

Minutes.2022 Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly

May 20-21, 2022

Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota

Friday, May 20

5:15 p.m. Pre-Assembly Zoom Meeting Opens

Change name on Zoom, and make sure that you are on mute

5:30 p.m. Pre-Assembly Meeting Begins

Greeting Bishop Bill Tesch

Introductions Bishop Bill Tesch

Introduction/Welcome Synod Staff, Julie Wilson,

Rules and Procedure Information (Bishop Bill Tesch /Parliamentarian, Rolf Nycklemoe)

Practice Speaking to a Resolution/Chat with Moderator

VP Sharon Josephson-- Reference and Counsel will present the resolutions represented by Pr. Linda Molitor. We do not have the ability to do amendments from this time forth. That time deadline has passed. 12 minutes of discussion time for each resolution.

Practice Ballot via Zoom Poll and Qualtrics

Drawings

Final Comments

Please go to the Synod Assembly link for materials. TY to Old Lutheran.

Sign on after 8:30 a.m.

Keep zoom on throughout the day.

Closing prayer. Bishop Bill Tesch

Saturday, May 21

8:30 a.m. Assembly Zoom Meeting Opens Participants joined the event.

9:00 a.m. Assembly Begins with Worship

The assembly opened with worship.

Text: Psalm 67

9:35 a.m. PLENARY ONE

Bp. Bill opened the assembly with our core values and goals for the assembly.

Our theme this year comes from Psalm 67, from the Revised Common Lectionary, for the Sixth Sunday of Easter. We had a great day tending to our purpose, as stated below.

Our Purpose Together: We gather in the assembly

- to worship as a synod;
- to listen to one another and to God's word for the sake of God's mission;
- to deepen our relationships;
- to deliberate as a synod.

Goals: Together, using our values as a guide, we strived to:

Be Faithful in Relationships

- Experience our life together in Jesus.
- Discover ways to accompany one another helpfully and faithfully as we follow Jesus every day.

Be Authentic in Welcome

- Reaffirm our commitment to be a diverse church, welcoming all in the name of Jesus.
- Lift up and celebrate the authentic, God-given gifts of the people and congregations of our Synod.

Demonstrate a Love that Makes a Difference

- In solidarity, embody God's love that the world so desperately needs.
- Investment of time and work will impact our work together as the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.

Bishop gave introductions and introduced on-site participants and a greeting from Concordia College.

Credentials Committee Report (Pr. Ali Haugerud)

The Voting Member list for this assembly is composed of the names of those elected and reported by the various congregations throughout the synod, and those members otherwise entitled to vote according to the bylaws. There are 346 Voting Members registered for this Assembly. The list of voting members is available for inspection in the Office of the Bishop.

Consent Agenda VP Sharon Josephson

A consent agenda groups the routine, procedural, informational and self-explanatory non-controversial items typically found in an agenda. These items are then presented to the board in a single motion for an up or down vote after allowing anyone to request that a specific item be moved to the full agenda for individual attention.

- Approve Assembly Agenda
- Approve Rules of Organization and Procedure
- Approve Synod Constitutions changes as per 2019 Churchwide Assembly
- Approve 2021 Synod Assembly Minutes
→ Zoom vote for consent agenda – majority vote required. *Passed*

Nominating committee Report—Laura Tweten; 2 ballots—Consultation committee ballot; Synod Council ballot.

Bishop's Report – Bp. Bill Tesch

Future Synod Assemblies Conversation—Bp. Bill Tesch

A poll was given with 3 options for future synod assemblies:

Option 1—3 year rotation 2023 Great Northwestern Synod Get-together and Virtual Synod Assembly; 2024 Great Northwestern Minnesota Synod Get-together and HYBRID Synod Assembly; 2025 full in-person Synod Assembly (bishop's election year) (NO Great Northwestern Minnesota Synod Get-together) 78%

Option 2—going back to the way it has always been 20%

Option 3—ideas for other ways to do it 2%

Pr. Al Brooks, Pr. Jared Carson, Pr. Christy Klemz, Jim Grier and Pr. Grant Vanderford spoke to the conversation

