

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
South Dakota Synod Assembly
The Elmen Center
Augustana College
Sioux Falls, SD
May 29-30, 2009**

The twenty-second annual Synod Assembly of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, convened at the Elmen Center, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, May 29-30, 2009. The theme *God's Work, Our Hands* was reflected in worship, fellowship events and plenary sessions.

Registration began at 5:00 pm on Thursday, May 28. On Thursday, a meeting was held for voting members for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and a workshop was held for congregational primary leaders and advisors for the 2009 National Youth Gathering. A prayer labyrinth, used book sale and displays were available throughout the Assembly.

May 29, 2009

Breakout sessions (Book of Faith: Samples from South Dakota Congregations; Chapel in the Hills 40th Anniversary; Closure of LSS Woodfield Center and the New Face of Youth Residential Treatment Centers; Creativity, Worship and Media: How Do We Get Them to Play Together?; Financial Wellness; Givers for Life; Got Fear? Have Faith! Stewardship Ministry in Lean Times; Keeping Cameroon Connections Current; Luther Seminary: Your Partner in Educating More and Better Prepared Leaders for a Time of Mission; St. Dymas: The Good News Behind Prison Walls; Why Are There so Few Young Adults in Our Congregations?; Working Ecumenically) and new voting member orientation were held in the morning.

Bishop David Zellmer introduced Bishop Victoria Cortez Rodriguez, Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope; Jim and Karen Noss, ELCA Secretary David Swartling and Rob Oliver, President Augustana College.

Rob Oliver welcomed participants to the campus of Augustana College and provided an update on college activities.

Opening of the Assembly and communion worship were held at the Elmen Center beginning at 10:00 am with Pastor Bill Tesch, Susan Marone, AIM, and Bishop Victoria Cortez Rodriguez as worship leaders and Bishop David Zellmer preaching. Assembly offering was gathered to support Train up a Child and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Plenary Session One

Pastor Mark Docken, Credentials Committee, reported: 617 voting members (159-clergy, 267-lay female, 191-lay male), 90 visitors and advisory had registered as of 11:30 am for a total attendance of 707.

Bishop David Zellmer introduced Brett Koenecke, parliamentarian.

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

MSC to amend the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure by adding paragraph 4.3: A speaker at the microphone may not address the Assembly for more than two (2) minutes.
SA.09.01

MSC to amend the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure by adding paragraph 4.4: Remarks must be germane to the pending action. A speaker at the microphone may not make a motion after making remarks. Any motion made by a speaker after the speaker has made preparatory remarks may be ruled out of order by the presiding officer.
SA.09.02

MSC to adopt the amended Rules of Parliamentary Procedure South Dakota Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
SA.09.03

MSC to adopt the agenda as presented.
SA.09.04

Bishop Zellmer stated Vice President Gary Steuck was not able to be present at the Assembly.

MSC to appoint Joel Laumer, First English, Lennox, as interim Vice President for the Assembly.
SA.09.05

Bishop Zellmer introduced Jodi Hanson, AIM, and Suzanne Hansen, AIM, who introduced the Book of Faith Initiative.

Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson and the Provoking the Gospel Troupe presented a Book of Faith Moment.

Treasurer Ty Inglis presented the Treasurer's Report found in the Preliminary Report via video.

MSC to receive the Treasurer's Report.
SA.09.06

Interim Vice President Laumer presented the proposed 2010 Mission Plan found in the Preliminary Report. Mr. Laumer expressed thanks on behalf of the Synod for continued congregational support of the Synod's Mission Plan.

Pastor John Paulson, Our Savior's, Wessington Springs, requested further information regarding the SDS Transportation LLC and Plane Income line items. It was clarified all synod vehicles and travel, including use of an aircraft, income and expenses are through the SDS Transportation LLC. A variety of income sources support SDS Transportation including reimbursement from the ELCA and gifts from individuals and congregations.

Pastor John Paulson, Our Savior's, Wessington Springs, requested further information on Priority Pool Projects. Pastor Bill Tesch explained these monies can be requested by individuals or congregations through the Mission Boards of the Synod Council.

Bishop Zellmer invoked the orders of the day.

The Assembly recessed for lunch.

Plenary Session Two

The Assembly reconvened at 1:10 pm.

Suzanne Hansen, AIM, introduced Rev. Dr. Fred Gaiser, Old Testament Professor, Luther Seminary, who presented a Book of Faith Moment.

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

Bishop Zellmer introduced David Swartling, Secretary of the ELCA, who presented a State of the ELCA address including a video presentation from Bishop Mark Hanson.

Mr. Swartling introduced Rev. Dr. Jeff Sorenson, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, who presented an ELCA Church Council Report.

The Assembly recessed for a break.

Plenary Session Three

The Assembly reconvened.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Rev. Dr. Craig Boehlke, Region 3 Coordinator for Ministry Leadership; Rev. Keith Zeh, Mission Director, Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission; and Bishop Victoria Cortez Rodriguez, Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope (ILFE); and Pastor Jon Halvorson, Augustana, Sioux Falls, who served as a translator.

Bishop Victoria Cortez Rodriguez brought greetings from the ILFE and addressed the Assembly.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Susan Marone, AIM, Associate to the Bishop, who presented a Staff Report. Ms. Marone's report can be found in the Preliminary Report.

Susan Marone introduced seminarians Justin Ask, Amanda Esping, Henrique Flemming, Jacalyn Griffin, Sarah Harrold, Karen Matuska, Tryphine Schrubba, and Jonathan Vehar who were welcomed the South Dakota Synod and the Assembly. Rich Omland, Philanthropic Advisor, Luther Seminary was introduced.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Jim and Karen Noss, former missionaries to Cameroon, and announced the formation of a \$50,000 Noss Scholarship at Luther Seminary. Matching funds were received, resulting in a total scholarship fund of \$100,000. A Noss Scholarship has also been established in the Train up a Child fund which provides scholarships to attend church sponsored school in the Cameroon. The majority of these scholarships are awarded to young girls.

Bishop Zellmer invoked the orders of the day.

Breakout sessions were held: 2009 ELCA National Youth Gathering; A Primer for Congregation Council Members; Apply Liberally Holistic Theology; Book of Faith: Provoking the Gospel; Chapel in the Hills 40th Anniversary; Closure of the LSS Woodfield Center and the New Face of

Youth Residential Treatment Centers; Creativity, Worship and Media: How Do We Get Them to Play Together?; Financial Wellness; Givers for Life; Got Fear? Have Faith!: Stewardship Ministry in Lean Times; Luther House of Study: Strengthening Lutheran Leadership; Luther Seminary: Your Partner in Educating More and Better Prepared Leaders for a Time of Mission; Rediscovering the Book of Faith; St. Dysmas: The Good News Behind Prison Walls; Technology, the Synod and You: It's Not Scary. No, Really!; and Q&A on Churchwide Assembly Voting Issues.

The evening banquet and program were held in the Elmen Center with Mary Mortenson, Executive Director, Prison Congregations of America, serving as Master of Ceremonies. The speaker was David Swartling, Secretary of the ELCA.

Pastors who have retired were recognized: Pastor Bruce Baum, Pastor Joan Conroy, Pastor Charles Hazlett, Pastor Evelyn Johnson, Pastor Donald Lehmann, Pastor Edmund Nesselhuf, Pastor Roger Noer, Pastor William Olsen, Pastor Larry Peterson, Pastor Robert Waite and Pastor Arlene Wiekert.

Those celebrating rostered ministry anniversaries were recognized.

60th: Pastor Kenneth Helgeson.

55th: Pastor James Christopherson, Pastor LeeRoy Eikanger, Pastor Richard Gilman, Pastor Lyle Ingelbret, Pastor Judeen Johnson, Pastor Dwane Shay.

50th: Pastor Herbert Cleveland, Pastor Myron Larry Dahlstrom, Pastor Donald Gaarder, Pastor Leroy Iseminger, Pastor LeRoy Nevin, Pastor James Thvedt.

25th: Pastor Jeffrey Eisele, Pastor Randall Eisenbeisz, Pastor Nathan Hanson, Pastor Paul Matchan, Pastor Jeff Rohr, Pastor Mary Sacco, Yvonne Steindal, AIM, Pastor Kent Stillson, Pastor Rolf Svanoe.

