

# Northwest Washington Synod Twenty-ninth Annual Assembly



**Friday and Saturday, May 20 – 21, 2016  
Everett, Washington**



**FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016**

## **PLENARY 1**

### **WORSHIP**

The twenty-ninth annual Synod Assembly of the Northwest Washington Synod opened with a brief order of prayer at 9:30 am.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Assembly was called to order by Bishop Kirby Unti at 9:50 am.

### **CREDENTIALS REPORT 1**

Assembly Registrar Joanne Hinkle, Saint Andrew's, Bellevue, reported that 233 voting members were present, of whom 143 are lay and 90 are 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 Secretary Pastor Deanna Wildermuth, Holy Trinity, Mercer Island. It was announced that nominations from the floor must be submitted in writing no later than noon today and that there is a limit on speaking at the microphone of 2 minutes per speaker.

### **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**.

**SA2016.01**

**That the Standing Rules of the 2016 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*.

**SA2016.02**                    **That the 2016 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly Agenda is approved as presented.**

### **INTRODUCTION OF ASSEMBLY GUESTS**

Bishop Unti introduced Sunitha Mortha, Mission Formation Director from the Global Mission Unit, our Churchwide Representative. In addition, he noted that the assembly would receive greetings from David Duea, Lutheran Community Services Northwest; Janet Pope, Compass Housing Alliance; and Bishop Jacob Mameo of the Morogoro Diocese of Tanzania.

Bishop Unti announced that the synod staff will be holding a listening station over the course of the next two days at the top of the stairs, and invited members of the assembly and visitors to stop by and respond to the question being posed. The questions will change during the course of the assembly. The first question: *Where have you recently seen signs of life and hope?*

Bishop Unti introduced the Assembly Planning Committee Chair, Dianne Johnson, Associate in Ministry, Lord of Life, Renton.

### **REFERENCE & COUNSEL 1**

The Rev Tor Berg, First Lutheran, Bothell, Chair of the Reference & Counsel Committee, directed members of the assembly to refer to the proposed amendments to the constitution of the synod in their notebooks. Tor reported that the proposed amendments had been reviewed, edited and approved by the Reference & Counsel Committee, as well as the Synod Council, prior to their presentation to the assembly.

Tor presented the first two sets of resolutions *en bloc*, that is, in a group. The first group presented for approval includes text or sections of the constitution that are out of date. These included Amendments 74, 77, 78, 80, 83, 84, and 85. The motion to approve the amendments as presented *carried*.

**SA2016.03**                    **That the Synod Assembly approves amendments 74, 77, 78, 80, 83, 84, and 85 to the Synod Constitution as presented.**

~~Strikethrough~~ indicates deleted text. Underscore indicates added text.

### **Amendment 74 (first reading)**

To Amend S8.42.e to remove the requirement for including the financial contributions from congregations in the minutes of the Synod Assembly. Monthly financial reports are readily available on the synod website.

- S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:**
- a. Management of the monies and accounts of this synod, its deeds, mortgages, contracts, evidences of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of this synod.**
  - b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.**
  - c. Receipt and acknowledgement of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church.**
  - d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.**
  - e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, ~~for record~~ to be made available on request and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.**
  - f. Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.**

**Amendment 77**

To revise the amount of time prior to the assembly that the nominations report shall be provided to the congregations of the synod, reflecting the impact of electronic communications technology.

- S9.03.01 The Synod Council shall appoint one of the members of the Nominating Committee as chairperson. The chairperson shall convene the Nominating Committee no less than six months prior to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. The Nominating Committee shall establish a procedure to elicit qualified candidates from the congregations in this synod. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two persons for the office of Vice President and for each council, board, committee or Churchwide assembly member position for which an election will be held by the Synod Assembly. The Nominating Committee shall report its nominations to the Synod Council, which shall communicate the report to the congregations in this synod no less than ~~sixty~~ thirty days before the Synod Assembly.**

### **Amendment 78**

This bylaw deals with the term limits and order of elections for the officers of the synod when it was first formed. This information is no longer required or pertinent and the Synod Council recommends its removal from the constitution and bylaws. Copies of earlier versions of the bylaws are contained in the archives of the synod.

