

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

Can We Talk

**Friday and Saturday, May 15 – 16, 2015
Lynnwood, Washington**

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FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015

PLENARY 1

WORSHIP

The twenty-eighth annual Synod Assembly of the Northwest Washington Synod opened with worship at 9:30 am, Bishop Kirby Unti preaching.

CALL TO ORDER

The Assembly was called to order by Bishop Kirby Unti at 10:15 am.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 1

Assembly Registrar Fred Row, Advent, Mill Creek, reported that 283 voting members were present, of whom 96 were clergy.

QUORUM

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

ORIENTATION

Parliamentarian David Johnson, First Lutheran, Mount Vernon led the orientation process for the assembly, assisted by Synod Treasurer Karen Dicken, Peace, Silvana and Synod Secretary Pastor Deanna Wildermuth, Holy Trinity, Mercer Island. Electronic voting equipment and processes were reviewed and practice votes were taken.

Deanna discussed the plan for breakout groups and guidelines for respectful communication for the Saturday lunchtime sessions. David provided background on the use of Robert's Rules of Order, noting that these are rules of the majority but the rules are intended to protect the rights of the minority.

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**.

SA2015.01 **That the Standing Rules of the 2015 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*.

SA2015.02 **That the 2015 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly Agenda is approved as presented.**

REFERENCE & COUNSEL 1

The Rev Tor Berg, First Lutheran, Bothell, Chair of the Reference & Counsel Committee, presented a motion receiving Church of Steadfast Love, Seattle as a congregation of the synod. Bishop Unti invited Pastor Kristy Daniels and other members of Church of Steadfast Love forward to receive the welcome from the assembly. Franklin Chu, Bethany, Bainbridge spoke a word of prayer prior to the vote. The bishop invited members of the assembly to vote by shouting 'Amen'. The motion to receive *carried*.

SA2015.03 **BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod Assembly joyfully receives the Church of Steadfast Love as a congregation of this synod; and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the pastors and members of the Church of Steadfast Love be seated as full members of this assembly.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Unti introduced guests at the assembly, including:

- Christina Jackson-Skelton, Churchwide Representative
- Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Keynote Speaker
- Thomas Krise, PLU President
- The Rev Brian Stein-Webber, PLTS
- The Rev Huck Usgaard, Portico Benefits Services
- The Rev Chris Boerger, Secretary of the ELCA

Bishop Unti also thanked Paula Kitt from the Mission Investment Fund, which provided financial assistance to the synod for this assembly.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR

Kay Edgerton, Nativity, Renton thanked the members of the Assembly Planning Committee, including Registrar Fred Row, Advent, Mill Creek; Head Usher Malcolm McCallum, Edmonds Lutheran; Worship Team Co-Chairs Sister Liz Colver, Holy Spirit, Kirkland and the Rev Julie Blum, Maple Leaf, Seattle; Chair of Reference & Counsel, the Rev Tor Berg, First Lutheran, Bothell; and Decorations Committee Co-Chairs Kim Unti, Holy Cross, Bellevue and the Rev Veronica Smith, Grace, Bellevue.

Kay encouraged members of the assembly to pick up and play with the various communications devices on the tables, and to take pictures and post them to social media sites.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Unti reminded members of the assembly that the deadline for submitting resolutions and nominations is 12:30 pm today.

CAN WE TALK

Dr Cynthia Moe-Lobeda provided theological grounding for the theme of this assembly. Our Lutheran vocation is to recognize God's gracious and indomitable love and then to embody it in the world by loving self and others as God loves. With that grounding in mind, Can We Talk?

Dr Moe-Lobeda asked members of the assembly to recall one instance of our abysmal failure to talk to people within the congregation (e.g., adding or cancelling a second worship service, merging congregations, selling the building, who left a mess in the kitchen, marrying or ordaining GLBT) and consider what it would mean to really talk in the freedom of God's Grace, with full confidence that we will remain deeply loved, respected and honored by the other. Why then, do we not talk with freedom? The fear of looking foolish, my need for you to see me as I want you to see me, my shame for not understanding enough or for being implicit, the overwhelming ambiguity and complexity of the problems?

