr. Barbara Melaas-Swanson, Pr. Janet Hunt, Pr. Frances Olson

25 Years - 1983

Ms. Bette Mohr (AIM), Pr. Jeffrey Clements, Pr. Susan Eckhoff, Pr. Arthur Halbardier, Pr. Mark Hagen, Pr. Mark Luepke, Pr. Judith Huseth, Pr. Douglas Johnson.

30 Years - 1978

Pr. Fred Baltz, Pr. Timothy Anderson, Pr. Garry Briesacher, Pr. Lynn Bergren, Pr. David Hedlin, Pr. James Hill, Pr. Tom Otis.

35 Years - 1973

Pr. Al Beck, Pr. Terry Dufur, Pr. Robert Hansen, Pr. Gregory Mayer, Pr. Ronald Voss.

40 Years - 1968

Pr. John Harder, Pr. Charles Steinke.

45 Years - 1963

Pr. Troy Hedrick, Pr. Gene Peisker.

Those celebrating anniversaries were greeted with applause.

Bishop Wollersheim thanked the synod staff and asked them to stand when their names were read.

Full-time Assistants

Pr. Jeffrey Clements, Ms. Sandra Musch.

Conference Assistants

Pr. Michel Clark, Deaconess Cheryl Erdman, Pr. Carol Gates, Pr. Kurt Hansen, Pr. Tim Kenyon, Pr. Tom Larsen, Pr. Jay Quinn, Pr. Chris Stienstra.

### Ministry Specialists

Pr. Denver Bitner, Pr. Jonathan Black, Pr. Brent Dahlseng, Ms. Karin Graddy (AIM), Pr. Dennis Heaney, Pr. Len Hoffmann, Ms. Mary Lasits (Diaconal Minister), Pr. Barb Rapp, Pr. Ron Voss.

### Support Staff

Ms. June Cain, Ms. Nancy Corey, Ms. Judi Fields, Ms. Julie Lewis.  
The synod staff was thanked with applause.

Bishop Wollersheim then thanked his wife, Polly, for her tireless support both for him and for the Northern Illinois Synod.

The bishop's report was received with applause.

## **Honor 50, 55, and 65 Year Ordination Anniversaries**

Pr. Troy Hedrick came to the stage to introduce the pastors celebrating milestone anniversaries. The pages distributed written greetings from the pastors unable to attend.

### 50 Years

Pr. Charles Beckingham (in attendance), Pr. Frederick Larner (unable to attend). The bishop gave Pr. Beckingham a certificate of recognition. Pr. Beckingham greeted the Assembly and was warmly thanked for his years of service with applause.

### 55 Years

Pr. C. Carl Eklof (unable to attend).

### 65 Years

Pr. E. J. Haanstad (unable to attend).

## **Introduction of Additional Special Guest**

Bishop Wollersheim introduced Ms. Pat Dever, Church Building Consultant for Region 5 and with the Mission Investment Fund.

## **Close of Plenary Session 1**

Bishop Wollersheim announced the close of the first plenary session and called Pr. Jeffrey Clements on stage for announcements.

Pr. Brant Clements (St. Paul, Nachusa) asked for a point of clarification stating that an error in the Nominee biographies listed Ms. Judy Rosengren, BOR 46, as ballot number 15B, she correctly is to be numbered 14B.

Following the announcement Pr. Bob Hansen was called on stage for the closing prayer.

Plenary Session 2  
Friday, June 13, 2008  
1:40 pm

**Gathering Hymn and Prayer**

The Assembly rose to sing “You Are Holy.” Pr. Robert Hansen led the opening prayer.

Bishop Wollersheim declared the session open for business.

**Introduction of Special Guests**

Bishop Wollersheim introduced Pr. Mary Frances, Assistant Director for the Development of New Congregations, Evangelical Outreach and Missions, ELCA. Also introduced was Beth Nelson Chase, NIS Council, Vice President for Mission Support at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA.

**Bible Study**

The bishop introduced Dr. Diane Jacobson, Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. Dr. Jacobson is the director of the Book of Faith Initiative for the ELCA. Dr. Jacobson led the Assembly in Bible Study.

**Recognition of Congregations Celebrating 150-Year Anniversaries**

The following congregations were called upon to make brief presentations.

First Lutheran Church, DeKalb  
First Lutheran Church, Lee  
First Lutheran Church, Mt. Carroll  
St. John Lutheran Church, Mendota  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Galena  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Princeton

The Assembly celebrated these anniversaries with applause.

**Resolutions Committee**

Bishop Wollersheim called upon Pr. Scott Schmidt (Trinity, Manlius) to explain the Resolution’s Committee role and to announce the resolutions.

The role of the Committee and the options exercised by the committee are as follows: the committee could (a) recommend the resolution encouraging the Assembly to vote for adoption; (b) recommend adoption of the resolution with a proposed amendment; (c) recommend defeat of the resolution; (d) recommend the resolution be referred to another entity; (e) offer a substitute motion; or, (f) return the resolution to the submitter for clarification or editing.

Each speaker was allowed 3 minutes as approved in the Rules for the Day (A SA4.05).

Resolution R-1 was introduced. Pr. Schmidt read the resolved portion of R-1.

## **R-1**

### **RESOLUTION TO BECOME “GREEN CONGREGATIONS”**

**WHEREAS**, God’s first commandments to humanity are that we care for and take care of God’s good creation (Gen. 1:28 & 2:15); and

**WHEREAS**, Jesus came to bring salvation to the entire cosmos (John 3:16-17); and

**WHEREAS**, the Church, as the body of Christ in the world, is charged with calling the world to repentance and ushering in the kingdom of God; and

**WHEREAS**, “the whole creation is groaning” due to the abuse and misuse of God’s good creation by humanity;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod be encouraged to become “green congregations” by forming a Green Team in the congregation that will:

1. Evaluate the building and grounds of the congregation and take a minimum of two steps each year to help reduce the congregation’s negative impact upon the environment,
2. Educate and encourage its membership on the ways in which they can help care for God’s creation in their everyday lives by living simply and walking lightly on the earth, and
3. Communicate with and respond to the work of the Northern Illinois Synod Green Team.

