

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

***Always being made New***

**Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 16 – 18, 2013  
Lynnwood, Washington**



**THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2013**

**PLENARY 1**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The twenty-sixth annual Synod Assembly of the Northwest Washington Synod was called to order by Bishop Wm Chris Boerger at 1 pm. The first order of the day was to test the electronic voting devices.

**CREDENTIALS REPORT 1**

Debi Gatto, Glendale Lutheran, Burien, Assembly Registrar, reported that 180 voting members were present.

**QUORUM**

Bishop Boerger 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 Lutheran, Seattle moved adoption of the Standing Rules. A two-thirds majority is required to adopt. Bishop Boerger pointed out that a new rule this year would allow those clergy on disability to register as voting members. The Standing Rules were **adopted**.

**SA2013.01**                    **That the Standing Rules of the 2013 Synod Assembly are adopted as presented.**

**ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

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

**SA2013.02**                    **That the 2013 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly Agenda is approved as presented.**

### **NOMINATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

The Rev Linda Larson, Edison Lutheran, Bow, Secretary of the Synod and Chair of the Nominations Committee, announced that nominations for the Consultation and Discipline committees of the Synod would be accepted until 4 pm. Two clergy and two lay members are needed for both the Consultation Committee and the Discipline Committee.

### **ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR**

The Rev Paul Stumme-Diers, Bethany Lutheran, Bainbridge Island, Assembly Coordinator, greeted the assembly and thanked the many people who contributed to the event planning.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Bishop Boerger introduced guests at the assembly, including the Rev Dr Phyllis Anderson of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, who is on the roster of the Northwest Washington Synod; the Rev Mark Nelson, Region 1 Coordinator; and Bishop Martin Wells of the Eastern Washington – Idaho Synod.

### **GREETINGS**

Roberta Nestaas of Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) greeted the assembly and thanked the synod for our partnership. Ms Nestaas also thanked Bishop Boerger for his advocacy on behalf of LCSNW during his tenure as bishop.

Tom Krise, President of Pacific Lutheran University, brought greetings to the assembly and talked about the many ways the university is connected with the larger church.

The Rev Paul Benz brought greetings from the Faith Action Network. He thanked the members of the assembly for their participation and enthusiasm for this work.

### **REFERENCE & COUNSEL 1**

The Rev G. Mark Griffith, Mount Si Lutheran, North Bend, Chair of the Reference & Counsel Committee, moved adoption of Resolution D, a memorial to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly in support of legislation prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The motion to adopt *passed* with 294 votes in favor and 30 against.

#### **SA2013.03**

**RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call upon Congress to take up and pass legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity while providing for religious exemptions; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, to urge the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, synodical bishops, clergy, and other church leaders to speak publicly in support of legislation that would prohibit employment**

**discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity while providing for religious exemptions; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to urge lay leaders to make this Assembly's position and the ELCA's position known to their Members of Congress in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate.**

#### **PORTICO BENEFITS**

Terri Endres, Portico's Regional Representative for Regions 1 and 3, congratulated the synod for achieving more than sixty-five percent participation in the Health Risk Assessment once again, resulting in two percent savings for all congregations in medical coverage premiums and an award of one percent to the Synod as a whole to support wellness issues. Bishop Boerger reported that the Synod Council has authorized the synod to use a portion of the one percent award to provide Fitbit Trackers to covered plan members.

Terri also talked about changes to the ELCA Health Care Plan as new legislation takes effect later this year. From one option now, the plan will expand to offer four options. Terri reported that Portico's price for the new plans will be about 14 percent lower than other exchange plans because of little change in the pool of covered plan members and efficiency in how Portico provides coverage. Enrollment in the new plans will open on October 1.

#### **RECESS**

The bishop declared a recess at 2:25 pm and asked members to be back in their seats at 2:50 pm.

## **PLENARY 2**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 2:50 pm, welcoming Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson who will be the Keynote Speaker for the Assembly and conduct the election of the next bishop. Bishop Boerger welcomed Bishop Hanson's wife Ione, also attending the assembly.

#### **CREDENTIALS REPORT 1**

Debi Gatto, Assembly Registrar, reported that 304 voting members were present.

#### **CELEBRATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Rev Jim Rismiller, retired and the Rev Tom Kidd, St Luke's Lutheran, Bellevue issued an invitation to everyone to attend the buffet celebration this evening at Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood in honor of Bishop Boerger, with Opening Worship of the 2013 Assembly following. Bishop Hanson will preach at the opening worship.

