

**MINUTES**  
**23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**  
**INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD, ELCA**  
**NORTHERN KENTUCKY CONVENTION CENTER**  
**COVINGTON, KENTUCKY**

***GOD'S WORK—OUR HANDS: EXTRAORDINARY GRACE THROUGH ORDINARY PEOPLE***

**Friday, June 4, 2010**

**PLENARY SESSION I**

**OPENING OF ASSEMBLY, OPENING REMARKS, GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Following a 1:00 p.m. welcome and orientation session for first time attendees led by Synod Council and Executive Committee member Mary Chapin, the Synod Assembly began with gathering music by Synod Assembly musician Ken Medema. At 2:00 p.m., Bishop James Stuck led the Assembly in the Liturgy for Opening of Assembly. The Bishop then noted that, throughout the Assembly, a prayer chapel will be available in the Vestibule beyond Meeting Room 3 and a prayer labyrinth (on loan from Trinity Episcopal Church in Indianapolis) will be available in Meeting Rooms 9 and 10.

Greeting the Assembly, Bishop Stuck first introduced the Assembly Prayer Team, including Pastors Doug Givan and Sue Socha plus Synod Council members Al Poikonen and Laura Werner. The Bishop then introduced ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, ELCA Region 6 Coordinator for Ministry Leadership AIM Marilyn Smith, Brenda Dembroski from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund, Denny Asp from Capital University, Bob White from Wittenberg University, Dr. George Heider from Valparaiso University and Jane Kirchhoff from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. The Assembly was again introduced to Synod Assembly musician Ken Medema and his assistant Beverly VanderMolen, to whom Bishop Stuck presented prayer shawls.

The Bishop then invited to the podium keynote speaker Dr. Diana Butler Bass, a scholar specializing in American religion and culture and author of seven books including *A People's History of Christianity: the Other Side of the Story*. After Bishop Stuck presented Dr. Bass with a prayer shawl, she began the first of her three keynote addresses on the theme, *"Spiritual and Religious: The Shape of Congregations for a Vital Future"*.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS I**

The first keynote address began with Ken Medema moving the Assembly into prayer, leading the singing of "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying", after which Al Poikonen offered prayer. Dr. Bass

then described her roots in the United Methodist and Episcopal Churches as well as her work as a church historian. From her study of mainline churches with the assistance of funding from the Lilly Endowment, Dr. Bass has concluded that mainline Protestantism has gotten a bad rap.

Beginning with the story of St. Francis of Assisi and his response to God's call to go and build up His house, Dr. Bass noted that St. Francis realized eventually that the call involved more than physically rebuilding San Damiano Chapel. In the time of St. Francis, the Church had become profoundly disconnected from the people it was to serve, having lost touch and having lost its heart. The call was about more than bricks. The Church needed to be rebuilt to imitate Christ, to be connected to God, to be about goodness and mercy rather than power and wealth. Turning to her personal experience early in the 1990s at Trinity Episcopal Church in Santa Barbara, California, Dr. Bass recalled how a need to rebuild a neogothic structure with 60 people in worship turned into answering the call not simply to fix the bricks to retrofit for earthquake standards but to fix the people. The rededication of the physical structure three years later was "holy mayhem" experienced by 600 people.

Although many people today are disillusioned about religion, Dr. Bass submits that Christianity today again needs to be rebuilt. In the current sea of cultural change, we need to open ourselves to hear stories of the disconnection between our churches and the people they are called to serve. When we experience people around us rejecting religion, it does not mean that they are rejecting a fundamental hope for connection with God and neighbor. In current parlance, people long for the spiritual rather than the religious. In much the same way as the time of St. Francis, people long for something that helps people to connect to act justly in the world. The church thus needs again to renew the beating, living heart of Jesus.

Given the spiritual longing that is all around us, Dr. Bass is optimistic. The institutional church, though, again needs not to miss the point of rebuilding. As in the time of St. Francis, new life can result if the Church reintroduces people to imitating Christ.

#### PRELIMINARY REPORT ON REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE

After introducing our liaison to the ELCA Church Council Pastor Keith Hunsinger as well as Trinity Seminary President Mark Ramseth, Bishop Stuck invited to the podium Synod Assembly Planning Committee Chair Jan Philpy for a preliminary report of registration for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly. As of 3:00 p.m. on June 4, 2010, registrants included 265 lay voting members, 171 rostered voting members and 60 non-voting registered visitors.