Submitted by: Synod Green Team

Contact Person: Pastor Don Knowles or Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

Date Received: April 10, 2008

Action of the Resolution Committee

Date of Action: April 25, 2008

Action Taken: Recommend Adoption

Pr. Jeffrey Schlesinger (St. Matthew, Princeton) spoke in favor of the resolution saying that current knowledge and technology can make a difference and help us heal the world. He then gave some examples of energy savings stating that the synod’s “Green Team” can help by offering congregations simple, achievable and measurable ways to implement energy and environmentally responsible measures.

There was no speaking against the R-1.

The bishop called for the vote.

### **ACTION SA-08-06-05**

R-1 was approved by voice vote.

Pr. Schmidt introduced R-2 and read the resolved portion of the document.

**R-2 (as amended)**

**RESOLUTION TO BECOME A “GREEN SYNOD”**

**WHEREAS**, God’s first commandments to humanity are that we care for and take care of God’s good creation (Gen. 1:28 & 2:15); and

**WHEREAS**, Jesus came to bring salvation to the entire cosmos (John 3:16-17); and

**WHEREAS**, the Church, as the body of Christ in the world, is charged with calling the world to repentance and ushering in the kingdom of God; and

**WHEREAS**, “the whole creation is groaning” due to the abuse and misuse of God’s good creation by humanity;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois Synod become a “green synod” by ~~taking~~ prayerfully considering the following steps:

1. Instituting all possible changes to improve energy efficiency in the synod office and other properties owned and/or operated by the synod, including but not limited to:
  - a. Performing a “green” audit (as per Green Synod Model proposed by Dr. David Rhoads, LSTC) that will make short and long term recommendations to lessen the carbon footprint on the earth,
  - b. Changing incandescent light bulbs to energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs,
  - c. Exploring and utilizing alternate, more environmentally friendly means of producing electricity and heat, and
  - d. Replacing as necessary windows, doors, insulation, and other structural aspects of the property that may result in loss of energy.
2. Being persistent about the reduction and recycling of disposable resources in the synod office(s) such as paper, ink cartridges, plastic, Styrofoam, etc.; and
3. Taking all possible steps to make all synod sponsored events more environmentally friendly by things such as:
  - a. Reducing paper use by utilizing projection where practical and encouraging participants to use electronic media such as laptops, PDAs, etc., and
  - b. Insisting that meals be served in a manner that reduces waste by things such as:
    - i. Serving buffet style when possible so people only take what they will eat,
    - ii. Insisting on the use of paper or washable cups and plates instead of plastic or Styrofoam,
    - iii. Requiring that all recyclable waste be divided out and recycled properly.
  - c. Encouraging, expecting and enabling participants to carpool to events; and
4. Replacing synod owned vehicles with those that are the most environmentally friendly available (currently hybrid vehicles); and
5. Providing necessary support and resources so that the Northern Illinois Synod Green Team can continue its work to help the synod, its congregations and agencies to become green; and
6. Identifying a symbol that expresses and promotes our care for creation that will be used whenever green steps are taken; and
7. Instituting other strategies that may emerge as science and technology continue to explore means of helping preserve and regenerate the environment.

Submitted by: Synod Green Team

Contact Person: Pastor Don Knowles or Pastor Jeff Schlesinger  
Date Received: April 10, 2008  
Action of the Resolution Committee  
Date of Action: April 25, 2008  
Action Taken: Recommend Adoption

Pr. Jeffrey Schlesinger, (St. Matthew, Princeton) spoke in favor of the resolution saying it offered specific measures for conducting Synodical business in the most environmentally friendly ways possible. The resolution promoted leading by example. He urged a favorable vote to make NIS a green synod.

Ms. Suzette Cravens, (Peace Lutheran Church, Port Byron) spoke in opposition saying that she is uncomfortable mandating changes in the synod if they are more expensive and will take money from other ministries.

Pr. Margo Peterson, (St. Paul, Warren) spoke against the resolution saying she felt we spend too much time trying to speak to a great many issues but not the issues that seem most important. She stated that becoming a “green synod” is not as easy as it sounds stating that if the resolution offered flexibility she can support it. She stated she was not in favor of mandating penny wise and pound foolish measures.

Pr. Roy Nelson, (First, DeKalb) spoke in opposition to R-2 saying he cannot support the mandates of the resolution without first seeing cost/benefit proposals or knowing what the costs of the resolution might be.

Pr. Thomas Rogers, Jr. (Redeemer, Woodstock) spoke against the resolution saying that if R-2 could be amended by eliminating the resolved portions of R-2 and substituting the resolved portion of R-1 he could support the resolution. He did not offer this as an amendment.

Pr. Arthur Bergren, (First, Geneseo) proposed an amendment to strike the word “taking” and add “strongly considering”. The amendment was seconded. He spoke to his amendment saying the words provided room for the synod to make progress without mandating the steps to be taken.

Pr. Tom Otis, (Calvary, Moline) called for the order’s of the day. He wanted the Assembly to have more time to discuss this resolution later in the agenda.

Bishop Wollersheim stated that he preferred not to return to the order’s of the day allowing the Assembly to conclude discussion and vote on R-2. The Assembly asked for a vote on whether to return to the order’s of the day. The motion was put before the Assembly. The motion was lost.

Mr. Mike Metcalf, (Cross and Crown, Roscoe) offered a friendly amendment changing the word “strongly” to “prayerfully.” The friendly amendment was accepted by Pr. Bergren. Bishop Wollersheim called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment carried.

R-2 as amended was moved before the Assembly.

**ACTION SA-08-06-06**

R-2 as amended was approved by a voice vote.

## **Secretary's Report**

Bishop Wollersheim called upon Secretary Erickson for his report. Stating that the report could be found on BOR 81 the secretary added no further comments.

The bishop stated that the report was received and asked the Assembly to thank the secretary with applause.

## **Certification of the 2007 Synod Assembly Minutes**

Bishop Wollersheim called upon Ms. Leona Peterson-Spear to present the certification of the minutes of the previous Synod Assembly. Ms. Peterson-Spear moved, on behalf of the Minutes Review Committee, that the minutes of the 2007 Assembly were considered a fair and accurate representation of the proceedings of the assembly.

The bishop stated there was no need for a second since the motion came from the committee. He asked if there was any discussion. Seeing none he called for a vote.

### **ACTION SA-08-06-07**

The motion to receive the Minutes of the 2007 Assembly carried.

## **Report of the Synod Council**

Bishop Wollersheim called upon Secretary Erickson to present the Report of the Synod Council, BOR 116-119.