### **BISHOP ELECTION PROCESS**

Bishop Boerger turned the gavel over to Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, who will chair the portions of the assembly that involve the election of the new bishop. Bishop Hanson talked about the nature of the process, likening it to the call process within a congregation: engaging in study and prayer and in conversation/discussion about the environment for ministry in the Synod. Bishop Hanson also talked about the role of the synod Bishop: pastor, evangelist, witness in the world, servant leader, chief ecumenical officer, witness to the unity of Christ, connecting to the other ministries of the church, public leader (both on behalf of and alongside us), steward, administrator, and overseer of the resources of this Synod.

The Rev Paul Hoffman, Phinney Ridge Lutheran, Seattle serves as Chair of the Bishop Election Task Force. Paul thanked the members of the Task Force and introduced the fifteen remaining nominees for bishop of this synod. A handout containing information on the nominees is available, one copy per congregation; the information is also posted on the synod website. Pastor Hoffman described the remaining steps in the process. Bishop Hanson shared scripture and led the assembly in prayer.

Bishop Hanson returned the gavel to Bishop Boerger. Bishop Boerger introduced David Johnson, First Lutheran, Mount Vernon, who will serve as the Parliamentarian for the assembly. David is also a member of the Synod Council.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The Rev Linda Larson presented Amendment 70 for consideration by the assembly. The assembly changed the constitution in 2012 to allow the Synod Council to appoint the Synod Treasurer, rather than requiring election by the assembly. Proposed amendment 70 conforms S9.07 to that change and requires a simple majority to adopt. The amendment was *adopted* with a vote of 329 in favor, 3 against.

**SA2013.04**            **That the 2013 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly approves Amendment 70 to the Synod Constitution & Bylaws:**

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

On behalf of the Synod Council, Linda moved adoption of Amendment 71, which revises Bylaws S9.11.01 and S9.11.02 to conform with the change in how the Synod Treasurer is selected. The amendment was *adopted* with a vote of 333 in favor and none against.

**SA2013.05**            **That the 2013 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly approves Amendment 71 to the Synod Constitution & Bylaws:**

**S9.11.01.        The order of election of officers shall be bishop, vice**

**president, and secretary, ~~and treasurer~~. The order of other elections shall be as determined by the Synod Council.**

- S9.11.02. The vice president, and secretary, ~~and treasurer~~ 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.**

#### **KEYNOTE 1**

Bishop Hanson's three keynote addresses will focus on the three expressions of the church, beginning with congregations, and using the theme *Always Being Made New – 25 Years Together*. The priority for the next three years will be to call every congregation into prayerful consideration of the context of that congregation. Bishop Hanson referred to a contagious disease that is present in the church: nostalgia for a past that really didn't exist. He pointed out that nostalgia acts as a temporary buffer against the dislocating effects of social change. The Bishop asked the assembly to consider whether their congregation is smitten by the contagious disease of nostalgia or if they are nurtured by memories of the past and strengthened for the mission in their context now.

Bishop Hanson encouraged members of the assembly to learn from the living narrative that shapes us for doing God's work in the world; to look for the non-anxious presence in their congregations, in their context, who reminds us as a congregation to *fear not*. Bishop Hanson invited members of the assembly to discuss with one another what narrative runs through their ministry and answer the question *How is your congregation writing the next chapter in the Book of Acts?*

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bishop Boerger asked those serving communion at tonight's worship to meet Pastor Katy McCallum Sachse at the baptismal font at 6:30 this evening. The bishop provided directions to Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood for the celebration and opening worship of the assembly.

In addition, the bishop reminded that the deadline for nominations and for the submission of resolutions is at 4 pm today. Voting members were reminded to turn in their voting devices as they leave the assembly hall.

#### **RECESS**

Bishop Boerger declared the assembly in recess until 8:30 am tomorrow.

### **CELEBRATION**

Members of the assembly, guests, and friends gathered at Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood for an hors d'oeuvre buffet, followed by a 'roast' of Bishop Boerger, celebrating his twelve years as bishop of this synod.

### **OPENING WORSHIP**

Bishop Hanson preached and Bishop Boerger presided at the opening worship of the 2013 Synod Assembly. Members of the synod administrative staff and synod council assisted with communion distribution. The children's choir of Grace Chinese Lutheran, Seattle sang, as did a volunteer choir made up of members from congregations within the synod. Cliff Bronson, Associate in Ministry, Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood, served as Lector.



**FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013**

### **PLENARY 3**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 8:30 am and led the opening prayer for the second day of this assembly. He thanked Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood for their hospitality on Thursday evening.

#### **CREDENTIALS REPORT 3**

Debi Gatto, Assembly Registrar, reported that 345 voting members were registered.

Bishop Boerger transferred the gavel to Bishop Hanson. Bishop Hanson prayed with the assembly for the nominees for bishop and welcomed Pr Paul Hoffman to the podium to lead the question and answer process.