Rostered leaders new to the South Dakota Synod were welcomed: Pastor Vicki Saude-Worthington, Pastor Patrick Hahn, Yvonne Steindal, AIM, Pastor George Gehant III, Pastor Daniel Ostercamp, Pastor Kristin Ostercamp, Pastor Dwayne Hunzeker, Pastor Keith Garness, Pastor Bill Nelson-Loefke, Pastor Mary Anne Nelson-Loefke, Pastor Tim Selbo.

Celebration of Life: Pastor Harold Bailey, Pastor Edward Gilbertson, Pastor E Wil Haygeman, Pastor Merlyn Huke, Pastor Jacob Knutson, Pastor Donald Schumacher, Pastor Phillip Snowbeck, Pastor C Mark Svaren, Pastor William Gregerson.

May 30, 2009

The Mission Prayer Breakfast was held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Plenary Session Four

The Assembly reconvened at 8:15 am.

Kurt Osborne presented the Credentials Committee report: 645 voting members (160-clergy, 280-lay female, 205-lay male), 94 visitors and advisory had registered as of 8:15 am for a total attendance of 739.

Jodi Hanson, AIM, introduced Rev. Dr. Fred Gaiser, Old Testament Professor, Luther Seminary, who presented a Book of Faith Moment.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Norma Reker, Member Services Analyst, who brought greetings from the Board of Pensions.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Betty Oldenkamp, President, who brought greetings from Lutheran Social Services.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Pastor Bill Tesch, Associate to the Bishop, who presented a Staff Report. Pastor Tesch's report can be found in the Preliminary Report.

Pastor Bill Tesch introduced Pastor Erika Lehmann, West Prairie, Lennox, who presented a World Hunger report.

Kurt Osborne introduced Tony Dresson and members of Grace Lutheran, Watertown. A conference table made by Mr. Dresson and gifted to the Synod by Grace was dedicated.

The Assembly recessed for a break.

Plenary Session Five

The Assembly reconvened.

Credentials Committee report: 660 voting members (160-clergy, 290-lay female, 210-lay male), 99 visitors and advisory had registered as of 9:45 am for a total attendance of 759.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Bishop Deborah Kiesey who brought greetings from the United Methodist Dakota Conference.

Bishop Zellmer presented the Nominating Committee Report with the addition of nominees for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly from Prairie Rivers: Arlen Feistner, Storla, Letcher, and Carl Buening, St. John, Dimock (alternate). Bishop Zellmer called for nominations from the floor for each position.

MSC to cast a unanimous ballot to elect:

Synod Secretary (four year term)

Carla Borchardt, Sioux Falls

Consultation Committee (six year term)

Dawn Hoffman, Harrisburg

Chapel in the Hills (four year term)

Bob Burns, Piedmont

Elline Satrang, Rapid City

Synod Council (four year term)

Jeff Brindle, Watertown, Prairie Coteau

Pastor Carlene Rhody, Brandt, Medary

Gwen Bobbie, Sioux Falls, Crossroads

Scott Lien, Bowdle, Northern Plains

Holly Paulson, Wessington Springs, Prairie Rivers

LYO Synod Council Representative (two year term)

Travis Gerlach, Dimock

Lutheran Social Services Board of Directors (three year term)

Carol Twedt, Crossroads

Becky Malchow, Northern Plains

Jack Mortenson, Prairie Rivers

2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, Prairie Rivers

Arlen Feistner, Storal, Letcher

Carl Buening, St. John, Dimock (alternate)

SA.09.07

Bishop Zellmer introduced Brett Koenecke, Parliamentarian, and Pastor Siri Sorenson, Resolutions Committee. Bishop Zellmer led the Assembly in prayer.

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of Resolution 4.

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 4: Asking for a Two-thirds Majority to Change Ministry Policies with no recommendation.

MS to consider Resolution 4.

Resolution: 4

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation

Action Taken: Adopted

Subject: Asking for a Two-Thirds Majority to Change Ministry Policies

Source: Bear Butte Conference, Crossroads Conference, Prairie Coteau Conference

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider recommendations from the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality that ask the ELCA to change its teaching and policy to affirm the possibility of publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships for pastors and other rostered leaders in the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council voted 19-10 to delete a provision requiring a two-thirds majority “to adopt recommendations or resolutions originating from or relating to the subject of a social statement task force report or amendments or substitute motions related to such recommendations or resolutions” and is recommending rules of procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which would require only a simple majority vote to change ELCA standards to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships; and

WHEREAS, 15 Synod Councils — including the South Dakota Synod Council — asked the ELCA Church Council to change its simple majority proposal to a two-thirds majority vote (3 Synod Councils supported the simple majority recommendation); and

WHEREAS, a two-thirds majority of ELCA bishops recommended that a two-thirds majority vote be required on the ministry policies resolutions (March Conference of Bishops vote); and

WHEREAS, a two-thirds majority vote is usually required for major decisions including the adoption of an ELCA social statement and for amendments to the ELCA constitution and bylaws, so that such decisions will be accepted by the entire church as legitimate; and

WHEREAS, a decision to change church teaching and policy to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships holds the potential to be divisive in many ELCA synods and congregations and to cause both membership and financial losses for synods and congregations; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will adopt its rules for the assembly and could set a two-thirds majority for adoption of any changes to standards for pastors and other rostered leaders; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to add the following provision to the rules of procedure for the assembly: “Any motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s current policy and practice for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption.”

Pastor Mindy Ehrke, Storla and Trinity, Letcher and Salem, Mount Vernon, questioned how memorials will be presented at the Churchwide Assembly—will this memorial be considered prior to discussion and voting on the rules of the assembly? David Swartling, Secretary ELCA, clarified the number of Synods requesting a two-thirds vote to adopt changes in current policy and practice will be reported early in the agenda of the Churchwide Assembly.

Pastor Craig Werling, American, Milbank, spoke in favor of the resolution stating this is an important issue that should be approved by a wider majority rather than a simple majority.

Pastor David Baer, Immanuel, Whitewood, spoke in favor of the resolution stating there should be a large majority for any change this significant.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Grace and Our Savior’s, Menno, questioned whether any action could be taken at the Churchwide Assembly following the report of the number of synods requesting a two-thirds vote to adopt changes in current policy and practice. Bishop Zellmer stated the rules of the assembly will be open for debate and modification at the opening of the assembly prior to any action by the assembly.

Pastor Paul Rohde, Augustana Campus Ministry, Sioux Falls, questioned the majority needed to change the rules of the assembly. Bishop Zellmer stated a simple majority is required to adopt changes to the rules and a two-thirds majority is required to adopt all rules of the assembly.

Bruce Schumacher, Bethania/Trondhjem, Rosholt, spoke against the resolution stating requiring a two-thirds majority gives the minority control of the issue.

Pastor John Christopherson, First, Sioux Falls, stated he disagrees with the previous speaker. He is concerned about changing from an ecclesiastical practice to Roberts Rules for procedure which gives 1045 voting members the power to make decisions for 4.9 million members of the ELCA.

MSC to adopt Resolution 4: Asking for a Two-thirds Majority to Change Ministry Policies.

SA.09.08

Pastor Lou Whitmer, Immanuel, Kimball, abstained.

Bishop Zellmer explained several resolutions result in opposite actions. Therefore, one resolution will be presented then a motion will be made to substitute the opposing resolution so that both resolutions can be debated at the same time. He encouraged respectful debate.

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of Resolution 5A.

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 5A: Asking for Adoption of the Proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and for Following the Recommended Decision Making Process on Ministry Policies at the ELCA 2009 Churchwide Assembly with no recommendation.

MS to consider Resolution 5A.