Secretary Erickson pointed out an error of omission and asked the Assembly to add at BOR 119, section 3, a number xii, Pr. Al Beck was called to special service as an interim in September 2007.

The bishop stated that the report was received with the noted addition.

## **Proposed Amendment to the Synod Constitution**

Secretary Erickson called the Assembly's attention to BOR 120, the Constitutional Amendment to add S11.09 There shall be a committee for Global Mission. The secretary stated that this was to ratify the action of the 2007 Assembly since changes to the constitution require a second vote at a following assembly.

### **ACTION SA-08-06-08**

The motion to ratify the action of the 2007 Assembly to create a Committee on Global Mission carried.

## **Close of the Session**

Bishop Wollersheim announced the close of business for plenary session 2. He then invited Pr. Jeffrey Clements to the stage for announcements. Following the announcements Pr. Robert Hansen gave the closing prayer.

Plenary Session 3  
Friday, June 13, 2008  
6:35 pm

**Gathering Hymn and Prayer**

The Assembly rose to sing “Take My Life, That I May Be.” Pr. Robert Hansen led the opening prayer. Bishop Wollersheim declared the session open for business.

**Collection of Ballots**

The bishop instructed the tellers to collect the ballots.

**ELCA Representative**

Bishop Wollersheim introduced Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Treasurer of the ELCA, who brought greetings from Bishop Mark Hanson. She thanked the Northern Illinois Synod for our partnership in the ELCA and around the world. A video of ELCA mission work was shown to the assembly. She then spoke of the work of the Mission Investment Fund.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton spoke of some priorities in the ELCA: Evangelical Outreach, assisting the church in bringing forth faithful, wise and courageous leaders; that the ELCA step forward to be a public church that witnesses boldly to the love of Christ through social ministries, disaster response- both local and international, world hunger appeal (she thanked the synod for supporting the World Hunger Appeal and being the #1 synod in the ELCA in giving to the appeal); that the ELCA deepen and extend ecumenical relationships, the companion synod program, and missionary support.

She highlighted the Book of Faith initiative. Ms. Jackson-Skelton spoke of two stewardship goals: to improve stewardship education in seminaries; and, to help leaders talk about their own stewardship in order to model good stewardship in congregations, agencies and institutions. A priority for the ELCA is an initiative addressing the diseases of poverty. Her report was greeted with applause.

**2009 Salary Guidelines**

Secretary Erickson moved, on behalf of the Synod Council, that the 2009 salary guidelines for pastors, diaconal ministers, and associates in ministry, recommended by the Ministry Support Committee, be adopted.

**ACTION SA-08-06-09**

The salary guidelines were adopted as presented.

**Resolutions Committee**

The bishop invited Pr. Scott Schmidt to the stage to present the next resolution. He read the resolved portions of R-3.

### R-3

#### GOOD SHEPHERD/LSSI SUNDAY RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the gospel of Jesus Christ compels the church to be active in the world as an incarnate expression of God's commitment to God's beloved creation; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe it is God's will, testified to in the Old Testament prophetic tradition and incarnated in the life and ministry of Jesus, that all people should experience wholeness of body, mind and spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) has served people in need in Illinois for more than one hundred and forty years and continues to serve people in need regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, LSSI is the only statewide ELCA social ministry organization in Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, LSSI like most other human care provider organizations in Illinois, has suffered from chronic underfunding of state-funded services;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the 2008 Assembly of the Northern Illinois Synod, that the fourth Sunday of Easter be designated as Good Shepherd/LSSI Sunday in every congregation in this synod beginning in 2009 and that congregations are encouraged to make use of resources provided by LSSI to lift up our common ministry through LSSI; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that members and friends of ELCA congregations in Illinois are encouraged to communicate to their elected officials their support for increased funding for human care services.

Submitted by: Northern Illinois Synod Council

Date Received: April 3, 2008

Action of the Resolution Committee

Date of Action: April 25, 2008

Action Taken: Recommend Adoption

Seeing no one ready to speak to the resolution the bishop called for the vote.

#### **ACTION SA-08-06-10**

The resolution carried.

Pr. Schmidt read the resolved portions of R-4.

### R-4

#### **RESOLUTION TO INCREASE HUNGER APPEAL GIVING**

**WHEREAS**, 38% of the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod gave more to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger Appeal in 2007 than in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Illinois Synod hunger giving total for 2007 was the highest in the nearly thirty year history of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal; and

**WHEREAS**, 38% of the congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod gave less in 2007 than in 2006 and 24% were recorded by the Synod as giving nothing to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal in 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the rising cost of food world-wide has already caused increased hunger and violence in several countries; and

**WHEREAS**, water scarcity and pollution in world water supplies threaten to increase beyond the current total of more than one billion people around the globe who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation services;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that every congregation in the Northern Illinois Synod be challenged to increase its commitment to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal by:

1. Setting a goal for 2008 to increase yearly giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal;
2. Remitting ELCA World Hunger Appeal donations through the Northern Illinois Synod office to receive proper credit;
3. Considering a partnership with other congregations who are sponsoring Foods Resource Bank projects in our synod; and
4. Educating congregation members about the work of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, its contribution to Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran World Federation projects, and the growing crises in food and water supplies.

Submitted by: Northern Illinois Synod World Hunger Subcommittee

Contact person: Pastor Richard Meier or Ms. DiAnne Beynon

Date Received: April 19, 2008

Action of the Resolution Committee

Date of Action: April 25, 2008

Action Taken: Recommend Adoption

Pr. Rick Meier, (Alpine, Rockford) spoke in favor of and co-authored the resolution. He said that while the Northern Illinois Synod is the #1 synod in the ELCA in supporting the World Hunger Appeal the synod can do better since not 100% of congregations participate in the program. He emphasized that gifts to the Appeal be given through congregation and synod so that the NIS is credited with the amount. He ended by saying that if people are given the opportunity to give they will respond.

Pr. Mark Gehrke, (Faith, Moline) called for a point of order, asking if with this resolution and others, congregations will have a way to see if the intent of the resolutions are being fulfilled rather than being filed away and forgotten.

Bishop Wollersheim called upon Vice President Prabhakar to respond to the point of order. Ms. Prabhakar said the Synod Council will follow up and look into ways to see that resolutions are implemented.