~~S8.51.01. For the elections at the constituting convention, initial terms of the officers shall commence following the adjournment of the constituting convention and shall be as follows:~~

~~Bishop: 1987-1991~~

~~Vice President: 1987-1990~~

~~Secretary: 1987-1990~~

~~Treasurer: 1987-1992~~

~~The bishop elected at the constituting convention may be nominated for re-election by the Synod Assembly in 1991. The treasurer elected at the constituting convention may be nominated for re-election by the Synod Assembly in 1992. The vice president and secretary elected at the constituting convention may be nominated for re-election by the Synod Assembly in 1990 and 1994.~~

### **Amendment 80**

Because of improvements in electronic communication, it is not necessary to have the report of the Nominating Committee available sixty days prior to the assembly.

**S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of not less than seven members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.**

**S9.03.01 The Synod Council shall appoint one of the members of the Nominating Committee as chairperson. The chairperson shall convene the Nominating Committee no less than six months prior to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. The Nominating Committee shall establish a procedure to elicit qualified candidates from the congregations in this synod. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two persons for the office of Vice President and for each council, board, committee or Churchwide assembly member position for which an election will be held by the Synod Assembly. The Nominating Committee shall report its nominations to the Synod Council, which shall communicate the report to the congregations in this synod no less than ~~sixty~~ thirty days before the Synod Assembly.**

**Amendment 83**

The proposed change to S10.07.04 deals with requirements of Washington State law regarding electronic meetings and confirmation from each member that they agree to participate in electronic meetings.

- S10.07.04.** The Synod Council shall meet at least quarterly. To the extent permitted by State law, meetings and voting within the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, provided that the electronic or telephonic method used allows all participants to hear each other at all times., ~~and a~~ Notice of all meetings may be provided electronically, provided that consent to receive notice electronically is first obtained from members receiving electronic notice according to the requirements of state law.

**Amendment 84**

The Synod Council recommends removal of this bylaw, as the synod does not use the Mutual Ministry Committee as described

- †S11.04.** Mutual Ministry Committee  
The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.
- ~~**S11.04.01.** There shall be a Mutual Ministry Committee as provided in †S11.04. consisting of six persons, three ordained ministers and three laypersons. Members of this committee shall be nominated by the bishop and appointed by the Synod Council biennially. This committee shall seek to give encouragement by its concern for the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of the bishop, and shall provide support and counsel to the bishop. This committee shall determine its own procedural rules and shall report to the Synod Council periodically that it is meeting. The agenda and substance of its discussions shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed to the Synod Council or any other organizational unit or person.~~

**Amendment 85**

The Synod Council recommends that S12.01.03 be removed from the Constitution & Bylaws. The synod does not operate in this way with clusters.

- †S12.01.** This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and partners as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other partners.

**S12.01.01.** At the first meeting after each Synod Assembly, the Synod Council shall designate the composition and names of the clusters. This action shall be reported by means of the regular communication resources of the synod.

**S12.01.02.** Any congregation desiring to change its cluster affiliation or any cluster desiring to change its name shall make its desire known to the secretary of the synod who shall notify the Synod Council. Any such change shall become effective upon the approval of the Synod Council. Notice of such change shall be reported by means of the regular communication resources of the synod.

~~**S12.01.03.** Within six months after each Synod Assembly, the bishop or the bishop's representative shall convene the pastors and the lay delegates of the congregations of each cluster, for the purpose of planning the work of the cluster. The bishop may convene the cluster at other times when in the bishop's opinion the work of this synod requires it.~~

### **LIVING LOCAL**

Bishop Unti welcomed David Hahn to the microphone for a brief presentation on the synod's *Living Local* emphasis.

### **KEYNOTE 1**

The Rev Sunitha Mortha introduced the Glocal mission formation team from Churchwide and talked about Accompaniment as the model for engagement with the world. With Glocal there is no line separating 'us' and 'them'. We are learning to walk together in solidarity that practices interdependence and mutuality, reconciliation and restoration of relationships.

### **RECESS**

After announcing that workshops will begin at 1:30 pm, the bishop declared a recess at 12 noon.