Two gifts from the Lutheran traditions enable live-giving and life-saving conversations: we are recipients of God's loving Christ and we are Agents of the Love. According to Martin Luther, we as humans are beloved, broken, bearers of God's Love and only by recognizing all three can we live fully. Imagine a conversation with a person diametrically opposed in ideology, in a conversation with you, knowing that not only are they beloved, but you are also. In addition to being Beloved, we are broken and we are the Body of Christ on earth, bearers of God's mysterious love. So in our efforts at conversation we can expect to fall short, sometimes to fail miserably. Knowing that in advance we can forgive ourselves and others and not be derailed by our failures.

Because we are the abode of God, the Church therefore has the power to remain in community despite demanding and conflict-ridden controversy, precisely because we are the collective abode of the living God. Knowing this, such people can talk without fear. If we claim and cling to who we are, then we can talk.

If talking can be divisive and painful, why do it? Why should the church be the place to bring up difficult things together? Maybe we should keep the peace and not offend. Lutherans confess the Word of God to be first and foremost the living Christ engaging us here and now. The Word of God, wherever it comes, comes to change the world. To proclaim or receive the Word is to participate in God's work to reform and change the world.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to amend the assembly agenda to allow the assembly to break for lunch and reconvene at 1:30 pm. The motion to approve *carried*.

SA2015.04 **That the Assembly amends the agenda to break for lunch at this time and reconvene at 1:30 pm today.**

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Rev Penelope Guntermann and the Rev Michael Clifford, both of Lutheran Counseling Network discussed gifts to Nepal following the disaster. The ELCA has given \$500,000 immediately through Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief. They thanked the members of the assembly for their gifts and their prayers.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 2

Fred Row, Assembly Registrar, reported that 324 voting members were present, of whom 112 were clergy.

NOMINATIONS and ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Rev Kevin Bates, Magnolia, Seattle gave the report for the Nominations Committee. The Rev Paul Stumme-Diers, Chair of the Elections Committee, thanked Kevin for his work. Paul announced that it will be necessary to use paper ballots for the elections for clergy Churchwide Assembly members and he reviewed the order of elections as they will happen in the first voting session.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

The bishop passed the gavel to Vice President Georganne Robertson. Georganne called on Bishop Unti to give his report to the assembly.

Bishop Unti is filled with gratitude for the opportunity serve in this call. The members of the synod have shown Kirby and Kim such great hospitality; he wanted to show true hospitality to people in the synod and he and Kim have received it back ten-fold.

What we focus on is what we become – and we focus too much on scarcity. We talk about budgets and shortfalls rather than joy in our ministry. While these metrics matter, if that is all your eyes see and your ears hear, your church will fail. God’s church is not failing – one in every 50 Americans receives support from a Lutheran social service agency. The church will send out 80 Young Adults in Global Mission this year – young people may not be in the pews

but they are out in the community serving God's people.

In the last decade we have moved away from stewardship to talk almost exclusively about fund-raising. The focus of fund-raising is money; the future of the church is not about money but about giving. Stewardship is everything I say and do after I say 'I believe'. The people who founded churches over a hundred years ago didn't have much money when they founded those churches. They believed in an abundant God. For many congregations the building has become the mission of the church. But we are not landlords – we often have more people using our buildings than our church has members. The bishop encouraged people to consider how we might enter into partnerships with the people who use our buildings. With declining financial resources, congregations often decide they will call a First Call pastor; however, there are not enough of them to meet the need and often they cannot afford to serve because of their debt load from seminary. When we become anxious, the church starts to decline.

Let's change our focus: What if God is behind what is happening in the church today? Is God calling us to be uprooted people, unsettled? We look to have our faithfulness restored. We are a Reformation church. With new ministry starts, many of which are ethnic-specific, we are providing access to word and sacrament in a language the people understand. Pastor Esau Cuevas is starting a Latino Ministry Academy to offer access to the word and sacraments to others. Pastor Mary-Alyce Burleigh is beginning a lay academy on the Eastside of King County around issues that matter, coupled with action.

The bishop encouraged leaders of the church to not lose heart – God is doing good things in this uncomfortable time. Try new ways, especially outside the four walls of our churches. We are the church, together, for the sake of the world.

Georganne returned the gavel to Bishop Unti.