Ms. Deborah Martin, (Nativity, Wonder Lake) stated that the World Hunger Appeal does follow-up with thank you letters and knows that 1/3 of congregations have not given to the appeal.

Pr. Suzanne Anderson-Hurdle, (Good Shepherd, Romeoville) called for a point of order, asking what it means to give credit to congregations and the synod, and asking why this is important?

Bishop Wollersheim responded saying that the committee can properly thank congregations for gifts to the program.

The bishop called for a vote on the resolution.

**ACTION SA-08-06-11**

The resolution carried.

### **Closing of Session 3**

Bishop Wollersheim declared the close of the third session. He invited Pr. Jeffrey Clements to come to the stage for announcements. Pr. Clements invited Pr. Marcia Strahl, (First, Chadwick) to bring greetings to the synod on behalf of military chaplains. Following Pr. Strahl's greetings Pr. Robert Hansen gave the closing prayer.

### **Plenary Session 4 Saturday, June 14, 2008 9:30 am**

#### **Opening of Plenary Session 4**

At 9:50 am Bishop Wollersheim declared the session open for business.

The Bishop invited NIU Campus Pastor Diane Dardón and her staff on stage to bring greetings to the Assembly.

#### **Report of the Credentials Committee**

Pr. Janet Lepp was called upon for the report. There were 143 clergy voting members and 21 retired clergy voting members in attendance. Total number of clergy registered was 164 for 34% of the voting members. There were 301 lay voting members, 2 diaconal minister voting members, 11 associate in ministry voting members, and 2 retired associate in ministry voting members registered for a total of 316 lay voting members making 66% of the voting members. Also registered were 118 visitors and one retired rostered leader not voting for a grand total of 599 registrants.

#### **Elections Committee Report**

Bishop Wollersheim invited Pr. Brant Clements to give the report of the first ballot.

The bishop declared the following people elected:

Synod Council: Lay (3-year term), Karen Dowsett  
Synod Council: Lay (3-year term), Robin Johnson  
Synod Council: Ord. Minister (3-year term), Janet Wold  
Synod Council: Youth Representative (1-year term), Kevin Rogers  
Congregational Life Com.: Ord. Minister (3-year term), Margo Peterson  
Congregational Life Com.: Lay (3-year term), Marcia Meyers  
Congregational Life Com.: Lay (3-year term), Brooke Witsberger  
Ministry Support Com.: Lay (3-year term), Richard Althaus  
Ministry Support Com.: Ord. Minister (3-year term), Keith Killinger  
Outreach Com.: Ord. Minister (3-year term), Tom Otis  
Outreach Com.: Ord. Minister (3-year term), Dorothy Wilcox  
Social Ministry Com.: Lay (3-year term), Carol Wahlstrom  
Social Ministry Com.: Lay (3-year term), Sharon Whitney  
2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member  
Ord. Minister, Janet Lepp  
Ord. Minister, Carol Gates

Youth, Kevin Rogers  
Central Conference, John Prabhakar  
East Conference, Pr. Bret Reedy  
North Conference, Alan Wold  
Northeast Conference, Pr. Rebecca Gordon  
Northwest Conference, Pr. Margo Peterson  
South Conference, Paula Larsen  
Southwest Conference, Pr. Linda Winkelman  
West Conference, John Henriksen

A second ballot was distributed to be collected at 11:05 am.

### **2009 Proposed Budget**

Bishop Wollersheim called Synod Treasurer Mic Brooks for discussion of the proposed budget for 2009. The bishop reminded people that the motion to approve the budget had been presented on Friday. He stated that debating the budget proposal was appropriate at this time.

Treasurer Brooks spoke in favor of the budget. There was no speaking in opposition to the 2009 budget. The bishop called for the vote on the budget.

#### **ACTION SA-08-06-12**

The budget was unanimously adopted by the Assembly.

### **Resolutions Committee**

Pr. Schmidt was invited on stage to introduce the next resolution. He read the resolved portions of R-5.

#### **R-5 (as amended)**

##### **CALL FOR MORAL DELIBERATION**

**WHEREAS**, the gospel declares, “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9), calls us to repent, and challenges us, “Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed” (Romans 12:2); and

**WHEREAS**, the biblical prophets call us in each generation to speak the truth in love to the powers and principalities of our time, for God says to us, "I have called you and given you power to see that justice is done on earth" (Isaiah 42:6); and

**WHEREAS**, “Christianity stands or falls with its revolutionary protest against violence, arbitrariness and pride of power and with its plea for the weak. Christians are doing too little to make these points clear rather than too much. Christendom adjusts itself far too easily to the worship of power. Christians should give more offense; shock the world far more than they are doing now. Christians should take a stronger stand in favor of the weak rather than considering first the possible right of the strong” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Sermon on II Corinthians 12:9); and

**WHEREAS**, Bonhoeffer also instructs us that "The followers of Christ have been called to peace.... And they must not only have peace but make it.... to renounce hatred and wrong.... and in so doing overcome evil with good, and establish the peace of God in the midst of a world of war and hate" (The Cost of Discipleship); and

**WHEREAS**, the ELCA social statement For Peace in God’s World reminds us that “as a community of moral deliberation, the Church is a setting of freedom and respect where

believers of different perspectives may learn from one another;” and also that “the church is a disturbing presence when it refuses to be silent and instead speaks the truth... when it names and resists idols that lead to false security, injustice, and war, and calls for repentance” (page 5); and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this resolution is to enhance and forward the mission of the church and synod by fostering moral deliberation and encouraging responsible action as individuals and as a "Public Church;"

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois Synod in Assembly encourages its members, congregations, clusters, and other groupings to enter into moral deliberation and discussion concerning our nation's foreign and military policy, making use of resources and activities from Kairos: A Time to Speak, A Time to Act\*, the ELCA's Equipping for Peacemaking, Lutheran Peace Fellowship, and other sources; and

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that individuals, congregations, clusters, and other groupings be encouraged to prayerfully consider becoming involved in studying, developing, and signing Kairos: A Time to Speak, a Time to Act\* as one step in being a “Public Church,” following God’s command to be peacemakers.~~

~~\* Kairos: A Time to Speak, a Time to Act—attached~~

Submitted by: Congregation Council of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rockford, IL

Contact Person: Pastor Kenn Storck

Date Received: April 5, 2008

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Action of the Resolution Committee

Date of Action: April 25, 2008

Action Taken: Recommend Adoption

(Secretary’s note: this support document was submitted along with R-5 and is submitted here as relevant to the debate on this resolution.)

