

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
South Dakota Synod
Calvary Lutheran Church
Rapid City, SD
June 11-12, 2010**

The twenty-third annual Synod Assembly of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, convened at Calvary Lutheran Church, Rapid City, South Dakota, June 11-12, 2010, with the theme *One Body in Christ, God's Work, Our Hands*.

A bike ride across the state (from Madison to Woyatan Lutheran Church, Rapid City) was held June 5-10, to raise money and awareness for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative "Nothing but Nets".

A Book of Faith event was held June 10, at Outlaw Ranch, Custer, with Rev. Dr. Rolf Jacobson and Bishop David Zellmer serving as keynote presenters. Breakout sessions were led by Pastor Jeff Eisele and Katherine Eisele.

Registration began at 4:00 pm on Thursday, June 10, at Woyatan Lutheran Church, Rapid City. Evening events included a Colombian display at Calvary Lutheran, Indian taco meal and dancing at Woyatan, vespers and Scandinavian food at Chapel in the Hills, conversation with the Bishop at Batchelder's Plummer Piano and Organ, and Summer Nights downtown Rapid City.

June 11, 2010

Registration opened at 8:00 am at Calvary Lutheran Church. Orientation was held for first time voting members.

Opening worship with holy communion and the opening of the assembly were held at Calvary Lutheran Church beginning at 10:15 am with Bishop John Tarrant, Episcopal Diocese, presiding and Bishop David Zellmer preaching. The worship service included installation for Pastor Layne Nelson as Executive Director of Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota; Pastor Molly Sasser-Goehner as Director of Outlaw and Atlantic Mountain Ranches, Lutherans Outdoors, Custer; Pastor David Piper as Mission Developer of Woyatan, Rapid City; and Miranda Meyer as Missionary to Nicaragua.

Lunch and conference caucuses were held.

Plenary Session One

Bishop David Zellmer called the meeting to order. Bishop Zellmer introduced Vice President Gary Steuck and Secretary Carla Borchardt.

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

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

MS to amend the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, 4.00.e.: If you have motions to make, make them at the beginning of the two (2) minute time limit. If you make a substantive amendment or one that is long or involved, you must provide a

written copy of the motion to the Secretary of the Assembly before the vote is taken, if requested by the President.

MSC to amend the amendment: at the beginning of prior to the two (2) minute time limit.

(yes = 418, no = 80, abstain = 8)

SA.10.06.01

MSC to make an editorial correction to the amended amendment: If you have a motions to make, make them it prior to the two (2) minute time limit.

(yes = 494, no = 11, abstain = 3)

SA.10.06.02

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

(yes = 485, no = 9, abstain = 4)

SA.10.06.03

MSC to adopt the agenda as presented.

(yes = 486, no = 8, abstain = 5)

SA.10.06.04

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

Pastor Lance Lindgren, Nominations Committee, introduced candidates for Synod Vice President: Gary Steuck, Trinity, Mobridge, and Joel Williams, Badger Lutheran, Badger. Mr. Steuck and Mr. Williams addressed the Assembly.

Pastor Lance Lindgren, Nominations Committee, introduced candidates for Synod Treasurer: Curtis Hage, Our Savior's, Sioux Falls, and Erik Gilbertson, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls. Mr. Hage and Mr. Gilbertson addressed the Assembly.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Rev. Asa Wilson, Moderator Presbytery of Dakota, who brought a greeting.

Kevin Stillson, Credentials Committee, reported: 527 voting members (137 – clergy, 212 – lay female, 178 – lay male), 91 visitors and advisory had registered as of 12:30 pm for a total attendance of 618.

A break was held with refreshments provided compliments of the Bear Butte Conference WELCA groups. The nominees for vice president and treasurer were available for conversation during the break.

Plenary Session Two

Rev. Dr. Rolf Jacobson, Luther Seminary, presented a Book of Faith experience.

Kevin Stillson, Credentials Committee, reported 530 voting members (137 – clergy, 213 – lay female, 180 – lay male), 91 visitors and advisory had registered as of 3:45 pm for a total attendance of 621.

Ty Inglis, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report including the revised 2010 and proposed 2011 Mission Plans found on pages 26-27 in the Preliminary Report.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Brett Koenecke, parliamentarian.

Bishop Zellmer introduced Pastor David Piper, Resolutions Committee, and called for consideration of Resolution 14.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 14: Support for Disestablishing SDCCCM and Transferring Its Functions to the Support to Ministries Committee with a recommendation of do pass as amended.

Resolution: 14

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do Pass as Amended

Action Taken: Adopted as Amended

(by show of hands)

Subject: Resolution of Support for Disestablishing SDCCCM and Transferring Its Functions to the Support to Ministries Committee

Source: Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, Campus Ministry in South Dakota has served a vital and creative mission in ~~promoting~~ proclaiming the Word of God and in ministering to college and university students, faculty, and staff in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, this mission remains vital and ever more necessary as we continue into the Twenty-First Century; and

WHEREAS, our campus pastors and site leaders, local campus councils and boards, student congregational members, friends and alumni of Campus Ministry, and other supporters deserve commendation and praise for their dedication to the cause; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Coordinating Council for Campus Ministry has a long and dedicated record of service to Campus Ministry in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, continued financial support for, administrative and supervisory assistance to, and helpful informational and promotional aid in behalf of Campus Ministry are absolutely essential for the continued survival, health, viability, and flourishing of Campus Ministry in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, it is of special concern and importance that all members of the South Dakota Synod pay special attention to and pledge their continued dedication and support to Campus Ministry during this time of intense cultural change, social transformation, theological flowering, and frequent financial stringency; and

WHEREAS, a multitude of situations pose ever more difficult challenges and exciting opportunities for Campus Ministry; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, extend its enthusiastic appreciation to all those currently and previously involved in assisting and supporting Campus Ministry for their faithful and generous efforts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly direct the Synod Council to transfer the duties of the Coordinating Council for Campus Ministry to the Support to Ministry Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly express its appreciation for the willingness of the Support to Ministry Committee to take on these important and challenging duties; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly charge encourage all of its members, pastors, support staff, representatives, and friends with to pray for and support for South Dakota Campus Ministry Ministries in promoting proclaiming God's Word on our college and university campuses.

Jim Schade, South Dakota Campus Coordinating Committee, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Pastor Kevin Jensen, USD Campus Pastor, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Grace/Our Savior's, Menno, suggested changing the word "ministry" to "ministries" in the final resolved statement. The suggestion was accepted by the Assembly as a friendly correction.

A member of the South Dakota Campus Coordinating Committee spoke in favor of the resolution.

MSC to adopt Resolution 14: Support for Disestablishing SDCCCM and Transferring Its Functions to the Support to Ministries Committee as amended. SA.10.06.05

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 6.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 6: Reconsider and Remove the Social Statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift & Trust" with no recommendation.

MS to consider Resolution 6.

