

**Northwest Washington Synod
Twenty-seventh Annual Assembly**

Joining God's Parade

**Friday and Saturday, May 16 – 17, 2014
Everett, Washington**



FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2014

PLENARY 1

CALL TO ORDER

The twenty-seventh annual Synod Assembly of the Northwest Washington Synod was called to order by Bishop Kirby Unti at 11:30 am. He brought greetings from former synod Bishop (and current ELCA Secretary) Chris Boerger, who is currently stuck in Fargo, ND. The Bishop called attention to the paper “hands” on the tables and invited members to write down where God is leading the parade in their communities.

GREETINGS

Ray Stephanson, Mayor of Everett, (and member of Our Savior's, Everett) welcomed the assembly to the city. He spoke of the giving and caring nature of the city, in terms of the time and dollar contributions to the needs of the people of the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS

- **TIMING:** there are no lights this year. Instead the parliamentarian will use buff card as a 30 seconds warning and a red card when time is up
- **Introductions:**
 - David Swartling, Parliamentarian
 - Georganne Robertson, Synod Vice President
 - Pastor Linda Larson, Synod Secretary
 - Karen Dicken, Synod Treasurer
- The deadline for nominations and resolutions is noon today.

ELECTRONIC VOTING ORIENTATION

Tanya from Quizdom gave orientation to the members re: use of the voting devices. Sample votes were taken. Bishop Unti noted that there is no proxy voting allowed.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 1

Kathy Ostlund (Our Savior's, Everett), Assembly Registrar, reported that 320 voting members were present.

QUORUM

Bishop Unti declared a quorum and announced that the assembly was in session.

STANDING RULES

Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Synod Vice President, Georganne Robertson (Queen Anne, Seattle) moved adoption of the Standing Rules. A two-thirds majority is required to adopt. The Standing Rules were **adopted**.

SA2014.01 **That the Standing Rules of the 2014 Synod Assembly are adopted as presented.**

ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Synod Vice President Georganne Robertson moved adoption of the Assembly Agenda. The motion *carried*.

SA2014.02 **That the 2014 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly Agenda is approved as presented.**

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Unti introduced guests at the assembly, including:

- Pastor Linda Norman, Churchwide Representative
- Pastor Jeff Thiemann, Portico Benefits Services
- Dr. Tony Jones, keynote speaker
- Ken Hawkins, Executive Director of Mission to Seafarers

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR

Pastor Sarah France, Our Savior's, Everett, Assembly Coordinator, greeted the assembly and thanked the many people who contributed to event planning. She recognized the staff in the synod office. People were invited to ask questions of the ushers and volunteers; the reception to be held at the end of today's business was announced. She invited the youth and young adults to gather together for lunch on Saturday.

VIDEO PRESENTATION – Lutheran Peace Fellowship

PRAYER AT THE CLOSE OF THE SESSION

Diaconal Minister Jan Cherry (Bethany - Greenlake, Seattle) and member of the Synod Council led the assembly in prayer.

RECESS

The bishop declared a recess at 12 noon and asked members to be back in their seats at 1:30 pm.

PLENARY 2

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 1:30 pm.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 2

Kathy Ostlund, Assembly Registrar, reported that 347 voting members were present.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Bishop Unti transferred the gavel to Georganne Robertson, Vice President of the synod. Georganne called on Bishop Unti to give his report to the assembly.

Bishop Kirby Unti presented his report on the reality of change, using slides to remind us of life in 1980, and focusing on the ramifications of change on the church.

Vice President Georganne Robertson thanked the Bishop for his passion and compassion and returned the gavel.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Rev. Kevin Bates, Magnolia, Seattle recognized those who served on the Nominating Committee and presented the slate of nominees for Synod Vice President, Synod Secretary, and members of Synod Council. The list was posted on the website and made available in the assembly notebook and on the Guidebook app. Three additional floor nominations were received by the deadline. Bios will be distributed prior for election.

CHURCH COUNCIL GREETINGS

Jim Hushagen (Edgewood, Mountain View in Southwestern Washington Synod), member of the ELCA Church Council and Church Council representative to the NWWA Synod, described his role and the work of the Church Council. One of the tasks is monitoring the progress of the Task Force on Theological Education. Another task is monitoring the study on the unification of the lay rosters. He expressed the gratitude of the ELCA Church Council for the mission support that the NWWA Synod provides for the work of the larger church. He invited comments and questions from the members of the assembly.

