

**Northwest Washington Synod Twenty-fourth Annual Assembly**  
***Help Them Touch Jesus' Garment***  
**Friday and Saturday, May 13 – 14, 2011**  
**Lynnwood, Washington**



**Friday, May 13, 2011**

**OPENING WORSHIP**

The twenty-fourth annual Synod Assembly of the Northwest Washington Synod opened with worship at 10:00 am, with Bishop Wm Chris Boerger preaching and the Rev Jianhua Jimmy Hao, Grace Chinese, Seattle presiding. Following worship, Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 11:10 am, calling for a 10-minute break.

**PLENARY 1**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The bishop called the assembly back to order at 11:26 am. In the absence of the Synod Secretary, Pr Wesley Howell, Curt Eidem, Light of the Cross, Bothell and member of Synod Council will serve as Secretary Pro-Tem. The bishop announced that Pr Bev Piro, Phinney Ridge, Seattle and a member of the Synod Council will make the Secretary's Report to the Assembly.

**CREDENTIALS REPORT 1**

Registrar Kathy Stuehrenberg, Our Saviour's, Arlington, gave the initial credentials report of 90 ordained clergy, 196 lay persons, 13 observers, and 73 visitors registered and present.

**QUORUM**

Bishop Boerger declared a quorum and the assembly is in session.

**ELECTRONIC VOTING**

With the assistance of technicians, the bishop introduced the process.

**STANDING RULES**

Vice President Georganne Robertson, Queen Anne, Seattle, speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, moved adoption of the Standing Rules. The motion to approve *carried* with a vote of 281 for and 2 against.

**SA2011.01**

**The Standing Rules of the 2011 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 to approve *carried* with a vote of 276 for and 7 against.

**SA2011.02                    That the Assembly Agenda is approved as presented.**

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Bishop Boerger introduced guests of the assembly: the Rev Twila Schock, Global Missions Unit of the Churchwide organization and the Rev Dr Steven Churchill of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Others will be introduced as the assembly proceeds.

## **NOMINATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Kay Edgerton, Nativity, Renton, speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, announced that there will be election of members of the Discipline and Consultation Committees; nominations remain open until noon and nominations must have the agreement to serve of the person being nominated. Resolutions may also be submitted until noon to the Secretary Pro Tem

## **RECOGNITION**

Bishop Boerger introduced rostered leaders of the synod who are being honored for their years of service; Helen Farrell died in December 2010 and her certificate was presented to her daughter.:

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination  
Charles Bomgren  
John Recher

35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination  
Christen Anderson  
G. Lee Kluth  
Nancy Winder

35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Commissioning  
Inez Hushagen

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Commissioning  
Cliff Bronson  
Cheryl Kulas  
Helen Farrell

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination  
Darrell Schoen  
David Angersbach  
Donald Hefty  
Paul Stone  
Roger Patrow  
Theodore (Duane) Jensen

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination  
Erik Kindem  
Jim Lindus

Bishop Boerger honored these congregations for their many years of ministry: Holy Cross, Bellevue, 50 Years; Our Savior, Issaquah, 50 Years; and First, Bothell, 125 Years.

Those ordained during the past year include: Pastor Suzanne Paulus, First, Mount Vernon; Pastor Matthew Maas, Gloria Dei, Alderwood Manor; and Pastor Jason Lukis, Grace, Des Moines.

New to Synod Since Last Assembly include Pastor Chris & Associate in Ministry Megan Hogstad from Eastern North Dakota; Pastor Drahomir Oslík from Northeastern Pennsylvania; Pastor Tor Berg from Eastern Washington-Idaho; Pastor Rachel Bass-Guennewig from Central-Southern Illinois; Pastor Laurin Vance from Indiana-Kentucky; Pastor Liza Okan from Southwestern Minnesota; Pastor Jeffrey Spencer from Southwestern Washington; and Pastors Karen Bloomquist and William Strehlow from Metro Chicago.

Those doing their internship in the synod this year include John Simonson, Edmonds Lutheran; Kathryn Emery, Central, Everett; Rachel Simonson, Trinity, Lynnwood; Ryan Cosgrove, St John United & LPO; Ethan Hulme, Our Redeemer's, Seattle; and Justin Mootz, First Richmond Beach.

Those rostered leaders who have retired within the past year: Pastor Steve Nelsen; Pastor Eduardo Cabrera; Pastor John Clauson; Mrs Clara Griffin, Associate in Ministry; and Pastor Mark Reitan.

#### **ASSEMBLY CO-COORDINATORS**

Carolyn Norton, St Luke's, Bellevue, and Debi Gatto, Glendale, Burien, 2011 Assembly Co-ordinators were introduced, welcomed members of the assembly and announced that there will be incentives for visiting the display area, located downstairs.

#### **LUNCH**

The bishop declared the assembly in recess for lunch at 12 pm.

### **PLENARY 2**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly back to order at 1:32 pm.

#### **CREDENTIALS REPORT 2**

Registrar Kathy Stuehrenberg reported that 316 voting members had registered.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lee Bjorklund, Synod Mission Interpreter Coordinator, spoke about the work of the Mission Interpreters in the synod and the need for a Mission Interpreter from each congregation. Lee invited members of the assembly to visit with him at his table in the display area.