## **PLENARY 2**

### **WORKSHOPS**

Members of the assembly and guests participated in a variety of workshops, including Living Local; Building Bridges – Engaging With Our Muslim Neighbor; Global Relationships 201: Companions, Companions, Companions; Cross-generational Engagement; Maximizing Congregational Engagement Online.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 2:50 pm.

### **CREDENTIALS REPORT 2**

Joanne Hinkle reported that 301 members were registered, including 194 lay members and 107 clergy.

## **LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES NORTHWEST**

David Duea, President of Lutheran Community Services introduced the LCSNW video for the assembly, highlighting work with Syrian refugees.

## **REPORT OF THE BISHOP**

Bishop Unti passed the gavel to Vice President Georganne Robertson so that he could make his report to the assembly. The bishop spoke about the Living Local program within the synod, describing the process of adaptive change and listening to and learning from the other, rather than expecting ‘outsiders’ to welcome our ways.

## **REFERENCE AND COUNSEL 3**

Pastor Tor Berg presented four amendments for approval by the assembly *en bloc*: Amendments 75, 79, 81, and 82. The motion to approve *carried*.

**SA2016.04                    That the Synod Assembly approves amendments 75, 79, 81, and 82 to the Synod Constitution as presented.**

~~Strikethrough~~ indicates deleted text. Underscore indicates added text.

### **Amendment 75 (First Reading)**

The Synod Council recommended removal of this constitutional provision to eliminate an unnecessary provision regarding the election of the Treasurer, who is now appointed by the Synod Council.

**S9.07. ~~If the Treasurer is elected, the Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.~~**

### **Amendment 79**

The Synod Council recommended the addition of this Bylaw to limit the number of terms that the Synod Treasurer could serve.

**S8.51.03                    The Treasurer may be reappointed to serve no more than one additional four-year term.**

### **Amendment 81**

The elections procedures for officers of the synod as described in S9.11.02 are not the same as for the election of the bishop in S9.04.02 (below), which are more detailed than required for election of the other officers. Officers other than the bishop are elected by majority vote and do not require the more elaborate process laid out in this provision.

**S9.11.02.                    The vice president and secretary shall be elected by majority vote of the Synod Assembly. The names of all persons nominated for each office by the Nominating Committee, Synod Council, or from the floor in accordance with**

**S9.03.01. and S9.03.02. shall be placed on the first ballots at the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, unless a nominee withdraws in writing. ~~The procedure for elections shall be the same as for the election of the bishop in accordance with S9.04.02.~~**

#### **Amendment 82**

This change would return some flexibility in the size of the synod council, allowing it to consist of 16 to 28 members rather than the 28 members required by bylaw S10.01.02. At this time there is no actual change to the composition of the council, as S10.07.01 remains in effect.

**~~S10.01.02. The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of the synod and twenty-four other members, including one youth member and one associate in ministry, consecrated deacon or deaconess, commissioned teacher, or certified or commissioned lay professional on the roster of this synod.~~**

Pastor Berg presented Amendment 76 to the Assembly for consideration. The motion to approve *carried*.

#### **Amendment 76**

This change restores flexibility to the constitution so that the synod could choose to hold an assembly every other year, rather than every year. The model constitution for synods requires that synod assemblies be held at least every other year.

~~Strikethrough~~ indicates deleted text. Underscore indicates added text.

**S7.11.01 The Synod Assembly shall convene annually at a time and place determined by the Synod Council.**

#### **ELECTIONS 1**

Pastor Bob Lewis, Faith Lutheran, Redmond, Chair of the Elections Committee presented the Nominating Committee Report. He reported that there are four uncontested tickets and asked that the nominees be elected by acclamation. Pastor Lewis declared the following *elected*: Pr Esau Cuevas, Person of Color or Language Other Than English; Diaconal Minister Jan Cherry, Lay Rostered Leader; Youth Member David Salzer, Our Savior's; and three Lay Male: Jasen Frelot, Phinney Ridge, Seattle, Curt Eidem, Light of the Cross, Bothell and David Horton, Faith, Redmond.