REPORT OF ASSEMBLY OFFERING - \$2,596.66

LUTHER SEMINARY GREETINGS AND VIDEO

The Rev Jim Lindus (Trinity, Freeland), Chair of the Board of Directors of Luther Seminary brought greetings from the students, faculty and staff of Luther Seminary. He reflected on the Seminary's recent difficulties. Pastor Rick Foss is departing after serving as the Seminary's Interim President; Pastor Robin Steinke will assume the role of President of the Seminary on June 1, 2014. A new curriculum will be implemented in the fall of 2014. He noted that there are more church leaders retiring than there are graduates of seminaries, and encouraged congregations to lift up the next generation of leaders, noting that there is money available for scholarships.

KEYNOTE 1 – Dr. Tony Jones

RECOGNITION – Kent Lutheran’s 125th Anniversary

Pastor Jane Prestbye and members of the Kent Lutheran Congregation were recognized for 125 years of ministry in the Kent Valley.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Pastor Malcolm Brown (Bethesda, Mountlake Terrace) and Bob Spencer (Bethlehem, Marysville), members of the Synod Personnel committee, conducted an electronic survey on issues relative to professional compensation. They described the role of the committee as promoting conversation between church councils and rostered leaders. They announced that the synod will receive a bonus due to the number of persons who completed the ELCA wellness survey.

ELECTIONS

Bill Salen (Christ the Servant, Bellingham) led the assembly in prayer prior to voting. Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers (Bethany, Bainbridge Island), Chair of the Elections Committee, led the members through the following ballots:

Synod Vice President:

126	Kay Edgerton
146	Georganne Robertson

The Bishop declared Georganne Robertson elected.

Synod Secretary:

125	Pastor Jim Kruse
154	Pastor Deanna Wildermuth

The Bishop declared Pastor Deanna Wildermuth elected.

Synod Council – Clergy Female

42	Kathleen Anderson
108	Kristy Daniels
56	Cara Holmquist
72	Julie Hutson

The Bishop announced that Kristy Daniels and Julie Hutson would appear on the next ballot.

Synod Council – Lay Female (Person of Color or Primary Language other than English)

135	Kristina Muramoto
133	Anita Proudfoot

The Bishop declared Kristina Muramoto elected.

Synod Council – Lay Male (Person of Color or Primary Language other than English)

154 Franklin Chu
115 Sojin Thompson

The Bishop declared Franklin Chu elected.

Synod Council – Young Adult

270 Thor Wampler

The Bishop declared Thor Wampler elected.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Kim Unti and Pam Kluth requested that people write their answers to the question “Where is God Leading the Parade?” on the paper hands at each table. They will be collected at the end of the afternoon.

RECESS

The bishop declared a recess at 3:50 pm and asked members to be back in their seats at 4:05 pm.

PLENARY 3

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 4:05 pm.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Synod Vice President Georganne Robertson (Queen Anne, Seattle), made her report to the assembly. She spoke of her love of parades. She reflected on the synod’s mission statement. She likened the elected leadership of the synod as the “parade marshals” and recognized the members of the current Synod Assembly. She also spoke of the Synod resolution passed in 2010 for a synod capital campaign. The Synod Council has contracted with the Rev Steve Olson to head up the feasibility study. He will report to the Synod Council in September.

GREETINGS – Roberta Nestaas, Lutheran Community Services NW

Roberta Nestaas is retiring after 30 years of serving Lutheran Community Services NW, 24 years as CEO. She announced the David Duea will become the new President and CEO, effective July 1, 2014. She reported that \$86,000 has been donated for the Oso Disaster Relief Fund, which will be distributed by Lutheran Community Services.

CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

Pastor Linda Norman, ELCA Treasurer, was welcomed to the synod. She conveyed thanks to the NW for producing great ELCA secretaries (David Swartling and Pastor Chris Boerger). She brought greetings from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. She expanded on four talking points that Bishop Eaton has been emphasizing, using Romans 12:4-5 as a key verse:

- We are Church
- We are Lutheran
- We are Church Together
- We are Church for the Sake of the World

Bishop Unti announced that questions may be submitted in writing to Pastor Linda Norman. She will address the questions on Saturday.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Susan Berg, Synod staff, invited all participants to remain for fellowship.