Pastor HoffmanPaul explained the process for this first session with the nominees. The order in which the candidates spoke was established by random selection. Each candidate responded to the following:

- What is the most pressing ministry concern for our synod, and what are your plans for addressing it as our next bishop?
- How will you make Christ known in your ministry as our bishop?
- Invitation to address the assembly.

Following the Question & Answer session, the assembly expressed their gratitude to the 15 nominees. Pastor Hoffman led the assembly in prayer and the singing of the doxology.

Bishop Hanson returned to the podium to preside over the first ballot. He invited the assembly to a time of silent reflection prior to the distribution of the first ballot. Voting members were asked

to strike the name of Ruben Duran from the ballot, as he has withdrawn his name from consideration.

Bishop Hanson prayed with the assembly, wearing his bishop election prayer shawl. The assembly sang a hymn and members were asked to vote in silence until the balloting was declared closed.

Bishop Hanson called for a credentials report. Debi Gatto, Assembly Registrar reported that 421 voting members were registered.

Written ballots were distributed. Bishop Hanson called for voting to begin on Ballot 1 at 10:44 am. The bishop declared voting closed at 10:46 am. Bishop Hanson returned the gavel to Bishop Boerger, who declared the assembly to be in recess until 11:05 am.

## **PLENARY 4**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 11:05 am.

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

Georganne Robertson made her report to the assembly, speaking about the role of the Vice President within the synod. The synod has had six Vice Presidents in our 25 years and four bishops (counting the bishop who will be elected at this assembly). Georganne noted that the word synod means 'walking together'.

### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Karen Dicken, Peace Lutheran, Silvana, Treasurer of the synod gave her report. The budget was tight in the past fiscal year but the synod was able to meet all obligations. We shared 46 percent of undesignated mission support with the Churchwide organization. In the past fiscal year the synod and its congregations and individual members gave \$172,179 to World Hunger. The General Fund balance increased by \$26,000 during FY 2013; an audit has been performed. Copies of the audit report are available on request.

### **2014 BUDGET CAP**

Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Kay Edgerton, Nativity Lutheran, Renton presented the proposed 2014 Budget Cap to the assembly for approval. Kay noted that the spending plan is a template for vision (the spending plan will be presented to the assembly on Saturday) while the Budget Cap is a limit beyond which the synod cannot spend. The 2014 Budget Cap was *adopted* as presented by a vote of 342 in favor and 8 opposed.

### **SA2013.06**

**That the 2013 Synod Assembly directs that the General Fund Budget adopted for Fiscal Year 2014 shall be capped at \$1,575,000, and**

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

**That Fiscal 2014 General Fund receipts in excess of \$1,575,000 shall be disbursed as directed by the Synod Council.**

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Linda Larson reported that nominations for the Consultation and Discipline committees were being distributed by the ushers. Elections are scheduled for Saturday.

#### **MALARIA GRIOT**

Dianne Johnson, Associate in Ministry, Lord of Life Lutheran, Renton is a Malaria *Griot* (storyteller). Malaria was the #2 cause of death in Tanzania and in two years has dropped to #9. Because of the focus on preventing malaria, communities in Tanzania are seeing improved health care overall; health care providers receive more training and are more able to combat other significant killers while taking care of malaria. Mothers are encouraged to bring their children to the medical facility to confirm whether the child has malaria and begin treatment, so children are diagnosed (and treated for) other common diseases that might have been fatal.

Many organizations are working together to end Malaria. Between 1999 and 2010, the death rate in Africa for children under 5 from all causes has dropped by 45 percent. In addition to providing education for families about how to prevent and how to treat malaria, sanitation and clean water are receiving more attention in remote areas. It is not enough to contain malaria. Evidence shows that it has to be eliminated or the disease will become resistant to current treatments and come back stronger than before.

Last year, the Synod Assembly set a goal of raising \$150,000 to fight malaria over three years. In one year, the synod raised more than \$151,000. Dianne encouraged members and congregations to keep lifting up this work. Bishop Boerger challenged the members of the assembly to blow the goal sky-high.

#### **BISHOP ELECTION RESULTS**

Bishop Boerger transferred the gavel to Bishop Hanson, who reported the results of the first balloting for bishop. A total of 395 legal ballots were cast. 297 were required to elect (75%). Because of a tie, nine nominees' names will go forward to the next ballot. Votes were received as indicated:

Kirby Unti	100	Ron Moe-Lobeda	19
Jeff Russell	58	Wayne Bacus	17
Jane Prestbye	40	Kathleen Anderson	14
Deanna Wildermuth	27	Karen Bloomquist	12
David Parks	25	Chris Berry	9
Paul Sundberg	25	Eric Finsand	9
Julie Hutson	19	Marvin Jonasen	2
Rick Jaech	19		

Kirby Unti, Jeff Russell, Jane Prestbye, Deanna Wildermuth, David Parks, Paul Sundberg, Julie Hutson, Rick Jaech, and Ron Moe-Lobeda will move ahead to the next stage of the process.