Bishop Stuck declared that a quorum was present for transaction of business at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly.

#### PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Secretary Ted Miller presented the proposed agenda, including proposed Rules of Assembly, as recommended for adoption by the Synod Council. The Secretary noted minor modifications in the

Saturday agenda due to the timing of the breakout sessions. A motion was made and seconded to amend the proposed Rules of Assembly to reduce the proposed time for speeches on the floor regarding resolutions and motions from three to two minutes. The amendment was adopted by voice vote and, as amended, it was

**VOTED: SA/2010/1: that, as amended, the agenda recommended by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council in SC/2009/45 be adopted.**

#### **FIRST BALLOT FOR OFFICE OF BISHOP**

Bishop Stuck then invited ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson to the podium and presented him with a prayer shawl. Beginning at 3:30 p.m., Presiding Bishop Hanson reflected on the Office of Synod Bishop and provided instructions regarding the ecclesiastical ballot before leading the Assembly in prayer prior to the casting of the ballot. Voting members then cast the first ballot for the Office of Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop.

#### **ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES**

Secretary Miller announced that Bishop Stuck had nominated and Synod Council had appointed the following 2010 Synod Assembly Committees:

Reference and Counsel Committee—Pastor Tim Knauff (Chair), Judy Bush, Joyce Kissell, Pam Mielke, Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Rudy Mueller, Parliamentarian David Rees and Pastor Steve Wood

Minutes Committee—Mary Chapin, Pastor Judy Follis, Joyce Kissell, Janet Manning, Secretary Ted Miller (ex officio), Jim Moore and Lora Williams

Elections Committee—Mike Anderson, Chair, assisted by volunteers from various congregations

Registration and Attendance Committee—Members of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, Synod Staff and volunteers from various congregations

#### **NOMINATIONS REPORTS**

Secretary Miller first announced the nomination of the following three individuals by their respective conferences to serve first three-year terms as lay members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council:

East Kentucky Conference—Paul Trickel

North Central Conference—Suzanne Kjoller

Northwest Indiana Conference—Janet Bakken

Pursuant to S10.07.03, no further nominations were permitted from the floor, and it therefore was

**VOTED: SA/2010/2: that Paul Trickel, Suzanne Kjoller and Janet Bakken be declared elected to three-year terms as lay members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council.**

The Secretary then announced the nominees from the ten conferences for election, one from each conference to be elected by the Synod Assembly as voting members and alternates, for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. In addition to these ten positions, to be elected as part of the general ballot conducted between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 5, 2010, the Indiana-Kentucky Synod delegation for the August 2011 ELCA Assembly in Orlando will include the four officers (ex officio) and two persons for Synod at-large positions for which nominations will be presented by the Synod Nominating Committee. The conference nominees for voting member and alternate were as follows:

East Central Indiana Conference (Lay Female)—Maura B. Kaeding and Janet Manning  
East Kentucky Conference (Clergy)—Pastors Philip L. Garber and Barry Neese  
Evansville Conference (Clergy)—Pastors Jennifer Kingstorf and Tim Linstrom  
Lafayette Conference (Lay Female)—Nona Mae Dierdorf and Mary Beth Foster  
Indianapolis Conference (Clergy)—Pastors Mitch Phillips and Stephen M. Wood  
North Central Conference (Clergy)—Pastors Wendy Piano and Karen Strietelmeier  
Northeast Indiana Conference (Clergy)—Pastors Judy Follis and Timothy Graham  
Northwest Indiana Conference (Lay Female)—Janet Bakken and Nancy Walter  
South Central Conference (Lay Male)—Thomas Gregory Farrar and Eddie V. Hunsinger  
Southeast Indiana Conference (Lay Male)—Mike Kissell and Creighton Leptak, Jr.