RECESS

Bishop Unti declared the assembly to be in recess at 5:00 pm until 8:30 am on Saturday, May 17, 2014.



SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014

PLENARY 4

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 8:30 am.

POINT OF ORDER

Pastor G. Lee Kluth, PLU, led the assembly in singing “Happy Birthday” to Bishop Unti.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 4

Kathy Ostlund, Assembly Registrar, reported that 355 voting members were registered.

ELECTIONS

Gunbjorg Ladstein (Ballard First, Seattle), member of the Synod Council, led the assembly in prayer prior to voting. Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers, Chair of the Elections Committee, led the members through the following ballots:

Synod Council – Clergy Female

144	Kristy Daniels
79	Julie Hutson

The Bishop declared Kristy Daniels elected.

Synod Council – Lay Female – 2 positions

Emily Brown, Sherianne Molzahn Caldwell, Clara Griffin, Deb Paget,

Anita Proudfoot, and Kathy Tussing appeared on the ballot.

Synod Council – Lay Male – 3 positions

Bud Alkire, Patrick Brady, James Culver, Curt Eidem, Sojin Thompson, and Paul Whitfield appeared on the ballot.

Synod Council – Clergy – 2 positions

Kathleen Anderson, Eric Finsand, Cara Holmquist, Julie Hutson, John O’Neal, and Eric Ottum appeared on the ballot.

The results of these ballots will be reported later this morning.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Karen Dicken (Peace, Silvana), Synod Treasurer gave her report. She called attention to her written report in the assembly notebook and on the Guidebook ap. She reported that in 2013 we exceeded the proposed budget. 46.5% of the mission support we received was sent to Churchwide. She also reported on the generosity of the synod’s congregation’s designated giving to agencies and institutions of the church. In FY 2013, \$433,685 was forwarded to such ministries, \$147,000 of which was designated for ELCA World Hunger Appeal. She recognized the work of the Region One Financial Services Office (Alyce Baker and Judy Webb) in making her job easier. Karen highlighted the upcoming Stewardship Workshop scheduled for October 2014. In conjunction with that event, there will be a Treasurer’s Workshop for those who work with congregational finances. Copies of the audit report are available on request.

2015 BUDGET CAP

Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Pastor Deanna Wildermuth (Holy Trinity, Mercer Island), Chair of the Synod’s Finance Committee, presented the proposed 2015 Budget Cap to the assembly for approval. The 2015 Budget Cap was *adopted* as presented by a vote of 245 in favor and 6 opposed.

SA2014.03 That the 2014 Synod Assembly directs that the General Fund Budget adopted for Fiscal Year 2015 shall be capped at \$1,480,500, and

That motions to increase any expenditure item in said fund shall include a recommended offsetting decrease, and

That Fiscal 2015 General Fund receipts in excess of \$1,480,500 shall be disbursed as directed by the Synod Council.

REFERENCE & COUNSEL

Pastor Tor Berg (First, Bothell), Chair of Reference and Council Committee, presented Resolution #1 and moved its adoption. The motion passed 253-9.

SA2014.04 Be It Resolved that the Northwest Washington Synod, in Assembly, encourage member congregations annually to make Super Bowl

Sunday as day of awareness about hunger issues and to collect food and funds to address the needs of the hungry; and

Be It Further Resolved that the leadership of the Northwest Washington Synod supports other ELCA synods to annually make Super Bowl Sunday a day of awareness about hunger issues.

VIDEO PRESENTATION - ELCA Campaign

CHURCHWIDE PRESENTATION

Pastor Linda Norman, ELCA Churchwide representative, addressed the assembly and showed the ELCA video with a message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, which reinforced the “We are Church Together” portion of her message. She highlighted the “Gods Work, Our Hands” Sunday, which was instituted in 2013 and is scheduled again this year on September 7, 2014. A “toolkit” is available on the ELCA website. She spoke about the ELCA Campaign with a goal of raising \$198,000 million over the next 5 years. The first year’s focus is the Malaria Campaign. She reported that 65 “Young Adults in Global Mission” will be sent out this year. (There are 500 YAGM alumni to date). She recognized all who serve on boards of ministries that serve those in our world.

REFERENCE & COUNSEL

Pastor Tor Berg, Chair of Reference and Council Committee, presented Resolution #3 and moved its adoption. The motion passed 259-3.