For the Unrestricted Clergy position, Paul Hoffman, Faith Forming Faith; Joan Beck, Trinity, Lynnwood; and Elizabeth Rawlings, Lutheran Campus Ministry-UW were nominated. A majority of votes were required for election. For the Lay Female position, Kay Edgerton, Nativity, Renton; Joanne Hinkle, Lutheran Church in the San Juans; Sherianne Caldwell, Immanuel, Seattle were nominated. A majority of votes were required for election.



### **CHURCHWIDE REPORT**

The Rev Sunitha Mortha presented the Churchwide Report to the assembly. Following her report the assembly had a singing break.

### **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

Georganne Robertson, Queen Anne, Seattle gave her report to the assembly.

### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Dale Zehms, Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah, recently appointed as the Synod Treasurer presented the report with the assistance of the former Treasurer, Karen Dicken, Peace, Silvana.

### **2017 BUDGET CAP**

Dale and Karen presented the 2017 Budget Cap for approval on behalf of the Synod Council. The motion to approve *carried*.

**SA2016.05                    That the Synod Assembly caps the Fiscal Year 2017-18 General Fund Budget at \$41,487,550; and**

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

**That Fiscal Year 2017-18 General Fund receipts in excess of 41,487,550 be disbursed as directed by the Synod Council.**

The Pacific Lutheran University video was presented while Reference & Counsel prepared to continue their work with the assembly.

### **REFERENCE & COUNSEL 4**

It was moved and seconded to reconsider the vote on Amendment 76, which proposed striking the word 'annually'. The motion to reconsider *'carried*.

Following discussion, the members of the assembly were again asked to vote on the amendment. The vote was 131 in favor of the original amendment and 54 against. The original motion to amend *carried*. Amendment 76 stands approved.

### **ELECTIONS 2**

Pastor Lewis asked members of the assembly to vote for Unrestricted Clergy members of the Synod Council. Paul Hoffman received 143 votes; Joan Beck received 158 votes and Elizabeth Rawlings received 178 votes. The Bishop declared Joan Beck and Elizabeth Rawlings *elected*.

Pastor Lewis asked members of the assembly to vote for Lay Female members of the Synod Council. Kay Edgerton received 212 votes; Joanne Hinkle received 167 votes; and Sherianne Caldwell received 86 votes. The Bishop declared Kay Edgerton and Joanne Hinkle *elected*.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Following a brief closing worship service the Bishop declared the assembly adjourned for the day. The assembly will gather tomorrow at 8:30 am for a round of workshops and the business meeting will begin at 9:50 am.

# **SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2016**

## **PLENARY 3**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order.

### **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

Joanne Hinkle report that there were 323 voting members registered, of whom 210 were lay members and 113 were clergy.

### **KEYNOTE 2**

Pr Sunitha Mortha gave her second Keynote address, discussing the power of stories in our lives – God’s stories, our stories, stories that teach us things. Using the metaphor of an iceberg, she talked about how we think we know what the other wants and needs, without recognizing our different contexts. In the United States we often understand ‘mission’ to be the transfer of cultural values or national values.

### **REFERENCE & COUNSEL 5**

On behalf of the committee, Pr Tor Berg moved adoption of Resolution A, a Memorial to Churchwide regarding the Doctrine of Discovery. The motion to approve *carried*.

**SA2016.06 RESOLVED, that, joining with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Episcopal Church USA, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the Moravian Church, the Northwest Synod of the Evangelical Church in America explicitly and clearly repudiates the European Christian derived ‘doctrine of discovery’ and its continuing impact upon tribal governments and individual tribal members to this day, and acknowledges and repents of its complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas, and**

**That the 2016 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly offers herewith a statement of repentance and reconciliation to Native nations in this country for damage done in the name of Christianity and “civilization”, calls on the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to do the same, and requests the Office of the Presiding Bishop to plan an appropriate ELCA national ceremony of**

**repentance and reconciliation with tribal leaders, and provide resources for similar synodical and congregational observances with local tribal leaders, at all such times and places as are appropriate, and**

**That the ELCA, with the help of Native communities, commit itself to the development of resources, in the next triennium, to help its congregations and people understand and reduce the negative impact of the “doctrine of discovery” and its consequences for Native people in North America, and**

**That the ELCA Congregational & Synodical Mission Unit bring forward to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly a renewed strategy for ministry with Native people in the ELCA and accompaniment with North American Native communities generally, with a particular commitment to long-term, stable funding of ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native ministries, increasing partnership with congregations and synods in the ELCA, and promoting efforts with the Native communities within which our congregations and synods reside.**

Pr Berg made a motion to suspend the rules of the assembly in order to allow consideration of the three resolutions that were delivered to the assembly after 10:30 am and prior to noon yesterday. The motion to suspend *carried*.