Resolution: 5 A

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation

Action Taken: Substituted Resolution 6 for 5A

Subject: Asking for Adoption of the Proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and for Following the Recommended Decision Making Process on Ministry Policies at the ELCA 2009 Churchwide Assembly

Source: Crossroads Conference

WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has earnestly studied and struggled with these matters for eight years, and invites mutually respectful dialogue about sexuality throughout this church; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Social Statement powerfully proclaims this church's teachings on trust, love, and service to the neighbor as the proper foundation of sexuality, while honestly recognizing that there is no consensus regarding same-gender relationships or the rostered ministry of people in them; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council, at its March 2009 meeting, voted to recommend to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality, its implementing resolutions, and a Recommendation on Ministry Policies; and

WHEREAS, the Recommendation on Ministry Policies lays out a process of discernment that would greatly benefit this church, and, if pursued through its entirety would allow a way to maintain a uniform standard and process for candidacy and call throughout this church while respecting the bound consciences of all; and

WHEREAS, the time has come for both those in this church who support publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships and those who oppose

them to join together in creating a means to continue living together faithfully in the midst of disagreement; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly urge the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to adopt the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and its implementing resolutions, as recommended by the ELCA Church Council.

MS to substitute Resolution 6: Asking for Rejection Proposed Social Statement and Affirmation of Current Teaching Documents on Sexuality for Resolution 5A

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 6.

Resolution: 6

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation

Action Taken: Adopted

Green (yes) = 362, Red (no) = 238, White (abstain) = 12, Absent/Not Voting = 48

Subject: Asking for Rejection Proposed Social Statement and Affirmation of Current Teaching Documents on Sexuality
Source: Bear Butte Conference, Prairie Rivers Conference, Prairie Coteau Conference

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider the adoption of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a possible Social Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, “Social statements and other resources on social concerns build on the rich legacy of the church bodies that united to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As a confessional church with an historical sense, this church continues to look to the social statements of The American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America for guidance, while it develops its own social statements and further deliberates on social concerns” (*Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns*); and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions state: “We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone” (*Book of Concord, Formula of Concord, Epitome, Rule & Norm*); and

WHEREAS, the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: “This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (*ELCA Constitution, 2.03*); and

WHEREAS, in addition to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, the current teaching of the ELCA on human sexuality is guided by the ELCA Messages *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* (1996) and *Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (2001); and by the social statements of the ELCA’s predecessor churches: *Sex, Marriage, and Family - A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in America* (1970); *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior - A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1980); and *Teachings*

and Practice on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage - A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church (1982); and

WHEREAS, the adoption of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a Social Statement of the ELCA would replace the ELCA Message *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* and the predecessor church statements with a document that is less helpful than its predecessor documents and distances the ELCA from Scripture and from the rich legacy of the church bodies that united to form the ELCA; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly thank the members of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality for their work; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reject *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* as a proposed Social Statement for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to affirm the teaching of the ELCA Messages *Sexuality: Some Common Convictions* (1996) and *Commercial Sexual Exploitation* (2001); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to express the ELCA's intention to continue to rely on the social statements of its predecessor churches — *Sex, Marriage, and Family - A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in America* (1970); *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior - A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1980); and *Teachings and Practice on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage - A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church* (1982) — as historical documents expressing faithful Christian teaching on human sexuality.

Pastor David Baer, Immanuel, Whitewood, spoke in favor of the substitution stating the effect of Resolution 6 is defeat of the proposed social statement on human sexuality and no change in current policy. Approval of the proposed social statement would effectively delete all statements except the 2001 message on commercial sexual exploitation which would be divisive and not congruent with previous teachings.

Pastor Daniel Ostercamp, St. John's, Webster, spoke in favor of the substitution stating previous social statements are a good foundation. He stated concern that the proposed social statement is based on people's perceptions and experiences rather than the Word. He believes we need to turn to the Word of God when making such decisions.

Pastor Mindy Ehrke, Storla and Trinity, Letcher and Salem, Mount Vernon, spoke against the substitution stating she has been studying Acts. This is not the first time the Christian church has struggled to determine what God intends us to do. Beginning with Acts 5:33, a story is told of how the Jewish council dealt with new followers of Jesus. We need to wrestle with a new vision.

Pastor Craig Werling, American, Milbank, spoke in favor of the substitution stating he believes God's will will be done. He stated we have to make a choice. The actions of the Churchwide Assembly will have serious repercussions within the ELCA and with ecumenical relationships in the United States and throughout the world.

Pastor Paul Stjernholm, Peace, Sioux Falls, spoke against the substitution stating he understands the concern for the effect on church teachings. The church lacks clarity when discussing homosexuality. The proposed social statement says we do not have consensus. He finds this very honest. Differing positions are based on study of the scripture. We need to respect each other's position. This one area of concern should not negate the whole proposed social statement.

**MSC to close debate.
SA.09.09**

**MSC to substitute Resolution 6: Asking for Rejection Proposed Social Statement and Affirmation of Current Teaching Documents on Sexuality for Resolution 5A: Asking for Adoption of the Proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and for Following the Recommended Decision Making Process on Ministry Policies at the ELCA 2009 Churchwide Assembly.
SA.09.10**

Pastor Lou Whitmer, Immanuel, Kimball, abstained.

The Assembly considered Resolution 6.

Pastor Erik Swanson, St. James, Leola and Salem-Emmanuel, Long Lake, spoke in favor of the resolution stating it reaffirms previously adopted social statements.

Linda Albrecht, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, questioned the number of people voting on this issue without knowing anything about homosexuality. She stated as we get to know each other we realize we are not a threat to each other. She chooses to err on the side of love and compassion, not judgment.

Pastor Erma Wolf, on leave from call, spoke in favor of the resolution stating she has struggled with this issue for many years. She supports defeating the proposed social statement because she thinks it is a poor document. It does not give clear guidance on these matters.

Joyce Hendrickson, Trinity, Vermillion, visitor, requested a comparison between ELCA expectations for pastors in heterosexual marriages and those in same sex committed relationships. The church has shown grace to pastors who divorce. She encouraged consideration of relationships which are the basis of faith.

Pastor Bob Chell, University Lutheran Center, Brookings, spoke against the resolution stating that 150 years ago many churches broke apart because of divisive issues such as slavery. Looking back, it is very clear that slavery is wrong. It is good to remember that those who aren't full of doubt are the ones who stoned the prophets and killed Jesus. The most honest and effective statement is that we are not of one mind.

Mike Nitz, Brandon Lutheran, Brandon, stated he disagrees with those who have been talking about this issue since the 1990's. There are many other issues the Lutheran church should be discussing. Martin Luther said, "Here I stand." When is the ELCA going to do this? We need to make a decision on this and set a common standard.

Karen Johnson, Our Savior's, Sioux Falls, stated she has worshipped with her gay son in Washington, DC, and that experience was very different from worshipping in South Dakota. She saw a lot of brokenness and didn't see many large extended families. She stated Biblical

scholars cannot agree on this issue but she is sure Christ would have been comfortable worshipping in that environment.

Dick Horak, Our Savior's, Spearfish, spoke of a homosexual friend. He stated he loves this person, but has told him what he is doing is not right. This man became engaged in a ministry which helped him overcome his desire. We need to love homosexuals, but help them know their lifestyle is not correct.

Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, stated these discussions are painful and difficult. He reads the Bible and scholarly works very carefully and agrees that we do not agree on the Biblical witness. He urged defeat of the resolution stating we are not of one mind on how to interpret relevant texts.

Pastor John Paulson, Our Savior's, Wessington Springs, asked the number of voting members who have read the social statement and recommendations. Through a show of hands, many indicated they have.

Pastor Terrill Sorensen, First, Britton, stated we are talking about living together faithfully and how we deal with these issues faithfully. Those on both sides of the issue believe they are acting very faithfully. He is in favor of rejecting the social statement because it is an attempt to adjust the law. It is not our law, word or scripture to adjust.

Pastor Len Halvorson, Zion, Garretson, stated the document recognizes we don't agree as the church over this incredibly divisive issue. He doesn't know whether we will reach any type of conclusion because we don't agree. It is time to be the church together and agree we can't agree.

Pastor John Christopherson, First, Sioux Falls, stated thoughts from a medicine and psychiatry perspective. He completed an internship in psychiatry where he facilitated a support group for gay men. It is clear our culture is duping many that our fundamental identity is our sexuality. Jesus says our fundamental identity is as a child of God. He continues to work with gay men, several of whom have asked him not to affirm the document because it is destructive and hurtful.

**MSC to close debate.
SA.09.05.11**

MS to adopt Resolution 6: Asking for Rejection Proposed Social Statement and Affirmation of Current Teaching Documents on Sexuality

Bishop Zellmer called for a division of the house. Elections Committee members counted votes.