SA2014.05 Be It Resolved that the Northwest Washington Synod meeting in assembly endorses and enthusiastically supports Always Being Made New: Campaign for the ELCA, and invites individuals, congregations, and the Synod Council into conversations about giving to the campaign and working on ways to provide financial and other support to bring about its success and to meet its goals.

KEYNOTE #2 – TONY JONES

ELECTION RESULTS

Synod Council – Lay Female – 2 positions

104	Emily Brown
37	Sherianne Molzahn Caldwell
72	Clara Griffin
45	Deb Paget
134	Anita Proudfoot
39	Kathy Tussing

Bishop Unti declared Anita Proudfoot elected. Emily Brown, Clara Griffin and Deb Paget will appear on the next ballot.

Synod Council – Lay Male – 3 positions

67	Bud Alkire
79	Patrick Brady
83	James Culver
75	Curt Eidem
160	Sojin Thompson
110	Paul Whitfield

Bishop Unti declared Sojin Thompson elected; Paul Whitfield, Patrick Brady, James Culver, Curt Eidem, and Bud Alkire will appear on the next ballot.

Synod Council – Clergy – 2 positions

79	Kathleen Anderson
103	Eric Finsand
80	Cara Holmquist
121	Julie Hutson
47	John O’Neal
42	Eric Ottum

No election; Julie Hutson, Eric Finsand, Kathleen Anderson and John O’Neal

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN, BELLEVUE – 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Pastor Doug Stensby and members of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Bellevue were recognized for 50 years of ministry.

RECESS

Bishop Unti declared the assembly to be in recess from 10:30 am to 11:00 am

PLENARY 5

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 11:00 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Sarah France, chair of the Assembly Planning Committee, announced the availability of videos of the assembly for use in congregations. She also announced luncheon gatherings for specific groups.

PORTICO PRESENTATION

Pastor Jeff Thiemann, President and CEO of Portico, congratulated the synod for achieving 65% participation in the Wellness Survey; it is the 4th year that we have accomplished that. The conversion of the ELCA to a new health plan has been accomplished. 135,000 people involved

in the church's health plan. Pastor Thiemann led the assembly in prayer for those who are receiving care due to illness and injury. Long Term Care Insurance will be offered to participants and their family members. He thanked Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers, who serves on Portico's Board.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Pastor Linda Larson (Edison, Bow) and Synod Secretary, on behalf of the Synod Council, presented Amendment #72 for information and moved adoption of Amendment #73. It passed 234-4.

SA2014.06 **That the Assembly approves Amendment 73 to the Constitution as presented:**

S7.23. **The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall ~~also have~~ voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.**

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

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Synod Secretary, Pastor Linda Larson, referred the assembly to her written report in the meeting packet. Added to that written report will be the calls offered (and accepted) by Bishop Kirby Unti and Pastor Kathryn Buffum, Assistant to the Bishop, which were omitted from the report. She thanked Margaret Spatafore for her assistance in maintaining the roster. Bishop Unti presented Linda with a gift in recognition of her service to the synod.

MISSION MOMENT – HOLY SPIRIT, KIRKLAND

Pastor Katie McCallum Sachse (Holy Spirit, Kirkland) reported on the closing of their neighbor congregation, Trinity, Kirkland, who gifted their property to Holy Spirit for the development of a new ministry for young adults. She reported on the call of Pastor Sara Wolbrecht as pastor for that new ministry.

ELECTIONS

David Gross (Ebenezer, Lake Stevens), member of the Synod Council, led the assembly in prayer prior to voting. Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers, Chair of Elections, led the assembly in balloting.

Synod Council – Lay Female – 1 position

134	Emily Brown
75	Clara Griffin
52	Deb Paget

Bishop Unti declared Emily Brown elected.

Synod Council – Lay Male – 2 positions

Bud Alkire, Patrick Brady, James Culver, Curt Eidem, and Paul Whitfield appeared on the ballot. The results of the ballot will be announced later.

Synod Council – Clergy – 2 positions

Kathleen Anderson, Eric Finsand, Cara Holmquist, Julie Hutson, and John O’Neal appeared on the ballot. The results of the ballot will be announced later.

2015 BUDGET

Pastor Deanna Wildermuth (Holy Trinity, Mercer Island), chair of the Synod Finance Committee, moved adoption of the proposed 2015 budget. She noted that the percentage of mission support to the ELCA increases this year to 47% and that the proposed budget anticipates a 2% increase in salaries and a 20% increase in health premiums. The motion passed 279-3.

