

Northwest Washington Synod Thirty-first Annual Assembly

**Friday May 17 - 19, 2019
Lynnwood Convention Center**



PLENARY 1

WORSHIP

The thirty-first annual Synod Assembly of the Northwest Washington Synod opened with worship at 1:00 pm, the Rev. Kevin Strickland preaching.

CALL TO ORDER

The Assembly was called to order by Bishop Kirby Unti at 1:25 pm. Bishop Unti welcomed Pr. Kevin Strickland, Churchwide Representative; Bp. Mark Holmerud of the Sierra Pacific Synod, Bp. Rick Jaech of the Southwestern Washington Synod and Bp. David Brauer-Rieke of the Oregon Synod, and Pr. Lena Bondarenko of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 1

Assembly Registrar Joanne Hinkle, Lutheran Church of the San Juans, reported that 313 voting members were present.

QUORUM

Bishop Unti declared a quorum and announced that the assembly was in session at 1:27 PM.

ORIENTATION

Parliamentarian David Johnson, First Lutheran, Mount Vernon, assisted by Assembly Coordinator Emily Brown, First Richmond Beach, Shoreline reviewed the role of Standing Rules, agendas, and voting processes in helping to move the work of the synod forward in this meeting. Emily also provided information on basic 'housekeeping' issues and David provided background on deadlines for submitting nominations and resolutions, as well as the use of Robert's Rules of Order, noting that these are rules of the majority but are intended to protect the rights of the minority. Nominations from the floor will be accepted only until 3 pm today.

STANDING RULES

Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Synod Vice President Kay Edgerton moved adoption of the Standing Rules. A two-thirds majority is required to adopt. The Standing Rules were **adopted.**

SA2019.01

That the Standing Rules of the 2019 Synod Assembly are adopted as presented.

ASSEMBLY AGENDA

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

SA2019.02 That the 2019 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly Agenda is approved as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emily Brown, First Richmond Beach, Shoreline, speaking as the Assembly Chair, reviewed 'housekeeping' details for the assembly (coffee, lost & found, etc). Emily encouraged everyone to be fully present for this assembly.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Bishop Unti transferred the gavel to Vice President Kay Edgerton and gave his report to the assembly. He asked the assembly to consider *Whose agenda are we following?* Often, we are following the agenda of the past or the treasurer or the building committee or yesterday's youth program. We often pray only when we have used up our own ideas and can't think of anything else to do. Bishop Unti spoke of the practice of *Dwelling in God's Word*, which strengthens us so we have the capacity to first listen to God and then listen to our neighbor. This transforms how we see and respond to the world. This discipline returns our focus to God and values every voice around the table. Along with the practice of *Dwelling in the Word*, we need to move from the classroom out into the community; what is God already up to in the community and how would we join in what God is doing? He encouraged members of the synod to listen to God and listen to our neighbors; wonder and be curious – how might we engage with our neighbors? Adapt the plan to what we learn along the way, moving from monologue to dialogue. Notice who is missing from the table and move from exclusion to inclusion and welcome, expanding the pool of wisdom along the way.

New practices are messy; Bishop Unti encouraged us to stick with the discipline and see what new fruits come to you and your congregation. Try something new and be willing to fail (learning new lessons).

The Vice President returned the gavel to Bishop Unti.

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Brief videos of Pacific Lutheran University, California Lutheran University, and Portico were presented. Bishop Unti spoke of how the Lutheran colleges continue to form students who can address the complexity of the world, being a part of God's action in the world.

BISHOP ELECTION PROCESS OVERVIEW

Bishop Unti introduced David Swartling and the Bishop Election Task Force, thanking them for their work. David explained the process of the election, noting that this is a call process. The members of the task force include the Rev Susan Burchfield, University Lutheran, Seattle; the Rev Kristy Daniels, Church of Steadfast Love, Seattle; Mark Johnson, Magnolia, Seattle; the

Rev Paul Eldred, Holy Cross, Bellevue; Laura Norton, Christ the Servant, Bellingham; and David Swartling, Bethany, Bainbridge.

David introduced the nominees to the assembly: Julie Josund, Edmonds, Edmonds; David Parks, Our Savior, Everett; Norma Malfatti, Assistant to the Bishop of Upstate New York Synod; James McEachran; Shelley Bryan Wee, Assistant to the Bishop; Deanna Wildermuth, Holy Trinity, Mercer Island; Mark Griffith, St Luke's, Bellevue; Chris Ode, Prison Ministry, Shelton; and Terry Kylo, Neighbors in Faith.

Bishop Unti transferred the gavel to Pr. Strickland, who discussed the role of the bishop as background for the decisions of the members of the assembly – pastor, servant, chief ecumenical officer, chief executive officer: assisting congregations in the process of calling rostered ministers, who reminds us of our relationship to all of God's children. The bishop looks at the church through the eyes of the congregations, the synod, and the churchwide organization. The bishop has a public voice used on behalf of the church.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Registrar Joanne Hinkle, Lutheran Church in the San Juans announced that 313 voting members were registered.