Resolution: 6

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation

Action Taken: Adopted

(yes = 251, no = 243, abstain = 10)

Subject: Reconsider and Remove the Social Statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift & Trust"

Source: Prairie Coteau, Prairie Rivers, Bear Butte Conferences, Bethel Lutheran Church, Astoria, and Highland Lutheran Church, Brandt

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with ELCA bylaw 12.12.01, adopted a social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" by exactly a two-thirds vote; and

WHEREAS, in Part IV (lines 620 – 628 in the Pre-Assembly Report) this social statement reads:

The historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions have recognized marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman, reflecting Mark 10: 6–9: “But 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 put asunder.” (Jesus here recalls Genesis 1:27; 2:23–24.); and

WHEREAS, in Part IV (lines 740 – 744, as amended, of the Pre-Assembly Report) this social statement reads: “Recognizing that this conclusion differs from the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, some people, though not all, in this church and within the larger Christian community, 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”; and

WHEREAS, the social statement has generated substantial disagreement and debate among faithful members of the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, some members of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA believe that the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” should be reconsidered and removed; and

WHEREAS, “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” expressly provides for reconsideration and removal of a Social Statement by the Churchwide Assembly following its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Confession of Faith of the ELCA (Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution) commits the ELCA to accept the canonical Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith and life, and to accept the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church as a true witness of the Gospel and valid interpretations of the faith of the Church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, expresses its conviction that the decisions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly in adopting the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” violate the Confession of Faith, of the ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, memorializes the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to reconsider and remove the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns.”

Bishop Zellmer stated it would take a 2/3 majority vote at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to reconsider and remove a social statement. He has been in conversation with ELCA Secretary David Swartling who has indicated the first resolved statement would be ruled out of order.

Charles Stormo, New Hope, Hayti, questioned why the first resolved statement would be ruled out of order.

Bishop Zellmer stated the ELCA Secretary interprets the ELCA Constitution. The votes in 2009 were ruled to be constitutional. Therefore, the Secretary would not later rule them as unconstitutional.

Lon Hosman, Custer Lutheran Fellowship, Custer, spoke against the resolution.

Pastor Daniel Ostercamp, St. John's, Webster, stated he is troubled the first resolved statement would be ruled out of order. He expressed support of the whole resolution and concern the ELCA Secretary has sole power to interpret the constitution, confessions and scripture.

Pastor Erma Wolf, on leave from call, Brandon, spoke in favor of the resolution stating she believes the social statement violated the ELCA Confession of Faith and sets a bad precedent for situations when members question the teachings of other social statements. She thinks opening the social statement would be a mistake, it should either be upheld or rescinded. She believes Secretary Swartling needs to hear these concerns.

A voting member spoke against the resolution.

MS to amend the resolution by deleting the first resolved statement.

Jim Roling, Piedmont Valley, Piedmont, spoke against the amendment.

The amendment was defeated (yes = 172, no = 288, abstain = 42).

Pastor Paul Stjernholm, Peace, Sioux Falls, spoke against the resolution. He believes it is positive that people are together having this discussion rather than leaving the ELCA or not participating in discussion.

Gene Danielsen, Christ Lutheran, Salem, spoke against the resolution referring to the lesson for the day and sermon where Jesus acted contrary to the rules and regulations of the day.

Jesse Fonkert, Norway, Glenham, spoke against the resolution asking who are we to judge who has been called into ordained ministry.

Jim Roling, Piedmont Valley, Piedmont, spoke in favor of the resolution questioning the basis of the ELCA decision. He is confused whether we are anchored in faith or shifting sand according to the political norms of the day.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Grace/Our Savior's, Menno, questioned which part of the Confession of Faith has been violated.

Pastor Tom Christenson, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Watertown, spoke in favor of the resolution stating there have been references to divorce. The ELCA decisions ask us to bless something that has no positive reference in scripture. There has been no request to bless divorce. The social statement has already set up the judgment that God's word be overturned.

Pastor David Baer, Immanuel, Whitewood, spoke in favor of the resolution stating the violation is not accepting the canonical Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith and life, and failing to accept the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church as a true witness of the Gospel and valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.

Diane Johnson, Emmanuel, Groton, spoke in favor of the resolution stating there must be standards set for ordained ministry.

MS to close debate.

LuAnn Denke, Atonement, Rapid City, requested prayer prior to voting on the resolution.

Pastor Daryl Schubert, St. John's, Madison, requested clarification regarding the impact of resolutions 6 and 8. The Chair ruled the question out of order.

MSC to close debate on Resolution 6.

(yes = 426, no = 66, abstain = 11)

SA.10.06.06

Pastor David Piper led the Assembly in prayer.

**MSC to adopt Resolution 6: Reconsider and Remove the Social Statement,
"Human Sexuality, Gift & Trust"**

(yes = 251, no = 243, abstain = 10)

SA.10.06.07

A voting member requested a point of clarification regarding abstaining votes. It was clarified that abstaining votes are not counted in the total number of votes when determining the percent for and against. A ruling from the Parliamentarian was requested. The Parliamentarian ruled only the number of yes and no votes are considered, the abstaining votes are not counted either way.

Motion to reconsider the vote. The motion was ruled out of order because the person making the motion did not vote in the majority.

**MS to reconsider the vote on Resolution 6 (motion made by a voting member
voting in the majority on the resolution).**

James Sanden, Augustana Lutheran, Sioux Falls, appealed to those who abstained to get off the fence. The Bible states it is better to be either hot or cold rather than luke warm.

Maurice Hartmann, Trinity, Mitchell, requested a point a clarification regarding who can vote. It was clarified that all voting members can vote.

The motion to reconsider the vote on Resolution 6 was defeated (yes = 242, no = 261, abstain = 4).

The Chair invoked the orders of the day.

MSC to consider one more resolution.

SA.10.06.08

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 4.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 4: Underfunding of ELCA Board of Pensions with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 4

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass

Action Taken: Adopted

(yes = 438, no = 43, abstain = 10)

Subject: Underfunding of ELCA Board of Pensions

Source: Bear Butte Conference

WHEREAS, the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund ("the Fund") experienced significant losses as a result of the recession that began in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the board of trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions, in consultation with Board of Pensions senior staff and advisors, acted in a number of ways to address losses in the Fund, including: closing the Fund to new contributions; reducing payments to annuitants in the Fund by 9% for 2010; advising annuitants of potential decreases in annuity payments in 2011 and 2012; reducing in 2010 by 3.5% the value of not yet annuitized accounts of participants in the bridge component of the Fund; and advising these participants of potential decreases in account values in 2011 and 2012; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 reductions and possible future reductions have the potential of working severe hardships on many with fixed financial responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund was created to provide assistance for eligible plan participants, spouses, and surviving spouses, who have financial need; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly requests the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to consult with the Board of Pensions regarding the background of, reasons for, and implications of the decisions made with respect to the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund, to explore possible alternative ways to restore Fund losses and increase payment levels for annuitants and account values for those with bridge component accounts not yet annuitized, and to report on the results of the consultation at the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that steps be explored to mitigate the adverse effects of the Fund reductions and possible future reductions, including the expansion and promotion of the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Grace/Our Savior's, Menno, asked that a retired pastor address the resolution.

Pastor Moe Greiner, retired, stated he has experienced a significant decrease in his pension fund.

Bishop Zellmer stated there was a 9% decrease in the level of pensions in 2010, with another 9% decrease in 2011 and a third decrease in 2012 for a total decrease of 25% over three years. If market conditions improve, this level of decrease will not occur.

Pastor Will Olsen, retired, Webster, stated his pension reflects the decreases outlined by Bishop Zellmer. He had been told that placing monies in a bridge fund would result in a guaranteed rate of increase. This has not occurred.

Pastor Pat Lehrer, West Nidaros, Crooks, spoke of a person who placed retirement funds in the bridge fund and experienced a significant decrease in pension.

MSC to adopt Resolution 4: Underfunding of ELCA Board of Pensions.

(yes = 438, no = 43, abstain = 10)

SA.10.06.09

The Chair invoked the orders of the day.

Bishop Zellmer thanked the Assembly for the respectful conversation held during the day.

The evening banquet and program were held at Calvary Lutheran Church with Pastor Michael Fox and Pastor Jeff Otterman serving as Masters of Ceremonies. The speaker was Senator Stanley Adelstein.