On behalf of the Synod Nominating Committee, including members from all ten conferences and chaired this year by Vice-President Liz Michael, the Secretary then reported the nominations from that committee, for all of which additional nominations may be made from the floor pursuant to S9.03. The Synod Nominating Committee presented the following nominations for three clergy positions for three-year terms on the Synod Council, one clergy position for a four-year term on the Trinity Seminary Board, one position for a three-year term on the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Corporation Board, two positions for three-year terms on the Freed to Lead Grants Board and two positions for lay voting members at the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, one lay male position for youth or young adult and one lay male position for a person of color or whose primary language is other than English:

Synod Council Clergy (three positions)—Pastors Liberty Lausterer, Jerald W. Mielke, Charles R. Strietelmeier and Pamela Thiede

Trinity Seminary Board—Pastors Vicki Garber and Mark R. Havel

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Corporation Board—Pastor Michael Brown

Freed to Lead Grants Board—John A. Seest and Stephen S. Tam

2011 ELCA Assembly (Youth/Young Adult Lay Male)—Christopher Burrus and Nathan Otte

2011 ELCA Assembly (PC/L Lay Male)—Nagoor “Nick” Prabhu

No additional nominations were made from the floor for any of those positions. Bishop Stuck therefore declared the nominations closed and it was

**VOTED: SA/2010/3: that Pastor Michael Brown be declared elected to a three-year term on the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Corporation Board.**

**--AND--**

**VOTED: SA/2010/4: that John A. Seest and Stephen S. Tam be declared elected to three-year terms on the Freed to Lead Grants Board.**

**--AND--**

**VOTED: SA/2010/5: that Nagoor “Nick” Prabhu be declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

Nominations then were opened for a new Young Adult position on the Synod Council, for which the Synod Nominating Committee presented no nominees. Robert Abner and Jacob Williams were nominated from the floor of the Assembly, after which nominations were declared closed.

#### REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Beginning at 4:15 p.m., Bishop Stuck then gave the first portion of his twelfth and final annual report as Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop. Referring the Assembly to his written report as transmitted on the pre-Assembly disc, the Bishop quoted from verses 3-7 of the first chapter of Paul’s letter to the Philippians to express his thanks for the honor and privilege of serving as bishop. During these years, the vision expressed in the following mission statement adopted by the 2000 Synod Assembly has begun to unfold: “Every Person a Missionary; Every Pastoral Leader a Mission Director; Every Congregation, Conference and Ministry a Mission Center”. The Report of the Bishop will continue on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

With reminders that resolutions supported by 50 signatures of voting members are due at the dais at the completion of Plenary Session I and that nominees from the floor for the general ballot need to submit biographical forms to the information desk by 5:30 p.m., the first plenary session was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

#### WELCOME DINNER

The welcome dinner began at 6:00 p.m. in the plenary area of the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, with Pastor Sue Socha offering table prayer.

#### RESULTS OF THE FIRST BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

At 6:45 p.m., Bishop Stuck invited Presiding Bishop Hanson and Elections Committee Chair Mike Anderson to the dais to report the results of the first ballot for the Office of Bishop as follows:

With 431 votes cast, of which 430 were legal votes, 323 votes (75%) were required for election on the first ballot. In descending order of vote totals, the following votes were reported:

Pastor Bill Gafkjen	170
Pastor Mike Brown	51
Pastor Steve Schwler	47
Pastor Ann Marshall	31
Pastor Vicki Garber	21
Pastor Rudy Mueller	13
Pastor Marcus Felde	8
Pastor Ron Poisel	8
Pastor Richard Hartman	7
Pastor Jennifer Owen	5
Pastor Charles Strietelmeier	5
Pastor Dave Schreiber	4

Four pastors received 3 votes each--Pastors Steve Albertin, Paul Borg, Paul Hegele and Tim Linstrom

Ten pastors received 2 votes each--Pastors Stephen Bouman, Ralph Easterhaus, Phil Garber, Jeff Gramza, Jeff Hawkins, Keith Hunsinger, Tim Kraemer, Steve Leiser, Ron Luckey and Fred Meuter

28 pastors received 1 vote each--Pastors Gary Anderson, Jason Bense, Martin Bornhoeft, David Doane, Gary Eichhorn, Stephen Flynn, Martin Gehring, Doug Givan, John Gorder, Gene Hollingsworth, Leonard Jepson, Hank Langknecht, Dennis Meyer, Jerald Mielke, Barry Neese, Will Peugeot, Mitch Phillips, Mark Allen Powell, Mark

Ramseth, Paul Schreck, Douglas Schoen, Alice Smith, William Smith, David Trexler, Ron Voss, John Walker, Tom Weitzel and Walter Weitzke

No candidate having received 75% of the votes cast, the first ballot became the nominating ballot. Presiding Bishop Hanson invited those ten persons (plus ties) receiving the most votes to submit biographical forms if they have not done so. The deadline for such biographical forms and for withdrawal forms for those desiring to remove their names from consideration, both to be submitted at the information desk, is 10:30 p.m. tonight. Presiding Bishop Hanson then offered prayer for those in discernment and for the continuing discernment of the Assembly.