FIRST BALLOT FOR BISHOP

Pr Strickland led the assembly in prayer prior to the first ballot. The ushers distributed ballots to the members of the assembly and Kevin asked that voting members wait until he directed them to vote. 75 percent of the votes cast would be required for an election at this time. Pr Strickland declared the voting closed at 2:43 PM and returned the gavel to Bishop Unti at 2:44 PM

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Those ministries highlighted at this time included Open Door Ministries, Living Stones Prison Congregation, Mission to Seafarers, Compass Housing Alliance, Synod Hunger Team, Faith Action Network; and Coaches Northwest. Bishop Unti noted that much of God's work is done through these specialized ministries. He asked those who serve in specialized ministry to stand and accept the affirmation of the assembly.

BREAK

The bishop declared a break of twenty minutes and encouraged members of the assembly to be back in their seats at 3:20 pm.

PLENARY 2

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 2

Joanne Hinkle reported that 340 voting members had registered.

MINISTRY PARTNERS 2

Joanne Hinkle highlighted these ministries and encouraged members of the assembly to visit them on the lower floor of the convention center: Women of the ELCA; Because of You; Mission Development and Mission Starts; Love Me Ministry; Bethany Community in Everett; Evangelical Parish Nurse Association; and Columbia Lutheran Home.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Pr David Hahn invited members of the assembly to discuss at their table this question: *What do you see that God is up to in your context, in your neighborhood?*

Following the discussion, Bishop Unti noted that we begin to learn how we learn about God and how we begin to hear God's voice and message spoken by 'the other' through this process of Dwelling in the Word.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Bishop Unti praised Dale Zehms, Synod Treasurer, for his sacrifices for the work he does for the synod. Dale introduced Pr Jim Kruse, Chair of the Finance Committee. Dale invited members of the assembly to find the Green pages in their meeting packets. He noted that Spending Plans are forecasts for the future. 47 percent of the mission support income received at the synod level is shared with Churchwide. The majority of those funds come back to the synod as grants for new ministries and for renewing congregations.

Dale introduced the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Spending Plan that the assembly will be asked to vote on later in the assembly. As the Synod Treasurer, he has been blessed to receive the generous gifts that come from your congregations. Please relay his thanks to your congregation. God's abundance is wonderful and we are doing the best we can to steward these resources for the kingdom.

The fiscal year ends January 31 each year. In the past fiscal year the synod received \$1.368 million in mission support, slightly less than the previous year. 47 percent of mission support we send to Churchwide, which gives us the opportunity to leverage that gift out into the world.

The synod receives grants from Churchwide for new start ministries, mission development and so on. In addition to supporting the ministries of the synod, your mission support provides funding for World Hunger and other ministries of the larger church.

Dale thanked the staff of the Region 1 Financial Services Office – Alyce Bakker and Karen Dicken, along with the members of the Finance Committee – Paul Whitfield (Magnolia, Seattle), Myra Dittes (Queen Anne, Seattle), Pr. Jim Kruse, (Cross of Christ, Bellevue), along with synod staff Pr Shelley Bryan Wee and Margaret Spatafore.

The Finance Committee plans ahead for two budget years, so the Spending Plan the assembly will be asked to approve will cover Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021. The spending plans provide information about the requirements we expect to see in the coming years and tomorrow we will ask you to approve the spending plans. The Finance Committee puts together the authorization budgets each year, based on the spending plans that the assembly approves.

REPORT OF BISHOP ELECTION BALLOT 1

Pr Strickland reported that 352 votes were cast by 340 voting members. Because more votes were cast than voters present, the ballot is invalid. There will be a new credentials report and then a new ballot. Visitors were invited to go the back of the hall. Voting members were encouraged to hold up their yellow name tag so the ushers can determine who is a voting member. It was moved and seconded to have a roll call to validate attendance. The motion to approve *failed*. Ballots were distributed and voting closed at 4:17 pm.

REPORT OF BISHOP ELECTION BALLOT 1B

Pr Strickland reported that 335 votes were cast, with 342 voting members registered. 252 votes were needed to elect. Terry Kylo received 50 votes, Julie Josund, 57, Deanna Wildermuth received 64, Mark Griffith 25, Shelley Bryan Wee 76, Jim McEachran 2, Chris Ode 12, David Parks 29 and Norma Malfatti 20. Jim McEachran and Chris Ode were eliminated at this ballot; the remaining seven candidates will continue to the second ballot tomorrow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emily Brown invited everyone to join the celebration in honor of Bishop Unti, with reception in the hall, no host bars, and complimentary tea and lemonade.