#### **COMPASS HOUSING ALLIANCE**

Janet Pope, Executive Director of Compass Housing Alliance, spoke briefly to the assembly about their work and introduced the CHA video for the assembly.

#### **MISSION TO SEAFARERS**

Ken Hawkins of the Mission to Seafarers, a ministry partner of the synod, spoke briefly and introduced the mission’s video for the assembly.

#### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

The Rev Deanna Wildermuth, Secretary of the Synod, presented her report to the assembly, referring to the written report in the meeting materials.

#### **2017 BUDGET**

The Rev Jim Kruse, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the 2017 Synod Budget to the assembly for approval. The motion to approve *carried*.

**SA2016.07                    That the Synod Assembly approves the 2017 Synod Budget as presented.**

#### **GREETINGS FROM TANZANIA**

Bishop Unti welcomed Bishop Jacob Mameo of the Morogoro Diocese in Tanzania. Bishop Mameo brought greetings to the assembly from his people and spoke of the ministry in Tanzania.

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Bishop Unti introduced the Rev Steve Olson, who has been working with the synod to develop a process for the campaign. The assembly enthusiastically affirmed the work that Pr Olson and the synod leadership has been doing on developing the campaign.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Bishop declared a recess at 12 noon, with Festival Worship scheduled to begin at 1:30 pm.

## **PLENARY 4**

### **FESTIVAL WORSHIP AND RECOGNITION**

The members of the assembly and guests worshipped together, with Bishop Unti preaching. The service celebrated newly-elected leaders and anniversaries of ordination for rostered leaders, as well as significant anniversaries for congregations.

Clergy recognized for their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination included Scott Postlewait, Advent, Mill Creek; Heidi Fish, Celebration, Anacortes; Jeff Larson, Vashon Lutheran; Kevin Bates, Magnolia, Seattle; and Paul Sundberg, Trinity, Lynnwood.

Clergy recognized for their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination included Jim Kruse, retired and Tim Whiteman, Central, Bellingham.

Clergy recognized for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination included Dan Erlander, Eldon, Olson, George W Nickelsburg Jr, and Jay Decker.

Clergy recognized for their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination included Darrell Schoen, David Angersbach, Roger Patrow, and Duane Jensen.

Kenneth Daus was recognized for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination and Charles R Bomgren and John M Recher Jr were celebrated for their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination.

Members and pastors of these congregations were recognized and applauded for their congregational anniversary dates during the year: Trinity, Lynnwood, 75 Years; St John, Bellingham, 125 Years; and Immanuel, Everson, 125 Years.

Those members of the Synod Council whose terms have ended were also recognized by the assembly, including Karen Dicken, Peace, Silvana, Treasurer; Millie Fosberg, Burlington Lutheran; Pastor Jimmy Hao, Grace Chinese, Seattle; David Johnson, First, Mount Vernon; Pastor Pam Russell, Prince of Peace, Shoreline; Bill Salen, Christ the Servant, Bellingham; and Sojin Thompson, St Matthew's, Renton.

### **PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

A brief video about PLTS and California Lutheran University was presented while worship leaders prepared to resume the business of the assembly.

### **FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT**

Joanne Hinkle, Registrar, presented the final credentials report to the assembly. 324 voting members were registered, including 210 lay persons and 114 clergy.