### **2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS**

Bishop Boerger introduced the Voting Members from the synod to the Churchwide Assembly being held this August in Orlando, Florida. Those present at this time included Georganne Robertson, Queen Anne, Seattle; Pr Kevin Bates, Advent, Mill Creek; Elaine Harrison, Faith, Seattle; Pr Kirby Unti, St Matthew, Renton; Kim Unti, St Matthew, Renton; Mark Kremen, University, Seattle; and the bishop.

### **CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE**

Bishop Boerger introduced the Rev Twila Schock, ELCA Global Mission Support Director. Twila talked about her background in the church and discussed the atmosphere at the Chicago offices of the Churchwide organization where there have been significant personnel cuts over the past year. Pr Schock introduced a video presentation by Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. Pr Schock also spoke about how mission support from congregations is used throughout the larger church.

### **REPORT OF THE BISHOP**

The bishop temporarily relinquished the chair of the Assembly to Georganne Robertson, Synod Vice President in order to give his report.

Bishop Boerger thanked the assembly for permitting him to take a sabbatical last summer and said that he was happy to have Jan back from her sabbatical this spring. He commended the members of the Synod Council for their work and introduced those who were present. The bishop thanked the Candidacy Committee for their work and reported that this synod has candidates for all four rosters of the church: Ordained, Diaconal Ministry, Associate in Ministry, and Deaconess. The bishop was in Austin, Texas earlier this week celebrating the completion of seminary work for Emilio Benitez and Esau Cuevas of El Camino de Emaus, Burlington.

The bishop thanked Pr Jerry Buss, Director for Evangelical Mission, for his work with new ministry starts. Bishop Boerger talked about some of the new missions, beginning with Luther's Table in the Compass Housing Alliance redevelopment of the former Renton Lutheran Church property. The bishop also recognized St Matthew, Renton for their support of Luther's Table, which is being developed as a second site ministry of St Matthew's.

The capital campaign, which was authorized by the 2010 Synod Assembly will commence some time during the coming year. The bishop reported he will be interviewing development organizations to select one to run the campaign for the synod.

Bishop Boerger shared that exciting things are happening in our congregations as they reach out and connect with their communities. Others of our congregations have lost touch with their communities and the bishop encouraged engagement with other churches that *are* reaching out. He reminded the assembly that the synod is the people who make up the congregations of the synod. We are not called to be quiet in the corner but to be engaged with the world, to be active in mission in the world. Each congregation, each member is a co-worker with the church down

the street – not competitors. We are not about making more Lutherans, we are about sharing Jesus Christ.

The bishop reported on the work being done with companion synods in Ethiopia and Russia, particularly the work transforming our relationship with the Ethiopian church through the Chicken Hatchery Project. He encouraged Sunday schools to engage in the sale of chickens: how many chickens for Ethiopia can your children buy?

Bishop Boerger talked about his trip with wife DeDe to South Africa while on sabbatical in 2010, meeting up with Pr Michael Nel and his wife Pamela there. They were moved by the joyfulness with which worshipers approached the offering during Sunday services and spoke movingly of the work being done with people suffering from HIV and AIDS in the so-called AIDS Capitol of the World. The bishop talked about the number of children being raised by Gogo's (grandmothers) because their parents have died and spoke about the main development project of one of the areas he visited (the cemetery).

Bishop Boerger also talked about the Emmanuel's Wish Foundation, which he learned about from the Nel's while he was in South Africa; they have a feeding program and provide foster care in South Africa. The bishop asked members of the assembly to visit the display tables downstairs and take advantage of the many opportunities found there for learning more about what can be done to combat the suffering.

The bishop reported that this Sunday, May 15, two congregations are taking their second vote to leave the ELCA (Denny Park, Seattle and Zion, Kent). Four other congregations of this synod have already left the ELCA during the past year. The bishop offered reassurance about where we are going – we don't have a clue where we are going but we know Who will be with us.

Georganne returned the position of chair of the assembly to the bishop following his report.

### **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Kay Edgerton, Nativity, Renton and Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported the nominations for the Consultation Committee. There are two vacancies for clergy and three nominees: Pr Abby d'Ambruso, Faith, Seattle; Pr Scott Brents, Camano, Camano Island; and Doug Stensby, Magnolia, Seattle. There are two vacancies for lay members and three nominees: Sidney Evans, Christ the Servant, Bellingham; Erma Lee, Associate in Ministry, Phinney Ridge, Seattle; and Janet Ray, Faith, Seattle.

Kay announced that the first ballot would take place tomorrow morning and encouraged voting members to review the biographical information.

### **OFFERING**

Bishop Boerger announced the offering from the opening worship was \$3,305.16.

## **GREETINGS**

The Rev Carol Jensen, Chair of the board of the Lutheran Public Policy Office greeted the assembly and asked that they visit the LPPO display table to participate in the Offering of Letters. Pr Jensen also announced that LPPO is in conversation with the Washington Association of Churches about the possible combination of the two organizations in a new statewide ecumenical advocacy organization. The LPPO fundraiser for this year is scheduled for May 22.

## **REFERENCE & COUNSEL 1**

Speaking on behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, Pr Paul Anderson, Chair, moved adoption of Resolution C – A Vision for Evangelism in the Northwest Washington Synod. The motion to approve *carried* with 284 in favor and 6 against.