Pastor Jeff Sorenson, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, questioned the appropriateness of a visitor and pastor on leave from call participating in the previous discussions. Bishop Zellmer clarified the South Dakota Synod Constitution and Bylaws S7.23 states, "...all ordained ministers on leave from call....shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly."

Bishop Zellmer declared the motion adopted. Green (yes) = 362, Red (no) = 238, White (abstain) = 12, Absent/Not Voting = 48.

**MSC to adopt Resolution 6: Asking for Rejection Proposed Social Statement and Affirmation of Current Teaching Documents on Sexuality
SA.09.05.12**

Pastor Lou Whitmer, Immanuel, Kimball, abstained.

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of Resolution 5B.

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 5B: Asking for Adoption of the Proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and for Following the Recommended Decision Making Process on Ministry Policies at the ELCA 2009 Churchwide Assembly with no recommendation.

MS to consider Resolution 5B.

Resolution: 5 B

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation

Action Taken: Substituted Resolution 7 for 5B

Subject: Asking for Adoption of the Proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and for Following the Recommended Decision Making Process on Ministry Policies at the ELCA 2009 Churchwide Assembly

Source: Crossroads Conference

WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has earnestly studied and struggled with these matters for eight years, and invites mutually respectful dialogue about sexuality throughout this church; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Social Statement powerfully proclaims this church's teachings on trust, love, and service to the neighbor as the proper foundation of sexuality, while honestly recognizing that there is no consensus regarding same-gender relationships or the rostered ministry of people in them; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council, at its March 2009 meeting, voted to recommend to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality, its implementing resolutions, and a Recommendation on Ministry Policies; and

WHEREAS, the Recommendation on Ministry Policies lays out a process of discernment that would greatly benefit this church, and, if pursued through its entirety would allow a way to maintain a uniform standard and process for candidacy and call throughout this church while respecting the bound consciences of all; and

WHEREAS, the time has come for both those in this church who support publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships and those who oppose them to join together in creating a means to continue living together faithfully in the midst of disagreement; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly urge the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to follow the proposed four-part process for deciding the Recommendation on Ministry Policies, as recommended by the Task Force for ELCA Studies in Sexuality.

MS to substitute Resolution 7: Asking for Rejection of Recommendations on Ministry Policy and Affirmation of Current ELCA Policy for Resolution 5B

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 7.

Resolution: 7

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation

Action Taken: Adopted

Green (yes) = 364, Red (no) = 233, White (abstain) = 23, Absent/Not Voting = 40

**Subject: Asking for Rejection of Recommendations on Ministry Policy
and Affirmation of Current ELCA Policy**

Source: Bear Butte Conference, Prairie Coteau Conference

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions state: “We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone” (*Book of Concord, Formula of Concord, Epitome, Rule & Norm*); and

WHEREAS, the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: “This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (*ELCA Constitution, 2.03*); and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures teach of God’s design for marriage as reflected in the words of Jesus, “Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate” (*Matthew 19:4-6*); and

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider recommendations from the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality which ask the ELCA to change its teaching and policy to affirm the possibility of same-sex sexual relationships for pastors and other rostered leaders in the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, many ELCA members and most Christian churches — including most churches in the Lutheran World Federation — believe that Scripture is clear in its teaching about marriage and about homosexual behavior; and

WHEREAS, a synodical or congregational option on ministry standards would represent a real change in the teaching of our church forcing even those synods and congregations that do not agree with this change implicitly to accept the notion that Scripture is not clear in its teaching about marriage or about homosexual behavior; and

WHEREAS, the interdependent relationship between the churchwide, synod, and congregational expressions of the ELCA requires one Office of Ministry, one roster of pastors, and one set of expectations for pastors and other rostered leaders throughout the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA currently expresses its expectations of pastors and other rostered leaders through documents called *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and*

Guidelines for Discipline which have served the ELCA well for most of its history (see *attached sheet of excerpts from these documents for examples of current standards related to this topic*); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly thank the members of Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality for their work; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reject the proposals in the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies* from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reaffirm the ELCA's current standards for pastors and other rostered leaders as expressed in *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*.

Excerpts from *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* that address matters related to the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies*. The entire documents are available online at www.elca.org.

Vision and Expectations — Ordained Ministers in the ELCA

I. THE CALL TO ORDAINED MINISTRY

- Ordained ministers, called by God through the church, are accountable to the Word of God for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ;
- Ordained ministers are called by God through the church and are not self-chosen or self-appointed;
- Ordained ministers are called by God through the church for a ministry of servant hood, and not for the exercise of domination or coercive power; and
- Ordained ministry is a privilege granted by God through the call of the church and is not a right of the individual.

II. FAITHFULNESS TO THE CHURCH'S CONFESSION

It is essential for an ordained minister to be able to understand and faithfully interpret the Scriptures and the Christian tradition. In this question the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America asks that its ordained ministers assume responsibility for upholding this church's doctrinal tradition through faithful preaching and teaching. All who have been ordained and who serve as pastors in this church are expected to accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Scripture, Creed and Confessions

The Scriptures reveal God's redemptive actions, including the message of law and gospel, judgment and mercy, "beginning with the Word in Creation, continuing in the history of Israel and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ" (ELCA Constitution, 2.02). Ordained ministers of this church are to confess and teach the authoritative and normative character of the Scriptures "as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life" (ELCA Constitution, 2.03). The ecumenical creeds are to be taught as true declarations of the faith of this church. The Lutheran Confessions are to be acknowledged as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the Holy Scriptures.

In identifying specific documents as normative for preaching and teaching, this church expects its ordained ministers to understand that the faith of the church is corporate, not individualistic; catholic, not sectarian; orthodox, not heretical. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America expects that its ordained ministers teach nothing "that departs from the Scriptures or the catholic church" (Conclusion to the Augsburg Confession).

Doctrinal Tradition

Christians enter into the catholic faith through baptism in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Ordained ministers of this church are called to continue in this catholic faith, preaching and teaching it within the doctrinal tradition of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

III. THE ORDAINED MINISTER AS PERSON AND EXAMPLE

The ordained minister is called with all Christians to “lead a life worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27). It is Christ’s own self-giving on the cross that is the example for Christian life for all believers. . . . Ordained ministers fulfill the calling of the pastoral office not only by what they do in carrying out certain tasks, but also in who they are.

Pastoral identity carries with it expectations and accountabilities that are determined by the whole church and not simply by a given congregation, synod, institution, or agency served by the ordained minister.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has high expectations for those who serve within the ordained ministry of this church. It does so because it recognizes that when offense is given by an ordained minister, the witness of the gospel may be impaired and the ability to carry out public ministry is threatened.

The ordained minister is to be an example of holy living, so that the ordained minister’s life does not become an impediment to the hearing of the gospel or a scandal to the community of faith. The qualities of such a life include the following:

Responsibility to family

Ordained ministers, whether married or single, are expected to uphold an understanding of marriage in their public ministry as well as in private life that is biblically informed and consistent with the teachings of this church. Spouse and children, if any, are to be regarded with love, respect, and commitment.

Sexual conduct

The expectations of this church regarding the sexual conduct of its ordained ministers are grounded in the understanding that human sexuality is a gift from God and that ordained ministers are to live in such a way as to honor this gift. Ordained ministers are expected to reject sexual promiscuity, the manipulation of others for purposes of sexual gratification, and all attempts of sexual seduction and sexual harassment, including taking physical or emotional advantage of others. Single ordained ministers are expected to live a chaste life. Married ordained ministers are expected to live in fidelity to their spouses, giving expression to sexual intimacy within a marriage relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful. Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships.

Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline of Ordained Ministers

Preaching or teaching in conflict with the faith confessed by this church is grounds for discipline of ordained ministers. A summary of the faith confessed by this church is found in Chapters 2 and 3 of this church’s constitution.

Conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office is grounds for discipline of ordained ministers. These guidelines define and describe kinds of behavior which are incompatible with the character of the ministerial office.

Relationship to Family

This church is committed to the sanctity of marriage and the enhancement of family life. Ordained ministers of this church, whether married or single, are expected to uphold Christian ideals of marriage in their public ministry as well as in private life. Spouse and children, if any, are to be regarded with love, respect and commitment.