Kairos: A Time to Speak, A Time to Act

Kairos Statement

Inspired by the courageous faithfulness of the confessing church in Nazi Germany, South Africa, Latin America, and elsewhere, we recognize the need for a similar confession in our time.

We challenge ourselves and our Church to ask if the situation in which we find ourselves is a Kairos moment: a situation so grave, so fraught with radical consequences that fence-sitting is not possible. We ask: Is this a time when it is necessary to be prophetic in order to rightly preach the Gospel and administer the sacraments? Is this a time when our confession of Jesus Christ calls into question the ideology that shapes our national life and challenges us to work for change?

We hope that this statement will encourage discussion and debate about the state of our world, examination of the effects of U.S. policies, and moral deliberation by people throughout the Church so that together we may discern the will of God for this time and place, and act faithfully and boldly.

The Church is called to reject idolatry, name evil, and seek the reign of God. We seek to listen to and proclaim the gospel in the midst of the challenges and temptations in our public life. In this process our discipleship deepens and the Church is renewed. We seek change in the hearts and actions of Christians, and also in public policies and processes (the latter are noted with a □)

Therefore as members of the Church in the United States we believe we must speak with a prophetic voice. We must break our silence, end our complicity, and proclaim a common word on behalf of the common good,

the good news of Jesus Christ and God's vision of Shalom: justice, peace, community, wholeness.

"Blessed are the peacemakers." (Matthew 5:9 NRSV)

As Christians we are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus who teaches us how to be in the world yet not of the world by seeking to love God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

The brutal attacks of September 11, 2001 galvanized us as a nation as we came together to mourn, find hope and respond. Yet in the wake of September 11 the U.S. administration chose a path based on fear and revenge, and squandered the compassion that brought us together at home and renewed our kinship with peoples abroad. As followers of Jesus we are compelled to choose another way.

- U.S. foreign policies, including "preemptive" war, a perpetual "global war on terror," and acts of terror, have caused hatred and disdain to grow toward the United States and have made us less secure. Our government's unilateral approach to war has damaged our ability to work with other countries and has proved to be fraught with risk.

- The U.S. military budget is enormous and is rapidly expanding while spending remains miniscule to address root causes of conflict, such as poverty, hunger, and education, or for spending on nonviolent responses to conflict, such as peacekeeping,

- The functioning of our democracy has been endangered by governmental attempts to control information, to manipulate the media, and to silence critics and to play on fear. The public has been misled into sanctioning the misuse of power.

"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44 NRSV)

Jesus' teaching is clear and profound and calls humans to their noblest and best. We witness this teaching lived out in our age by such leaders as Dorothy Day, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Cesar Chavez, and Desmond Tutu. Jesus and these contemporary leaders demonstrate for us God's way of peace and nonviolence and we assert that all Christians are called to this divine path.

- Peoples, nations, and religions have been named as "evil" allowing the rationalization of brutal treatment inflicted on "enemies" – including civilians.

- The Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of combatants has been abandoned and prisoners have been tortured.

"I, your God, have called you and given you power to see that justice is done on earth. Through you I will make a covenant with all peoples; through you I will bring light to the nations." (Isaiah 42:6 TEV) "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." (Psalm 34:14 and I Peter 3:11 NRSV)

We embrace servant discipleship: The cross of Jesus Christ calls us to give our allegiance to God ahead of nation, family, or church. We accept our Christian calling to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to pursue Shalom – in our community, our nation, and our world.

- Every person on earth deserves the basics of human life. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals point the way for nations to collaborate in creating a future marked by global justice.

- U.S. policies isolate us from our neighbors and distance us from international collaboration for global justice. Our nation is using our superpower status to advance "national" interests while other countries struggle to meet the most basic needs of their people.

- The large and growing influence of money in political campaigns, and in legislative and regulatory processes, is threatening our democracy.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19 NRSV)

Just as Jesus boldly proclaimed his mission, the Church is called to follow confidently in his footsteps. We bring the good news of God's liberating love to the world and continue Jesus' work by serving and befriending those who are impoverished, held captive and are oppressed. We proclaim that through the compassionate eyes of God, this year, can be the year of Jubilee – the season of God's justice. This is good news for all people and all of creation.

■U.S. policies and the actions of some multinational corporations advance the comforts of some at the expense of the poor.

■Our government and many U.S. corporations refuse to cooperate with the vast majority of other nations in the healing of the environment, recklessly pursuing natural resources at the expense of sustainability, and abandoning international treaties like the Kyoto Accord.

"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." (Luke 1:46-47 NRSV)

The Church, like Mary, rejoices in God, our Savior. We rejoice knowing that the God of creation is a God of justice whose heart is committed to the poor. We believe, with Mary, that the God of history casts the mighty down from their thrones and uplifts the humble of heart and that God will fill the hungry with good things and will send the rich away empty. We confess our complacency and complicity in the times our nation has exercised its national power at the expense of our sisters and brothers at home and in other parts of the world.

"For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39 NRSV)

So let us move forward with great courage and claim our voices as Christians and as the Church in the U.S. Let us join together with other people of good will in nonviolent social movements that historically have been crucial means for bringing about lasting change. We will not let our fears outshine our faith. We will boldly proclaim to our communities, and to the powers and principalities, that God is love. With humility and the grace we have received, we will do whatever we can to embody the coming of God's way of

[The Kairos Statement, Stand of Confession, Discussion Material, & Resource Guides, are posted at: [www.KairosAction.org](http://www.KairosAction.org).]

Pr. Kenn Storck, (Gloria Dei, Rockford) spoke in favor of the resolution and began his statement with prayer. He stated that the resolution challenges the assembly to live out the baptismal covenant striving for peace and justice. He stated that the resolution was brought with the hope that congregations and institutions would deliberate the nation's foreign policy.

Pr. Carl Rasmussen, (First, Kirkland) spoke against the resolution saying it is not an unbiased call for deliberation. He said it has a pronounced political bias in its support document known as the Kairos Statement.

Pr. Kenn Storck, (Gloria Dei, Rockford) called for a point of order. He said we were not debating the Kairos statement, only the resolution. Bishop Wollersheim upheld the point of order.

Pr. Carl Rasmussen, (First, Kirkland) challenged the chair's ruling saying that the second resolved portion of the resolution encourages members of the synod to sign Kairos Statement.