ADJOURNMENT

The assembly was adjourned until 8:30 am tomorrow.

PLENARY 3

MORNING PRAYER

Day 2 of the Synod Assembly opened with Hymn sing and the practice of Dwelling in the Word, led by Pr David Hahn.

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 9:06 am

CREDENTIALS REPORT 3

Joanne Hinkle reported that 353 voting members were registered.

MINISTRY PARTNERS 3

Pacific Lutheran University, Luther Seminary, Roots of the Table Mission Start, the Candidacy

Committee of the synod, Campus Ministry, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Lutheran counseling Network and Lutheran Peace Fellowship were introduced by Bryant Williams and Allison Ross.

REFERENCE & COUNSEL 1

Pr Tor Berg, Chair of the Reference & Counsel Committee, presented Resolution B to the assembly for approval. The motion to approve *carried*.

SA2019.03 RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America endorses the Poor People’s Campaign and encourage its members to participate where appropriate in the organizing, advocacy, and actions of the campaign.

Pr Berg presented Resolution A to the assembly for approval. The motion to approve *carried* with applause.

SA2019.04 RESOLVED THAT THE Northwest Washington Synod, in assembly, with Grace and Gratitude, recognize and thank Glen Gersmehl for his faithful service to Lutheran Peace Fellowship, and to the pursuit of Shalom – peace with justice – in our world.

Pr Berg presented Resolution C to the assembly for approval. The motion to approve *carried*.

SA2019.05 RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod submit application to join the Emmaus Collective, a network of churches that are on the way to, or working on, dismantling white supremacy in their church culture; and be it further

RESOLVED that per the guidelines of commitment to the Emmaus collective, one tenth of one percent of the synod’s annual operating budget be set aside as designated to support the work of the Emmaus Collective, thus serving as our membership benevolence; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Synod education resources be allotted to cover the cost of Antiracism training for Synod Staff, Rostered Leaders and Congregations in alignment with the goals of the Emmaus Collective; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Synod will support congregations and local clusters in applying for grant funds from ELCA Congregational Vitality to create their own trainings to enrich their capacity for Authentic Diversity and meet the covenant goals of partnership with the Emmaus Collective.

Pr. Priscilla Paris Austin spoke about the Task Force for Authentic Diversity within the synod, including Pr. Kacey Hahn, St Matthews, Renton; Pr. Scott Kramer, Lakeridge, Seattle; Pr. Elizabeth Rawlings, Lutheran Campus Ministry UW; and Pr. Sarah France, Our Savior’s,

Everett. Bishop Unti thanked Pr. Paris Austin for championing this issue in the entire ELCA, noting that there is a genuine effort to create a safe space to have difficult conversations about authentic diversity. “What kind of world does Jesus really intend us to have.”

BISHOP ELECTION PROCESS

Bishop Unti transferred the gavel to Pr Kevin Strickland. Assisted by Pr. Paul Eldred and Laura Norton, Pr. Strickland called on Nominees for bishop to present brief speeches to the assembly.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 4

Joanne Hinkle reported that 353 voting members were registered.

BISHOP ELECTION 2

Following the speeches, the second ballot for the Office of Bishop was held. Pr Strickland noted that two-thirds of the ballots cast were required for an election at this time. If there is no election, the top three nominees will move forward to the next ballot. Pr. Strickland led the assembly in prayer for the bishop nominees and the election process.

Bishop Unti gave a report for the Because of You Campaign. Bishop expressed gratitude for what we done that allows the Northwest Washington Synod and the ELCA to be church together. 9 individuals and 19 congregations have made gifts and pledges to the \$523,000 pledged. Through the ongoing efforts of the Because of You Campaign, synod rostered leaders can apply for debt reduction grants that they incurred in obtaining their seminary education. 98 rostered leaders stood up who received the grant scholarship for \$1,000. The grants awarded to the rostered leaders is paid directly to the loan institutions. When Bishop Unti became Bishop, the goal set for the Because of You Campaign was \$3 million dollars. The synod is at \$2 million.

Following completion of the second ballot, Pr. Strickland returned the gavel to Bishop Unti. Bishop Unti declared a break in the assembly until 11:10 am.

PLENARY 4

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 11:10 am.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 5

Joanne Hinkle reported that 361 voting members had registered.

WELCOMING NEW CONGREGATIONS

Bishop Unti asked the members of the assembly to welcome Columbia City Church of Hope, Seattle; Pointe of Grace, Mukilteo; and Salt House, Kirkland to the synod. Members of the congregations were welcomed with applause.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pr. Katy McCallum-Sachse, Holy Spirit, Kirkland gave the report of the Nominating Committee.

SPENDING PLAN/BUDGET CAP VOTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the spending cap for FY2020 (ending 31 January 2021). It was moved and seconded to allow one member of the assembly to speak twice to the motion; the motion *carried*.