SA2014.07 That the 2014 Synod Assembly adopts the 2015 General Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2015 as presented.

Q & A WITH CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

Pastor Linda Norman addressed questions that had been submitted in writing.

GREETINGS - PLTS

The Rev. Dr. Karen Bloomquist, PLTS Dean and Chief Administrative Officer, brought greetings from PLTS and its new ministry partner, California Lutheran University. She reported that the merger is going well and recognized Bishop Unti as a member of the new PLTS Advisory board.

GREETINGS – COMPASS HOUSING ALLIANCE

Janet Pope, CEO of Compass Housing Alliance brought greetings from this Lutheran Social Ministry organization. They have 30 programs in 17 locations. She reported on recent new facilities as well as those which are under construction and in development. She showed the “Sockumentary Program” video, which describes a program that gathers socks for the homeless.

ELECTION RESULTS

Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers reported on earlier elections.

Synod Council – Lay Male – 2 positions

68	Bud Alkire
78	Patrick Brady
84	James Culver
69	Curt Eidem
149	Paul Whitfield

Bishop Unti declared Paul Whitfield elected. Patrick Brady, James Culver, Curt Eidem, and Bud Alkire will appear on the next ballot

Synod Council – Clergy – 2 positions

67	Kathleen Anderson
136	Eric Finsand
84	Cara Holmquist
168	Julie Hutson
40	John O’Neal

Bishop Unti declared Julie Hutson and Eric Finsand elected.

MISSION MOMENTS

Pastor Jerry Buss, Assistant to the Bishop and DEM, announced a grant program for existing ministries.

Lee Bjorkland (Bethany, Greenlake) spoke about his role as Mission Interpreter for the synod and invited the assembly to visit his booth in the display area.

Jan Cherry led the assembly in prayer to end the session.

RECESS

Bishop Unti declared the assembly to be in recess from 12:00 noon until 1:30 pm.

PLENARY 6

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 1:30 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Unti introduced those rostered leaders new to the synod.

ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN

Barbara Swartling (Bethany, Bainbridge) recapped the progress of the malaria campaign in the

ELCA. The Northwest Washington Synod has surpassed its goal of \$150,000 by more than \$20,000. She thanked Dianne Johnson (Lord of Life, Renton) who has led the local campaign. A video on the malaria campaign, produced by the ELCA, was shown. Dianne Johnson presented an overview of the work going on in Africa as part of this campaign.

ELECTIONS

Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers, Chair of the Elections Committee, thanked the members of the Nominating Committee and Elections Committee for their work. He also thanked those persons who allowed their names to be offered for election. Emily Brown (First Richmond Beach, Shoreline), member of the Synod Council, led the assembly in prayer prior to voting.

Synod Council – Lay Male – 1 positions

Bud Alkire, Patrick Brady, James Colver, and Curt Eidem were on the ballot.

KEYNOTE 3 – TONY JONES

ELECTION RESULTS

Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers, Chair of the Elections Committee, announced the results of the previous ballot.

Synod Council – Lay Male – 1 positions (250 ballots cast; _____ needed to elect)

43	Bud Alkire
63	Patrick Brady
91	James Colver
83	Curt Eidem

There was no election. James Colver and Patrick Brady will appear on the next ballot.

ELECTIONS

Synod Council – Lay Male – 1 position

141	James Colver
93	Patrick Brady

Bishop Unti declared James Colver elected.

The Worship Team from First, Richmond Beach, led the assembly in worship.

RECOGNITION

Bishop Unti asked the assembly to celebrate the following persons for their years of service as pastors and lay rostered leaders:

Associates in Ministry, 25 years: April Boyden

Ordained Minister

25 years:	Terrie Rae Anderson Joanne Engquist Chris Finsand Jan Nesse Laurie Stumme-Diers Tim Wolbrecht	Debra Benson Benjamin (Jami) Fetcher Larry Morris Marcus Stroud Paul Stumme-Diers
35 years:	Jon Ericksen Ron Marshall Mark Samuelson	Penelope Guntermann Martha Myers Thom Wert
50 years:	Kristian Frosig Vernon Hunt Wendell Stakkestad	Dennis Hanson Paul Shoup Richard Wendt
55 years:	Richard Bersie Paul Jordan Ray Lester Duane Thompson	Robert Johnson William Leed Ernie Loreen
60 years:	John Gilmore Lowell Knutson	John Greeny Roald Kverndal

Bishop Unti led the assembly in applause for their lives of ministry to the church.

FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT

Kathy Ostlund, Assembly Registrar, thanked the volunteers who worked registration and delivered the final credentials report for the assembly:

Voting Members		377
Clergy	118	
Retired Clergy	19	
Lay	240	
Male	103	
Female	137	
Youth	18	
Young Adults	19	
Persons of Color	14	
Observers	11	
Visitors	25	
Volunteers	countless	

RECESS

Bishop Unti declared the assembly to be in recess from 3:30 pm -3:45 pm.

PLENARY 7

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 3:45 pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Unti recognized the interns serving on synod territory this year.

Q & A WITH THE ELCA CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

Pastor Linda Norman addressed questions submitted by assembly members.

VIDEO PRESENTATION – MISSION TO SEAFARERS

REFERENCE & COUNSEL

Pastor Tor Berg (First, Bothell), Chair of Reference and Counsel, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved the adoption of Resolution 3. The resolution passed 161-1.

SA2014.08

Be It Resolved that The Mission to Seafarers is recognized as a social ministry organization of the Northwest Washington Synod; and be it further

Resolved that the Synod Council is authorized to develop a plan to implement this enhanced maritime ministry in cooperation with The Mission to Seafarers and to encourage participation of congregations in the synod in its work.

MISSION MOMENT – ECHOES, BELLINGHAM

Pastor Charis Weathers showed a video brought greetings from this developing ministry in the synod.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Certificates were presented to: Faye Bone, Kay Edgerton, Curt Eidem, David Gross, Pastor Scott Kramer, Gunbjorg Ladstein, and Pastor Linda Larson, in recognition for the service on the Synod Council.

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service – 75th Anniversary
Faith Action Network (FAN)

REFERENCE & COUNSEL

Pastor Tor Berg, Chair of Reference and Counsel, moved the adoption of Resolution 4. The resolution passed 148-3.

SA2014.09 **Be It Resolved that the Northwest Washington Synod endorse Initiative 594, which would apply criminal background-check requirements to all gun sales and transfers in Washington State with specific exceptions; and**

Be It Further Resolved that the Northwest Washington Synod encourage congregations to hold educational forums on Initiative 594 in order to learn more about gun violence, current gun laws and loopholes, and preventative measures like universal background checks.

Pastor Berg thanked the members of the Reference & Counsel Committee for their work. He also encouraged members to present future resolutions in a timely manner so that they can be considered and discussed prior to Synod Assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks were expressed for the ministry of the audio-video team, Spiritborne.

BISHOP'S REFLECTIONS

Bishop Unti shared that the name of their boat is "Gratitude." He noted that grace and gift have shaped his life and that of his family. The Bishop expressed gratitude for the past couple days of support for him in this role that does not come naturally to him. His advice to rostered leaders is "love the people you serve." To members of congregations and other ministries, his advice is "love your pastor/leader." He expressed gratitude for the staff he serves with: Pastor Kathryn Buffum, Pastor Jerry Buss, Pastor Nancy Winder, Margaret Spatafore, and Susan Berg. He wished to leave the assembly with the words "both/and" rather than "either/or." He also expressed deep thanks to his family for their support and participation.

COMPANION SYNODS:

European Russia – Video Presentation

Mekane Jesu (Ethiopia) - Pastor G. Lee Kluth, PLU, urged us to keep the people of our Ethiopian companion synod in our prayers, especially in this time of strained "official" relations.

REPORT OF SYNOD OFFERING

The total of the assembly offerings was \$5,000.00.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Sarah France, Assembly Planning Chair, thanked Kim Unti and Pam Kluth for the assembly decorations. She thanked the photographers, the ushers, and the musicians. She announced that the members should leave the materials that they don't want so that they can be recycled. Bishop Unti thanked Pastor France for her leadership. He also thanked David Swartling for his help as both parliamentarian and coach.

CLOSING

Bishop Unti led the assembly in a brief liturgy for the closing of the assembly and declared the assembly closed at 4:55 pm.

The Rev Linda Larson
Secretary of the Northwest Washington Synod