Pr. Bret Reedy, (Plattville, Minooka) offered an amendment. The bishop ruled this out of order due to the challenge to his previous ruling.

Bishop Wollersheim stated that the assembly will vote about debating the Kairos Statement. There was a voice vote. The bishop ruled that the “no” won and the Kairos Statement could not be debated. A division of the house was called. The Bishop asked those wishing to vote “yes” for including the Kairos Statement as part of the debate to stand to be counted. Those voting “no” then stood to be counted.

Pr. Bret Reedy, (Plattville, Minooka) attempted to offer an amendment. Bishop Wollersheim asked him to wait for results of the vote regarding including the Kairos Statement in the debate prior to offering his amendment.

The tellers gave the results of the vote to the bishop. He stated that there were 187 vote to include the Kairos Statement in the debate. and 122 votes against including the Kairos Statement. The bishop ruled that the Kairos Statement can be debated as part of the debate on R-5..

Pr. Bret Reedy, (Plattville, Minooka) stepped to a microphone to offer his amendment.

Pr. Carl Rasmussen, (First, Kirkland) called for a point of order saying he had the floor prior to the vote on including the Kairos Statement in the debate.

Ms. Karin Grady, (Our Savior’s, Rockford) called for a point of order asking if the current speaker’s three minutes begin again. Bishop Wollersheim ruled that Pr. Rasmussen’s 3 minutes would begin again.

Pr. Carl Rasmussen, (First, Kirkland) stated that the Kairos Statement appeared to be an advocacy piece in favor of the resolution but stated that it made claims regarding US policy that he could not support. He found it offensive that the statement attempted to liken US policy with that of Nazi Germany. He stated that his strongest reason for not supporting the resolution was not the political bias but the fact that the bias signaled support for only one point of view.

Pr. Bret Reedy, (Plattville, Minooka) asked to make a friendly amendment by changing the wording of the second resolve from “studying, developing and signing” to “studying and possibly signing Kairos.” He said it is consistent with the intent of the document.

Mr. Scott Gaspari, (Light of Christ, Algonquin) spoke against the friendly amendment saying more time needs to be devoted to studying the document.

Ms. Pamela Gerloff, (Grace, Woodstock) asked to amend the amendment by adding “prayerfully consider becoming involved in studying and possibly signing Kairos.” The amendment was seconded.

Ms. Pamela Gerloff, (Grace, Woodstock) stated that a public church must be careful about political announcements. She said she was not opposed to moral deliberation, but wanted to be sure that all voices will be welcome in the discussion

Pr. Bret Reedy, (Plattville, Minooka) spoke against the Gerloff amendment because he thought the language was confusing since the Kairos Statement was already in development.

Bishop Wollersheim called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment lost.

Mr. Steve Withington, (First, Freeport) spoke in favor of R-5 saying we were already doing what the resolution asked us to do.

Mr. Scott Gaspari, (Light of Christ, Algonquin) spoke against R-5 saying he had disagreements with points of the Kairos Statement. He said that there was more deliberation needed regarding the resolution since he felt it was an ideological statement and blamed one group of people for many problems.

Pr. Frances Olson, (Grace, Woodstock) called for a point of order saying that she did not see that the resolution called for the assembly to engage in moral deliberation but that the assembly should debate the resolution. Bishop Wollersheim encouraged speakers to debate the resolution.

Pr. Keith Forni, (Santa Cruz and First, Joliet) called for a point of order asking if the assembly is debating an amendment. Bishop Wollersheim stated that the debate was regarding R-5 and no amendment had been voted on. Pr. Forni then said the he thought the document was incomplete and asked to hear the rest of it. Bishop Wollersheim responded saying no to his request since we have to debate what has been presented.

Pr. Kris Zierke, (Our Savior's, Seneca) spoke in favor of R-5 saying it calls us to debate. She then stated she felt the problem was that the resources cited can be perceived as one sided. She offered an amendment to include a request that the resolution's framers provide other resources of a more balanced view than the "Kairos Statement" including resources with various points of view. The bishop asked her if she could be more specific in her amendment. She changed her amendment to R-5 asking that the document end after the words "making use of resources and activities" in the first resolved portion. The amendment was seconded.

Pr. Roy Nelson, (First, DeKalb) called for a point of order asking if a period at the end of the statement "making use of resources and activities" would strike the second resolved from the document.

Pr. Scott Schmidt responded saying the amendment would lead to a single resolved in the document.

Pr. Kris Zierke, (Our Savior's, Seneca) clarified her amendment stating that it would strike the second resolved.

Pr. Bret Reedy, (Plattville, Minooka) spoke against the amendment saying he is not opposed to including the Kairos Statement as part of debate.

Pr. Tom Otis, (Calvary, Moline) spoke in favor of the amendment saying it gets the resolution moving forward without eliminating anyone's ideas.

Pr. Janet Wold, (Shepherd of the Valley, Rockford) called question. Bishop Wollersheim stated that this would be a vote to stop debating the amendment. He called for a voice vote. The assembly voted to end the debate on the amendment.

Bishop Wollersheim called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment carried.

The bishop stated that we would now debate the resolution as amended.

Pr. Laura Koppenhoefer, (Trinity, Moline) asked to make an amendment. The bishop stated that an amendment at this point was out of order.

Mr. Steve Withington, (First, Freeport) asked if because the resolution, as amended, eliminates the Kairos Statement was the statement now out of the discussion? Bishop Wollersheim ruled that since reference to the Kairos Statement was stricken from the document by the amendment that it was not germane to discuss it any further. This ruling was not challenged.

Pr. Janet Wold, (Shepherd of the Valley, Rockford) called the question. The bishop stated that a yes vote would end the debate on the resolution as amended. The assembly voted to end debate and to vote on the resolution as amended.

Bishop called for a voice vote on resolution as amended.

### **ACTION SA-08-06-13**

Resolution R-5 carried as amended.

Bishop Wollersheim thanked the assembly for a good and thoughtful debate, and then called the assembly to the orders of the day.

### **Collection of the Second General Ballot**

The second ballot was collected.

### **Announcement**

While the ballot was being collected Pr. Jeffrey Clements announced that the offering for the support of a full-time campus pastor at Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University totaled \$13,931.79. This announcement was greeted with applause. He also announced that the pencils provided in the voting member's packet would be collected and sent with the synod delegation traveling to Tanzania. Bishop Wollersheim then called on Vice President Esther Prabhakar to pray for the synod delegation to Tanzania.