SA2019.06 **That the Synod Assembly approves the Spending Cap for Fiscal Year 2020, ending January 31, 2021) at \$1,441.899, with any increase including an offsetting decrease, and any funds in excess be disbursed as directed by the Synod Council.**

BISHOP ELECTION BALLOTING 2

Pr Strickland reported that the second ballot for the bishop was invalid, again due to a mis-match between the number of registered voters and the number of ballots cast. When Bishop Unti declares the session closed, voting members must re-register with the Assembly Registrar team. Voting members will receive their nametag with a red dot. When the second ballot is called, only those who have re-registered and have a red dot on their nametags will be allowed to have a ballot; all others will be asked to exit the hall. Voting members have until 12:45 pm today to re-register.

GRACE and RECESS

Bishop Unti offered a word of Grace for the meal before the assembly and declared the assembly in recess until 1:15 pm.

PLENARY 5

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 1:15 pm. He thanked members of the assembly and guests for their patience and thanked those who helped with the process of reregistering the members of the assembly.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Registrar Joanne Hinkle reported that 369 voting members had registered.

BISHOP ELECTION 2nd Ballot

Pastor Strickland reviewed the rules for proceeding with the election, which were made in consultation with the General Counsel of the ELCA, Bishop Unti and the Elections Chair Pr Paul Stumme-Diers. 369 voting members have registered. Those who do not have a red dot on their nametag will shortly be asked to leave the room. If you are a voting member and for some

reason did not receive a red dot on your nametag, you will not be able to vote on this ballot. You must re-register and will be allowed to vote on the succeeding ballots as needed.

The auditorium was secured at 1:20 pm and the ballot was closed at 1:28 pm. The doors were opened and members of the assembly who do not have a red dot on their yellow credentials were reminded to go immediately to Registrar Joanne Hinkle and receive the proper credentials before 3 pm.

RECOGNITION

Bishop Unti asked the assembly to join in this joyous opportunity to recognize those who have served this church faithfully. The group to be recognized include those who have met anniversary milestones in 2018 or 2019, so there is a lengthy list.

Ministers of Word & Service, 35 years

Sharon Lone-Browder

Ministers of Word & Service, 40 years

Erma Lee
Patricia Moylan
Paul A Anderson

Ministers of Word & Sacrament, 25 years

Gary Koutsopoulos
Julie Josund
Mary Lindberg
Scott Kramer
Shelley Bryan Wee
Tor Berg

Ministers of Word & Sacrament, 35 years

Diane Hastings
Douglas Stensby
Joan Beck
John Beck
John O'Neal
John Swanson
Karen Hanson
Kevin Forquer
Larry Olsen
Linda Larson
Michael Anderson
Michael Swain

Ministers of Word & Sacrament, 40 years

Kirby Unti
Martha Myers
Penelope Guntermann
Phil Reitz
Eric Ottum
Joel Ingebritson
Phyllis Anderson
Ronald Marshall
Thomas Wert
Wm Chris Boerger
John Gienapp
Richard Edmonds
Stephen Torkko

Ministers of Word & Sacrament, 50 years

Dan Selmann
Delmas Luedke
Don Brekhus
Ed Markquart

Ministers of Word & Sacrament, 55 years

Donald Smith

Dennis Hanson
Isaiah Chow
Leonard Ericksen
Paul Shoup
Richard Wendt
Robert Roiko
Wendell Stakkestad

Ray Lester
Robert Johnson

Ministers of Word & Sacrament, 65 years

Lowell Knutson

Ministers of Word & Sacrament, 60 years

Earnest Pihl
Ernie Loreen
E Fred Vonderlage Jr
James Fergin
James Braaten
Norris Swenson
Paul Gabrielsen

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Kay Edgerton greeted the assembly. She talked about the difference in roles between the bishop and the Vice President. The Vice President chairs the Synod Council, which is the interim administrative authority in the synod; the bishop is the chief executive officer and the vice president is the chairman of the board. Because she works full time, the synod leadership has rethought how to hold meetings and begun using electronic Zoom technology to hold meetings. This has allowed the synod to have a greater territorial representation at meetings of the Executive Committee. When the Synod Council meets, we engage in some ministry with the congregation – for example, neighborhood walks to learn more about the congregation’s context and helping to tie quilts in another congregation. The Council has explored other ways to gather, both as a council and how to gather as an assembly. Plans for the future involve a three-year cycle, with Gatherings, one-day assembly for business, and two-day assembly for business, fellowship, and worship.

REFERENCE & COUNSEL 2

Pr Berg invited the assembly to take up Amendment 89 to the constitution of the synod. Parliamentarian David Johnson declared that the changes proposed in the amendment were non-substantive clarifications of recent changes in language referring to rostered persons and no action was necessary by the assembly to put those changes into effect. The Amendment was **approved as presented.**

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Vice President Kay Edgerton referred members of the assembly to the written Report of the Secretary. The Rev Paul Ko, serving at Seattle Covenant Community Fellowship in Lakeridge, was welcomed to the roster of ministers of the ELCA by Bishop Unti and the members of the assembly.