**SA2011.03**    **Whereas, it is a great time to be a Lutheran if we are willing to claim the gifts that God has generously blessed us with, and commit to approaches that start with a deep appreciation of the assets and gifts present in our people, congregations, institutions and environment, and**

**Whereas, our rich theological traditions are not meant to be hidden, but to be available to people who are struggling to make sense of the world--a world increasingly complicated by the advances in science and technology. The internet has flattened the world creating a scenario that what happens to the Euro in Greece effects the economic stability of the world, and**

**Whereas, daily we are faced with competing values. Do we drill off shore for oil seeking energy independence or do we put an end to this danger-laden method in order to protect the environment? Do we continue to experiment with genetic engineering with all of its potential or do we avoid the potentially devastating use of this science? Do we protect the traditions of our church that we have grown up with or do we incorporate new approaches to doing ministry? and**

**Whereas, Lutheran theology is well equipped to address such challenging issues because tension lies at the very heart of what it means to be a Lutheran. We give attention to the law and the gospel. We confess to being at one and the same time saints and sinners. Our theology has the capacity to help people live in a complicated world where the answers are not always black and white, and**

**Whereas, it is a great time to be a Lutheran because we are part of a global church that partners in facing the issues of world hunger, HIV/AIDs, environmental destruction and that provides relief and redevelopment when**

**natural disasters strike. Our companion Synod relationships with the church in Russia and Ethiopia have created worldwide friendships, and**

**Whereas, it is a great time to be a Lutheran because we are highly respected for the social services that we provide through our hospitals, nursing homes, universities, schools and social service agencies, and**

**Therefore, the time has come for us to change our primary focus. We have spent more than a decade focusing on issues that divide us while constantly calling attention to our decline in numbers. This focus has dampened the spirit of our congregations and specialized ministries.**

**Therefore, our times call for adaptive change. We can no longer rely simply upon new programs or techniques to restore the vitality of our congregations and institutions, rather we must reclaim who we are as a Lutheran people and what it means to do mission in this day and time. Adaptive change will mean wrestling with what it means to be the church rather than going to church. It will challenge us to move from being consumer driven to being intentional communities where people make sacrifices for the sake of the community. It will mean wrestling with how we take our faith experience beyond the four walls of the congregation. Technical changes that maintain a model of attracting people to our churches, even with contemporary music, PowerPoint's, cool webpages and social media, will not be enough.**

**Therefore, what is called for in our day is more of an organic approach rather than a master plan. Master plans do not match up with the rapid rate of change that we are facing. A better fit are organic approaches that do not attempt to pre-determine the future, but make room for flexibility, uncertainty and the Holy Spirit. Organic organizations are not top down, but instead resemble a garden where the soil is prepared, seeds planted, and care given while one waits to see what will thrive and what will die.**

**Therefore, as an act of preparing the soil of our Synod for planting seeds of mission that can bring about new life to the glory of God,**

***Be it resolved* that the Northwest Washington Synod in assembly adopts “A Vision for Evangelism in Northwest Washington” and its companion piece, “Approaches for Consideration” and**

***Be it further resolved* that the Synod Assembly expresses its deep appreciation to the Synod Council which took seriously its role as our Synod's Mission Strategy Table, and appointed a Synod Mission Task Force, and**

***Be it further resolved* that this Assembly gives thanks for the work of the members of that Task Force, including Pastor Kirby Unti, Frances Skeete,**

**Tina Cooper, Pastor Kristy Daniels, Loren Ihle, Jeff Mallinson, Esau Cueves, Larry Johnson, Pastor Chris Berry, Dorothy Baumgartner, and**

***Be it further resolved that this Assembly charge the Synod's Evangelical Outreach Team to be the primary implementers of this Vision for Evangelism, and***

***Be it further resolved that the members of this Assembly commit to helping with implementation, beginning with active participation in the Evangelical Outreach Team's implementation workshops offered on Saturday morning at 9:15 AM at this Assembly.***

Bishop Boerger thanked Pr Jerry Buss for his leadership in this process, and the members of the Mission Strategy Planning Task Force for their faithful work. The bishop pointed out that Pr Buss' salary comes from the larger church, a direct benefit to enabling ministry within this synod.

Speaking on behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, Pr Paul Anderson moved adoption of Resolution A – Term Limits. Bishop Boerger explained that, as Resolution A was, in effect, a constitutional amendment, a second vote on the resolution would be required in 2012 if the vote achieved a two-thirds majority at this assembly. The previous question was called to limit debate. The vote was 194 in favor and 98 against; however, a two-thirds majority was required to limit debate so debate continued. The resolution failed with 147 in favor and 147 against.

### **BREAK**

Bishop Boerger called for a twenty-minute break at 3:30 pm.

## **PLENARY 3**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 3:54 pm.

### **CREDENTIALS REPORT 3**

Registrar Kathy Stuehrenberg reported that a total of 326 voting members had registered for the assembly.

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Dr Jeff Probstfields introduced Dr Ruanne Barnabas of the Department of Global Health at the University of Washington, who was the keynote speaker. Dr Barnabas is a fourth generation east Indian from South Africa who studied in Capetown and Oxford, England.