Those celebrating rostered ministry anniversaries were recognized.

25th: Marian Nickelson Burling, AIM; Pastor Mindy Ehrke, Pastor Glen Enright, Pastor Randall Koeller, Pastor Jon Mapa, Pastor Paul Stjernholm, Pastor Renee Tecklenburg, Pastor Steven Unzicker, Pastor Brian Wasmoen.

50th: Pastor Robert Berndt, Pastor Raymond Engh, Pastor David G. Johnson, Pastor Harold Verhulst, Pastor ElRoy Steinwand.

55th: Pastor Marvin Ketterling, Pastor A. Richard Petersen, Pastor Lloyd Stivers.

60th: Pastor Alden Hovda.

Pastors who have retired were recognized: Margaret Fink, AIM; Pastor Solveig Larson Hendrickson, Pastor Diane Jackson, Pastor Linda Wahlstrom, Pastor Robert Waite, and Pastor Janet Zoss.

Rostered leaders new to South Dakota were welcomed: Pastor Donald Block, Pastor Mark Eliason, Pastor Amanda Esping, Pastor Henrique Fleming, Pastor Richard Foster, Pastor Debra Hippen, Pastor Kirstin Kellaher, Pastor Karen Matuska, Pastor Max Miller, Pastor Dennis Napton, Pastor Thomas Opoien, Pastor Stephen Palo, Pastor Molly Sasser-Goehner, Pastor Tryphine Schrubba, Pastor Rebecca Senner, Pastor Jonathan Vehar; and seminary graduates assigned to the South Dakota Synod: Tamara Craker, Clifton Hanson, Erik Olson, Nancy Quatier, Holly Slater, Nicholaus Slater, and Craig Wexler.

June 12, 2010

The Mission Prayer Breakfast was held at Calvary Lutheran Church with Bishop Thomas Nyiwe, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon, presenting the keynote address.

Plenary Session Three

The Assembly reconvened at 8:30 am.

Claire Harstad, South Dakota State University, brought greetings from campus ministry.

Pastor Lance Lindgren brought greetings and information about Lutheran Earthkeeping Network of the Synods (LENS).

Bishop Zellmer led the Assembly in prayer.

Ray Cheney, Credentials Committee, reported 536 voting members (138 - clergy, 217 – lay female, 181 – lay male), 91 visitors and advisory had registered as of 8:30 am for a total attendance of 627.

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolutions 7 and 8.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 7: Rescind Actions on Ministry Policies with no recommendation and Resolution 8: Rescind the Four Resolutions which Changed Ministry Policies with no recommendation.

MS to adopt Resolution 7.

Resolution: 7

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: No Recommendation

Action Taken: Defeated

(yes = 247, no = 256, abstain = 5)

Subject: Resolution to Rescind Actions on Ministry Policies

Source: Prairie Rivers and Bear Butte Conferences

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted resolutions on ministry policies that included a commitment to “finding ways for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church” [CA09.05.26] and also included a process of “structured flexibility” that would eliminate the prohibition on rostered service by individuals in such relationships while not imposing such service on any expression of this church [CA09.05.27]; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with and in order to implement the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA Church Council has amended the policy on reinstatement to the roster and has considered amendments to “Visions and Expectations,” “Definition and Guidelines for Discipline,” the “Candidacy Manual,” and other documents; and

WHEREAS, a number of members of the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seek the rescission of the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly

on ministry policies and of the actions adopted by the Church Council to implement them and desire the restoration of ministry policies that authorize sexual intimacy for rostered persons only in the context of heterosexual marriage; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly memorializes the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as follows:

- (1) to rescind actions CA09.05.26 and CA09.05.27 of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; and**
- (2) to direct the appropriate churchwide units and offices to prepare, the Committee on Appeals to make, and the ELCA Church Council to approve and adopt, appropriate amendments to the policy documents, which were revised in response to those prior actions, in order to re-establish the prohibition of rostered service by non-celibate homosexual persons and to restore the requirement for rostered persons that sexual intimacy take place only in the context of heterosexual marriage.**

Charles Stormo, New Hope, Hayti, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Pastor Paul Stjernholm, Peace, Sioux Falls, spoke against the resolution stating that 2/3 of the voting members at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2009 validated emerging interpretation of scripture regarding homosexuality. The people who voted at the 2009 Assembly were not disregarding the authority of scripture and were not being unfaithful. Congregations can not be forced to call a homosexual clergy if that goes against the bound conscience of the congregation.

Jeff Brindle, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Watertown, spoke in favor of the resolution stating scripture clearly speaks against homosexual relationships.

The Chair invoked the orders of the day.

The Assembly recessed.

The Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota Annual Meeting was held.

The Assembly reconvened.

Singers and dancers from Woyatan, Rapid City, performed an Honor Dance.

Bishop John Tarrant brought greetings from the Episcopal Diocese.

Pastor Erika Lehmann, West Prairie, Lennox, presented information about the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Holy Cow awards were presented to Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Watertown, and New Hope, Hayti.

The Assembly returned to debate on Resolution 7.

Jim Roling, Piedmont Valley, Piedmont, spoke in favor of the resolution stating he is concerned about the leadership of congregations and the statement made by the Churchwide Assembly actions.

Pastor David Baer, Immanuel, Whitewood, spoke in favor of the resolution, reading several changes made to Visions and Expectations.

Pastor Tony Haglund, Canton Lutheran, Canton, spoke against the resolution. His congregation voted to remain in the ELCA. Discussion about this issue has revitalized the congregation.

Clint Semmler, South Canyon, Rapid City, spoke in favor of the resolution stating it deals with leadership. Actions taken by the ELCA affect relationships with other Lutherans worldwide.

Pastor Craig Werling, American Lutheran, Milbank, spoke against the resolution although he supports the intent. Resolutions passed by the South Dakota Synod have not been passed by the Churchwide Assembly. The time for resolutions has passed. Policy has been set. It is time to do something else which would be more effective.

Pastor Erik Swanson, St. James, Leola, and Salem, Long Lake, spoke in favor of the resolution referencing Jesus' support of Old Testament teachings.

Pastor Jeff Eisele, Spirit of Joy, Sioux Falls, spoke against the resolution stating he is concerned about the lack of humility when approaching scripture in all these discussions. Biblical scholars were in South Dakota several years ago. Both studied the same scriptures and came to different understanding.

Dennis Wheeler, Trinity, Mobridge, spoke in favor of the resolution stating that last year's Synod Assembly voted against these practices. He wonders why these convictions were not upheld by the Churchwide Assembly.

MSC to close debate.

(yes = 380, no = 127, abstain = 2)

SA.10.06.10

MS to adopt Resolution 7: Rescind Actions on Ministry Policies.

Defeated (yes = 247, no = 256, abstain = 5)

MS to adopt Resolution 8: Rescind the Four Resolutions which Changed Ministry Policies.