Bishop Hanson returned the gavel to Bishop Boerger.

### **SEMINARY GREETINGS**

The Rev Julie Josund, Edmonds Lutheran, Edmonds greeted the assembly and reported on Luther Seminary and her work with Contextual Education. This synod has six interns from three seminaries, including Luther, PLTS, and Trinity Seminary. The Rev Jim Lindus, Trinity Lutheran, Freeland is President of the Board of Luther. Bishop Boerger thanked Pastor Lindus for his work on behalf of the whole church; the bishop also thanked Trinity Lutheran, Freeland for sharing Jim with the larger church.

The Rev Dr Phyllis Anderson brought greetings from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS). Dr Anderson thanked the assembly for the synod's financial support and for sending students to PLTS. Bishop Boerger, Clint Person, Mary Carlson, and Brad Berg from this synod are members of the Board of Directors. Dr Anderson noted that this is an important time to support the ELCA seminaries: the need for leaders is great, as large numbers of clergy approach retirement age. At the same time, all ELCA seminaries are struggling financially. PLTS will be joining in a partnership with California Lutheran University. They plan to offer online courses, continue their partnership with the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and continue working toward a partnership with Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) as well.

### **BISHOP'S AWARD**

Bishop Boerger presented the Tenth Annual Bishop's Award to the Rev. Dr. Phyllis Anderson, with this citation:

**For her faithful service as pastor and leader in this church, for service as Director of the Institute for Ecumenical Theological Studies at Seattle University, and for her work as President of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.**

### **RECESS**

Following brief announcements, Bishop Boerger declared the assembly in Recess until 1:30 pm.

## **PLENARY 5**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

Debi Gatto, Assembly Registrar, reported that 425 voting members had registered.

### **KEYNOTE 2**

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson made his second presentation on *Always Being Made New – 25*

*Years Together*, this time focusing on the role of the synods. Referring to the ‘dry bones’ passage in Ezekiel 37, Bishop Hanson said that the synods are the sinews that connect the parts of the church. Engaging the assembly in the leadership of the church, Bishop Hanson asked members of the assembly to discuss what it would take to reach one percent of the unchurched people in this synod.

#### **REPORT OF THE BISHOP**

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

The bishop reported that he and Assistant to the Bishop Jan Nesse made two priorities for the synod: starting new ministries and raising up new leaders. As his service as bishop concludes, the synod has 18 new ministry starts and this synod raises up new leaders not just for this synod but for the whole church.

Regarding our relationships with companion synods, Bishop Boerger reported that Bishop Brauer, who addressed the assembly in 2012, is the acting Archbishop of the Lutheran Church in European Russia and Europe. Bishop Brauer is proving to be a powerful young leader in the church and helping the Russian church bridge a time of significant change. In Ethiopia, the relationship with our companion synod has been close but the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus has suspended their relationship with the ELCA over ELCA decisions about sexuality and rostering of partnered gay and lesbian clergy. The Lutheran World Federation is discussing the Ethiopian church’s action and we wait to see the outcome. In the meantime, we are not able to send funds to our Ethiopian companion synod.

We, the Northwest Washington Synod, are connected with more of the world than just our companion synods: Next year this synod is sending four Young Adults in Global Mission to serve with their brothers and sisters around the world. We are connected within the United States with our partners in the Southwest Texas Synod, led by Bishop Ray Thiemann.

Bishop Boerger thanked the synod officers, Georganne Robertson, Linda Larson, and Karen Dicken, for the leadership they provide to the whole synod. He thanked the members of the Synod Council, who meet six times per year. The bishop thanked the synod staff. In addition, Bishop Boerger thanked his family, in particular his wife DeDe, for their support of his ministry in the church. Bishop Boerger said that he is looking for a new call.

Following the bishop’s report, Georganne called on Mark Griffith of the Reference & Counsel Committee to present a resolution of appreciation for the service of Bishop Boerger; the whereas clauses were included in the body of the motion. The motion was **approved** by acclamation.