Any departure from this normative behavior may be considered conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office.

Sexual Matters

The biblical understanding which this church affirms is that the normative setting for sexual intercourse is marriage. In keeping with this understanding, chastity before marriage and fidelity within marriage are the norm. Adultery, promiscuity, the sexual abuse of another, or the misuse of counseling relationships for sexual favors constitute conduct that is incompatible with the character of the ministerial office.

Practicing homosexual persons are precluded from the ordained ministry of this church.

Pastor David Baer, Immanuel, Whitewood, spoke in favor of Resolution 7 stating he urges the Churchwide Assembly to reject the recommendations and affirm current ELCA policy.

Pastor Paul Stjernholm, Peace, Sioux Falls, spoke against the substitution stating Resolution 5B endorses the process but doesn't speak to the content of the document. There are many different positions on these issues and the process provides a way to achieve a win-win situation and preserve the unity of the ELCA. He knows we belong together and can determine a way to figure this out with love and respect.

Pastor Paul Rohde, Augustana Campus Ministry, Sioux Falls, spoke against the substitution stating we need this process as the church. He would like to see a change in the process and recommendation 3 calls us to unity through commitment to word and sacrament rather than bound conscience. We need to be conscious of word and sacrament and our dependence on grace. Human sexuality is very complex. We are called to examine things we don't want to examine. We need to proceed with looking at these questions.

Pastor Erik Swanson, St. James, Leola, and Salem-Emmanuel, Long Lake, stated there is a two edged sword of confession – what you are for and what you are against. It is important to remember Resolution 7 keeps in mind decisions made by previous South Dakota Synod Assemblies.

Pastor Jeff Sorenson, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, spoke against the substitution stating he believes the Holy Spirit is at work in all these conversations, not to decide the content of the sexuality statements but to be led through conversation to a better place where the church can be a community of faith.

Pastor Dan Ostercamp, St. John's, Webster, spoke in favor of Resolution 7 stating the social statement's language is all about experience, the self and what my conscience is bound to, without a sense of the Bible or scripture or the catechism. He hears secularized talk, no scriptural language throughout the statement.

MSC to close debate.

SA.09.13

MSC to substitute Resolution 7: Asking for Rejection of Recommendations on Ministry Policy and Affirmation of Current ELCA Policy for Resolution 5B: Asking for Adoption of the Proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and for Following the Recommended Decision Making Process on Ministry Policies at the ELCA 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

SA.09.14

Pastor Lou Whitmer, Immanuel, Kimball, abstained.

The Assembly considered Resolution 7.

A voting member questioned the process regarding the Social Statement and Recommendations on Ministry Policies at the Churchwide Assembly. It was clarified rostering recommendations will be considered in a step fashion. One step must be approved before moving to the next step. Regardless of the vote on the proposed Social Statement, recommendations for policy will still be considered.

Pastor Kristin Ostercamp, St. John's, Webster, stated she will abstain because she believes the ministry policy should not change. The church has been talking about this for a long time and voting is not good for any of us.

Steve Johnson, East Nidaros, Baltic, spoke of the statement's position on cohabitation stating it is hard to fight his children's arguments for cohabitation if pastors can live together without marriage.

Karen Johnson, Our Savior's, Sioux Falls, stated she remembers debates when discussing ordaining women as clergy in the Lutheran church. She asks that wonderful gay clergy not be excluded.

Dane Romsdahl, Baltic Lutheran, Baltic, stated he believes gay clergy have also received a call from God. They should be given the opportunity to preach the word of God.

Kristin Ackermann, Shalom, Harrisburg, stated affirming the current policy is contradictory. We are taught in Sunday School to love our neighbors as ourselves and this is not what we are doing.

**MSC to close debate.
SA.09.15**

MS to adopt Resolution 7: Asking for Rejection of Recommendations on Ministry Policy and Affirmation of Current ELCA Policy
Pastor Lou Whitmer, Immanuel, Kimball, abstained.

Bishop Zellmer declared the resolution adopted. Call for division of the house. Members of the Elections Committee counted votes.

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of Resolution 2.

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 2: Lutheran Campus Ministry at Black Hills State University with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 2
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do Pass
Action Taken: Adopted

Subject: Lutheran Campus Ministry at Black Hills State University
Source: Bear Butte Conference

WHEREAS, Lutheran Campus Ministry makes a significant difference in the lives of college students and nurtures current and future leaders for the Church; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod has been blessed by the ministry of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, South Dakota State University, and University of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, a new Lutheran Campus Ministry has begun at Black Hills State University in Spearfish and is served by campus minister Robin Long; and

WHEREAS, Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Spearfish has provided significant support for the beginnings of this new ministry including providing a building near the campus; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly give thanks to God for this new ministry opportunity at Black Hills State University and encourage the congregations and the members of the congregations of the South Dakota Synod to support this new Lutheran Campus Ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly give thanks to God for the work of Lutheran Campus Ministry in South Dakota, express this synod's commitment to provide ongoing support for Lutheran Campus Ministry in South Dakota, and encourage the congregations and the members of the congregations of the South Dakota Synod to provide regular and ongoing support for all of the Lutheran Campus Ministry sites in South Dakota.

A voting member spoke in favor of the resolution and also encouraged more youth involvement on the official agenda of the Assembly.

**MSC to adopt Resolution 2: Lutheran Campus Ministry at Black Hills State University
SA.09.16**

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of Resolution 3.

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 3: Synodically Authorized Ministers with a recommendation of do pass as amended.

Resolution: 3

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do Pass as Amended

Action Taken: Adopted as Amended by the Assembly

Subject: Synodically Authorized Ministers

Source: Prairie Coteau Conference

WHEREAS, our Lord Jesus Christ was born in the flesh neither in a palace nor in the large city of Jerusalem but rather in the small town of Bethlehem of which the prophet Micah said, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times;" and

WHEREAS, many of the congregations of the South Dakota Synod are small in size and limited in resources; and

WHEREAS, many of these smaller congregations have been faithfully served by Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAMs)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly recognize the faithful ministry of SAMs in this synod by asking those who are currently serving as SAMs and those who have formerly served as SAMs in this synod to stand and that this assembly thank them by way of applause; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly further recognize the impact of SAMs in this synod by asking all who have belonged to a congregation which has been served by a SAM and those members of congregations currently served by a SAM to stand.

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this assembly direct the South Dakota Synod Council to explore ways that this synod might continue the ministry of SAMs in smaller congregations and parishes of the synod making allowances for more than one year of service in a particular congregation or parish which is limited in its ability to call and financially support an ordained pastor.**~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this assembly direct the South Dakota Synod Council to explore ways that this synod might continue the ministry of SAMs in smaller congregations and parishes of the synod making allowances for more than one year of service in a particular congregation or parish which is limited in its ability to call and financially support an ordained pastor.

Pastor Sarah Sorensen, Britton Lutheran, Britton, stated she has served as pastor for multiple parishes and has served as a mentor for SAMs who are lay people who fill pastoral vacancies in their communities. SAMs are vital to ministry in our part of the world. The process requiring candidacy tract and ordination should be revisited and changed, exceptions should be allowed.

MS to amend the resolution by reinserting the deleted resolved statement.

Pastor Siri Sorenson clarified the resolution was amended by the Resolutions Committee because the final resolved statement contradicts current practice, policy, recommendations and expectations.

Bishop Zellmer ruled the amendment out of order.

A voting member requested a point of order stating the amendment is requesting exploration of ways that fit within the constitution in a legal fashion and within the rules.

**MSC to challenge the ruling of the chair.
SA.09.17**

Discussion returned to debate of the proposed amendment.

Pastor Janet Miller, Bethesda and Bergen, Bristol, Butler Lutheran, Butler, stated she was a SAM (synodically authorized minister) and is a member of the Candidacy Committee. She

questioned the possibility of serving as a SAM without going to seminary. Bishop Zellmer stated a person can be a SAM for one year without entering the candidacy process. The person must enter the candidacy process and begin the TEEM (theological education for emerging ministries) process in order to renew as a SAM following one year of service. Some synods do not have SAM or TEEM candidates. Other synods have a more restrictive process.

Pastor Jeff Sorenson, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, rose for a point of order stating a two-thirds majority is necessary to overrule the chair. Bishop Zellmer stated there was a two-thirds majority.