Dr Barnabas told the assembly the HIV epidemic has changed; more than 33 million people in the world are living with HIV, and two-thirds of those live in sub-Saharan Africa. Of 2.6 million new cases in 2009, 1.8 million were in Africa. With about one in five people in sub-Saharan Africa infected, most simply do not know it. For the first seven to ten years they feel well and few people get tested so they cannot take steps to treat themselves and prevent passing the disease along to others. Two 'markers' of the disease have become key to treatment: immune system function, measured in a decrease of CD4 cells (making the patient susceptible to other infections such as tuberculosis) and 'viral load' – as the virus replicates in the body the amount of infection increases and the disease is more readily transmitted to others. Anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs have been shown to reduce transmission of the disease by 96 percent and allow the immune system to fight other infections. More people are able to live a normal life, contribute to the economic life of the community rather than being a drain, and bear healthy children.

Dr Barnabas plans to conduct trials on HIV-AIDS treatments in urban and rural South Africa, where it has been more difficult to ensure that patients continue with their ARV medications. Some key problems for combating HIV-AIDS in South Africa are testing (people can live for about seven years before they experience symptoms of disease); cost of testing and treatment; ensuring patients follow through with treatment; and reaching rural populations. An exciting test was conducted in Uganda that resulted in 89 percent of the people tested. The team took the simple tests with them into the countryside so that results are available immediately and treatments can begin immediately. They made follow-up visits after one, three and six months to make sure the people have been taking the ARV drugs properly and to retest the viral load.

Dr Barnabas emphasized the economic impact of treating HIV patients – the cost of medication is minimal when compared with the cost of treating people. It is a disease of the generalized population in sub-Saharan Africa, not of homosexuals or illicit drug-users. In America, one of the groups at increased risk now is Baby Boomers who are dating again (the Lutheran church demographic). Dr Barnabas said she was impressed by the synod's involvement in this social issue and expressed her appreciation.

## **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

Georganne Robertson brought her report to the assembly, acknowledging those voting members of the assembly who were attending for the first time. Georganne asked the assembly to acknowledge the members of the Synod Council and thanked members of the council for their work in affirming the vision for evangelism in the synod, approved earlier in the day by the assembly. The council continues to learn as they serve, developing leadership and discernment skills. Georganne emphasized that members of the council want to be in contact with every congregation and ministry in the synod on a regular basis, to share what is happening within the leadership and to learn what is happening at the congregational level. Georganne finished by asking all members of the assembly to attend the evangelism workshops Saturday morning.

## **MALARIA GRIOT**

Dianne Johnson, Associate in Ministry, Lord of Life, Renton has attended ELCA-assisted training to become a Malaria Griot, able to tell the story about malaria and how to eradicate the

disease in Africa, assisted by the ELCA's Anti-Malaria Initiative. At this time in history there is a collective decision by many nations to work toward this end. Dianne learned first-hand about fighting malaria through her mission trips to Tanzania and shared information about the life-cycle of malaria transmission and the areas of the world which are most affected. Three means of breaking the life-cycle of malaria include:

- Bed nets – if 80 percent of people in vulnerable areas use bed nets, malaria will be eradicated in that community. For a cost of about \$10, a bed net can protect a mother and her children from mosquito bites, which transmit the disease.
- Spraying – spraying indoor areas where mosquitos might remain (such as corners of bedrooms) then kills the mosquitoes before the malaria parasites have a chance to mature.
- Treatment – Access to medical care removes the likelihood that mosquitos biting a human will pick up a new dose of malaria to carry to the next victim.

In a community where all three intervention techniques are used, the results have been outstanding: a community in Tanzania went from 400,000 cases annually to 14,000 cases in one year. Lutheran World Relief works with aid organizations to make sure the resources are distributed evenly to all communities. It will cost \$5 billion per year to keep the intervention going (Americans spend \$20 billion per year on ice cream).

Dianne told the assembly that we can pray, learn, advocate, give, and share the story to help eliminate this deadly disease. There will be a workshop tomorrow to help members tell the story in their congregations.

### **STEWARDSHIP TEAM**

Pr Jerry Buss introduced the Macedonia Project to the assembly; the synod will be participating in this new stewardship project through the Stewardship and Mission Support Team. Members of the assembly were given three questions to discuss in small groups, along with a feedback forms that will be gathered after the discussion time is completed. The questions were:

- Why would you invite someone to your church? To ask it another way: What do you value about your congregation?
- How does your answer to the second part of that question relate to your financial support of your congregation?
- What does the synod do that you value?

### **TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF FULL COMMUNION PARTNERSHIP**

On behalf of the Rev Greg Rickel, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, the Rev Peter Deveau, Rector at St John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Seattle and Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese brought greetings to the assembly. Father Deveau commented on positive relationships between the synod and the diocese since *Called to Common Mission* was passed ten years ago.

He talked about the ways our two churches are cooperating in this synod – a cluster of ministries in Anacortes, Mount Vernon, and Fremont in Seattle.

### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Treasurer Millie Fosberg, Salem, Mount Vernon referred members of the assembly to the written report in the assembly materials. She reported that the synod continues to send 45.5 percent of mission support to the Churchwide organization, even in tough economic times. This translates into about \$600,000 in the past year or the lowest level of support in fifteen years.

Millie noted that there have been reductions in synod spending in most areas, with cuts ranging from 2 percent to 23 percent. Staff salaries have been cut by 10 percent, support to Campus Ministry by 5.6 percent. Support to ministry partners has been cut by 5 – 21 percent, including Consultation to Clergy, Lutheran Public Policy Office, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and Luther Seminary. Support for Region 1 staff, which includes accounting and bookkeeping support (including the audit) has been cut by 2.5 percent.