**SA2013.07**

**Whereas, the Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger is completing his second term and twelfth year as Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and**

**Whereas, Bishop Boerger has faithfully served the Church and this synod, the region and churchwide through his ministry with the congregations of the synod, the Synod Council, and synod partners, including the Regional Council, the ELCA Conference of Bishops, and the ELCA Church Council; and**

**Whereas, Bishop Boerger has faithfully represented this synod and the ELCA in his participation on the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Directors and the Pacific Lutheran University Board of Regents, and**

**Whereas, Bishop Boerger has promoted cross-synodical relationships with our companion synods in Ethiopia and Russia; and**

**Whereas, Bishop Boerger has provided pastoral care and leadership for the Northwest Washington Synod candidates for rostered ministry, our ordained and other rostered ministers, and lifted up the need to support all church leaders in a holistic manner, and**

**Whereas, Bishop Boerger has officiated at ordinations, commissionings, consecrations, and installations as rostered leadership joined the faithful communities in the wide variety of ministries within the synod, ministry in and with camps, campuses, care centers, congregations and counseling offices, homes, hospitals; and**

**Whereas, Bishop Boerger was faithful to his call to interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church, fostering support for the wide variety of expressions of our synod's evangelical outreach vision in emerging ministries including Luther's Table, Grace Chinese and El Camino de Emmaus; and**

**Whereas, Bishop Boerger has been a voice and a presence both within the church and to the wider community, including the political arena, witnessing to our call to be a public church striving for justice, peace, and the care of creation, now therefore be it**

**Resolved, that we, as members of this twenty-sixth annual assembly of the Northwest Washington Synod, offer our appreciation and gratitude in honor of the twelve years of leadership and service by Wm. Chris Boerger as Synod Bishop; and be it further**

**Resolved, that we, by this action, also offer thanksgiving to God for Bishop Boerger's vision, service, and faithful discipleship; and be it finally**

**Resolved, that we bestow upon Bishop Boerger and all with whom he continues to share life and ministry, the boundless blessings of Almighty God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and give thanks for the ongoing service Bishop Boerger will bring to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church and to the Lord of that church in whom we have life and salvation, now and forever.**

Georganne returned the gavel to Bishop Boerger, who in turn passed the gavel to Bishop Hanson to continue the process of electing a new bishop of the synod.

#### **BISHOP NOMINEE SPEECHES**

Pr Paul Hoffman reported that each candidate would be given five minutes to speak to the assembly. Following those speeches, Bishop Hanson explained that in the morning the assembly will divide into three groups to hear from candidates and identified for the members of the assembly how to find their group. The assembly recognized the candidates for Bishop with a standing ovation. Bishop Hanson returned the gavel to Bishop Boerger.

#### **RECESS**

Bishop Boerger declared the assembly in Recess until 3:50 pm.

## **PLENARY 6**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 3:50 pm.

#### **RECOGNITION OF CONGREGATIONS**

Bishop Boerger congratulated the members of these congregations of the synod on significant milestone anniversaries: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Issaquah, 25 Years; Hope Lutheran, Lynden, 50 Years; Oak Harbor Lutheran, Oak Harbor, 75 Years; Bethany Lutheran, Bainbridge Island and Salem Lutheran, Mount Vernon, 100 Years; and Fir-Conway Lutheran, Mount Vernon, 125 Years. The assembly gave these congregations and their leadership a round of applause.

#### **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

Debi Gatto, Assembly Registrar, reported that 426 voting members had registered.

#### **BISHOP BALLOTING 2**

Bishop Boerger transferred the gavel to Bishop Hanson. Bishop Hanson announced that the Assembly would be voting for bishop using the electronic devices; two-thirds of valid votes cast were needed to elect. The assembly prayerfully sang, listened to Scripture, and prayed with Bishop Hanson before voting.

Bishop Hanson declared the voting closed. Bishop Hanson returned the gavel to Bishop Boerger.

### **GREETINGS**

Noreen Kloster, Bethlehem, Marysville, President of the Northwest Washington Synod Women of the ELCA brought greetings to the assembly and announced the Region 1 gathering of synodical women scheduled for June in Oregon. Bishop Boerger thanked Noreen for her faithful partnership, on behalf of the synodical women's group, with the Synod Council.

Sue Carlson, Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood and President of the Lutheran Staff Association brought greetings from the association and encouraged congregation leaders to support continuing education for administrative staff.

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

Synod Secretary, the Rev Linda Larson, Edison, Bow referred the assembly to her written report in the meeting packet.

### **ELECTIONS**

Two positions on the Consultation Committee for lay persons require election. Jan Cherry, Diaconal Minister, Bethany, Seattle and Penny Lefavre, Light of the Cross Lutheran, Bothell were nominated. The assembly **elected** Jan Cherry and Penny Lefavre by acclamation.

Mia Baumgartner, Immanuel Lutheran, Seattle; Diana Bottin, Trinity Lutheran, Kirkland; Dan Sorensen, Holy Cross Lutheran, Bellevue; Diane Hastings, Advent Lutheran, Mill Creek; and Susan Hookham, St John's Lutheran, Bellingham were nominated for two clergy vacancies on the Consultation Committee. The assembly was asked to vote for two, using electronic devices.