ELECTIONS 1

Pastor Pam Russell, Prince of Peace, Shoreline led the assembly in prayer prior to the voting. Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers asked voters to turn on their voting devices. The first ballot for the Youth/Young Adult Male 2016 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member. Tyler Bates, Magnolia, Seattle and Sojin Thompson, St Matthew, Renton were nominated; Tyler Bates was **elected**. The Youth/Young Adult Female 2016 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member was presented next. Hannah Berg, First, Bothell and Tamara Siburg, Bethany, Bainbridge Island were nominated; Hannah Berg was **elected**.

For the Synod Discipline Committee, Paul Anderson, Associate in Ministry, was nominated and **elected** to the vacant Lay Male position. Joanne Hinkle, St Andrews, Bellevue was nominated and **elected** to the vacant Lay Female position.

The next election will deal with further elections to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Georganne Robertson welcomed members of the assembly, and extended a special welcome to

those attending their first assembly. She thanked those who serve on the Synod Council, and those who partner with our committees.

CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director of the Mission Advancement Unit of the ELCA, responsible for coordinating communications, marketing, public relations, mission funding, major gifts, planned gifts, constituent data management and Always Being Made New: the Campaign for the ELCA. In addition to presenting the Churchwide video for synod assemblies, featuring Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Christina thanked congregations for their faithful giving, spoke about 21 new mission starts in this synod, missionaries sponsored by congregations in the synod, ELCA Funds for Leaders scholarships, and substantial giving in support of the campaign against malaria. Skelton-Jackson talked about the *Campaign for the ELCA* launched a year ago. The foci of the campaign are sustainable development, the Fund for Leaders, Young Adults in Global Mission, congregational renewal, and support of women around the globe in leadership roles and attendance at seminaries and schools. This year the campaign focused on new congregations, renewing ministry and disability ministries. The Youth Gathering this summer in Detroit has the theme *Rise Up Together!* A Worship Jubilee will be held in Atlanta this summer and Churchwide will provide grants to synods so that they might send leaders.

The Churchwide goal of raising \$15 million for the malaria campaign is very close and includes nearly \$200,000 from this synod.

ELECTIONS 2

Paper ballots were distributed for elections for clergy positions for the Churchwide Assembly. Electronic voting was used to elect Clergy for the Discipline Committee. Kevin Bates, Magnolia, Seattle; Penelope Guntermann, Lutheran Counseling Network; Katy McCallum Sachse, Holy Spirit, Kirkland; and Tim Wolbrecht, Vashon Lutheran were nominated. Penelope Guntermann and Katy McCallum Sachse were **elected**.

Franklin Chu, Bethany, Bainbridge and Sojin Thompson, St Matthew, Renton were nominated for Churchwide Assembly Person of Color/Lay Male. Franklin Chu was **elected**. Pastor Jennifer Schultz, Salem, Mount Vernon was nominated and **elected** as the Churchwide Assembly Person of Color/Female. Paper ballots were distributed for the Churchwide Assembly male clergy positions.

Maynard Atik, retired; Bob Lewis, Faith, Redmond, and Tim Wolbrecht, Vashon Lutheran were nominated for the two clergy positions on the Synod Consultation Committee. Bob Lewis and Tim Wolbrecht were **elected**. Kyle Turner and David Swartling were nominated for the Lay Male position on the Synod Consultation Committee. David Swartling was **elected**. Stacy Kitahata, Immanuel, Seattle was nominated for and **elected** to the Lay Female position on the Synod Consultation Committee.

RECESS

Bishop Unti thanked the members of the assembly for their work and declared the assembly in recess until 3:50 pm.

PLENARY 3

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order and led the assembly in singing Happy Birthday to Pastor Jan Nesse, retired.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR

Fred Row reported that there were 327 voting members registered, of whom 116 were clergy.

RECOGNITION

Members and pastors of these congregations were recognized and applauded for their anniversary dates during the year:

Phinney Ridge, Seattle	100 Years
Camano Lutheran, Camano Island	125 Years
Central, Seattle	125 Years
Central, Bellingham	125 Years
Immanuel, Seattle	125 Years

Bishop Unti presented framed certificates of recognition to Pastor Ron Soine and Pastor Lowell Stordahl marking their 50th anniversary of ordained service to the church.