MSC to amend Resolution 3 by reinserting the deleted final resolved statement. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this assembly direct the South Dakota Synod Council to explore ways that this synod might continue the ministry of SAMs in smaller congregations and parishes of the synod making allowances for more than one year of service in a particular congregation or parish which is limited in its ability to call and financially support an ordained pastor.

SA.09.18

MSC to adopt Resolution 3: Synodically Authorized Ministers as amended by the Assembly.

SA.09.19

The Assembly recognized those currently serving as SAMs and those who have served as SAMs and congregations which have been or currently are served by SAMs with applause.

Bishop Zellmer declared Resolution 7: Asking for Rejection of Recommendations on Ministry Policy and Affirmation of Current ELCA Policy adopted. Green (yes) = 364, Red (no) = 233, White (abstain) = 23, Absent/Not Voting = 40.

SA.09.20

The Assembly recessed for lunch.

The Lutherans Outdoors annual meeting was held.

Plenary Session Six

The Assembly reconvened at 1:00 pm.

The Credentials Committee reported: 660 voting members (160-clergy, 290-lay female, 210-lay male), 99 visitors and advisory had registered as of 1:00 pm for a total attendance of 759.

MS to adopt the Proposed 2010 Mission Plan as presented.

	Proposed 2010
INCOME	
MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS	\$2,242,815
DESIGNATED - SD SYNOD MINISTRIES	
Program Ministry Income	

Pine Ridge Ministry Income	45,001
Other Program Income	3,000
Faith Family Style Income	31,000
Faith Builders Income	2,000
Faith Builders Salary offset	34,893
Woyatan Income (EOCM Grant)	30,000
Other Income Streams	
Development Income	102,667
DEM Support Staff	15,000
Interest Income	21,000
SDS Transportation LLC Income	5,000
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000
Thrivent offset for projects	7,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,564,376
EXPENSES	
	Proposed
CHURCHWIDE MISSION	2010
Mission Support to ELCA	\$964,410
% of Mission Support	43%
Region III	18,900
% of Mission Support	1%
SHARED MINISTRIES	
South Dakota Sustained Ministries	
Campus Ministry	160,399
Campus Ministry Capital	1,061
Lutheran Planned Giving	49,862
Heartland Ephphatha	7,850
Lutheran Youth Organization	3,713
South Dakota Supported Ministries	
Luther Seminary	89,713
Lutheran Social Services	89,712
Lutherans Outdoors	44,856
Church Colleges	7,850
Flandreau Indian School Chaplaincy	15,700
Association of Christian Churches	7,850
Chapel in the Hills	1
Good Samaritan Society	1
Expense from Mission Support	\$478,568
% of Mission Support	21%

	Proposed 2010
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES	
Staff Leadership	
Bishop	\$90,784
Associate Tesch	9,585
Associate Marone	71,072
Bishop/Associate Benefits	65,184
SDS Travel	49,550
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Educ	20,250
DEM Travel	12,000
Program Ministries	
Development	42,779
Native American Ministry	74,706
Faith Builders Ministry	78,717
Faith Family Style Ministry	47,042
Companion Synod Coordinator	10,544
Support Staff and Office	
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits	198,788
Resource Center Supplies	3,000
Synod Office Expenses	83,800
Augustana College	21,000
Mortgage Payment	35,328
Synod Leadership	
Synod Council	20,000
Support to Ministries Committee	23,370
Candidacy Committee	25,000
Communications Committee	18,500
Multicultural Ministry Committee	4,000
Long Range Financial Strategy Committee	2,500
Ministry Projects	
Priority Pool Projects	5,000
Stewardship Project	12,000
Congregational Initiative Grants	5,000
Continuing Education Projects	5,000
Rural Ministry Projects	5,000
Woyatan Program Expenses	30,000
Outreach Ministries	
Multicultural Center	16,000
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000
Companion Synods	3,000
Contingency	10,000

Subtotal SD Synod Ministries % of Mission Support	\$1,102,498 49%
Total Expense	\$2,564,376
Net Total	0

Pastor Siri Sorenson, Grace, Sioux Falls, questioned whether the proposed Mission Plan reflects the 7% decrease in funding from the ELCA and how this affects the South Dakota Synod. Pastor Bill Tesch stated the decreased ELCA funding does affect the Woyatan ministry and is not reflected in the proposed Mission Plan.

**MSC to adopt the Proposed 2010 Mission Plan as presented.
SA.09.21**

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of Resolution 8.

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 8: Advice to Churchwide Assembly Voting Members with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 8

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do Pass

Action Taken: Adopted

Subject: Advice to Churchwide Assembly Voting Members
Source: Bear Butte Conference

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider a proposed ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality and recommendations regarding whether to change ELCA policy to permit pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships; and

WHEREAS, Voting Members of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly may amend the social statement, implementing resolutions, and policy recommendations before the final votes; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod Assembly has adopted several resolutions in recent years expressing the will of this synod on matters of sexuality including:

- 2008 - Participation in Process Toward ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality (Resolution 5);**
- 2007 - Honoring the ELCA Study Process for a Social Statement on Human Sexuality (Resolution 6);**
- 2005 - Amending & Opposing Church Council Recommendations (Resolution 13);**
- 2005 - Resolution of Thanksgiving and Encouragement for the ELCA's Study on Human Sexuality (Resolution 4);**
- 2004 - ALC Social Statement on Human Sexuality (Resolution 8);**
- 2004 - Congregational Ratification of Any Measures Passed at ELCA Churchwide Assemblies Allowing the Blessing of "Same-Sex" Unions and/or Rostering Non-celibate Gay and Lesbian Persons (Resolution 7);**
- 2004 - Response to ELCA Sexuality Studies (Resolution 9);**

- 2003 - On Affirming Traditional Marriage Conventions and Family Structures (Resolution 10);**
- 2002 - Final Ratification of Changes Regarding the Blessing of Same-Sex Unions and/or Regarding Ordination of Non-celibate Gay and Lesbian Persons to be considered by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly (Resolution 14A)**
- 2001 - Resolution on Human Sexuality (Resolution 13); and**

WHEREAS, decisions on sexuality have the potential to create conflict in the congregations of the South Dakota Synod and the potential to cause financial and membership losses; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly express its gratitude to those who are voting members to the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly from South Dakota for their faithful service to God and to the Church in this capacity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly request those who are representing the South Dakota Synod as Voting Members of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to be mindful of the previous actions of this synod and the actions of the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly as they make prayerful and faithful decisions on the matters to be considered by the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly request those who are representing the South Dakota Synod as Voting Members of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to be mindful of how their actions may ~~effect~~ affect the congregations of the South Dakota Synod as they make prayerful and faithful decisions on the matters to be considered by the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly direct Bishop David Zellmer to share a copy of this resolution and any other resolutions approved by this synod assembly on matters coming before the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly with those who are representing the South Dakota Synod as Voting Members of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, proposed a friendly editorial recommendation to change the word effect in the third resolved statement to the word affect which was accepted.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Grace and Our Savior's, Menno, spoke against the resolution stating voting members to the Churchwide Assembly should be aware of actions of the South Dakota Synod Assembly but should be able to vote their own conscience.

**MSC to adopt Resolution 8: Advice to Churchwide Assembly Voting Members
SA.09.22**

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of Resolution 9.

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 9: Affirming Marriage with no recommendation.

MS to consider Resolution 9.