Voting Members		324
Clergy	114	
Lay	210	
Male	92	
Female	118	
Youth	15	
Young Adults	13	
Persons of Color	32	
Observers	7	
Visitors	24	
Volunteers	countless	

### **REFERENCE & COUNSEL 6**

Pastor Berg reported that three resolutions had been received on the morning of the first day of the assembly, too late for the Reference & Counsel Committee fully prepare them. He asked the assembly to allow these three resolutions to be brought before the assembly as they were deemed to be timely and important for the assembly to consider. It was moved and seconded to bring Resolution B to the assembly. The motion *carried*.

**SA2016.08            That the Synod Assembly approves bringing Resolution B – Resolution Supporting Muslim Neighbors to the assembly for consideration.**

The resolution was discussed. It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution. The motion *carried*.

**SA2016.09            That the 2016 Northwest Washington Synod encourage congregations to seek greater understanding of the situation of Muslims in America, especially in Washington State; and**

**To speak out against Islamophobia and actions which denigrate**

**people because of their faith or ethnicity; and**

**To take action to robustly welcome the full participation of Muslims in our communities and society.**

It was moved and seconded to bring Resolution C to the Assembly. The motion *carried*.

**SA2016.10 That the Synod Assembly approves bringing Resolution C – A Statement of Support of Congregational Education Measures Regarding Transgender Individuals to the assembly.**

After some brief discussion, it was moved and seconded to close debate; the motion failed. It was moved and seconded to allow a speaker to the motion to address the issue for a second time. The motion *carried*. It was moved to amend the resolution to include the words ‘To take action to welcome the full participation of those who identify as gender non-binary in our communities and society’. The motion to amend *carried*. It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution as amended. The motion *carried*.

**SA.2016.11 That this Assembly encourages individuals and congregations in the Northwest Washington Synod to educate members, visitors, neighbors and the community about gender identity an expression;**

**to learn about issues facing the transgender community and the political and policy issues that prevent the full inclusion of transgender individuals;**

**to encourage lay and rostered leaders to speak out in support of the transgender community and people of non-binary gender identities and expressions;**

**to take action to welcome the full participation of those who identify as gender non-binary n our communities and society; and**

**to advocate against Washington Initiative 1515, which would repeal our state’s non-discrimination protections that for 10 years have helped ensure our transgender family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors are treated fairly and equally under the law.**

It was moved and seconded to bring Resolution D – Advocating Black Lives Matter to the Assembly. The motion *carried*.

**SA2016.12 That the Synod Assembly approves bringing Resolution D – Advocating Black Lives Matter to the assembly for consideration.**

It was moved and seconded to amend by striking 2 and 3 of the resolves. Following discussion, Pr Berg noted that the time allotted had been used and requested consensus of the assembly to extend the time by 5 minutes. The assembly agreed. It was moved in resolve 2 to strike the the word 'support' and replace with 'study' and in resolve 3 replace the word 'action' with 'study'. It was moved and seconded to move the previous question. The motion *carried*.

A member of the assembly called for the question. It was moved and seconded to end debate. The motion *carried*. It was moved and seconded to refer the matter to the Synod Council; the motion failed. It was moved and seconded to approve the original motion without amendments. The motion *carried*.

**SC2016.13                    That the Northwest Washington Synod memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly:**

- 1. To request that the ELCA affirm that BLACK LIVES MATTER;**
- 2. To request that the ELCA support the 10 point policy solutions of the Campaign Zero (an advocacy effort of activists, protesters and reaches) as a faithful expression of public church and advocacy;**
- 3. To request that the ELCA encourage all congregations to engage the 10-point policy solutions in education, lobbying, and direct action.**

**BISHOP'S REFLECTIONS**

Bishop Unti thanked the members of the assembly for their hard work over the past two days, and for their spirit of faithfulness. The bishop thanked the staff for the work of preparing for the event and announced that the offering from the assembly of \$4,470.20.

Bishop Unti thanked Dianne Johnson, Associate in Ministry for her work as Assembly Coordinator and presented her with a gift. Dianne reminded members of the assembly to recycle paper materials as they left the hall and to take their own belongings with them as they left.

Bishop Unti, Diaconal Minister Jan Cherry, and Pastor Ivar Hillesland led the assembly in a closing prayer and song.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bishop Unti declared the 2016 Synod Assembly adjourned at 4:42 pm.