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Diakonda Gurning, Indonesian Lutheran Fellowship and Chair of the Stewardship and Mission Support Committee thanked the members of the assembly for their participation and contributions to the mission support of the larger church. He reminded us that stewardship is about more than asking for money. Can we talk? Look for an exciting event in the fall to help us learn to talk about money.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Karen Dicken, Peace, Silvana reported a successful year of stewardship for the synod. In addition to mission support for the synod and the larger church, congregations gave to about 80 ministries, including \$139K to World Hunger. Copies of the synod's audit report for the previous fiscal year is available on request. Karen thanked the Financial Services Office (Alyce Bakker and Leslie Frederick) for their work. The Treasurer referred members of the assembly to her summary report and Consolidated Balance Sheet in the meeting packet.

BUDGET CAP

The Rev Jim Kruse, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the proposed Budget Cap for Fiscal Year 2016 of \$1,496,550. He told the assembly that the proposal is filled with hope, filtered through fiscal responsibility. The motion to approve *carried*.

SA2015.05 **That the Synod Assembly caps the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17 at \$1,496,550 and that motions to increase any expenditure item in said budget shall include a recommended offsetting decrease; and**

That Fiscal Year 2016-17 General Fund receipts in excess of \$1,496,550 be disbursed as directed by the Synod Council.

ELECTIONS 3

Paul Stumme-Diers reported the results of Churchwide Assembly Clergy voting. 318 ballots were cast, 160 required for election. There was no election. 27 votes were required to move to the next ballot. Kathleen Anderson received 49 votes, Mike Anderson 54, Tor Berg 83, Deb Benson 24, Joanne Engquist 57, Ryan Fletcher 23, Ivar Hillesland 64, Paul Hoffman 58, Julie Josund 66, Erik Samuelson 26, Doug Stensby 48, Charis Weathers 40. Kathleen Anderson, Mike Anderson, Tor Berg, Joanne Engquist, Ivar Hillesland, Paul Hoffman, Julie Josund, Doug Stensby, and Charis Weathers will advance.

Churchwide Assembly Lay Female Member required 139 votes for election or 47 votes to advance to the next round. Madelyn Busse received 53 votes, Jan Cherry 35, Liz Colver 86, Sherianne Caldwell 17, Tamara Siburg 49, and Janice Steppe 37. Madelyne Busse, Liz Colver, and Tamara Siburg will advance.

Churchwide Assembly Lay Male: Curt Eidem received 36 votes, Rod Schofield 108, and Sojin Thompson 133. Rod Schofield and Sojin Thompson will advance.

Paper ballots were distributed for the next round of voting for the clergy members of the Churchwide Assembly. Members of the assembly were requested to vote for two.

REFERENCE & COUNSEL 2

The Rev Julie Hutson, Luther Memorial, Seattle offered a prayer on behalf of the assembly's work. On behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, Tor Berg moved adoption of the Memorial to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly on Eco-Reformation in the Context of Climate Change. The resolution is intended to be part of the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. The motion *carried*.

SA2015.06 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That this Northwest Washington Synod in assembly, recognizing the need for ongoing reformation of the ELCA, memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to make climate change and ecological justice major themes in ELCA planning and activities leading up to and following the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.**

On behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, Tor moved adoption of the resolution on Climate Change. The motion *carried*.

SA2015.07

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That this Northwest Washington Synod find ways to enact the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action to “support and encourage synods, congregations, members, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church to adopt and advocate for policies that reduce energy use, and with it our dependence on fossil fuels, as an expression of this church’s commitment to address climate change and to care for God’s creation” and “ to reexamine lifestyles and environmental footprints as they relate to the climate crisis and to improve their stewardship of energy resources and promote care for God’s creation;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Northwest Washington Synod commit itself to participate with the ELCA in becoming even more faithfully a denomination that embraces and practices creation care throughout its life and mission.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The Rev Deanna Wildermuth, Holy Trinity, Mercer Island presented her report to the assembly, thanking members of the synod staff who assist in the work of the Secretary. Deanna referred members of the assembly to the Report of the Secretary in their meeting packets which covers actions taken by the Synod Council over the course of the year and the changes in status and call for pastors and lay rostered leaders in the synod. Deanna noted that the report contains factual information on the roster and behind all the factual information there are stories of faith and faithfulness. Deanna reported that in this past year there were no removals or resignations from the roster, no congregations closed and no congregations left the ELCA. Behind all the lists and statistics in this report there are conversations and stories. And today the synod welcomed a new congregation, Church of Steadfast Love.