Resolution: 8

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do not pass

Action Taken: Defeated

(yes = 207, no = 283, abstain = 15)

Subject: Rescind the Four Resolutions which Changed Ministry Policies

Source: Prairie Coteau and Bear Butte Conferences

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA has adopted the social statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust"; and

WHEREAS, in Part IV (lines 620 – 628 in the Pre-Assembly Report) this statement reads: The historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions have recognized marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman, reflecting Mark 10: 6–9: "But 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 put asunder.” (Jesus here recalls Genesis 1:27; 2:23–24.); and

WHEREAS, in Part IV (lines 740 – 744, as amended, of the Pre-Assembly Report) it reads: Recognizing that this conclusion differs from the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, some people, though not all, in this church and within the larger Christian community, 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; and

WHEREAS, the statement then goes on to treat these two positions and the variants within them as of equal validity, on the basis of the “conscience-bound beliefs” of those who hold them (Part IV, lines 809 – 868 of the Pre-Assembly Report); and

WHEREAS, on this same basis of the “conscience-bound lack of consensus in this church” (lines 452 – 453 of the Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies in Part V of the Pre-Assembly Report) the resolutions on ministry policies (SA09.05.23 – 24 – 26 & 27) were adopted; and

WHEREAS, neither the Social Statement nor the Recommendation on Ministry Policies present an argument based on Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions and with the aid of sound reason either to reject what is admitted to be the position of the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions based on Scripture or to accept a position which is admitted to be contrary to the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, the Confession of Faith of the ELCA (Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution) commits the ELCA to accept the canonical Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith and life, and to accept the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church as a true witness of the Gospel and valid interpretations of the faith of the Church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2010 South Dakota Synod Assembly express its conviction that the decisions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly in adopting the 4 Resolutions on Ministry Policies (CA09.05.23 – 24 – 26 & 27) violate of the Confession of Faith, Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2010 South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to recognize that this action by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly are violations of the Confession of Faith, Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution, and to rescind it on this basis.

Pastor Dan Ostercamp, St. John’s, Webster, spoke in favor of the resolution focusing on paragraph 23 of CA09.05.23. When bound consciences are given over to sin, the devil and false teaching, then they should be admonished, not respected.

MSC to close debate.

(yes = 343, no = 155, abstain = 9)

SA.10.06.11

MS to adopt Resolution 8: Rescind the Four Resolutions which Changed Ministry Policy.

Defeated (yes = 207, no = 283, abstain = 15)

Bishop Zellmer thanked Gary Steuck and Joel Williams for their willingness to be nominated for Synod Vice President.

Pastor David Piper led the Assembly in prayer.

MSC to elect Gary Steuck as Synod Vice President.

(Gary Steuck = 54%, Joel Williams = 46%)

SA.10.06.12

Bishop Zellmer thanked Curtis Hage and Erik Gilbertson for their willingness to be nominated for Synod Treasurer.

Pastor David Piper led the Assembly in prayer.

MSC to elect Erik Gilbertson Synod Treasurer.

(Erik Gilbertson = 75%, Curtis Hage = 25%)

SA.10.06.13

Don Ludens brought greetings from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

A break was held with refreshments provided compliments of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Plenary Session Four

The Assembly reconvened.

The Rev. Dr. Ruth Hamilton presented the Living in the Future Together (LIFT) project.

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 12.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 12: Asking for a Renewed Focus on Our Common Mission of Ending Poverty and Injustice with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 12

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass

Action Taken: Adopted as Amended

(by show of hands)

Subject: Asking for a Renewed Focus on Our Common Mission of Ending Poverty and Injustice Resolution

Source: Pastor Aaron Matson, Leganger and Wood Lake Lutheran Churches

WHEREAS, Scripture tells us that the Lord says, "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (Isaiah 58: 6-7); and

WHEREAS, Scripture also reads, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8); and

WHEREAS, Scripture further reads, "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31:8-9); and

WHEREAS, Scripture tells us that Jesus says in a parable that "just as you did to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40); and

WHEREAS, our Lutheran heritage has a strong tradition of caring for and speaking out on behalf of those in need, including the words of Martin Luther in the Large Catechism "If you send a naked person away when you could clothe him, you have let him freeze to death. If you see anyone suffering from hunger and do not feed her, you have let her starve." (*Book of Concord, Large Catechism, Explanation of the Fifth Commandment*); and

WHEREAS, in the covenant God made with us in Holy Baptism and that we vow to continue when we affirm our baptisms, we pledge "to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth" (*Lutheran Book of Worship and Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Holy Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism*); and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran heritage of caring for and speaking out on behalf of those in need is continued today in the social statements of the ELCA "Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective," and "Economic Life: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All," and in our work together in the forms of Lutheran World Relief, ELCA Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Advocacy Ministries, ELCA Global Mission, and many other programs and ministries at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide level, within our denomination and with ecumenical partners; and

WHEREAS, there is more work to do: people who need food, clothing and shelter, who suffer under unjust economic and social structures and systems in our communities and around the world; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly affirms the work being done at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide level on behalf of those in need; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly pledges to renew our focus and commitment to working with those programs and ministries at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide level of the ELCA, and our ecumenical partners, in common mission to end poverty and injustice in our communities and around the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, renews our focus on the clear proclamation of Jesus Christ and His cross and His resurrection, so that His justice may be brought to our communities and around throughout the world, and so that we may be freed from the bondage of ourselves in order to serve our neighbors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly urges other synods to join us in this renewed focus toward our common mission to end poverty and injustice in our communities and in our world.

Pastor Aaron Matson, Leganger, Toronto, spoke in favor of the resolution.

MS to amend the resolution by adding a third resolved statement prior to the last resolved:

Resolved, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, renews our focus on the clear proclamation of Jesus Christ and His cross, so that His justice may be brought to our communities and around the world, and so that we may be freed from the bondage of ourselves in order to serve our neighbors.

MS to amend the amendment deleting the word “renews” and replacing it with “continues”.

Defeated

MSC to amend the amendment by changing the word “around” the world to “throughout” the world.

SA.10.06.14

MSC to amend the amendment by adding the words, “and his resurrection” following Jesus Christ and his cross.

SA.10.06.15

MSC to adopt the amended amendment to Resolution 12:

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, renews our focus on the clear proclamation of Jesus Christ and His cross and His resurrection, so that His justice may be brought to our communities and ~~around~~ throughout the world, and so that we may be freed from the bondage of ourselves in order to serve our neighbors; and be it further

(yes = 459, no = 23, abstain = 8)

SA.10.06.16

MSC to adopt Resolution 12: Asking for a Renewed Focus on Our Common Mission of Ending Poverty and Injustice as amended.

SA.10.06.17

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 13.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 13: Freedom for Mission, Encouraging Mission Partnerships with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 13

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass

Action Taken: Adopted

(yes = 475, no = 10, abstain = 9)

Subject: Freedom for Mission Resolution Encouraging Mission Partnerships

Source: Evangelical Outreach Committee

WHEREAS, Jesus teaches, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) and the New Testament Church grew with the Holy Spirit working through the generosity of its members who "had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need" (Acts 2:45): and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4.02b of the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states: "To participate in God's mission, this church shall: Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ...." ¹and "To fulfill these purposes, this church shall: receive, establish and support those congregations, ministries, organizations, institutions and agencies necessary to carry out God's mission through this church;" and

WHEREAS, one of the five strategic directions adopted by the Church Council of the ELCA in April of 2003 is to "Assist members, congregations, synods, and institutions and agencies of this church to grow in evangelical outreach;" and

WHEREAS, in the pursuit of this strategy, God has led this church to "engage leaders in the formation of evangelizing congregations that make disciples for Jesus Christ..." so that one day all will come to know the Freedom of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, God's gift of Freedom for mission in South Dakota has inspired many congregations and individuals over the last 25 years to generously share gifts of *prayer, presence and presents* ² with new and renewing ministries so that they, in turn become a blessing to others; and

WHEREAS, God has made use of these gifts to bring about a wider sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ through such ministries as Holy Cross, Gloria Dei, Messiah New Hope, Spirit of Joy, Augustana Lutheran in Sioux Falls, Holy Cross in Aberdeen, Christ the King in Yankton ³; and