Millie expressed special appreciation for the synod staff, because they have continued to do the work expected of them through these hard times and salary cuts.

### **2012 BUDGET CAP**

Wayne Daley, Bethany, Bainbridge, Chair of the Finance Committee, speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, moved adoption of the 2012 Budget Cap of \$1,400,000. The motion *carried* with 192 votes in favor and 6 against.

**SA2011.04                      The General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2012 shall be capped at \$1,400,000.**

### **LUTHERAN COUNSELING NETWORK**

The Rev Penelope Guntermann brought greetings to the Assembly and introduced a video produced by the network to celebrate 30 years of work, supported by the congregations of the synod. Pr Guntermann noted that the support has been through provision of office space and in other ways so that the network could provide support to individuals on a sliding fee scale.

### **OPEN DOOR MINISTRIES**

The Rev Rick Pribbernow, Executive Director of Open Door Ministries brought greetings to the assembly and spoke about the transformation in the ministry that was formed 19 years ago in response to an invitation from Bishop Lowell Knutson to provide support for people with HIV-AIDS.

### **WORKSHOP PREVIEW**

Pr Jerry Buss presented an overview of the workshops available on Saturday, beginning with six evangelism workshops at 9:15 am. Late morning workshops will focus more on ministry related to the assembly theme.

### **EVENING PRAYER**

At 5:59 pm the bishop gave a closing prayer for the day and adjourned the assembly until 8 am on Saturday.



**Saturday, May 14, 2011**

## **PLENARY 4**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger declared the assembly in session at 8:01 am and led the assembly in opening prayer.

### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT**

Katy Emery, Intern at Central, Everett told the story of the Little Person (found on each chair in the assembly hall) which represents a real child who is HIV-positive in another part of the world. On the back of each Little Person is the story of a specific child whose life is affected by HIV-AIDS or Malaria. Katy invited members of the assembly to take the Little People back to their congregations to help them share the stories

### **ELECTIONS 1**

Voting members were asked to vote for two candidates for Consultation Committee – Clergy and two candidates for Consultation Committee – Lay. Voting members were then asked to vote for two candidates in each category (Clergy and Lay) for the Discipline Committee. The bishop announced that the Elections Committee would analyze the results of balloting and report results later in the day.

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

The Rev Bev Piro, Phinney Ridge, speaking on behalf of the Secretary, the Rev Wesley Howell, referred members to the Secretary's report in the printed materials, reviewing highlights from the report. She noted that the Synod Council has met seven times and the Executive Committee has met nine times since the 2010 Synod Assembly. Vacant positions within the Council membership have been filled. Within the past 48 hours, the Synod Council has voted to extend a Synod Letter of Call to Zhenchuan Liu to serve as Mission Developer at Living Truth Chinese,

Bothell; to Erik Samuelson to serve as Campus Pastor at Trinity Lutheran College, Everett; and to extend an invitation for extended service to United Church of Christ pastor Kristine Anderson Ostrem to serve Faith, Seattle as their pastor. Bishop Boerger noted that Zhenchuan Liu, who has been serving as a Synodically-authorized Minister both at Living Truth and with the Ministry to Chinese Students & Scholars, Seattle, will be ordained in June and provided background on the call process when a member of one of the ELCA's Full Communion Partners is involved.

Bishop Boerger asked members of the assembly to look at the printed report and note the pastors who have left the ELCA and joined the roster of another church body. He asked that the members of the synod continue to pray with and for them, to be gracious to them in their leaving and to remember that they remain brothers and sisters in Christ.

### ***THE LAZARUS EFFECT***

Katy Emery introduced the video about the ELCA's Global Health Initiative on HIV-AIDS called *The Lazarus Effect*. The video showed clear evidence of the effectiveness of anti-retroviral medications in Africa, transforming people who clearly appeared to be at death's door into persons living productive lives for 40 cents/day.. The bishop mentioned that the video is available on the ELCA website along with other resources there for the Anti-Malaria Initiative, for use in congregations.

### **GREETINGS**

The Rev Dr Steven Churchill, Director of Admissions, brought greetings from President Phyllis Anderson and the entire Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary community. Pr Churchill thanked the synod for ongoing financial support, particularly in tough economic times. The support of synods and congregations is crucial as we raise up the next generation of leaders. He thanked the synod for Bishop Boerger's service on the Board of Directors.

### **ELECTIONS RESULTS 1**

Pr Jennifer Schultz, Salem, Mount Vernon, Chair of the Elections Committee, announced results of voting for the Consultation and Discipline Committees. For the Clergy positions on the Consultation Committee, 164 votes were cast, with 82 required to elect. Abby d'Ambruoso received 115 votes, Scott Brents received 104 votes, and Doug Stensby received 100 votes. The bishop declared no election, since only two positions are vacant.

For the Lay positions on the Consultation Committee 170 votes were cast, with 85 needed to elect. Sidney Evans received 72 votes, Erma Lee received 79 votes, Janet Ray received 92 votes, and Priscilla Strand received 91 votes. The bishop declared Janet Ray, Faith, Seattle and Priscilla Strand, First Richmond Beach, Shoreline **elected**.