Resolution: 9

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation

Action Taken: Defeated

Green (yes) = 259, Red (no) = 270, White (abstain) = 14, Absent/Not Voting = 117

Subject: Affirming Marriage

Source: Bear Butte Conference

WHEREAS, the 2008 South Dakota Synod Assembly asked the South Dakota Synod Council “to submit responses regarding sexuality to the ELCA Church Council regarding the Task Force’s final draft of a proposed ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality and regarding its recommendations on whether to change ELCA policy to permit persons in same-sex sexual relationships to serve as pastors and other rostered leaders in the ELCA prior to the ELCA Church Council’s March 2009 meeting;” and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod Council — in a resolution similar to this resolution — asked the ELCA Church Council to edit the proposed ELCA Social Statement — “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” — “to affirm marriage as a lifelong covenant of faithfulness between a man and a woman and to recommend no statements in the proposed ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality or in ELCA standards for pastors and other rostered leaders that could be interpreted as rejecting Christian teaching on marriage” (South Dakota Synod Council, March 2009); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council edited the proposed social statement, including the sentence defining marriage, but declined to clearly define marriage as between a man and a woman; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod Assembly has adopted several resolutions in recent years expressing the will of this synod on matters of sexuality that were noted in the Synod Council’s resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions state: “We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone” (*Book of Concord*, Formula of Concord, Epitome, Rule & Norm); and

WHEREAS, the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: “This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (ELCA constitution provision 2.03.); and

WHEREAS, Jesus taught that “from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate;” (Mark 10:6–9: Jesus is quoting Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:24); and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions, in Martin Luther’s Large Catechism, teach regarding marriage and the Sixth Commandment: “You should carefully note, first, how highly God honors and praises this walk of life, endorsing and protecting it by his commandment. He endorsed it above in the Fourth Commandment, ‘You shall honor father and mother.’ But here, as I said, he has secured and protected it. For the following

reasons he also wishes us to honor, maintain, and cherish it as a divine and blessed walk of life. He has established it before all others as the first of all institutions, and he created man and woman differently (as is evident) not for indecency but to be true to each other, to be fruitful, to beget children, and to nurture and bring them up to the glory of God. God has therefore blessed this walk of life most richly, above all others, and, in addition, has supplied and endowed it with everything in the world in order that this walk of life might be richly provided for. Married life is no matter for jest or idle curiosity, but it is a glorious institution and an object of God's serious concern" (*Book of Concord, The Large Catechism, Sixth Commandment*); and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America currently teaches that "Marriage is a lifelong covenant of faithfulness between a man and a woman" ("Sexuality: Some Common Convictions: A Message of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," 1996); and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church in America, one of the predecessor churches of the ELCA, taught that "Christian faith affirms marriage as a covenant of fidelity—a dynamic, lifelong commitment of one man and one woman in a personal and sexual union" and that "Marriage is ordained by God as a structure of the created order" ("Sex, Marriage, and Family: A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in America," 1970); and

WHEREAS, The American Lutheran Church, one of the predecessor churches of the ELCA, taught that "Scripture sets the standard of a lifelong monogamous marriage of one man and one woman" ("Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior: A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church," 1980) and that "Marriage is a structure of human life built into the creation by the Creator. It builds upon our creation as male and female (Gen. 1:27). Sexual differences are of God's good design, intended to bring joy and enrichment to human life as well as to provide for procreation. The essence of marriage is that in the act and relationships of marriage two persons become one flesh (Gen. 2:24). In this complementary nature of the two sexes as God created them lies the basis for marriage and each new family" ("Teachings and Practice on Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage: A Social Statement of The American Lutheran Church," 1982); and

WHEREAS, the 2008 draft social statement on human sexuality taught that "Marriage is a structure of mutual promises between a man and woman blessed by God (Mark 10:7-9) and authorized in a legal arrangement required by the state"; and

WHEREAS, some members of the ELCA are asking the ELCA to change the definition of marriage or merely to acknowledge that "marriage has historically been understood as" between a man and a woman;¹

WHEREAS, the 2009 proposed ELCA Social Statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," removed language from the first draft that defined marriage as between a man and woman and now merely acknowledges that "the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions have recognized marriage as a covenant between a man and a

¹ Lutherans Concerned/North America, "Response to the ELCA Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality," http://www.lcna.org/lcna_downloads/lcna_draft_social_statement_response.pdf. This document states that changes in teaching on marriage are "the most important changes to be made in the Draft Social Statement."

woman” and notes that some “conclude that marriage is also the appropriate term to use in describing similar benefits, protection, and support for same-gender couples entering into lifelong monogamous relationships” (“Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” pages 14-16); and

WHEREAS, ELCA pastors promise “to preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church” when they are ordained and installed (Rite for Installation of a Pastor, *LBW Occasional Services*, page 225); and

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly may amend the proposed social statement before voting on whether to adopt it as a social statement of the ELCA; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly affirm this synod’s commitment to marriage as a lifelong covenant of faithfulness between a man and a woman in faithfulness to Scripture and in keeping with the ELCA Message “Sexuality: Some Common Convictions” and predecessor church social statements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to affirm marriage as a lifelong covenant of faithfulness between a man and a woman and to adopt no statements in the proposed ELCA Social Statement on Human Sexuality or in ELCA standards for pastors and other rostered leaders that could be interpreted as rejecting Christian teaching on marriage; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to make the following changes to the proposed social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” before voting on whether to adopt it as an ELCA social statement:

1. Add the words “between one man and one woman” to lines 501-502, page 14, so that the first sentence reads:

“Marriage is a covenant of mutual promises, commitment, and hope between one man and one woman authorized legally by the state and blessed by God.”

2. Move lines 588-594, page 16, to line 669, page 18, in the section on “Lifelong monogamous same-gender relationships.”

MS to amend the final resolved statement number one by inserting the words “for one lifetime” after the words between one man and one woman so the sentence reads:

“Marriage is a covenant of mutual promises, commitment, and hope between one man and one woman for one lifetime authorized legally by the state and blessed by God.”

A voting member questioned whether the amendment means if a person is divorced or his/her spouse dies he/she is never to remarry?

Pastor Erik Swanson, St. James, Leola, and Salem-Emmanuel, Long Lake, stated we live in a broken world and marriage for one lifetime is God's plan cited in Genesis. The amendment affirms the original plan.

Motion to strike the last resolved statement. Ruled out of order because a motion was currently on the floor.

A voting member, St. Paul's, Clark, requested further clarification regarding the amendment.

Pastor Erik Swanson, St. James, Leola, and Salem-Emmanuel, Long Lake, stated the law is a guide for us. It is helpful to know God's plan for marriage is one man and one woman for one lifetime. We are all sinners and have difficulty meeting God's goal.

Pastor Kwen Sanderson, Dalesburg, Vermillion, spoke against the amendment stating it assumes every marriage is the will of God and every divorce is not the will of God, this is not always true.

Bob Abraham, Nathaniel, Alcester, questioned whether divorced clergy must leave the ministry. Bishop Zellmer stated no.

**MSC to close debate.
SA.09.23**

**MS to amend Resolution 9.
The amendment was defeated.**

LuAnn Denke, Atonement, Rapid City, requested one minute of prayer prior to voting on Resolution 9.

Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, spoke against the resolution stating phrases in the second resolved statement could be interpreted as opposition to Christian teaching on marriage.

Pastor Sarah Sorensen, First, Britton, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Pastor Jeff Sorenson, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, spoke against the resolution stating the whereas statements are inflammatory and not true. The Church Council did define marriage as between one man and one woman.

MS to refer the resolution to the Synod Council.

Pastor David Baer, Immanuel, Whitewood, spoke against referral to the Synod Council stating the resolution should be forwarded to the Churchwide Assembly and the Synod Council does not have the authority to do so.

Motion to table the resolution.

The chair ruled the resolution can not be tabled because that is a temporary action. The resolution cannot be tabled to the indefinite future or beyond this Assembly.

Discussion returned to the motion to refer the resolution to the Synod Council.

A voting member spoke against the motion stating voting members are at the Assembly to discuss difficult issues, not defer them to another body.

A voting member spoke against the motion.

Bishop Zellmer clarified the Synod Council speaks to the Church Council and Synod Assemblies speak to the Churchwide Assembly.

The motion to refer Resolution 9 to the Synod Council was defeated.

Pastor John Paulson, Our Savior's, Wessington Springs, spoke against the resolution stating congregational members have asked him to vote according to scripture. It has been stated that several of the whereas statements may contain erroneous statements, therefore, he is against the resolution.

Bishop Zellmer led the Assembly in prayer.

**MS to adopt Resolution 9: Affirming Marriage
Defeated**

Call for division of the house. Elections Committee members counted votes.

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of Resolution 10.

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 10: 2010 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff with a recommendation of do pass.

**Resolution: 10
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do Pass
Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: 2010 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff
Source: Committee for Support to Ministries and its Compensation Task Force from
Southeastern Conference**

RESOLVED, that the "2010 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy" and "2010 Compensation for Lay Staff," prepared by a task force of the Southeastern Conference for the Committee for Support to Ministries and recommended by the committee for adoption, be adopted as the policy of the South Dakota Synod by the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly.