WHEREAS, God continues to bring about new opportunities for partnership and the sharing of gifts through such ministries as Rejoice! in Sioux Falls, Lutheran Lakota Share Ministries in Pine Ridge, Woyatan in Rapid City, The African Ministry at First Lutheran, Messiah New Hope and Springdale in Sioux Falls and St. Dysmas in Sioux Falls and Yankton; and

WHEREAS, our experience in God's mission in South Dakota has taught us that the healthiest missions are those that are strongly supported by the synod and by local congregations and by ELCA Christians from around South Dakota; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in the Freedom and Joy of the Gospel, we as congregations and members of the South Dakota Synod give our hands to God's work toward the renewal of

congregations, starting new evangelizing congregations and starting new ministries with the poor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the Freedom and Joy of the Gospel, every congregation in South Dakota offer *Prayers* for our new and renewing congregations who have been designated as mission partners for the sake of God's mission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the Freedom and Joy of the Gospel every congregation council in South Dakota schedule time in their meeting agendas to formally consider entering into a "Mission Partner" relationship with one of our new or renewing ministries of the South Dakota Synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the freedom and joy of the Gospel such congregations who chose to enter into a formal "Mission Partner" relationship with one of our new or renewing ministries of the South Dakota Synod would freely share their *Presence* with their mission partner through worship visitation and relationship building with the leaders and participants in the mission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the freedom and joy of the Gospel such congregations who chose to enter into a formal "Mission Partner" relationship with one of our new or renewing ministries of the South Dakota Synod would freely give their hands to God's work through the offering of *Presents* with their mission partner: such as the sharing of the talents of members and the sharing of generous financial support as God makes them able.

1 Unit for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM) Purpose Statement, September, 2007 (The Unit for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission is the largest Unit of the ELCA. It oversees the development of new and renewing congregations and new ministries with the poor.)

2 The words "Prayer, Presence and Presents" have long been used in Mission Partner communications of the ELCA to describe what one congregation may offer another as its mission partner. For example from the ELCA website on Mission Partners: "Through supportive relationships—*Prayer, Presence, and Presents*—these congregations share in the excitement of proclaiming God's love. They understand that God has blessed them to be blessings for others." For more information about Mission Partnerships see the following link on the ELCA website: <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Mission-Partners-Founders-Builders.aspx>

3 For further information on Mission Partner opportunities in South Dakota please see the Mission Partner Focus magazine or speak to Pastor Bill Tesch, the Director of Evangelical Mission for the South Dakota Synod at: btesch@sdsynod.org, or visit the South Dakota synod Website at www.sdsynod.org.

Mallorie Hansmann, Springdale, Sioux Falls, spoke in favor of the resolution stating she has seen change in her congregation after participation in a renewal project.

Pastor Karen Rupp, Pine Ridge Retreat Center, Pine Ridge, spoke in favor of the resolution stating many student from across the country come to Pine Ridge. The community benefits from their prayer, presents and presence. It is a transforming experience for all involved.

Pastor Pat Lehrer, West Nidaros, Crooks, spoke in favor of the resolution stating all are called and encouraged to be mission partners.

Pastor Jon Halvorson, Mission Developer Pueblo de Dios, Sioux Falls, spoke in favor of the resolution stating the Augustana and Pueblo de Dios congregations have been strengthened and supported through mission partnerships.

Pastor John Christopherson, First, Sioux Falls, spoke in favor of the resolution stating a grant has been secured to support a Liberian congregation within the First congregation and to support a seminary student.

MSC to adopt Resolution 13: Freedom for Mission, Encouraging Mission Partnerships.

(yes = 475, no = 10, abstain = 9)

SA.10.06.18

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 1.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 1: Elect South Dakota Synod Council Members with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 1

Recommendation: Do Pass

Action Taken: Adopted as Amended

(by show of hands)

Subject: Elect South Dakota Synod Council Members

Source: Resolutions Committee

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

Medary Conference (Lay Female)

Crossroads Conference (Clergy)

Southeastern Conference (Lay Male)

Prairie Rivers Conference (Clergy)

Bear Butte Conference (Lay Male)

Prairie Rivers Conference(Lay Male)

Verdelle Anderson, Lake Norden

Rev. Jonathan Halvorson, Sioux Falls

Steven Koenig, Tyndall

Rev. David Winterfeldt, Dimock

Duane Abata, Rapid City

Lorne Tilberg, Mitchell

MSC to add the name of Lorne Tilberg, New Home, Mitchell, to complete the Prairie Rivers lay male term for Willmer Herr who has resigned.

SA.10.06.19

MSC to cast a unanimous ballot for Resolution 1: Elect South Dakota Synod Council Members as amended.

SA.10.06.20

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 2.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 2: Elect 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 2

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do Pass

Action Taken: Adopted as Amended

(yes = 440, no = 34, abstain = 16)

Subject: Elect 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Source: Resolutions Committee

RESOLVED, that the 2010 South Dakota Synod Assembly elect the following voting members and alternates to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, August 14-20, Orlando, FL, nominated by conferences and the Synod Council:

PRAIRIE COTEAU CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. William A. Olsen, Webster

Clergy Alternate: Rev. Robin R. Wanner-Schaunaman, Clark

Lay Male Voting Member: Douglas G. Olawsky, Webster

Lay Male Alternate: Jeffrey A Gregg, Sisseton

MEDARY CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Female, One Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Rebecca L. Senner, Oldham

Clergy Alternate: Rev. Elizabeth Hoium, Madison

Lay Female Voting Member: Mary Scarbrough, Brookings

Lay Female Alternate: Cheryl S. Iverson, Madison

Lay Male Voting Member: Steve Scarbrough, Brookings

Lay Male Alternate: James T. Iverson, Madison

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

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Rolf D. Svano, Sioux Falls

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Marlin L. Wangsness, Sioux Falls

Clergy 1st Alternate: Rev. Timothy E. Selbo, Sioux Falls

Clergy 2nd Alternate: Rev. Anthony L. Haglund, Canton

Lay Female Voting Member: Shari F. Lunders, Salem

Lay Female Voting Member: Rita L. Laumer, Lennox

Lay Female 1st Alternate: Rhonda Haglund, Canton

Lay Female 2nd Alternate: Holly Marty, Sioux Falls

Lay Male Voting Member: Jason D. Lunders, Salem

Lay Male Voting Member: Joel V. Laumer, Lennox

Lay Male 1st Alternate: Robert P. O'Connor, Sioux Falls

Lay Male 2nd Alternate: Ronald L. Nygaard, Davis

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE – One Clergy, One Lay Male

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Ralph A. Egbert, Gayville

Clergy Alternate: Rev. Gregory L. Myrmoe, Beresford

Lay Male Voting Member: Kyle T. Boese, Centerville

Lay Male Alternate: Roger Hansen, Centerville

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

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Brian R. Wasmoen, Redfield
Clergy Alternate: Rev. David W. Peterson, Highmore

Lay Female Voting Member: Diane Dangel, Redfield
Lay Female Alternate: Mary E. Anderson, Timber Lake

Lay Male Voting Member: Brett M. Koenecke, Pierre
Lay Male Alternate: Alan C. Hoerth, Aberdeen

PRAIRIE RIVERS CONFERENCE - One Clergy, One Lay Female

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Jonathan L. Vehar, Scotland
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Rick R. Senner, Huron

Lay Female Voting Member: Rose M. Lauck, Corsica
Lay Female Alternate: Sheryn Ekstrum, Kimball

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

Clergy Voting Member: Rev. Bruce H. Thalacker, Rapid City
Clergy Alternate: Rev. Jon A. Mapa, Rapid City

Lay Female Voting Member: Yvonne L. Steindal, AIM, Rapid City
Lay Female Alternate: LuAnn Denke, Rapid City

Lay Male Voting Member: Alan D. Dreyer, Piedmont
Lay Male Alternate: David Carrico, Lead

NOMINATED BY THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD COUNCIL

Youth Male: Travis Gerlach, Parkston
Youth Male Alternate:

Youth Female: Kylie Zenk, Rapid City
Youth Female 1st Alternate: Kayla Koterwski, Sioux Falls
Youth Female 2nd Alternate: Lexie Christensen, Mount Vernon

Synod Secretary: Carla Borchardt, Sioux Falls
Synod Vice President: By virtue of Position
Synod Bishop: Bishop David B. Zellmer, Sioux Falls

MS to nominate Pastor Elizabeth Hoium, St. John's, Madison, for Medary clergy alternate.