REFERENCE & COUNSEL –RESOLUTION F

Pr Berg presented Resolution F, celebrating The 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women for the assembly's consideration. It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution as presented. The motion to approve *carried*.

- SA2019.07** **RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod council develop a year of celebration of women's ordination during 2020, include a celebration and special recognition upon the 50th anniversary of women's ordination at our annual gathering, promoting women preachers, teachers and speakers at all events during this year, and provide materials and encouragement to congregations to do the same; and be it further**
- RESOLVED that upon the passage of the social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action" all congregations in the synod be encouraged to study this document; and be it further**
- RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod council encourage the ELCA Church Council to take up action to address the issues of inequality, discrimination and sexism.**

BISHOP ELECTION 2B RESULTS

Bishop Unti transferred the gavel to Pr Strickland.

Pr. Strickland reported that 362 votes were cast, with 369 voting members registered. 242 votes were needed to elect. Terry Kylo received 70 votes; Julie Josund, 69 votes; Deanna Wildermuth, 86; Shelley Bryan Wee, 86 votes; Mark Griffith, 24 votes; David Parks 21 votes; and Norma Malfatti 6 votes.

Terry Kylo, Deanna Wildermuth, and Shelley Bryan Wee will advance to the next ballot. Norma, David, Mark and Julie were thanked for their willingness to participate in the election process.

Pr Strickland thanked the members of the assembly for their patience with the process and recommended that anyone who has a question about their registration should consult with the Registrar.

BISHOP ELECTION ROUND 3 – Q & A

Pr Paul Eldred and Laura Norton guided the Question & Answer section of the Bishop's election process. Each nominee responded to nine questions in three rounds of three questions each. Questions in Round 1 were provided to the candidates a week ago; Round 2 questions were provided a few days ago; Round 3 have not been provided.

The assembly was provided with stretch breaks during this section of the election process and non-voting members were asked to leave the hall for the voting.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Registrar Joanne Hinkle reported that 372 voting members were registered.

BISHOP ELECTION BALLOT 3

Pr Strickland led the assembly in prayer prior to the balloting. Pr Strickland invited members of the assembly to vote for Deanna Wildermuth, Shelley Bryan Wee or Terry Kylo. The third ballot was closed and Pr Strickland returned the gavel to Bishop Unti. Those who were asked to leave the hall were welcomed back to the assembly hall.

BREAK

Bishop Unti called for a short break, asking members of the assembly to return at 3:51 pm.

PLENARY 6

CALL TO ORDER

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

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Joanne Hinkle reported that 372 voting members were registered.

TEAM RUSSIA REPORT

Bishop Unti welcomed Lena Bondarenko of our companion synod to the podium to bring the assembly greetings. Bishop Unti thanked Eva Mader for her work in supporting this ministry, noting that people-to-people relationships are so valuable.

BUDGET SPENDING PLAN & SPENDING CAP

Pr Jim Kruse explained the difference in the Spending Cap and the Spending Plan. He reminded the assembly that the Synod Council will approve the spending plan when the plan goes into effect, year by year, and they have an opportunity to increase the cap if appropriate. 47 percent of all income is sent to Churchwide automatically. He asked the assembly to look at the Spending Authorization for FY2020. It was moved and seconded to approve the FY2020 Spending Authorization as presented. The motion *carried*.

SA2019.08

That the 2019 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly approves the FY2020 Spending Authorization as presented.

Pr Kruse referred the assembly to the proposed Spending Cap for FY2021 (\$1,466,745). On behalf of the Finance Committee he moved that the FY2021 General Fund Budget shall be capped at \$1,466,745 and that motions to increase any expenditure item in said fund shall include a recommended offsetting decrease, and that Fiscal Year 2021 (ending January 31 ,2022)

General Fund receipts in excess of \$1,466,745 be disbursed as directed by the Synod Council. Coming from the Finance Committee, the motion requires no second.

It was moved to amend the spending cap to increase by \$2,000 to provide funds for the Emmaus Collective, which was approved earlier by the assembly and requested funding for the work of this ministry. The motion to amend the budget cap *carried*.

SA2019.09 **That the 2019 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly approves an increase of \$2,000 to the 2021 Budget Cap, to provide funding for the Emmaus Collective.**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Pr. Jim Kruse moved adoption of the 2021 General Fund Budget as presented. The motion to approve *carried*.