PREVIEW OF SATURDAY’S SCHEDULE

Kay Edgerton reported that there will be more time for conversation and learning tomorrow, as much work was completed today. There will be four additional breakout sessions during the lunchtime: Israel Palestine what to do?; How to pick through rubble, how we through LWF are changing Nepal; Why are we afraid to talk?; and The promise of forgiveness, the missing ingredient for meaningful conversations.

ADJOURNMENT

Bishop Unti declared the assembly adjourned until 8:45 am tomorrow (following Morning Prayer).

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015

PLENARY 4

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 8:45 am following Morning Prayer led by the Worship Team.

CREDENTIALS 4

Fred Row presented the credentials report, with 345 voting members, of whom 126 were clergy.

2016 SPENDING PLAN

On behalf of the Finance Committee, the Rev Jim Kruse and Synod Treasurer Karen Dicken presented the 2016 spending plan for approval. The motion to approve *carried*.

SA2015.08 **That the Synod Assembly approves the 2016 Spending Plan as presented.**

ELECTIONS 4

Paul thanked the members of the Elections Committee for their work, including David and Barbara Swartling, Bethany, Bainbridge and Franklin and Linnea Chu, also of Bethany. Elections for representatives for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly continued.

In the voting for clergy members of the Churchwide Assembly, Kathleen Anderson received 60 votes; Michael Anderson, 52 votes; Tor Berg, 90 votes; Joanne Engquist, 62 votes; Ivar Hillesland, 87 votes; Paul Hoffman, 73 votes; Julie Josund, 59 votes; Doug Stensby, 52 votes; and Charis Weathers, 44 votes. There was no election and Tor Berg, Ivar Hillesland, and Paul Hoffman moved to the next ballot. In the second round of voting, Tor Berg received 90 votes, Ivar Hillesland received 87 votes and Paul Hoffman received 73 votes. The bishop declared Tor Berg and Ivar Hillesland **elected**.

In voting for the Lay Male position, Rod Schofield, Christ, Ferndale received 132 votes and Sojin Thompson, St Matthew, Renton received 163 votes. Bishop Unti declared Sojin Thompson **elected**.

Voting for Lay Female position, Madelyn Busse received 79 votes, Liz Colver received 131 votes and Tamara Siburg received 69 votes. There was no election; Madelyn Busse and Liz Colver advanced to the next round of voting. Madelyn received 98 votes and Liz received 174 votes. The bishop declared Liz Colver **elected**.

Paul reported that the work of the Elections Committee was complete.

REFERENCE & COUNSEL 2

Tor Berg, Chair of the committee, reminded members of the assembly that amendments to the motions need to be written out and brought to the Synod Secretary in the front of the hall. A member of the Synod Council offered a prayer for the work of the assembly prior to consideration of the resolution.

Resolution B is a memorial to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly; on behalf of the committee Tor presented the resolution for consideration. It was moved and seconded to amend the final two lines of the resolution, substituting the following after “East Jerusalem)” in the next to last line: “and that the US in coordination with the UN Security Council launch a more determined effort for a negotiated agreement that ends the occupation, achieves an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel and provides security and peace for both Israelis and Palestinians”. The motion to amend *carried*. It was moved and seconded to approve the Memorial on Palestine as amended. The motion *carried*.

SA2015.09 BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod meeting in Assembly Memorializes the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to ask for Congressional action requiring that future U.S. aid to Israel be contingent on Israel’s halt to all settlement-building in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and that the US in coordination with the UN security council launch a more determined effort for a negotiated agreement that ends the occupation, achieves an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel and provides security and peace for both Israelis and Palestinians.

On behalf of the Reference and Counsel committee, Pastor Berg moved adoption of Resolution C - Supporting Peace With Justice In the Holy Land Through Intentional U.S. Aid To Israel. It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution to insert after ‘future aid to Israel’ in the third line “and supporting US efforts for a peace agreement for an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.” The motion to amend *carried*. It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution as amended. The motion to approve *carried*.

SA2015.10 BE IT RESOLVED that members of Northwest Washington Synod congregations who seek a just peace between Israel and Palestine ask for Congressional action applying these conditions to future aid to Israel by advocating such action to their district’s U.S. House Member and both of Washington State’s U.S. Senators, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod make this resolution’s call known to the members of Washington State’s Congressional delegation who serve citizens living in our synod and to the public at large.

Tor reported that the Reference & Counsel Committee has completed its work for this assembly.

LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES NORTHWEST

David Duea, President of Lutheran Community Services Northwest, brought greetings to the assembly, thanking the community for their support of this vital ministry.

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY

Mark Lau Branson, the Homer L. Goddard Associate Professor of the Ministry of the Laity at Fuller Theological Seminary and a member of The Missional Network, spoke to the assembly about the process of Appreciative Inquiry. Mark's presentation included engaging the members of the assembly in small group conversation to practice Appreciative Inquiry.

RECESS

The Bishop declared the assembly in recess.

PLENARY 5

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the meeting to order at 11 am.

CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE Q & A

Members of the assembly were able to submit questions for Christina Jackson-Skelton. At this time she responded to questions on these topics:

- God's Work Our Hands Sunday is scheduled for September 13. If that Sunday does not work for your congregation, please schedule it for whatever date does work.
- Combining the three Lay Rosters of the church
- What will theological education look like in the future; a task force led by Robin Steinke will report in the fall to the Church Council.
- Mission Support from congregations to the larger church
- Ecumenism – Christina noted that ecumenical theological work happens at the local level, as well as the national level and that much more ecumenical work is happening that we see. She suggested that we use Appreciative Inquiry to raise this work in our area.

Bishop Unti thanked Ms Jackson-Skelton for her presence and presented her with a gift.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LUNCH & WORKSHOPS

Kay referred members of the assembly to the list of breakout sessions on the tables. For those who signed up to lead a group in the open spaces, table tents will be available at the Secretary's

table. Kay announced that the schedule allows approximately 15 minutes to get your lunch and get to the small group session. There will be a 15 minute break between sessions.

The bishop dismissed the assembly to lunch and workshops.

PLENARY 6

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order.

FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT

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

Voting Members		357
Clergy	111	
Retired Clergy	20	
Lay	226	
Male	96	
Female	130	
Youth	18	
Young Adults	26	
Persons of Color	24	
Observers	10	
Visitors	28	
Volunteers	countless	

RECOGNITION

Bishop Unti recognized these members of the synod who have or will attain significant anniversaries of rostered service to the church:

Associate in Ministry		50 Years	M Bernard Kahn
Clergy			
25 Years	Carol Jensen John Bjorge Mikkel Hustad Scott Summers	35 Years	Rev Jerry O'Neill John-Otto Liljenstolpe Stanley Jacobson
50 Years	Arnold Anderson Daniel Bloomquist Douglas Anderson Louis Accola	55 Years	David Wold Gerald Hefty Neal Snider

60 Years	Clair Grube	70 Years	Glenn Bragstad
	Jacque Schweiss		
	LeRoy Anenson		

EVANGELICAL OUTREACH TEAM

The Rev Dan Sorensen of the synod Evangelical Outreach Team asked assembly members to notice the letters on the nametags of those in the hall, identifying members of the EO Team, mission developers, fiscal agents for new mission starts, coaches, congregations under redevelopment, and/or participating in Moving Back into the Neighborhood or Living Local.

Bishop Unti acknowledged the Rev Jerry Buss' faithful and passionate work to engage people in the work of the Gospel. Jerry will be leaving on Monday morning for his sabbatical. Jerry's work and service was acknowledged by acclamation by the assembly.

CLOSING WORSHIP

The final portion of the ongoing worship service that is the assembly included communion.

BISHOP'S REMARKS

Bishop Unti thanked the members of the Worship Team for their work, along with the entire assembly team. The bishop thanked David Johnson, the Parliamentarian and thanked the members of the synod staff. Bishop Unti lifted up the work of Georganne Robertson as Synod Vice President and to all members of the Synod Council. The bishop thanked his wife Kim for her support and thanked the church – congregations, specialized ministers, those who serve on the roster and those who do the work of the church. He asked that assembly members send this gratitude back to their congregations. We are best when we are the church together.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR

Kay Edgerton, accepting thanks from Bishop Unti, thanked the members of the assembly planning committee and the many, many people who made the assembly work. Kay particularly thanked Susan Berg of the Synod Office for her detail work.

There is a survey available for assembly members to fill out – links can be found on the Synod Facebook page, in Guidebook, and on the Synod Website.

Bishop Unti presented Kay with a gift book as thanks for her work on the assembly.

CLOSING

Bishop Unti declared the assembly closed at 4:31 pm.