MS to nominate Kylie Zenk, Atonement, Rapid City, for Youth Female.

MS to nominate Lexie Christensen, Salem, Mt. Vernon, for Youth Female Alternate.

MS to nominate Kayla Koterwski, Peace, Sioux Falls, for Youth Female.

Ms. Zenk and Ms. Koterwski addressed the Assembly.

**MSC to elect Kylie Zenk Youth Female and Kayla Koterwski Youth Female 1st
Alternate as voting members to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.**
(Kylie Zenk = 67%, Kayla Koterwski = 33%)
SA.10.06.21

A voting member spoke against the resolution stating this elects people without any accountability for representing the thoughts and beliefs of the Synod.

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal, East Side, Sioux Falls, stated this is a ratification ballot of actions taken by each Conference.

MSC to cast a unanimous ballot (adopt Resolution 2: Elect 2011 ELCA Churchwide Voting Members).
(yes = 440, no = 34, abstain = 16)
SA.10.06.22

Bishop Zellmer introduced and welcomed Major General Steven R. Doohen, Adjutant General, South Dakota National Guard who brought a greeting.

Bishop Zellmer thanked those who have or are currently serving in the military. A number of pastors have been trained in intentional ministry with military families.

Ty Inglis, Treasurer, presented the Proposed 2011 Mission Plan found on pages 25-26 of the Preliminary Report.

Pastor Ken Narum, Custer Lutheran Fellowship, Custer, thanked the Synod Council for their work on the Mission Plan and encouraged financial support to congregations, the Synod and the ELCA.

MS to amend the Mission Plan by decreasing mission support to the ELCA to 43%.

A voting member spoke against the amendment stating we lead by example.

MSC to close debate on the amendment.
(yes = 405, no = 72, abstain = 4)
SA.10.06.23

MS to amend the Mission Plan by decreasing mission support to the ELCA to 43%.
(yes = 152, no = 316, abstain = 9)
Defeated

Jim Dedrickson, Our Savior's, Sioux Falls, encouraged financial support of the Mission Plan.

Pat Norin, Dalesburg, Vermillion, spoke in support of the Mission Plan referencing the Bible study on the parable of the talents.

Jim Iverson, Trinity, Madison, requested clarification of the percentages listed with expenses in the Mission Plan.

Mr. Inglis explained the percent directed to the ELCA is 44% of undesignated mission support only.

	Proposed 2011
INCOME	
Mission Support from Congregations	\$1,847,033
Program Ministry Income	
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	\$45,001
Other Program Income	\$100
Woyatan Income (EOCM Grant)	\$27,896
Other Income Streams	
SD Synod Mission Support	\$138,877
DEM Support Staff Income	\$15,000
Interest Income	\$13,500
SDS Transportation LLC Income	\$5,000
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	\$25,000
Total Income	\$2,117,407
EXPENSES	
CHURCHWIDE MISSION	
Mission Support to ELCA	\$812,695
% of Mission Support	44%
Region III	\$18,900
SHARED MINISTRIES	
South Dakota Sustained Ministries	
Campus Ministry	\$137,624
Campus Ministry Capital	\$1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	\$48,410
Heartland Ephphatha	\$6,752
Lutheran Youth Organization	\$3,605
South Dakota Supported Ministries	
SD Ministries Support	\$54,017
Luther Seminary	\$78,046
Lutheran Social Services	\$78,046
Lutherans Outdoors	\$38,924
Church Colleges	\$6,752
Flandreau Indian School Chaplaincy	\$13,522
Association of Christian Churches	\$2,000
Good Samaritan Society	\$1
Chapel in the Hills	\$1
Expense from Mission Support	\$468,730
% of Mission Support	25%
SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES	
Staff Leadership	
Bishop	\$91,986
Associate Tesch	\$9,561
Associate Marone	\$70,897
Bishop/Associate Benefits	\$61,707
SDS Travel	\$39,500
Bishop/Associates Travel & Cont Ed	\$18,500
DEM Travel	\$12,000
Program Ministries	
Development Ministry	\$40,148
Native American Ministry	\$70,781
Faith Family Style Ministry	\$13,332
Companion Synod Coordinator	\$9,773

Support Staff and Office		
Support Staff Salaries/Benefits		\$170,288
Resource Center Supplies		\$3,000
Synod Office Expenses		\$61,254
Augustana College		\$21,000
Mortgage Payment		\$13,848
Synod Leadership		
Synod Council		\$11,810
Support to Ministries Committee		\$12,900
Candidacy Committee		\$12,500
Communications Committee		\$6,500
Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee		\$1,700
Companion Synods Ministry Committee		\$2,000
Evangelical Outreach Committee		\$2,000
Mission Strategy Committee		\$2,000
Ministry Projects		
Stewardship Project		\$4,000
Congregational Initiative Grants		\$1,236
Continuing Education Projects		\$1,000
Rural Ministry Projects		\$500
Woyatan Program Expenses		\$27,896
Outreach Ministries		
Mission Congregation Start-up		\$4,000
Companion Synods		\$1,000
Multicultural Center		\$15,000
Contingency		\$3,466
Subtotal SD Synod Ministries		\$817,082
% of Mission Support		44%
Total Expenses		\$2,117,407
Net Total		\$0

MSC to adopt the Proposed 2011 Mission Plan as presented.

(yes = 438, no = 30, abstain = 13)

SA.10.06.24

The Assembly recessed for lunch.

Plenary Session Five

The Assembly reconvened at 1:00 pm.

Kurt Osborne, Credentials Committee, reported: 537 voting members (138 – clergy, 217 – lay female, 182 – lay male), 91 visitors and advisory had registered as of 1:00 pm for a total attendance of 628.

Audrey Turbiville brought greetings and a report from the 2009 National Youth Gathering held in New Orleans.

Bishop Thomas Nyiwe brought greetings from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon.

Rev. Dr. Ruth Hamilton, ELCA Office of the Secretary, presented the State of the ELCA Report including a video greeting from Bishop Mark Hanson.

Bishop Zellmer directed the Assembly to the 2010 ballot.

**MSC to cast a unanimous ballot for:
Synod Council Youth Representative (2 year term, without consecutive re-election), Jesse Fonkert, Mobridge**

**Consultation Committee (6 year term, without consecutive re-election),
Rev. Wayne Meidinger, Colton**

**Discipline Committee (6 year term, without consecutive re-election),
Rev. Rebecca Piper, Hermosa
Rev. Leslie Svendsen, Sioux Falls
Rev. Michael Jacobson, Aberdeen
Tami Sonne, Letcher**

**Lutheran Social Services Board of Directors (3 year term, with no more than 3 consecutive re-elections)
Rev. Harold Watrous, Prairie Coteau
Barb Fischbach, Medary
Mary Minton, Bear Butte
SA.10.06.25**

MS to nominate Pastor Daniel Ostercamp, St. John's, Webster, for the Association of Christian Churches.