SA2019.10 **That the 2019 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly adopts the 2021 General Fund Budget as presented.**

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Speaking for the Nominating Committee, Chair Pr. Katy Sachse- McCallum thanked those people who worked on this process on behalf of the synod and thanked those people who agreed to let their names go forward. The slate of positions is as follows:

Synod Council

Rostered Ministers:

Pr. Hector Garfias-Toledo, Trinity, Lynnwood
Pr. Ivar Hillesland, Church of the Apostles, Seattle
Pr. Krista Oppie, Mount Si, North Bend

Lay Male Person of Color

Eric Peoples, First, Bothell

Lay Female

Beth Lewis, Our Savior's, Everett
Sherianne Caldwell, Immanuel, Seattle
Marcia Riggers, St. Andrew's, Bellevue

Youth

Emily Brebner, Trinity, Everett

Discipline Committee:

Pastors

Pr. Sylvia Lee-Thompson	Pr. Susan Schneider
Pr. Gary Dalenius	Pr. John Lindsay

Lay Female

Wendy Flores	Georganne Robertson, Magnolia, Seattle
Joan Peterson	Elizabeth Stitt

Consultation Committee:

Pastor, 6-years Julie Blum Debbie Boyce	Mary Bosell Elise Scott
Pastor, 4-year Maynard Atik	Tor Berg
Pastor, 2-year Glen Aaberg	Scott Postlewait
Lay Female Janet Cederberg Jessica Thompson	Emily Brown Jana Neugebauer

Katy asked that the members of the Elections Committee go to the counting room now to tally the ballots. The results will be reported tomorrow.

BISHOP ELECTION 3 RESULTS

Bishop Unti transferred the gavel to Pr. Strickland. Paul Stumme-Diers, Chair of the Elections Committee reported the results of the third ballot for Bishop:

Deanna Wildermuth 130 votes
Shelley Bryan Wee 120 votes
Terry Kylo 112 votes

Pr. Strickland announced that the voting tomorrow morning will be between Deanna Wildermuth and Shelley Bryan Wee. He thanked the assembly for a long, hard spirit-filled day. Thank you for the ministries you represent. Pr Strickland returned the gavel to Bishop Unti.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship leaders were asked to be at the font tomorrow morning by 8 am.

ADJOURNMENT

With permission from the assembly, Bishop Unti declared the assembly in recess at 4:32 pm until 8:30 am on Sunday.

PLENARY 7

CELEBRATION WORSHIP

The assembly gathered for worship at 8:30 am on Sunday, May 19.

CALLED TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 10:05 am.

FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT

Registrar Joanne Hinkle made this final report for the 2019 Synod Assembly:

Voting Members	378
Rostered Ministers	145
Lay Voting Members	233
Male	101
Female	129
Other	3
Young Adults	33
Youths	17
Persons of Color	24
Observers	5
Visitors	75
Total	458

Volunteers **Countless!**

BISHOP NOMINEE SPEECHES

Bishop Unti transferred the gavel to Pr Strickland. Pastor Shelley Bryan Wee and Pastor Deanna Wildermuth made their final speeches to the assembly. Pr Strickland led the assembly with applause for the nominees and the assembly sang a prayer prior to voting.

BISHOP ELECTION 4

Pr Strickland reminded voting members to vote for one, fold your ballot and hold it up for the ushers to collect. The ballot closed at 10:23 am and the doors of the assembly hall were opened to readmit visitors and observers. Pr Strickland transferred the gavel back to Bishop Unti.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Unti offered thanks to the Mission Investment Fund for all that they do to support the work of the church, coming alongside congregations with financial help when needed. Bishop Unti announced that the assembly would take a break for coffee and refreshment and return to the assembly hall at 11:10 am.

PLENARY 8

CALLED TO ORDER

Bishop Unti called the assembly to order at 11:10 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly offering was \$6,738.

The bishop reported a question about Amy Stamatiou – why she wears a stole; Bishop Unti explained that Amy is a Deacon in the church and the stole is their symbol of office.

Bishop Unti introduced Beth Adams, Gift Planner for our synod. Beth was welcomed with applause from the assembly.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

With assistance from Synod Vice President Kay Edgerton, Bishop Unti invited congregations celebrating significant anniversaries over the past two years to stand as they were recognized.

75 Years	Our Redeemers, Seattle Faith, Seattle Glendale, Burien Peace, Seattle
100 Years	First Lutheran of West Seattle Queen Anne, Seattle
125 Years	Ballard First, Seattle Gift of Grace, Seattle Our Saviour's, Arlington
130 Years	Kent Lutheran

REPORT OF THE CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

The assembly welcomed Kevin Strickland with applause. The report opened with a video statement from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Kevin reminded the assembly that we are to be the 'called out' people, stepping out from our four walls, being who God has called us to be – on the streets and where we work. He brought greetings from Chris Boerger and special thanks for Bishop Unti and the synod staff for the good work that is done. Kevin thanked the many ministry partners who have been with us this weekend and specially thanked bishops Rich Jaech from Southwestern Washington Synod, Mark Holmerud of Sierra Pacific Synod, and David Brauer-Rieke of the Oregon Synod.