#### FREED TO LEAD UPDATE

At 7:00 p.m., Bishop Stuck invited Pastor Tom Weitzel to the dais to provide a Freed to Lead update. Even in these challenging economic times, \$417,439 has been raised to date toward the \$570,000 match required by 2012 under the terms of the Lilly Endowment grant. The goal is to raise \$3,500,000 in order to perpetuate the fund, which to date has been sufficient to award \$295,000 to nine pastors as well as \$25,000 to the ELCA Fund for Leaders. A Freed to Lead video was shown, featuring Board members and grant recipients discussing the difference this program can make and is making in the lives of rostered leaders challenged by rising seminary debt.

Following the Freed to Lead update, Bishop Stuck asked all candidates and nominees on the general ballot to stand as a group. The Bishop noted the opportunity to converse with these candidates at the reception following the 8:00 p.m. gathering worship service this evening. Prior to dismissal for worship in Exhibit Hall 1 on the lower level of the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Bishop Stuck also introduced all rostered (and nearly rostered) leaders new to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod since the last Synod Assembly. Several persons also shared concerns during a brief Time of Voice.

#### GATHERING WORSHIP

With gathering music beginning at 7:45 p.m., a festive worship service then was held, including celebration of Holy Communion and ordination of Pastor Dennis Zimmerman. Bishop Stuck preached on the Gospel text from Luke Chapter 10, The Parable of the Good Samaritan. Focusing on the power of receiving, the Bishop noted that the parable focuses on receiving and sharing Christ. In the parable, someone unexpected comes to do the right thing. As a church, we may feel like we are the man in the ditch in need of assistance. Our Lord and Savior, though, is there to help, becoming our neighbor to make a difference. In receiving Him, we can come near to our neighbor. As in the laying on of hands in the rite of ordination, there is power in receiving.

Worship was planned and led by the local worship planning team from the East Kentucky Conference, chaired by Pastor Vicki Garber, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Crestview Hills, Kentucky. Music was coordinated by the organist for the service, AIM Bonnie Harstad, Faith Lutheran Church, Lexington, Kentucky. Offering was designated for seed money for establishment of a new congregation in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

After worship, all were invited to a dessert reception in Exhibit Hall 2, beside the worship space.

**Saturday, June 5, 2010**

#### PLENARY SESSION II

Following gathering music by Ken Medema beginning at 7:45 a.m., Bishop Stuck called the Assembly to order and announced that the offering from the gathering worship totaled \$5,603.70.

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS II

The Bishop then invited Dr. Diana Butler Bass to the dais to give the second keynote address, which began after Ken Medema led the Assembly in singing "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying."

Quoting from Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound", Dr. Bass noted that it was written two centuries ago but in another time, as now, when religion and spirituality had become frayed and the question was "how do we do good?" For mainline Protestant denominations organized or reorganized between 1880 and 1940, a long period of stability preceded World War II, after which attempts to return to the way things were eventually failed. As noted in the initial keynote address, times of cataclysmic change have occurred before. In addition to the example of St. Francis of Assisi upon his return from the Crusades, Martin Luther experienced such a time of war in the midst of changes wrought by the printing press. We, too, are "ordinary" people living in an "extraordinary" time, so what do we do about it? How do we live fully and faithfully in this time? Note the difference between that question and "how do we fix it?"

From a study of 50 congregations thriving in the midst of cultural change as addressed in her 2006 book *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, Dr. Bass concluded that vibrant congregations are those in which God's people gather in the Spirit with the intent to become communities of practice. Vibrant congregations are those linking tradition (remembering), the seeking of wisdom (seeking to know God) and practicing doing God's work. It takes time and practice for the people of God to be more like Jesus. Faith practices in essence are a response to our salvation by grace. Practices, though, are distinct from programs. The three strongest practices found in vibrant congregations were theological reflection, hospitality and embracing diversity. Each congregation or Synod, though, must reflect upon their own context to find the proper intersection of tradition, wisdom and practice. What practices currently shape your communal life? What practices may God be calling our faith communities to do better?

#### REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

At 9:10 a.m., Vice-President Liz Michael presented her report on her first year of service as a synod officer. Referring the Assembly to her written report provided on the tables, the Vice-President underscored the presence of God among us and in control even in the midst of an emotional year of pain, joy, confusion, growth, wholeness and change. Also emphasized were her numerous attempts to strengthen connections and to make new ones, even by using tools such as facebook.

#### ELCA CHURCHWIDE GREETINGS

At 9:20 a.m., ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson brought greetings and discussed the state of the ELCA, which involves the state of the soul of each of us in this 22-year-old "Book of Faith" church. The primary ELCA questions involve identity, mission and discipleship. The identity of the ELCA, Bishop Hanson stressed, is well reflected in the emblem, including the globe and the cross. The mission of the ELCA includes deepening unity and making it visible, living as an evangelical "new creation" in relationship to others. In our ecumenical relationships as well as in living into our full communion relationships and as we relate to those who chose to leave, our call remains relating to and respecting each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. The ELCA mission ultimately is to plant the church and to re-root the church, a call in which the Indiana-Kentucky Synod has led the way with the missionary vision of our mission statement and which continues in the new process of doing evangelical mission through mission tables. Discipleship involves "every day evangelism", worshipping around the means of grace and proclaiming the Gospel through word and deed as we strive for justice and peace. Splitting into more churches decreases the capacity to deliver mission, which can be delivered together not only to combat world hunger but in ways such as the Lutheran Malaria Initiative with the Lutheran World Federation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. This is a time for revival, not survival, to be a growing church based upon passion to share Jesus.

During the plenary session tomorrow morning, Bishop Hanson will address written questions presented on the forms provided and delivered to the registration desk by 6:00 p.m. this evening.

#### SECOND BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

At 10:10 a.m., Presiding Bishop Hanson then presided over the second ballot for the Office of Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop, prior to which balloting he led the Assembly with the reading of Scripture and in prayer. As of 9:55 a.m., 495 voting members were registered at the Assembly. Forty names appeared on the second ballot, the following 14 pastors having withdrawn their names from consideration prior to the 10:30 p.m. deadline on Friday, June 4, 2010: Pastors Mueller, Poisel, Borg, Linstrom, P. Garber, Hawkins, Doane, Flynn, Givan, Hollingsworth, Langknecht, Peugeot, Ramseth and Trexler.

#### REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Beginning at 10:25 a.m., Treasurer Kate Knoerzer and Finance Committee Chair Kevin Bardonner respectively provided a financial update and an overview of the proposed 2011-12 budget. The Treasurer started with a general discussion of the Synod accounts, including an explanation of the new Outdoor Ministries corporation which began operations at the beginning of the current fiscal year, on February 1, 2010. For the fiscal year which ended on January 31, 2010, total revenue was \$3.03 million, including benevolence of \$2,387,975, down 12.2%. Expenses totaled \$3.175 million. Despite significant reduction of the budget and expenses, a deficit of \$145,873 was incurred. Although reserves were adequate to cover the deficit for this fiscal year, Synod Council on the recommendation of the Finance Committee has reduced the approved \$2.8 million budget for the current year to \$2.2 million. The proposed 2011-12 budget of \$2.25 million is balanced but only as a result of additional substantial

reductions in areas such as grants to campus ministry, outdoor ministry and Trinity Seminary as well as outreach and communications.

The independent outside audit noted no material deficiencies. The auditors again this year noted a very high efficiency ratio of 84.4%, with 67-75% being a good range. The ratio indicates a very efficient but lean organization in danger of overburdening the staff.

Finance Committee Chair Bardonner presented an overview of the proposed 2011-12 budget of \$2.25 million, which as noted required numerous additional reductions but does retain the 51.5% share to the ELCA.

Both the Treasurer and the Finance Chair invited participation at the morning budget breakout session and thanked the hard-working Finance Committee and consultant Susan Prenatt, adding that the financial challenge is an opportunity for mission which can be solved with stewardship.

#### REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

At 10:55 a.m., Bishop Stuck invited to the dais Reference and Counsel Committee Chair Pastor Tim Knauff, who briefly discussed the resolutions which will be considered by the Assembly beginning in Plenary Session III. Pastor Knauff invited participation at the committee's morning breakout session.

#### GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

With regard to the general election ballot to be cast between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. today, Bishop Stuck then made an announcement regarding the Young Adult position on Synod Council, with regard to which two nominations were made from the floor yesterday but neither nominee was present at the Assembly. Robert Abner having declined the nomination, it was

**VOTED: SA/2010/6: that Jacob Williams be declared elected to the new Young Adult position on Synod Council.**

#### MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

At 11:00 a.m., Bishop Stuck dismissed the Assembly for 50-minute breakout sessions. Assembly participants were invited to select from nine sessions including (1) 2011-12 Synod Budget (presented by Treasurer Kate Knoerzer and Finance Committee Chair Kevin Bardonner); (2) Pending Resolutions (presented by the Reference and Counsel Committee); (3) From Rubble to Resurrections: Earthquake Recovery in Chile (presented by Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Bill Gafkjen and his wife Janet Gafkjen); (4) Congregational Record-Keeping (presented by ELCA Region 6 Archivist Jennifer Long); (5) Walking the Labyrinth (presented by Pastors Mark Sloss and Doug Givan); (6) Freed to Lead: It's About Improving Everyone's Financial Abilities (presented by Freed to Lead Director Pastor Tom Weitzel and Board Member Gary Philpy); (7) Living Into the Future Together (presented by ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson); (8) Ministry on Campus: A Mission We All Share (presented by Campus Ministry Committee

Chair Pastor Mitch Phillips and Campus Ministry Staff); and (9) Diakonia (presented by Synod Chair Rebecca Dahlstrom).

#### LUNCH

Options for lunch included box lunches, the recognition luncheon, lunch on your own or a lunch conversation regarding Thrivent for Lutherans new Thrivent Choice program. Honorees at the luncheon recognizing 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in ministry included (50 years) Pastors C. Christoph Armiger, Charles P. Aylor, J. Richard Hunt, John F. Stuck and E. Dean Windhorn and (25 years) Pastors Connie J. Coy, William O. Gafkjen, Lawrence A. Gember, Lawrence L. Isbell, David J. Williamson and Kenneth R. Witt.

#### PLENARY SESSION III

Following gathering music by Ken Medema beginning at 1:15 p.m., Vice-President Michael called the Assembly to order at 1:30 p.m. The Vice-President called on Laura Werner to lead the Assembly in prayer.

#### REPORT OF THE SECOND BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

Presiding Bishop Hanson and Elections Committee Chair Mike Anderson then returned to the dais for the reporting of the results of the second ballot for the Office of Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop. With 491 votes cast, all of which were legal votes, 369 (75%) were needed for election on the second ballot. Chair Anderson reported that, of the 40 pastors remaining on the ballot, 18 pastors received votes as follows:

Pastor Bill Gafkjen	205
Pastor Steve Schwier	71
Pastor Mike Brown	67
Pastor Vicki Garber	41
Pastor Ann Marshall	28
Pastor Charles Strietelmeier	27
Pastor Marcus Felde	22
Pastor Richard Hartman	12
Pastor Jennifer Owen	4
Pastor Dave Schreiber	3

Three received 2 votes each—Pastors Ralph Easterhaus, Paul Hegele and Ron Luckey

Five received 1 vote each—Pastors Stephen Bouman, Martin Gehring, Jeff Gramza, Jerald Mielke and Tom Weitzel

No candidate having received 75% of the votes cast on the second ballot, the names of the seven receiving the most votes were placed on the third ballot. All seven pastors were invited to stand in front of the podium and, as their names were read, to step forward to wave to the Assembly.

#### THIRD BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

Beginning at 1:40 p.m., Presiding Bishop Hanson then presided over the third ballot for the Office of Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop, prior to the casting of which he read from Ephesians 3 and led the Assembly in prayer. Secretary Miller reported that the number of registered voting members at the Assembly had increased to 505.

#### “EVERYDAY EVANGELISTS”

At 1:50 p.m., Presiding Bishop Hanson introduced the ELCA video entitled “Everyday Evangelists”, which then was viewed by the Assembly.