MS to nominate Pastor Tony Haglund, Canton Lutheran, Canton, for the Association of Christian Churches.

**MSC to elect Pastor Tony Haglund, Canton Lutheran, Canton, for the Association of Christian Churches (one vacancy, to complete 2 years of a 3 year term, with 1 consecutive re-election).
(Pastor Tony Haglund = 59%, Pastor Daniel Ostercamp = 41%)
SA.10.06.26**

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 3.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 3: 2011 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 3

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass

Action Taken: Adopted

(yes = 389, no = 21, abstain = 12)

Subject: 2011 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff

Source: Committee for Support to Ministries and its Compensation Task Force from Northern Plains Conference

RESOLVED, that the "2011 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy" and "2011 Compensation for Lay Staff," prepared by a task force of the Northern Plains 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 2010 South Dakota Synod Assembly.

MSC to devote no more than ten (10) minutes to each of the remaining resolutions.
SA.10.06.27

Bishop Zellmer thanked the Support to Ministries Committee and the Northern Plains Task Force for their work on the compensation and guidelines document.

MSC to adopt Resolution 3: 2011 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff.
(yes = 389, no = 21, abstain = 12)
SA.10.06.28

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 9.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 9: Mental Illness – Brain Disorder Education with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 9
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass
Action Taken: Adopted as Amended
(yes = 398, no = 19, abstain = 2)

Subject: Mental Illness – Brain Disorder Education
Source: Pastors of First Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota – Senior Pastor: Rev. John Christopherson, Associate Pastors: Rev. Jason Burgraff, Rev. Natanael Lizarazo, Rev. Barbara Wangsness

WHEREAS, the challenges of mental health illnesses affect many members in our congregations and present religious leaders with unique pastoral care issues to both the patient and their families, for which leaders are often poorly prepared to handle and often unaware of faith-related mental health resources available to them through organizations such as: NAMI Faith.Net, Mental Health Ministries, and Pathways to Promise; and

WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the largest national provider of educational resources regarding brain disorders and their faith-related organization, NAMI Faith.Net, reports that serious mental illnesses such as disorders, borderline personality disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder affect one in every four people annually (in the USA); and

WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses including addictions to alcohol, drugs, gambling and other related disorders, as defined by the DSM IV Manual, are more common than cancer, diabetes and heart disease, and are the number one reason for hospital admissions nationwide; and

WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses have been scientifically proven to be highly treatable illnesses of the brain; and

WHEREAS, scientific research is producing tremendous breakthroughs in the understanding of mental illness, resulting in more effective treatments that allow people to reclaim full and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, misunderstandings exist about many mental illnesses and our social culture often wrongly imposes stigma on them; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, at its 1989 Church-wide Assembly, passed a resolution that, “The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall, through its synods, congregations, and pastors, serve as an agent of education, acceptance, support, understanding, and healing for those with mental illnesses, and those affected by the mental illness of others.” (Section 19 – Mental Illness); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod encourage its religious leaders, both laity and ordained, to become educated about mental illness through educational resources offered by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), in order to connect members of their congregations facing these issues with a NAMI affiliate organization near them (i.e.: Aberdeen, Brookings, Huron, Northern Hills, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Yankton); and be it further

RESOLVED, that pastors of the South Dakota Synod be encouraged to learn about Mental Health Ministries and faith resources available to assist them in providing quality pastoral care to individuals challenged with mental health issues (i.e.: www.nami.org/namifaithnet/ www.mentalhealthministries.net and www.pathways2promise.org)

NOTE: NAMI provides educational and support systems to both clients and families of clients; it does not provide mental health counseling.

Pastor Barbara Wangsness, First, Sioux Falls, spoke in favor of the resolution stating statistics show a need for increased pastoral care for people with this illness.

MSC to amend the third whereas statement: WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses including addictions to alcohol, drugs, gambling and other related disorders, are more common than cancer, diabetes and heart disease, and are the number one reason for hospital admissions nationwide; and
SA.10.06.29

MSC to amend the amendment to the third whereas statement: WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses including addictions to alcohol, drugs, gambling and other related disorders, as defined by the DSM IV Manual, are more common than cancer, diabetes and heart disease, and are the number one reason for hospital admissions nationwide; and
(yes = 351, no = 50, abstain = 14)
SA.10.06.30

Pastor Jeff Otterman, St. James, Belle Fourche, spoke in favor of the amended resolution, but stated it does not go far enough. Bear Butte county has no therapists.

MSC to adopt Resolution 9: Mental Illness – Brain Disorder Education as amended.

(yes = 398, no = 19, abstain = 2)

SA.10.06.31

MSC to elect Craig Lewis to serve on the Chapel in the Hills Board (4 year term, with 1 consecutive re-election).

SA.10.06.32

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 5.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 5: Concerning the Termination of the Augsburg Fortress Pension Plan with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 5

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass

Action Taken: Adopted

(yes = 301, no = 79, abstain = 27)

Subject: Resolution Concerning the Termination of the Augsburg Fortress Pension Plan
Source: Rev. Daniel Ostercamp, St. John's Lutheran Church, Webster, South Dakota and Prairie Coteau Conference

WHEREAS, "Augsburg Fortress Publishers, a separately incorporated program unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America"), a unit of this church, terminated its defined benefit pension plan by action of its Board of Trustees in December 2009; and

WHEREAS, the termination of the Augsburg Fortress defined benefit pension plan has adversely affected approximately 500 present and former employees; and

WHEREAS, individuals have asked about the background and reasons for the actions of the Augsburg Fortress Board of Trustees, and it is important to provide accurate and complete information regarding the termination; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in assembly, ask its Synod Council and Synod Bishop to express deep concern to the ELCA Church Council and Presiding Bishop about the burdens that have been placed upon the past and present faithful servants of our church's publishing house; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in Assembly, directs the South Dakota Synod Council to ask the ELCA Church Council to seek means of restoring pension funds for the past and present faithful servants who were promised annuity benefits through the Augsburg Fortress Pension Plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in assembly, directs the South Dakota Synod Council to ask the ELCA Church Council to conduct a review of the actions of management and trustees, of Augsburg Fortress Publishers, regarding the background, reasons for and implications of the termination of its defined benefits plan, and to report on the results of the review at the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod, in assembly, direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Bishop Zellmer invited Beth Lewis, Augsburg Publishing, to address the Assembly. Ms. Lewis stated the Augsburg Fortress defined benefit pension plan was frozen in 2005 and moved to a defined contribution plan. The Augsburg Fortress plan, like many plans, has been under funded for approximately nine years. A decision was made in December 2009 to terminate the defined benefit pension plan and distribute assets to 900 participants. Several factors, including a decline in the equity market, adjusted mortality tables, low interest rates and continued withdrawals for current retirees, prompted further action. Choices considered include:

1. do nothing, the plan would run out of money within five years leaving 60% of participants with no benefit
2. find additional funding
3. declare bankruptcy
4. terminate the plan and allocate assets according to actuarial data

Option number four was chosen. Assets were distributed in March. A law suit has been filed in federal court.

Ms. Lewis requested prayer support for those negatively affected by the plan termination and downturns in the economy and for the ministry of publishing.

Pastor Erma Wolf, on leave from call, Brandon, spoke in favor of the resolution stating the situation needs to be investigated.

MSC to adopt Resolution 5: Concerning the Termination of the Augsburg Fortress Pension Plan.