For the Clergy positions on the Discipline Committee, 178 votes were cast, with 89 needed to elect. Katy McCallum Sachse received 74 votes, Scott Postlewait received 135 votes, Erik Wilson-Weiberg received 105 votes, and Chris Hogstad received 32 votes. The bishop declared

Scott Postlewait, Lutheran Campus Ministry-UW and Erik Wilson-Weiberg, Ballard First, **elected**.

For the Lay positions on the Discipline Committee, 178 votes were cast, with 89 needed to elect. (Richard) Lee Foster received 141 votes, Alan Herr received 65 votes, and Herman Siqueland received 138 votes. The bishop declared Lee Foster, Maple Leaf, Seattle and Herman Siqueland, Edmonds, Edmonds **elected**.

## **BALLOTING 2**

An additional vote was held for the Clergy positions on the Consultation Committee, invalidated by problems with voting devices. The vote was taken again, with the results to be announced during Plenary 5.

## **WORKSHOPS 1**

The assembly was dismissed to attend workshops. These were the options for the morning session:

### ***Missing Generations***

Listen in on a frank conversation between people who have one thing in common: They do not go to your Church... or any church for that matter. Their answers may surprise you and give you a unique perspective on how others might perceive Christian community, worship, service and outreach. Your eaves dropping might just help you connect more authentically with your neighbors. (*Presenter: Ryan Marsh, Church of the Beloved-Edmonds*)

### ***Community Connections***

What is God up to outside the four walls of your church building? Come and hear the stories of how two congregations in our synod formed connections outside their walls, and share your ideas for re-rooting your church in your local neighborhood and community. (*Presenters: Debra Caldwell, St. Luke's-Bellevue and Frances Skeete, Lakeridge-Seattle*)

### ***Assessing Your Congregation's Future***

Congregations go through a life-cycle, and at various times need to be renewed. Sometimes the life-cycle includes a good death, where the resources of the congregation help birth new mission and ministry. Various tools are available to help assess where a congregation is now, and what might be possible in the future. What approaches to assessment fit our particular contexts? (*Presenters: Pastor Jane Prestbye, Kent-Kent and Darryl Plata, Advent-Mill Creek*)

### ***Discovering Your Congregation's DNA***

The key to your church's future is already present in your history. This workshop will help you discover the finger print that makes your congregation unique. Appreciation of

the past opens the door to the future. Find out how to translate yesterday's strengths into today's mission. (*Presenter: Pastor Kirby Unti, St. Matthew's-Renton*)

### ***Vital Worship***

In worship we are in the presence of God and receive the gifts of God's grace and life. Are the astonishing things that are happening evident to the people present in worship, especially the newcomer? How can our worship of God also draw others to join us? Come and meet our synod's Partners in Evangelical Worship and explore vital worship together. (*Presenters: Pastor Gretchen Mertes, Luther's Table-Renton and Michael Miller, Christ the King-Snohomish and Trinity Lutheran College*)

### **BREAK**

The assembly recessed at 10:15 for a break prior to worship.

### **FESTIVAL WORSHIP**

The Rev Twila Schock preached and Bishop Boerger presided at the Festival Worship. The worship team from First Richmond Beach, Shoreline led the contemporary music for the service.

### **LUNCH**

Following worship, Bishop Boerger recessed the assembly for lunch at 12 noon.

## **PLENARY 5**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 1:30 pm for the second workshop session.

### **WORKSHOPS 2**

Workshop options during this afternoon session included:

#### ***New Starts: Luther's Table and Chinese Ministries***

Our synod has the second largest number of new mission starts (16) of all synods in the ELCA. Here's your chance to learn more about Luther's Table in Renton, featured in The Lutheran magazine and to be highlighted at the Churchwide Assembly this summer. Also, the greater Seattle metro area has become a hub for ELCA mission among the Chinese in the US. In addition to two established congregations, there are five Chinese mission starts. Come and hear their stories.

#### ***Emmanuel's Wish Foundation***

A Canadian organization whose goals are to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to a hurting world, to provide support to nationals working in community development, to

engage the community in the process, to assist communities in sustaining Emmanuel's Wish Foundation projects without foreign assistance, and to stop the cycle of poverty from being passed on to the next generation through education, employment opportunities and empowerment.

***Publicity Grant Show and Tell***

At last year's synod assembly congregations were invited to apply for a publicity grant. Six congregations received grants to be used for everything from new websites to new street signs. Come and see what these congregations have accomplished and pick up ideas to take home with you. Also, hear how these six congregations were able to grow their hospitality based on the keynote presentations from the 2010 Assembly.

***Intersections of Health and Hunger***

Come and learn more about the Intersections of Health and Hunger and ELCA, Lutheran, and Global Partners united responses to Malaria, HIV AIDs , TB, and other global health threats. Leave equipped with expanded knowledge of these diseases and resources to educate your congregations and others.

***Global Missions and Companion Synod Relationships***

Once you meet people from another race, another culture, you realize how much you are alike. We will explore special relationships with our Lutheran companion synods in Russia and Ethiopia (including a report from the chicken hatchery at Haik), and explore the question, "What happened to the children living at the Haik Orphanage?"

***PROJECT HDPE (Haiti Development to Protect the Environment)***

See how God's work & your hands are making a difference in Haiti! Beaches littered with plastic bottles – a common site. Learn how you can help Lutheran and Episcopal Haitians living in Les Cayes turn littered into building supplies. Students at Western Washington University, Medical Teams International, and Response Ability Builders join together to help a Haitian community solve a pollution problem, create unique building materials to use for homes, establish a clinic for earthquake victims and more. Meet students working to develop plastic walls, see the vision for this new community.