#### TIME OF VOICE

During a brief open microphone period, Trinity Seminary Professors Hank Langknecht and Lisa Daniel discussed new degree programs now being offered in Spirituality. Professor Langknecht also discussed the upcoming Trinity Seminary Days in September, the new doctoral program in Preaching, and the January 2011 J-term 21-day visit to the Holy Land he is leading with Professor Mark Powell. Synod Council and Executive Committee Member Jim Moore, acting on behalf of the Evansville Conference, presented \$300 checks to two seminarians.

#### AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Assembly participants then were invited to select from the following nine breakout sessions, following which the Assembly will reconvene in plenary session at 3:15 p.m. for the report of the third ballot for Bishop: (1) Renewing Mission in Your Congregation (presented by the Synod Renewing Mission Team chaired by Pastor Tim Linstrom); (2) Though I Walk Through the Valley of the Shadow: Faith and End of Life Care (presented by Pastors Tracy Paschke-Johannes and Jane Aicher); (3) Youth and Family Ministry: Resources to Help You Be More Effective (presented by AIM Julie Peralta and Wittenberg University Director of Church Relations Bob White); (4) Open Scripture: Join the Conversation (presented by the Synod Christian Education Team); (5) That You May Be Well (presented by ELCA Board of Pensions Region 3 Representative Pastor Sandy Rothschiller); (6) Living Into the Future Together (presented by ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson); (7) Seeing Is Believing: Introducing Multi-Sensory Worship (presented by Ben Lane and Pastor Paul Hegele); (8) Embodying Grace (for ordinary people) (presented by Pastors Carolyn Lesmeister and Elaina Salmon) and (9) Gathering of Those Serving on or Candidates for ELCA Rosters of Word and Service (presented by ELCA Region 6 Coordinator for Ministry Leadership AIM Marilyn Smith).

## REPORT OF THE THIRD BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

At 3:15 p.m., Bishop Stuck called the Assembly to order and invited Presiding Bishop Hanson and Elections Chair Anderson back to the podiums to present the results of the third ballot for Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop. With 482 votes cast, all of which were legal votes, 322 (two-thirds) were required for election. Chair Anderson reported the following votes:

Pastor Bill Gafkjen	251
Pastor Steve Schwier	70
Pastor Mike Brown	68
Pastor Vicki Garber	42
Pastor Ann Marshall	19
Pastor Charles Strietelmeier	17
Pastor Marcus Felde	15

No candidate having received two-thirds of the vote cast on the third ballot, the names of Pastors Gafkjen, Schwier and Brown were placed on the fourth ballot, prior to which all three were invited to come forward to the podium for a session during which each could address the Assembly for four minutes and then respond in rotation for 90 seconds each to a series of six questions.

## REPORT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

After a video Mission Moment to show the first of the winning videos submitted under the Assembly theme, this one submitted by Pastor John Santoro from Trinity Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, Indiana, Elections Committee Chair Anderson then reported the results of the general election ballot, with Bishop Stuck declaring elections as follows:

### Synod Council Clergy (327 votes cast—164 required for election; 3 to be elected)

Pastor Liberty Lausterer—200 votes

Pastor Jerald W. Mielke—205 votes

Pastor Charles R. Strietelmeier—282 votes

Pastor Pamela Thiede—251 votes

**SA/2010/7: Pastors Jerald W. Mielke, Charles R. Strietelmeier and Pamela Thiede were declared elected to three-year terms on the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council.**

### Trinity Lutheran Seminary Board (324 votes cast—163 required for election)

Pastor Vicki Garber—204 votes

Pastor Mark R. Havel—120 votes

**SA/2010/8: Pastor Vicki Garber was declared elected to a four-year term on the Trinity Lutheran Seminary Board.**

Results were reported as follows for 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, with the vote determining the individuals specified as voting members and alternates.