Synod Staff Video

Strategic Plan/Vitality Update-- Pr. Rebel Hurd, Director of Evangelical Missions

10:55 a.m. Break

11:05 a.m. PLENARY TWO

Presentation of Compensation Guidelines--Pr. Kayla Billings and Dn. Jon Leiseth

Resolution 1: Compensation Guidelines

Introduced by Reference and Counsel Pr. Linda Molitor

VP Sharon Josephson noted that a 2/3 majority vote is required

→ Zoom vote for Resolution One: Compensation Guidelines--*Passed*

Churchwide Report (Rev. Sara Cutter)

Video from the ELCA churchwide office about telling the old story in a new way.

The ELCA has a goal of reaching 1 million people.

NWMN Synod gave \$635,274 to the churchwide organization to support our ministry together.

The ELCA is at work all around the world through the ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Financial Report (Joan Meulebroeck, Financial and Data Systems Specialist (Synod Staff))

Budget Votes VP Sharon Josephson noted that a simple majority needed--*Passed*

Constitution Committee Update -

Introduction by Pr. Genelle Netland and then watched a video

Website Update--Bishop Bill Tesch -**Video**

Elections – Synod Council and Consultation Committee VP Sharon Josephson—*100% vote-Passed*

Anniversaries/In Memory Bp. Bill Tesch

Bishop Bill introduced the video and recognized certain individuals with Challenge Coin and Retirement Certificates. –Pr. Steve Wold--50 years of ordination—coined) Pr. Keith Zeh—retired after 39 years)

Announcements –Dn. Julie Wilson
Table prayer by Dn. Julie Wilson

12:15 a.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. PLENARY SESSION THREE

Keynote Address (Kaitlin Curtice)

The world needs you to do what you love. Have you done that?

We care for ourselves so we can better care for others.

What does it mean to begin? {excerpts from *Native*: No matter who we are or where we come from we are people who journey. To be human is to know the journey of transformation. To know what it means to change. Journey has meant telling the truth. We are leaning into the trauma and pain of others with honest listening so that together we learn how to be people who walk alongside each other in order to heal.}

We live in cycles/seasons of life, death, and rebirth.

Storytelling: Our stories connect us. What are our stories rooted in? (love and solidarity or hate and shame, colonization and white supremacy?) What words have anchored you? What teachings have helped guide you?

2. Solidarity Work: What is our solidarity rooted in? What is our common ground?

Decolonization as a tool for imagining a way forward. Can we be a daily tool to examine the colonial systems you have been a part of. How do we widen our understanding of what it means to be human. Stories of the oppressed matter. Dreaming with one another about a better world. Practice listening, reading books by the other, giving money to their cause.

The more we restore our relationship to the land, the more we restore our relationship to ourselves. Love is what happens when we restore our relationships. Our work is holy. Ask questions. Let our curiosity out. Movement of peoples and communities, systems and institutions. Ask how our gifts show up in the small moments and the grand scheme of things. Pay attention to love when it shows up.

Hunger Table Presentation Linda Bartholome (Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Winner of the Holy Cow Award is 2020 Emmanuel Lutheran, Wadena; 2021 Little Norway, rural Fertile

Presentation from Regional Gift Planner, Pastor Keith Pearson

Social Statement on Government and Civic Engagement—Rev. Dr. Ernest Simmons

Lutheran Social Services, 2022 Servant of Christ Award

Award Recipient is St. Pauli, Thief River Falls

3:00 p.m. PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Offering

Bp. Bill gave an update on the offering delegation. This year's Easter/Synod Assembly appeal **will support refugees in Eastern Europe through Lutheran Disaster Response, and people struggling with poverty in our local communities with direct grants to your congregations' new or existing ministries.** (Congregations can apply for a grant for a new or existing ministry focused on people with housing or food insecurity.)

Q&A with Keynote speaker, Kaitlin Curtice

Recap of the Assembly

VP Sharon Josephson summarized the work of the assembly.

Drawings Dn. Julie Wilson

Closing of the Assembly—Bp. Bill Tesch