### **Bible Study**

Dr. Diane Jacobson led the Bible study for the Assembly. When the study was finished she was thanked with applause. Bishop Wollersheim then presented her with a gift. He asked Vice President Prabhakar to offer a prayer for Dr. Jacobson.

## **Close of the Session**

Bishop Wollersheim declared the 4<sup>th</sup> plenary session closed. He called upon Pr. Jeffrey Clements for announcements. The session ended with prayer led by Pr. Robert Hansen.

Plenary Session 5  
Saturday, June 14, 2008  
1:30 pm

## **Gathering Hymn and Prayer**

Pr. Jeffrey Clements announced the Hymn, “Blest Be The Tie That Binds.” Pr. Robert Hansen led the Assembly in prayer.

## **Report of the Second General Ballot**

Pr. Brant Clements was called upon to give the report of the second ballot. Following the reading of the election results for each category the bishop declared the election of the person with the highest number of votes.

Second General Ballot results:

Synod Council: Ord. Minister (3-year term) Robert Hansen  
Ministry Support Com: Lay (3-year term) Sandra Carlson  
Churchwide Assembly Voting Member: Lay, Carla Vanatta  
Churchwide Assembly Voting Member: Lay, Mary Howe  
Churchwide Assembly Voting Member: Lay, George Sanchez  
Churchwide Assembly Voting Member: Ord. Minister, Frank Samuelson  
Churchwide Assembly Voting Member: Ord. Minister, Steve Dow

A third ballot was needed for position 19, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member: Lay. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot with the runoff between Jacob Esker and Kyle Severson was distributed with instruction for voting members to mark their ballots and return them to the tellers. When the ballots were turned in Bishop Wollersheim instructed Pr. Brant Clements to inform the Assembly of the results as soon as the election was decided.

## **Youth Assembly Report and Installation of Officers**

Mr. Kevin Rogers, outgoing Lutheran Youth Organization President spoke about the past year and how the LYO was looking toward the future through building LYO programs and sharing the work of the LYO with congregations. He introduced new LYO President Nicole Billips, Vice President Hillary Grutter, Secretary Jordan Achilles, and Officer at Large Liz Peregrine. Bishop Wollersheim and Synod Youth Coordinator Mary Lasits installed new officers.

LYO President Nicole Billips said the LYO had been focusing on the Assembly theme “God’s work, Our hands” through studying environmentally sustainable projects. She spoke about the work the LYO did with Kim Winchell, Diaconal Minister. The LYO then presented the story, “Old Turtle,” to the Assembly. The Youth Report was met with applause.

## **ELCA Representative**

Bishop Wollersheim called upon ELCA Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton to give her final report to the Assembly. Ms. Jackson-Skelton spoke to her experience with the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. She then answered some question which had been submitted during the Assembly. She closed her remarks by speaking of the strong performance of the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund and the many good things the fund was doing in the church today. Her report was met with applause.

Bishop Wollersheim asked Ms. Jackson-Skelton if she knew of any other synod that had unanimously adopted a budget for the coming year. She responded that she did not know of any other synod that had unanimous support for an upcoming budget. The bishop stated that this reflected well on the work of the Synod Treasurer and the Synod Finance Committee.

Following her report Bishop Wollersheim presented her with a gift thanking her for her time with us and her commitment to the ELCA and its synod's. He then called upon Vice President Prabhakar to lead the Assembly in prayer for Ms. Jackson-Skelton.

## **Resolutions Committee**

Bishop Wollersheim called Pr. Scott Schmidt to the stage to introduce the remaining resolutions.

A point of order was called for from the floor. The questioner asked since we recognize congregations and rostered leaders at significant anniversaries, why do we not recognize those rostered leaders who have died? The bishop responded by saying that we had done that during the morning's memorial service.

Pr. Schmidt introduced resolution R-6 by reading the resolve portions.

### **R-6**

#### **BOOK OF FAITH INITIATIVE**

**WHEREAS**, all the baptized when they affirm their baptism promise “to hear the Word of God” and “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ;” and

**WHEREAS**, all parents and sponsors covenant to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of their children and nurture them in faith and prayer; and

**WHEREAS**, pastors at their ordination vow to be diligent in their study of the Holy Scriptures; and

**WHEREAS**, the ELCA has begun a Book of Faith Initiative inviting everyone to join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become part of the initiative (see <http://www.elca.org/bookoffaith>);

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we become a "Book of Faith" synod, committing ourselves to live in and from the Word of God in all our meetings, assemblies and events, so that as we regularly and increasingly hear, read, study, share and are engaged by God's Word, we lead by example in faithful service and holy living; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the bishop of our synod—who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of

this church”—in coordination with the Synod Advocate, be affirmed in his leadership of this initiative personally and through collaborative programmatic work with congregations of the synod; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all voting members of this synod assembly covenant together to begin a regular practice of Bible study and prayer, gathering with others in their congregation and/or community to speak and hear the Word from one another; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we celebrate and continue to support and strengthen those places where Scripture is already taught and engaged, such as Women of the ELCA Bible studies, camping and campus ministries, Diakonia, congregation councils, Sunday school and other congregational groups; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we encourage all congregations to become “Book of Faith” congregations, which will find expression by

- exploring new opportunities for engaging the Bible,
- sending sufficient numbers of members to synod events for training as Bible study leaders, and
- including biblical study as an integral part of all meetings and groups,

in order to become more fluent in the first language of faith—the language of Scripture—that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

Submitted by: Northern Illinois Synod Council

Date Received: April 19, 2008

Action of the Resolution Committee

Date of Action: April 25, 2008

Action Taken: Recommend Adoption

There was no speaking to the resolution

#### **ACTION SA-08-06-14**

The resolution was adopted.

Pr. Jeffrey Schlesinger, (St. Matthew, Princeton) called for a point of personal privilege reminding the Assembly of upcoming “Walk Through The Bible” events at St. Matthew, Princeton, in honor of the congregation’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Pr. Schmidt introduced R-7 by reading the resolved portion of the document.