A voting member requested that members of the Southeastern Conference who worked on the guidelines stand and be recognized for their work. The Assembly responded with applause.

Paul Bly, Resurrection, Pierre, requested clarification of the statements regarding time off in section XIV. Work Week on page 19.

Pastor Lance Lindgren, Vangen, Mission Hill, stated the words "a day" should also be stricken so the sentence reads, "The regular discipline of ~~a day and a half~~ appropriate time off in a week is important..."

The Assembly accepted this recommendation as a friendly editorial change.

A voting member stated he has never been a member of a board where employees are able to vote on their pay and benefits and requested all pastors to abstain from voting on this resolution.

Joe Frese, Shepherd of the Hills, Lead, spoke in favor of the resolution.

**MSC to adopt Resolution 10: 2010 Compensation Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff
SA.09.24**

Bishop Zellmer declared Resolution 9: Affirming Marriage defeated. Green (yes) = 259, Red (no) = 270, White (abstain) = 14, Absent/Not Voting = 117

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of Resolution 1.

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 1: Opportunity for a Multicultural SD Synod Staff with a recommendation of do pass.

**Resolution: 1
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do Pass
Action Taken: Adopted as Amended**

**Subject: Opportunity for a Multicultural S.D. Synod Staff
Source: Bear Butte Conference**

WHEREAS, in 2006 the South Dakota Synod Assembly resolved to “continue to seek and interview people from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds for all staff positions with a goal of having a diverse staff as a vital part of our synod;” and

WHEREAS, our current South Dakota Synod Staff is without people of color or a person for whom English is a second language; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that beginning in June of 2009 the South Dakota Synod Council and the Bishop of the South Dakota Synod be strongly encouraged to interview at least one person of color and/or one person with English as a second language whenever staff positions are being filled.

Pastor Natanael Lizarazo, First, Sioux Falls, spoke in favor of the resolution thanking the Bear Butte Conference for bringing it forward and reminded the Assembly of the call from God to serve and work together. The Synod is establishing Latino and African American ministries. We need to be reminded the world is changing very rapidly.

A voting member from Grace, Sisseton, stated the resolved should be reworded in the event a person of color or one with English as a second language does not apply.

Marcus Haberling, Our Savior’s, Faulkton, spoke against the resolution stating ethnicity should not matter and positions should be offered to the best qualified applicant.

MS to amend the resolved statement by adding the words “be strongly encouraged to” after the words “Bishop of the South Dakota Synod” so the statement reads:

RESOLVED, that beginning in June of 2009 the South Dakota Synod Council and the Bishop of the South Dakota Synod be strongly encouraged to interview at least one person of color and/or one person with English as a second language whenever staff positions are being filled.

A voting member spoke against the resolution stating we shouldn't see color, only the human race.

Pastor Dirk Hagmaier, Trinity, Madison, spoke against the resolution stated he hopes he wasn't called due to a second language, but because he was the best qualified candidate.

A voting member spoke in favor of the resolution.

Pastor Natanael Lizarazo, First, Sioux Falls, spoke in favor of the resolution stating good intentions are not always honored. He has learned in the context of the church, good intentions and language do not always translate into action.

Bruce Schroeder, Beaver Valley, Valley Springs, questioned what would be done if a person of color and/or one with English as a second language does not apply.

Bishop Zellmer deferred to Pastor Natanael Lizarazo who stated the context of the Synod must be considered. If there are no such applicants, others must be considered. The intent of the resolution is accountability.

Ryan Zobel, Trinity, Arlington, stated the wording of the resolution is to encourage but not require to interview.

Laird Rasmussen, East Side, Sioux Falls, spoke against the resolution stating it places unneeded requirements on those we've placed in authority. The most qualified person will get the position regardless of color or physical traits.

**MSC to amend the motion.
SA.09.25**

Pastor Mindy Ehrke, Storla and Trinity, Letcher, Salem Lutheran, Mount Vernon, commended Bishop Zellmer because a person of color and with English as a second language was included in the seminarian draft. She spoke in favor of the resolution.

Jeff Gregg, Grace, Sisseton, spoke against the resolution.

Pastor Jon Halverson, Augustana and Pueblo de Dios, Sioux Falls, spoke in favor of the resolution lifting up the joy he feels while serving two communities with different linguistic backgrounds. In an ideal world we wouldn't need such a resolution, but we live in the real world where the Anglo expression of the Lutheran church has more power than any other. We need to take small steps to share this power with others so the Lutheran church becomes more diverse like the world around us.

MSC to close debate.

SA.09.26

MSC to adopt Resolution 1: Opportunity for a Multicultural SD Synod Staff as amended

SA.09.27

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of Resolution 11.

Pastor Siri Sorenson read Resolution 11: Enabling Congregations to Continue to Support the South Dakota Synod with a recommendation of do not consider.

Resolution: 11

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do Not Consider

Action Taken: Rule Out of Order

Subject: Enabling Congregations to Continue to Support the South Dakota Synod
Source: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Whitewood

WHEREAS, a significant percentage of general mission support received by the South Dakota Synod is forwarded to the ELCA churchwide organization as undesignated mission support; and

WHEREAS, many ELCA members and congregations have conscience-bound commitments to Scripture that make them unable to support changes in church teaching and policy that they believe go against the clear teaching of Scripture and its consistent interpretation by nearly 2,000 years of Christians; and

WHEREAS, because of their conscience-bound commitments to Scripture, some congregations may be unable to support the ELCA churchwide organization if such changes to church teaching and policy are made; and

WHEREAS, congregations that have conscience-bound commitments to Scripture that make them unable to support the ELCA churchwide organization may still desire to support the work of the South Dakota Synod and its partnership ministries; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA sexuality proposals ask that we “respect the bound consciences of all;” and

WHEREAS, other ELCA synods have found ways for congregations to support the work of their synod without supporting the churchwide organization; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 South Dakota Synod Assembly direct the South Dakota Synod Council to create a means for congregations that choose to do so to continue to support the work of this synod and its partnership ministries financially without supporting the ELCA churchwide organization and that this means of support be structured in a way that does not conflict with the constitution of the South Dakota Synod.

Resolution Committee Response:

The Resolution Committee has recommended “Do Not Consider,” since the resolution would be ruled out of order by the chair due to the fact that it has been determined to be in violation of several paragraphs of our ELCA and Synod constitutions. The relevant paragraphs of said constitutions are quoted below.

- ELCA Constitution 8.10: *This church shall seek to function as people of God through congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, all of which shall be interdependent. Each part, while fully the church, recognizes that it is not the whole church and therefore lives in a partnership relationship with the others.*
- ELCA Constitution 8.15: *Since congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization are partners that share in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support program of this church.*
- SD Synod Constitution S15.11: *Since the congregations, synods and churchwide organization are interdependent units that share responsibly in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support program of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church and thus partnership in this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings.*

MS to adopt Resolution 11.

Bishop Zellmer ruled the resolution out of order because it is not in compliance with the South Dakota Synod and ELCA constitutions.

Bishop Zellmer thanked the Assembly for their work stating all spoke from their hearts and were always respectful. He commended the Assembly for their discussion and decisions.

Bishop Zellmer and the Assembly recognized and thanked the Resolutions Committee with applause.

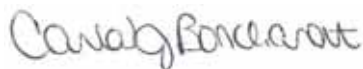
Suzanne Hansen, AIM, Faith Family Style Director, recognized youth groups for their monetary collections for Habitat for Humanity.

Bishop Zellmer and the Assembly recognized and thanked the Synod Staff and Assembly and Worship Planning Committees with applause.

Bishop Zellmer and the Assembly recognized and thanked Joel Laumer for serving as interim Synod Vice Chair during the Assembly with applause.

The Closing of the Assembly and closing communion worship were held in the Elmen Center with Bishop David Zellmer presiding and Rev. Dr. Fred Gaiser preaching. Parish assistants in the Faith Builders program were commissioned and members of the Synod Council were installed. Assembly offering was gathered to support Train up a Child and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Respectfully submitted,



Carla Borchardt
SD Synod Secretary