Two positions on the Discipline Committee for lay persons require election. Kathy Stuehrenberg, Our Saviour's Lutheran, Arlington and Anne Kuntz, Edison Lutheran, Bow were nominated. The assembly **elected** Kathy Stuehrenberg and Anne Kuntz by acclamation.

Jocelyn Carson, Trinity Lutheran, Everett was nominated for one of two clergy positions on the Discipline Committee; the assembly **elected** Pr Carson by acclamation.

### **REFERENCE & COUNSEL**

Mark Griffith, Chair of the Reference & Counsel Committee moved adoption of Resolution A, Accompaniment, Awareness-raising & Advocacy for the People of Holy Land, with an amendment to the third Resolved clause, removing the words 'and recommending their adoption by Portico'. The resolution was **adopted** by a vote of 325 in favor, 41 opposed. Bishop Boerger asked that the acronym in the first Resolved clause be spelled out in the minutes.

### **SA2013.08**

**BE IT RESOLVED that we affirm *Peace Not Walls* as the means by which the ELCA implements its strategy for engagement in the Holy Land conflict, and affirm our support for sisters and brothers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land as they**

**remain faithful to the Gospel amid the oppression of Israeli military occupation; and further**

**BE IT RESOLVED that we encourage our members to listen to the cries of our Palestinian sisters and brothers through study of the *Kairos Palestine* document; to visit the region and speak directly with Israelis and Palestinians; and to seek resources like those provided by *Peace Not Walls* that share current, reliable information about the situation; and further**

**BE IT RESOLVED that we memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to commit to socially responsible economic practices by 1) developing social-criteria investment screens that pertain specifically to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; 2) urging members with money invested in Portico to make individual choices about how their retirement funds are invested, to avoid support of companies that benefit from the occupation; 3) urging individuals to invest in Palestinian economic endeavors and to avoid products and services provided by companies, such as Ahava, Sodastream and Hewlett Packard, that benefit from or support Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory; and further**

**BE IT RESOLVED that we ask our newly elected bishop and the members of our Synod to contact their representatives in Congress, urging them—as requested in last October's letter from 15 Christian leaders—to hold hearings examining whether Israel's use of U.S. financial aid violates the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act and Arms Export Control Act.**

#### **ELECTION RESULTS**

Results of the election for two clergy positions on the Consultation Committee of the synod were reported. Mia Baumgartner received 260 votes; Daniel Sorensen received 192 votes; Diane Hastings received 113 votes; Diana Bottin received 104 votes; and Susan Hookham received 52 votes. Bishop Boerger declared Mia Baumgartner and Daniel Sorensen **elected**.

The results of the second ballot for bishop were announced. 404 votes were received; 400 were legal; 268 votes needed for election (2/3): Kirby Unti – 146 votes; Jeff Russell – 76 votes; Jane Prestbye – 41 votes; Julie Hutson – 39 votes; Paul Sundberg – 30 votes; David Parks – 23 votes; Deanna Wildermuth – 18 votes; Ron Moe-Lobeda – 15 votes; and Rick Jaech – 12 votes. Unti, Russell, and Prestbye will continue in the process.

#### **REFERENCE & COUNSEL**

Resolution E, a memorial in support of the Uniting American Families Act, was presented to the assembly by Mark Griffith, speaking on behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, who moved adoption of the resolution. The resolution was **adopted** by a vote of 292 in favor, 50 voting against.

SA2013.08

**RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod, in Assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call upon President Obama and elected officials in Congress to support and to press for passage of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFSA) or its equivalent as a component of comprehensive immigration reform; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that if a bill for comprehensive immigration reform is passed before the start of the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, and if the bill does not include UAFSA or its equivalent, the Northwest Washington Synod, meeting in assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to call for the reintroduction of UAFSA in the U.S. legislature; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod, meeting in assembly, memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage the clergy and other leaders of congregations in this church to support the Uniting American Families Act by communicating with their elected representatives, encouraging them to co-sponsor and to support a just, comprehensive reform of U.S. immigration law that includes the principles of UAFSA.**

#### **WORSHIP**

The members of the assembly gathered for worship on the second day of the assembly, with the Rev Nancy Winder preaching and the Rev Jan Nesse presiding. At the completion of worship the bishop declared the assembly in recess until 8:30 am on Saturday.



**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013**

#### **PLENARY 7**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order following a brief service of prayer and song at 8:30 am. He then relinquished the gavel to Bishop Hanson for further bishop election activity.

#### **BISHOP ELECTION**

Bishop Hanson asked the assembly to recognize the splendid work of Pr Paul Hoffman as chair of the Bishop Election Task Force. The assembly responded with a standing ovation. Pastor Hoffman explained the process for the three break-out sessions meeting with the three remaining candidates for bishop. Following a time of scripture and prayer, Bishop Hanson dismissed the

assembly to the small group conversations.