The Women & Justice Social Statement will be voted on in Milwaukee in August at the Churchwide Assembly. More than just reading it, let us live out the statement in our daily lives. An international decade for people of African descent has been proclaimed for 2015 – 2024. It

offers a framework to join together to take effective measures to deal with injustices. There is also a statement of interreligious policy in the works.

Pr. Strickland called out Deacon Dianne Johnson for her work as Director for Evangelical Mission in the synod. Working with many partners we are creating new ministries in the synod. Thank you for giving to the ELCA Campaign, supporting the ongoing work of the church. Seminary debt continues to be a problem for rostered ministers and for the church as a whole. The Fund for Leaders has built an endowment fund that is helping people become leaders in the church.

Across the church this past year we have gathered \$23.5M for World Hunger. Kevin thanked the members of the synod for their support of Lutheran Disaster Response.

The Churchwide Assembly meets this summer in Milwaukee and will celebrate the 40th year of ordination of women of color and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of white women.

Kevin thanked the synod for the work being done in the life of the church and in the world. He transferred the gavel back to Bishop Unti.

REFERENCE & COUNSEL 4

Pr Tor Berg, Chair, thanked the members of the Reference & Counsel committee for their work.

Resolution D, Antiracism and Diversity Training for Rostered Ministers was presented for consideration by the assembly. The motion to approve *carried*.

RESOLVED that the NWWA Synod Assembly direct the NWWA Synod office to review current governing documents related to setting policy and procedures on workplace harassment and discrimination, including racial harassment and discrimination and provide report to churchwide and this assembly by 2021; and be it further

RESOLVED that the NWWA will partner with regional organizations to provide diversity training to rostered leaders; and be it further

RESOLVED that Rostered Leaders of NWWA will include the documentation of such training in the completion of their annual reports to the Bishop and their congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations will be encouraged to support their Rostered Leaders in doing this training by providing resources of time, finances and leadership teams with whom to debrief the training and integrate learning into their ministry setting.

Resolution E, No Way to Treat a Child: Protecting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children was presented for consideration by the assembly. The motion to approve *carried*.

RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod, in assembly, memorialize the 2019

ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting the Assembly to urge the U.S. Congress to call on the State of Israel to guarantee basic due process rights in the Israeli military court system; ensure the absolute prohibition against torture and ill-treatment in accordance with international law; ensure that operations are carried out in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and call on the United States to fully enforce its own established law, including the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod, in assembly, memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to request that Bishop Eaton contact the appropriate U.S. governmental officials, encouraging them to ensure that United States taxpayer funds do not support ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international law; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod, in assembly, memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to request that the Assembly encourage ELCA members and congregations to learn more about the experiences of Palestinian children held in the Israeli military courts and the lives of children in Palestinian Lutheran congregations and to contact their Congressional Representatives and Senators; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod, in assembly, memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to request that ELCA members contact their members of Congress to support legislation that prohibits U.S. foreign aid to be used to violate the rights of Palestinian children, including any proposed 2019 bill which requires the Secretary of State to certify that United States funds do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international law.

Bishop Unti acknowledged the important role of the young people who have come to the microphone.

REPORT OF GENERAL ELECTIONS

Pr. Paul Stumme-Diers reported on the results of the General Elections, thanking the Elections Committee and the 13 counters for their work.

Election to the Synod Council: Pr. Hector Garfias-Toledo, Trinity, Lynnwood; Eric Peoples; Beth Lewis; Emily Brebner

Elections to the Discipline Committee: Pr. Susan Schneider, University, Seattle; Pr. John Lindsay (ret.); Wendy Flores; and Joan Peterson.

Elections to the consultation Committee: Pr. Julie Blum, Maple Leaf, Seattle; Pr. Tor Berg, First, Bothell; Pr. Scott Postlewait, Advent, Mill Creek; Emily Brown, First Richmond Beach, Shoreline; and Jessica Thompson, Holy Spirit, Kirkland.

The bishop thanked Pastor Stumme-Diers and his team for their work.

BISHOP ELECTION 3 REPORT

Pr Strickland called the bishop candidates and the chaplain for the bishop election process to the stage. He invited the nine people nominated for bishop to stand. 378 votes were cast for the

position of bishop of the synod. Pr Bryan Wee received 167 votes and Pr Wildermuth received 158 votes. Pr Strickland declared Pr Shelley Bryan Wee *elected*.

Pr Susan Burchfield thanked Pr Deanna for her ministry and her willingness to stand for election. She thanked those who supported her traveling this path.

Pr Bryan Wee addressed the assembly. She was honored and privileged to serve in this synod when she was called two years ago. She values the people in the Northwest Washington Synod and is happy to serve with you, partner with you, and walk with you.