**BREAK**

The assembly recessed at 3:00 pm for a break.

**PLENARY 6**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 3:15 pm. The bishop responded to questions about future availability of Publicity Grants and indicated current funding is not available but that it could become available as the economy improves and mission support increases.



## **Q &A WITH CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE**

Pr Schock answered a question about funding cuts to Lutheran Campus Ministry – she noted that funds for many ministries of the church have been cut, in different ways. The Conference of Bishops has asked synods to take a look at what ministries in which they could take a more significant role and synods are considering whether Lutheran Campus Ministry can be done more effectively at the local level. Bishop Boerger talked about the discussions on this topic at the Conference of Bishops and noted that it is easier to raise money locally for campus ministry.

Bishop Boerger asked Pr Schock to talk a little about the morale at the Lutheran Center in Chicago following the two recent rounds of personnel cuts. Pr Schock said that it has been very painful for the past 18 months, with deep pain and periods of great distraction. Prior to the last round of staff reductions the Lutheran Center was characterized by anxiety. Missionaries will be recalled for the first time in the history of the ELCA. Many people at the Chicago offices are doing the work of two or three people, as the organization works through what must be done and what will not be done. People are not complaining and the cooperation in new ways is very apparent. As they work through the grief caused by the layoffs, there are signs of new life. Pr Schock also said that the Churchwide staff recognizes that it is one of three expressions of the church.

Bishop Boerger thanked Pr Schock and asked her to convey greetings and good wishes to Bishop Hanson and to David Swartling.

## **ELECTIONS 2**

Pr Jennifer Schultz announced results of the previous balloting. For the Clergy positions on the Consultation Committee, 243 votes were cast, with 161 needed to elect. Abby d'Ambruoso received 181 votes, Scott Brents received 150 votes, Doug Stensby received 146 votes. The bishop declared Abby d'Ambruoso **elected**.

A further round of balloting was required to elect the second position and the bishop asked that the results of electronic voting be displayed immediately. 185 votes were cast, 93 votes required for election. Scott Brents received 91 votes, Doug Stensby received 94 votes. The bishop declared Doug Stensby, Magnolia, Seattle **elected**.

## **2012 BUDGET CAP REVISION**

Wayne Daley moved reconsideration of the vote on the 2012 Budget Cap as approved by the assembly on Friday, since that cap did not include income from other sources than congregational mission support. The motion was seconded. The amount of the 2012 Budget Cap should be \$1,420,000. The motion **carried** with 170 votes in favor and 12 against.

### **SA2011.05                    The Assembly agrees to reconsider the 2012 Budget Cap amount.**

It was moved and seconded to amend the 2012 Budget Cap from \$1,400,000 to \$1,420,000. The motion **carried** with 175 in favor and 9 against.

**SA2011.06                    The General Fund Budget Cap motion for Fiscal Year 2012 shall be amended from \$1,400,000 to \$1,420,000.**

The motion now before the assembly is to approve the 2012 Budget Cap. The motion to approve the amended budget cap *carried* with 182 in favor and 7 against.

**SA2011.07                    That the General Fund Budget Cap for Fiscal Year 2012 shall be set at \$1,420,000.**

Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Wayne moved adoption of the 2012 Budget with 45.5 percent of undesignated mission support designated for Churchwide. Funds in excess of the Budget Cap will be disbursed at the discretion of the Synod Council. Wayne reiterated the challenges of managing the budget and spending plan over the past year. Partnership support has been decreased by five percent. Wayne gratefully thanked the synod staff, whose salaries have been cut significantly in the past two years in spite of counsel commitments to support the synod salary guidelines. The motion to approve the 2012 Budget as presented *carried* with 189 votes in favor and 4 against.

**SA2011.08                    The 2012 Budget is adopted as proposed; and**  
**Any Fiscal Year 2012 General Fund receipts in excess of \$1,420,000 shall be disbursed as the Synod Council directs.**

Finally, Wayne asked assembly members to look at the 2011 Spending Plan under staff compensation and change the number \$446,496 to \$420,613. Bishop Boerger thanked the members of the Finance Committee for their faithful and difficult work over the past year.

## **REFERENCE & COUNSEL 2**

Speaking on behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, Pr Paul Anderson moved adoption of Resolution B – Campus Ministry with the addition of the words ‘be encouraged to’ at the end of the first line of the second Be it Resolved clause. It was moved and seconded to amend the Resolution adding Eastern Washington University, Washington State University, and the University of Idaho. The vote to amend *carried* with 152 in favor and 37 against. The motion to approve the resolution as amended *carried* with 172 in favor and 10 against.

**SA2011.09                    BE IT RESOLVED THAT the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod be encouraged to designate, and list on their publications, the campus pastors of the ELCA campus ministries at the University of Washington, Western Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Washington State University, and University of Idaho as adjunct members of their pastoral staff, and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod be encouraged to take steps to increase**

**or include specific gifts of financial benevolence to the campus ministries at the University of Washington, Western Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Washington State University, and University of Idaho in their benevolence budgets.**

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

On behalf of the Synod Council, Georganne Robertson moved adoption of Amendment 62 to the Constitution and Bylaws of the synod. The change requires a two-thirds affirmative vote for adoption. The motion to amend the Bylaws of the synod *carried* with 175 in favor and 10 opposed.