The assembly re-gathered at 10:00 am

#### **REPORT OF OFFERINGS**

Bishop Boerger reported that the offering on Thursday was \$3,806 and on Friday was \$1,855.

#### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Bishop Boerger introduced Bishop Hanson for his third keynote address on *Always Being Made New – 25 Years Together* – the Churchwide Expression.

Following the presentation, Bishop Boerger asked members of the Bishop's Election Task Force to come forward for recognition. The members were introduced to the assembly and thanked for their work on the election process: the Rev Paul Hoffman, Phinney Ridge, Seattle; Arletta Anderson, Associate in Ministry, Queen Anne, Seattle; the Rev Dick Christensen, retired, Our Savior, Issaquah; the Rev Jim Schoeld, retired, Immanuel, Seattle; Herman Siqueland, Edmonds, Edmonds; John Soine, Our Saviour's, Bellingham; and Georganne Robertson (ex-officio).

#### **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

Debi Gatto, Assembly Registrar, reported that 427 voting members had registered.

#### **BISHOP BALLOTING 3**

Bishop Boerger turned the gavel over to Bishop Hanson. Following a time of prayer, scripture, and song, Bishop Hanson directed the members of the assembly to vote for bishop. 60 percent of the vote is needed to elect. The results were announced. 390 legal votes were cast; 234 votes needed to elect. Kirby Unti received 183 votes, Jeff Russell received 109 votes and Jane Prestbye received 98 votes. Bishop Hanson declared that there was no election and that Unti and Russell would continue to the fourth ballot. The gavel was returned to Bishop Boerger.

#### **RECESS**

The assembly recessed to prepare for worship.

#### **CELEBRATION WORSHIP**

Bishop Boerger preached and Pr Jerry Buss presided at the celebration worship.

#### **LUNCH**

Following worship, the assembly was dismissed for lunch and asked to return for Plenary 8 at 1:30 pm.

## **PLENARY 8**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order after a brief service of prayer and song at 1:30 pm.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bishop Boerger called attention to the new book by Pastor Mary Lindberg, Compass Housing Alliance, entitled Graceful Exit.
- A representative from the Lutheran Choral Association of Snohomish County called attention to a summer joint choir opportunity.
- The video on the Macedonia Project is available on the synod website for local use.

## RECOGNITION

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

<b>Associates in Ministry, 35 years:</b>		Paul A. Anderson Erma Lee Patricia Moylan
<b>Ordained Minister</b>		
<b>25 years:</b>	David Parks Jerry Buss Joel Lohafer	Lewis Benson Michael Ross Tom Hamren
<b>35 years:</b>	Chris Boerger Phil Reitz	Kirby Unti Phyllis Anderson
<b>50 years:</b>	Donald Smith Leonard Ericksen	Isaiah Chow Robert Roiko
<b>55 years:</b>	Charles Vedell Earnest Pihl James Fergin James Braaten	Norris Swenson Paul Gabrielsen Stuart Lundahl
<b>60 years:</b>	Peter Beckman Robert Schultz William Hutter	
<b>65 years:</b>	Robert Peterson	
<b>70 years:</b>	Harald Sigmar	

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELCA

Bishop Hanson introduced the video made to help celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Following the airing of the video, Bishop Hanson noted that the church is sponsoring *God's Work – Our Hands Sunday* on September 8<sup>th</sup>

(or another Sunday that is convenient for congregations) as a time for congregations to step out in service in their communities in further celebration of this anniversary.

#### **BISHOP HANSON Q & A**

Bishop Hanson answered a variety of questions from the floor about interfaith relations, funding theological education, what message to post on a reader board, vocational identity of pastors, and the future of Roman Catholic-Lutheran dialogue.

#### **RECOGNITION**

Bishop Boerger asked Bishop Hanson to join him and the assembly in honoring Mark Johnson for his six years of service on the ELCA Church Council and Tony Rhodes, seminarian, serving as the young adult member of the ELCA Church Council. Mark Johnson talked about his experience on the ELCA Church Council.

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Pr Tor Berg, First, Bothell and Chair of the synod's Constitution and Legal Matters Committee reminded congregations that constitutions approved prior to 2011 are out of date and should be reviewed, revised, and submitted for review.

#### **2014 SPENDING PLAN**

Deanna Wildermuth, Holy Trinity, Mercer Island, Chair of the Synod Finance Committee, moved adoption of the 2014 Budget Proposal. The motion to approve *carried* with a vote of 320 in favor and 13 against.