Pr Strickland thanked the assembly for their discernment, and for their walk with the candidates through this process of holy discernment. He declared that the Bishop Election process is now closed and transferred the gavel to Bishop Unti.

BISHOP'S REFLECTIONS

Bishop Unti thanked Pr Strickland for his work with the synod. He thanked the synod staff and thanked Pr Kathryn Buffum, who worked with him in the Synod Office for four years. He thanked Pr Bryan Wee for her work as Assistant to the Bishop for the past two years. And he thanked his colleagues who were present today: Bishop David Brauer-Rieke, Oregon Synod; Bishop Mark Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod; Bishop Rick Jaech, Southwest Washington Synod; and Gail Komura, Vice President of the Sierra Pacific Synod. Bishop Unti thanked Kay Edgerton, Synod Vice President and the members of the Synod Council.

Thanking Kim, his partner in life, Bishop Unti said they were called to serve together and he could not have done this job without her support and the support of their four daughters.

The bishop thanked the folks who have been stalwart friends through this work and the people of the synod.

A prayer shawl was presented to the bishop.

HOUSEKEEPING AND THANKS

Emily Brown, Assembly Chair, thanked the many people who worked to make the event come together: worship leaders, the Parliamentarian, the members of the Elections team, the Registration team, Reference & Counsel Committee and others who responded to emergent needs whenever they were called.

Emily thanked the members of the Bishop Election Task Force, which has worked faithfully since last fall. And Emily thanked Pr. Kevin Strickland, our Churchwide Representative who served the assembly and the synod so well.

Reminding people to take a prayer shawl with them.

Kay Edgerton, Synod Vice President spoke of changes to the assembly schedule. We will have another assembly next year, probably a one-day event, and the synod leadership is working to adjust our regular election processes with new rotations for assemblies. The year after that, the synod will have another one-day assembly and the synod will transition into an every-three-year cycle after that.

ADJOURNMENT

The 2019 Synod Assembly was adjourned at 12:52 pm.

General Election Results						
Consultation Committee						
~ Word & Sacrament 1 – 6 year						
Julie Blum	219					
Mary Bosell	96					
Needed to elect						
Ballots cast						
~ Word & Sacrament 2 – 6 year						
Debbie Boyce	136					
Elise Scott	170					
Needed to elect						
Ballots cast						
~ Word & Sacrament 3 – 4 year term						
Maynard Atik	73					
Tor Berg	259					
Needed to elect						
Ballots Cast						
~ Word & Sacrament 4 – 2 year						
Glen Aaberg	101					
Scott Postlewait	210					
Needed to elect						
Ballots cast						
~ Lay female						
Emily Brown	174					
Janet Cederberg	142					
Needed to elect						
Ballots cast						
~ Lay female						
Jana Neugebauer	132					
Jessica Thompson	172					
Needed to elect						
Ballots cast						
Synod Committee on Discipline – elect 4						
~ Word and sacrament						
Sylvia Lee-Thompson	139					
Susan Schneider	169					
Needed to elect						
Ballots cast						
~ Word & Sacrament						
Gary Delanius	115					
John Lindsay	195					
Needed to elect						
Ballots cast						

~ Lay Female							
Wendy Flores	162						
Georganne Robertson	161						
Needed to elect							
Ballots cast							
~ Lay female							
Joan Peterson	154						
Elizabeth Stitt	151						
Needed to elect							
Synod Council – 3 persons							
~ Word & Sacrament							
Hector Garfias-Toledo	181						
Ivar Hillesland	76						
Krista Oppie	75						
Needed to elect							
Ballots cast							
~ Lay Male							
Eric Peoples	329						
Needed to elect							
Ballots cast							
~ Lay Female							
Beth Lewis		170					
Sherrienne Molzahn Caldwell	85						
Marcia Riggers		68					
Needed to elect							
Ballots cast							
~ Youth							
Emily Brebner		326					
Needed to elect							
Ballots cast							
Total votes cast	344						
Reg members	372						
Total valid ballots							
Time							
Report							
Needed to elect							

	1a	1b	2a	2b	3	4
Terry Kylo		50	70		112	
Julie Josund		57	69			
Deanna Wildermuth		64	86		130	158
Mark Griffith		25	24			
Shelley Wee		76	86		120	167
Jim McEachran		2				
Chris Ode		12				
David Parks		29	21			
Norma Malfatti		20	6			
Total votes cast	352	335	369	362	362	325
Voting members legal reg.	340	342	361	369	372	378
	Invalid	Valid	Invalid	Valid	362	
Total valid ballots		335		362		
Time		3:42 pm		1:15 pm		
Report		5:15 pm		2:04 pm		
Needed to elect		252		242 66%	218 - 60% needed	Majority of valid votes cast that elects