**SA2011.10            Amendment 62 to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is approved as presented adding provision for electronic or telephone conference meetings of the Synod Council:**

**S10.07.05.        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, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.**

Pr Chris Berry, Lutheran Campus Ministry-WWU and 2011 Synod Assembly Parliamentarian asked for a point of personal privilege to speak to the assembly. On behalf of Lutheran Campus Ministries of Western Washington University, the University of Washington and other Region 1 campus ministries, he expressed appreciation for the support to their ministries, both in the form of financial assistance and prayers.

## **GREETINGS**

- Maureen Mitchell, Bethlehem, Marysville, President of the synod's women's organization, brought greetings to the assembly and explained the work of the WELCA groups in the church. Maureen noted that while the group has evolved from Ladies Aid societies they now include young adults, 90-year olds and women of every age in between. The groups gather for Bible study, prepare school and health kits, make quilts and prayer shawls and caps for Maritime Ministry. Through offerings they fund water projects, the fight against malaria, leadership training and ordination of women. Maureen also announced that the Triennial gathering of the Women of the ELCA will be held this year in July in Spokane. The synod convention will be October 8 in Seattle.
- Nicole Klinemeier, Peace, Seattle and Chair of the synod's Children, Youth and Family Committee. The committee provides brainstorming, mutual support and struggles with how best to serve those who care about children, youth and families in our communities.

- Pr Diana Bottin, Trinity, Kirkland, speaking for the Synod Stewardship and Mission Support Team, announced the annual stewardship event. The theme will be Care for Creation and the date is September 24 at St John United, Seattle. Come and get the scientific facts behind global warming and climate change, enjoy practical workshops on how to green our congregations and green our homes.
- Christine Eisses, president of the Emmanuel's Wish Foundation, thanked the synod for focusing our assembly on Malaria and HIV-AIDS. The Emmanuel's Wish Foundation provides services and support to people in Africa on a budget of about \$4,000 per month, including an AIDS Hospice, feeding program for 200 people per day, day care programs and foster care. The hospice program has seen that seventy percent of their patients get well and walk out to live productive lives again.
- Pr Erik Samuelson, Campus Pastor at Trinity Lutheran College, Everett announced that a strategic plan has been developed to double the size of the student population from 170 to 350 students in the next four years. There is a four-year half-tuition scholarship available to a student from this synod (Bishop's Scholarship) and Erik encouraged anyone who may be interested to contact him.
- Pr G. Lee Kluth, Pacific Lutheran University, brought greetings from President Loren Anderson. Lee thanked the congregations who support the university and encouraged everyone to participate in PLU Sunday.
- Ron Sailer, Bethlehem, Marysville brought greetings from the synod's Lutheran Men in Mission group. The national event will be in Denver July 22 – 24. Ron introduced a brief video about the ministry of this group.
- Ken Halvorson, Trinity, Freeland greeted the assembly on behalf of the Global Missions Committee and announced that the Chicken Hatchery project in Ethiopia has received permission by the government to proceed. The synod will be sending several thousand dollars raised in the synod since last July to the companion synod to purchase equipment. Twenty nine congregations in the synod have participated so far. A brief video narrated by Pr Jim Lindus of Trinity, Freeland was shown to the assembly.

### **BISHOP'S REFLECTIONS**

Bishop Boerger said that this was the easiest of the ten assemblies he has presided over. The spirit of the gathering has changed. When we stay focused on the mission and ministry that Jesus call us to, this is what happens. We will buy chickens! We will start Luther's Table. We will continue to do campus ministry. We will start a capital fund drive in these hard economic times. The bishop encouraged members of the assembly to think as highly of themselves as God does – be the Easter people that God calls us to be.

The next bishop election will be in 2013 and the process of electing that new bishop will begin this year. We need someone to chair next year's assembly planning committee; that assembly

will be in Everett, the weekend after Mother's Day. If you are interested or know someone who is, please talk to Georganne, the bishop, or Margaret.

The bishop thanked the assembly co-coordinators Carolyn Norton and Debi Gatto for their work and presented them with bouquets. Faith, Redmond and Glendale, Burien school children helped dress the Little People, along with members at St Luke's, Bellevue. Carolyn thanked those who brought displays for the assembly and presented 'door prizes' for those who visited the display area during the assembly.

### **FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT**

Curt Eidem, Light of the Cross, Bothell, Secretary Pro-Tem presented the final credentials report for the Assembly Registrar Kathy Stuehrenberg:

Total Voting Members Present	336	
Lay Persons Present		216
Female	124	
Male	92	
Ordained Ministers on the roster		120
Persons of color or whose primary language is other than English		12
Observers	16	
Visitors (including volunteers)	94	

### **OFFERING**

The total offering for the assembly was \$5,974.00. It will be shared by the ELCA Global Health Initiatives (40 percent), the African American Reach and Teach Health Ministry in Seattle (40 percent) and the two companion synod teams (10 percent each).

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Bishop Boerger thanked the members of the synod staff, praising Pr Jerry Buss for his important work in evangelism and stewardship. The bishop noted that he is grateful to have Jan back in the office following her sabbatical this spring. The bishop thanked Elaine, Margit and Margaret as well for their work and support during a difficult year.

The bishop declared the assembly closed at 4:49 pm following a brief service of prayer.