#### **R-7**

#### **SCRIPTURAL BASIS FOR RESOLUTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, recent resolutions have been proposed to the ELCA, Northern Illinois Synod, that if passed, would clearly conflict with Holy Scripture as commonly found in the King James Version or New American Standard Bibles or other traditionally accepted Lutheran bibles; and

**WHEREAS**, resolutions, that are in conflict with Scripture, if passed, would likely result in personal conflict with Scripture and endorsement of sin; and

**WHEREAS**, unrepentant sin carries the wage of spiritual and eternal death; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Church was founded, in part, upon a principal commonly referred to as “Sola Scriptura” to prevent the establishment of non-scriptural tradition; and

**WHEREAS**, Scripture is the Word of God;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that all resolutions brought before this assembly be tested first for scriptural compatibility. This testing may be done as a normal part of the Resolutions Committee review. If a resolution passes review by the Resolutions Committee and is presented to the assembly, any voting member having knowledge that the resolution is in conflict with Scripture may move, supported by clear scriptural evidence, that the resolution be rejected. This resolution must be presented before any other resolutions. In the event this resolution is passed it should be read before each annual assembly and be noted in the Synod's Resolution Writing program.

Submitted by: Congregation Council of Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church, Lockport, IL  
Contact Person: Mr. Ken Franz, Congregational Council President

Date Received: March 21, 2008

Action of the Resolution Committee

Date of Action: April 25, 2008

Action Taken: Recommend Defeat

Pr. Schmidt stated that the Resolutions Committee recommended defeat of R-7 because the ideas expressed within the resolution were already addressed by the synod's constitution. He said the Bible is already our authority and that the constitution provides for Scripture to provide the check and balance on the things we do.

Ms. Suzette Cravens, (Peace, Port Byron) called for a point of order and asked Pr. Schmidt to clarify why the committee recommended defeat of the resolution.

Pr. Schmidt stated that the Bible is already the check and balance for resolutions as stipulated by the synod's constitution.

Pr. Robert Dealey, (Shepherd of the Hill, Lockport) spoke in opposition to the resolution. He spoke about the author's intent, which was to clarify the role of scripture in writing and submitting resolutions. He spoke in favor of the committee's recommendation to defeat the resolutions since the implication of R-7 is to apply a scriptural litmus test. He stated that there is no universally held prescriptive hermeneutic about applying scripture. He ended by saying the specifics of implied Scriptural test of resolutions were not spelled out in the resolution. He supported defeat of resolution.

There was no further speaking to the R-7. Bishop Wollersheim called for a vote.

#### **ACTION SA-08-06-15**

The resolution was defeated.

#### **Report of the Third Ballot**

Pr. Brant Clements reported that the position of Churchwide Assembly Voting Member (ballot position 19): Lay, was won by Kyle Severson. Bishop Wollersheim declared Kyle Severson elected.

Ms. Pam Gerloff, (Grace, Woodstock) called for point of clarification asking about implementing the resolutions that are approved in the Assembly in congregations. Bishop Wollersheim stated that this was an excellent and timely question and a good topic for the Synod Council to work on would be how we can be more pro-active about promoting

resolutions in congregations. The bishop called on Secretary Erickson, Vice President Prabhakar and Treasurer Brooks to comment. Secretary Erickson stated that resolution can be appropriately brought to a congregation's attention during annual meetings. Vice President Prabhakar stated that resolutions make good topics for adult classes. Treasurer Brooks stated that using the resolutions for discussion in congregations is a great idea along with presenting the resolutions as part of a Synod Assembly report to the congregation.

Mr. Gregg Pearson, (St. John, Princeton) called for a point of clarification asking if the resolutions would be posted on line. Ms. Karin Graddy replied that the resolutions as amended are posted on line shortly after the Assembly.

### **Congregational Anniversaries**

The Assembly recognized the following congregations for 125 years of ministry:

First, Plano  
Zion, Rockford

### **Recognition of Synod Council Members Completing Terms**

Synod Council members completing terms on the council were recognized with a gift and thanked by the Assembly with applause.

Mr. Bill Bartlett  
Pr. Robert Hansen  
Pr. Don Knowles  
Mr. Kevin Rogers, LYO  
Ms. Jerilyn Strohecker

### **Recognition of Rostered Leaders Retiring in the Past Year**

Bishop Wollersheim asked the following Pastors to join him on the stage:

Pr. William Nelson (40 years)  
Pr. Neville Kretzmann (38 years)  
Pr. Ronald Ferrell (37 years)

He prayed for them and then presented them with certificates in recognition of their service to the church.

### **Congregational Anniversaries**

The Assembly recognized the following congregations for 100 years of ministry:

Salem, Moline  
Our Savior's, Rockford

### **Standing Committee Reports**

Pr. Greg Olson gave the Congregational Life Committee Report. Pr. Thomas Rogers, Jr. gave the report of the Ministry Support Committee. Pr. Chris Beamsley gave the report of the Outreach Committee. Mr. Jim Johnson gave the Social Ministry Committee report. The reports were received with applause.

## **Courtesy Committee Report**

Ms. Gayle Kuespert gave the Courtesy Committee report. The following people were thanked in the report:

Bishop Wollersheim  
Ms. Polly Wollersheim  
Pr. Jeffrey Clements  
Ms. Sandra Musch  
The Synod Staff  
Officers and members of the Synod Council  
Synod Council members completing their terms  
Dr. Diane Jacobson, Bible Study Leader  
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, ELCA Treasurer  
Pr. Robert Hansen  
The committees, choirs, worship leaders and assistants who made the  
Assembly and its worship services possible  
All rostered leaders including the newly ordained  
The members of Trinity, Moline for their hospitality  
The Youth Assembly

The committee's report was greeted with applause.

## **Order for Closing the Assembly**

A technical difficulty prevented the Order for the Closing of the Assembly from being projected. Bishop Wollersheim then led the Assembly in Prayer and declared the close of the 2008 Synod Assembly. The Assembly adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Gary Erickson, secretary

**ACTION SA-08-06-01 Assembly Rules, 4**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-02 Adoption of Agenda, 5**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-03 Nominating Committee Report, 5**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-04 Resolution of thanks, 6**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-05 R-1, 12**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-06 R-2, 14**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-07 Certification of 2007 Minutes, 14**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-08 Amendment to Synod Constitution, 15**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-09 2009 salary guidelines, 16**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-10 R-3, 17**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-11 R-4, 18**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-12 2009 budget, 20**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-13 R-5, 27**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-14 R-6, 31**  
**ACTION SA-08-06-15 R-7, 32**