**SA2013.09            That the 2013 Synod Assembly adopts the 2014 General Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2014 as presented.**

#### **REFERENCE & COUNSEL 2**

Pr Mark Griffith, speaking on behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, moved adoption of Resolution C, A Memorial Calling for Conversations about Ministering to Same Gender Couples and Families. Following discussion, it was moved and seconded to call for the question; the vote was 279 in favor and 51 against. The motion to adopt *carried* by a vote of 308 in favor and 44 against.

**SA2013.10            RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:**

- 1. to invite and encourage conversations among this church's congregations, rostered leaders, and the Conference of Bishops regarding the growing trend in state and federal laws towards marriage equality and how all the expressions of the ELCA can respond to the needs of the neighbor, including discussion and sharing of resources that would be most helpful for those wishing to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and couples and their families as we seek to grow into this new reality;**

2. **to invite and encourage conversations among this church's congregations, rostered leaders, and the Conference of Bishops regarding ways that this church can advocate for equal protection under the law for same-gender couples and their families; and**
3. **to invite and encourage the ELCA Church Council and the churchwide organization to make provision for Voting Members to engage in these conversations at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, as the church continues to discern its ministry in the emerging context.**

#### **GREETINGS**

Danielle Dadashi, Holy Spirit, Kirkland and Chair of the Synod Children, Youth & Family Committee brought greetings from the committee. The Rev. Joel Wudel brought greetings from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to the assembly. This synod has investments of \$11 million and loans of \$7 million.

#### **BISHOP ELECTION**

Bishop Mark Hanson again took possession of the gavel to direct the election process. The two remaining nominees, Kirby Unti and Jeff Russell, presented five-minute speeches to the assembly. Bishop Hanson then returned the gavel to Bishop Boerger, who recessed the assembly until 3:30 pm.

## **PLENARY 9**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 3:30 pm.

#### **FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT**

Debi Gatto, Assembly Registrar, delivered the final credentials report for the assembly:

Voting Members		427
Clergy	167	
Lay	260	
Lay Voting Members		260
Male	119	
Female	141	
Persons of Color or whose Language is other than English		19
Youth/Young Adults		25

Observers	11
Visitors	30
Volunteers	countless

### **ELECTION OF THE BISHOP**

The gavel was turned over to Bishop Hanson for the fourth and final vote for bishop. Bishop Hanson again led the assembly in song, scripture, and prayer. A simple majority is required for election. A total of 381 votes were cast. Jeff Russell received 151 votes and Kirby Unti received 230 votes. Bishop Hanson declared that Kirby Unti was elected as the next bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod. He thanked Pastor Russell and the people of St. Matthew, Renton. Bishop-elect Unti was greeted with acclamation by the gathered members of the synod. Bishop-elect Unti introduced his family: wife, Kim and daughters, Karman, Seong, Brianna, and Vanessa. Bishop Hanson thanked the assembly for their participation in this call process. The gavel was returned to Bishop Boerger.

### **THANKS FOR BISHOP HANSON**

A gift of children's books, with titles from Pacific Northwest authors, was presented to Bishop Hanson for reading to his grandchildren.

### **REFERENCE & COUNSEL 3**

Mark Griffith moved adoption of Resolution B – Urging Divestment from Fossil Fuel Corporations. A replacement resolution was distributed to voting members. Following discussion the Previous Question was moved; the vote for 268 in favor and 52 against. Debate was closed. The assembly voted 191 in favor and 130 against the replacement resolution as presented. The resolution *carried*.

### **SA2013.11**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod memorialize the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to request the Corporate Social Responsibility Team of the churchwide organization, in consultation with Portico, to investigate and make recommendations to the Church Council concerning 1) expanding the existing environmental screens to name the fossil fuel extraction and production industry as one which damages the environment and 2) recommending reinvestment in the alternative energy industry.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Church Council act upon such recommendations by May 1, 2014 and report its actions to the 2014 Synod Assemblies.**

### **BISHOP'S REFLECTIONS**

Bishop Boerger spoke of the good work of the assembly in calling a new bishop and made final comments about concluding his twelve years as Bishop. He recognized Paul Rieke, Faith, Seattle who served as the first Vice President of this Synod.

**THANKS**

Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, thanked Pastor Paul Stumme-Diers, Assembly Coordinator for his work on the assembly and presented him with a gift. Paul expressed his thanks to the assembly for the opportunity to serve and encouraged their participation in further events. He noted that members would be receiving an e-mail survey about the assembly.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Christ Lutheran, Ferndale is selling a book of devotions for the season of Pentecost.

**CLOSING**

Bishop Boerger led the assembly in a brief liturgy for the closing of the assembly and declared the assembly closed at 4:26 pm. Bishop Hanson led the assembly in a sending prayer for Bishop Boerger and his wife DeDe.