(yes = 301, no = 79, abstain = 27)

SA.10.06.33

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 11.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 11: ELCA Churchwide Constitutional Amendment with a recommendation of do not pass.

MS to consider Resolution 11.

Resolution: 11

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do not pass

Action Taken: Defeated

(yes = 168, no = 227, abstain = 15)

Subject: E.L.C.A. Churchwide Constitutional Amendment

Source: Trinity Lutheran Church, Mitchell, South Dakota – Adopted 1/17/2010

WHEREAS, Chapter 12.11 of the ELCA Constitution states that the Churchwide Assembly shall be the highest legislative authority of the churchwide organization and shall deal with all matters which are necessary in pursuit of the purposes and functions of this church. The powers of the Churchwide Assembly are limited only by the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, and the assembly's own resolutions; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 5.01.c. of the ELCA Constitution states in part – Whenever possible, the entity most directly affected by a decision shall be the principal party responsible for decision and implementation, with the other entities facilitating and assisting. Each congregation, synod, and separately incorporated unit of the churchwide organization, as well as the churchwide organization itself, is a separate legal entity and is responsible for exercising its powers and authorities; and

WHEREAS, there are social issues that deeply affect individuals at a personal level as well as within families and congregations. These issues need to be ratified by each voting member of the E.L.C.A. and not solely by the delegates to the Churchwide Assembly; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a provision be made to allow every voting member of the E.L.C.A. voting privileges by referendum. This referendum shall be carried out by petition providing signatures from voting members representing 1% of the worshipping membership. (worshipping membership is currently 1,357,098 persons according to the E.L.C.A. web site – <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Large-Membership-Congregations/Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx>) This provision shall be allowed on any action taken by Churchwide Assembly before going into effect. Be it enacted by the E.L.C.A. The governing body shall make suitable provisions for carrying into effect the provisions of this section: and be it further

~~RESOLVED, that this provision be retroactive to the last 2 Churchwide Assemblies.~~

Charles Stormo, New Hope, Hayti, spoke in favor of the resolution stating all members of the ELCA should have the opportunity to vote on issues.

Bishop Zellmer ruled the final resolved statement out of order because there is no provision in the ELCA Constitution or Roberts Rules to enact retroactive action.

**MSC to delete the second resolved statement.
SA.10.06.34**

Maurice Hartmann, Trinity, Mitchell, spoke in favor of the resolution stating it is a result of frustration in response to actions taken by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Pastor David Winterfeldt, St. John's, Dimock, spoke against the resolution encouraging support of efforts through the Conference of Bishops and the LIFT project to remodel the process to make and ratify decisions in the ELCA.

MS to amend the resolved statement: RESOLVED, that a provision be made to allow every voting member of the E.L.C.A. voting privileges by referendum. This referendum shall be carried out by petition providing signatures from voting members representing 1% of the worshipping membership. (worshipping membership is currently 1,357,098 persons according to the E.L.C.A. web site – <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Large-Membership-Congregations/Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx>) This provision shall be allowed on any action apply to actions taken on social statements and Visions and Expectations taken by Churchwide Assembly before going into effect. Be it

enacted by the E.L.C.A. The governing body shall make suitable provisions for carrying into effect the provisions of this section: and be it further

Pastor Brad Danielson, Grace/Our Savior's, Menno, spoke in favor of the amendment.

Pastor Siri Sorenson, Grace, Sioux Falls, spoke against the amendment stating it is very cumbersome when specific actions or issues are listed.

**MSC to close debate.
SA.10.06.35**

MS to adopt the amendment to the resolved statement in Resolution 11.
Defeated.

The ten minute time allotment was reached.

MS to adopt Resolution 11: ELCA Churchwide Constitutional Amendment as amended.
(yes = 168, no = 227, abstain = 15)
Defeated

Bishop Zellmer called for consideration of resolution 10.

Pastor David Piper read Resolution 10: Commitment to Unity within the South Dakota Synod with a recommendation of do pass.

Resolution: 10
Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: Do pass
Action Taken: Adopted as Amended
(yes = 232, no = 165, abstain = 18)

Subject: Commitment to Unity within the South Dakota Synod
Source: Bear Butte Conference

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the South Dakota Synod is to “manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives” (*South Dakota Synod Constitution, S6.02.f*); and

WHEREAS, the actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly have caused division in many congregations in the South Dakota Synod and have caused some individuals and congregations in the South Dakota Synod to evaluate their affiliation with the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, some individuals and congregations in the South Dakota Synod have chosen or will choose to end their affiliation with the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, some individuals and congregations that choose to leave the ELCA may wish to continue in some sort of unity and shared ministry with the South Dakota Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod express its grief that the actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly on sexuality have led to division among individuals and congregations in the South Dakota Synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that as pastors and congregations discern their relationships with the ELCA and with other church bodies that the 2010 Synod Assembly urge the Bishop and Synod Council to exercise restraint in the discipline of congregations and pastors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod express its desire to maintain whatever unity and shared ministry might be possible with individuals and congregations that choose to end their affiliation with the ELCA as an expression of this synod's commitment to "manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives;" and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2010 South Dakota Synod Assembly ask its Bishop and Synod Council to pursue and recommend ways to "manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives" with individuals and congregations that choose to end their affiliation with the ELCA.

MS to amend the resolution by adding a second resolved statement: RESOLVED, that as pastors and congregations discern their relationships with the ELCA and with other church bodies that the 2010 Synod Assembly urge the Bishop and Synod Council to exercise restraint in the discipline of congregations and pastors; and be it further

A voting member spoke in favor of the amendments.

**MSC to close debate.
SA.10.06.36**

**MSC to adopt the amendment to Resolution 10.
(yes = 221, no = 169, abstain = 26)
SA.10.06.37**

James Sanden, Augustana Lutheran, Sioux Falls, spoke against the resolution stating that people are talking about divorce from the ELCA, while still wanting to remain in the marriage. Congregations need to decide one way or the other.

A voting member spoke in favor of the resolution stating the need to stay together.

A voting member questioned considerations prior to disciplinary action. Bishop Zellmer stated the first step is a formal letter of admonition and censor. Further action requires Synod Council action/approval. The final step is a vote to remove the congregation from the roster of the ELCA. Another issue is when congregations call a pastor not on the ELCA roster. In this case, the only option is to remove the congregation from the roster of the ELCA.

Pastor Elizabeth Johnson, Emmanuel, Groton, spoke against the resolution stating the resolution deals with division. It is not helpful to say the Churchwide Assembly did this or that to

me. There are no victims. We are all joined in unity under Christ. There may be disagreement on certain issues, but we remain as one body of Christ.

MSC to adopt Resolution 10: Commitment to Unity within the South Dakota Synod as amended.

(yes = 232, no = 165, abstain = 18)

SA.10.06.38

Pastor Jeff Sorenson, Messiah New Hope, Sioux Falls, presented a report from the ELCA Church Council, including further information on the four positions/recommendations approved by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and how they have been incorporated into guidelines and policy. The four positions represent opinions across the continuum, there is no consensus.

Bishop Zellmer and the Assembly expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Calvary Lutheran Church staff, Synod Office staff and interpreters.

An electronic evaluation of the assembly was conducted.

Pastor Greg Wilcox brought greetings from the Good Samaritan Society. The Assembly expressed appreciation to Good Samaritan for providing mugs for the assembly.

Closing worship and closing of the Assembly was held at Calvary Lutheran Church with Pastor Dwight Stensgaard presiding and Bishop Thomas Nywie preaching. The worship service included installation of Synod Council members and commissioning of parish assistant Mark Hinkley who completed the Faith Builders program.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Borhardt
Secretary, South Dakota Synod