2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

East Central Indiana Conference

Maura B. Kaeding—66 votes

Janet E. Manning—233 votes

**SA/2010/9: Janet Manning was declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

Evansville Conference

Pastor Jennifer Kingstorf—84 votes

Pastor Tim Linstrom—228 votes

**SA/2010/10: Pastor Tim Linstrom was declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

Lafayette Conference

Nona Mae Dierdorf—113 votes

Mary Beth Foster—178 votes

**SA/2010/11: Mary Beth Foster was declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

Indianapolis Conference

Pastor Mitch Phillips—156 votes

Pastor Stephen Wood—147 votes

**SA/2010/12: Pastor Mitch Phillips was declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

Northwest Indiana Conference

Janet Bakken—122 votes

Nancy Walter—168 votes

**SA/2010/13: Nancy Walter was declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

Northeast Indiana Conference

Pastor Judith Follis—131 votes

Pastor Timothy Graham—181 votes

**SA/2010/14: Pastor Timothy Graham was declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

South Central Conference

Thomas Gregory Farrar—135 votes

Eddie V. Hunsinger—152 votes

**SA/2010/15: Eddie Hunsinger was declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

North Central Conference

Pastor Wendolyn "Wendy" Piano—148 votes

Pastor Karen Strietelmeier—161 votes

**SA/2010/16: Pastor Karen Strietelmeier was declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

Southeast Indiana Conference

Mike Kissell—179 votes

Creighton Leptak, Jr.—101 votes

**SA/2010/17: Mike Kissell was declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

East Kentucky Conference

Pastor Philip L. Garber—163 votes

Pastor Barry Alan Neese—136 votes

**SA/2010/18: Pastor Phil Garber was declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

Youth/Young Adult

Christopher Burrus—166 votes

Nathan Otte—127 votes

**SA/2010/19: Christopher Burrus was declared elected as a voting member for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

No second general ballot was necessary.

**FINAL THREE CANDIDATES FOR BISHOP**

Beginning at 3:30 p.m., Presiding Bishop Hanson facilitated the session with the final three candidates whose names appear on the fourth ballot for the Office of Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop, Pastors Bill Gafkjen, Steve Schwier and Mike Brown. Each candidate spoke for four minutes, after which each responded in rotating order for no more than 90 seconds to each of the following series of six questions:

- (1) What gifts will you bring to the office of bishop of this synod?
- (2) Tell us a favorite story about Jesus and how you use it in your daily life.
- (3) Describe the defining moment in your call to the ministry.
- (4) What specific steps will this synod take under your leadership as bishop to identify and develop lay and rostered leaders for the mission and ministry of this church?
- (5) Tell a story about how God's Word has shaped your life.
- (6) What is your vision for the ministry of this synod in the next six years?

The Assembly thanked the final three candidates with strong applause for being open to this call and for the spectacular way in which they responded throughout this session.

**FOURTH BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF BISHOP**

Beginning at 4:10 p.m., Presiding Bishop Hanson then presided over the fourth ballot for the Office of Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop, the votes for which were cast after Presiding Bishop Hanson read from Philemon 4 and offered prayer. Secretary Miller reported that the number of voting members remained at 505.

#### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY AND SYNOD COUNCIL

Secretary Ted Miller then gave his 11<sup>th</sup> annual report, referring the Assembly to his written report on the pre-Assembly disc, as are the minutes (excluding attachments) of the September, November and January Synod Council meetings. Copies of the minutes of the April Synod Council meeting, approved at yesterday's meeting, have been placed on the tables and at the registration desk. Because the primary matters addressed by Synod Council this year have been addressed elsewhere in the Assembly agenda, the Secretary primarily expressed appreciation for the work of so many in our ministry together in this very challenging year.

In particular, Secretary Miller commended the Synod Council for exceptionally dedicated work in "making lemons into lemonade". Meeting attendance has been especially good this year, topped off by perfect attendance of the 24 voting members for the meeting yesterday, and the group response in support of Bishop Stuck's seven fall forums was a real blessing. In addition to attending one or more of those forums in response to the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly decisions regarding sexuality, Synod Council with the leadership of a task force chaired by Pastor Tim Knauff agreed to and this spring made personal contact with rostered leaders serving in congregations throughout the Synod to offer support for their ministries and to ask specifically how Synod Council could pray for them. In these challenging days for the church, so much wonderful ministry continues.

The Secretary concluded his report by giving thanks to God for the privilege of serving in this position and for all those who support him in that service, especially his wife of 33 years (and one day) Lisa and their family as well as their church family at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Crestview Hills, Kentucky, so many of whom are serving in so many ways at this Assembly held in their home county. Last but not least, Secretary Miller thanked the hard-working Indiana-Kentucky Synod staff and especially Bishop Jim Stuck, a true servant leader with whom it has been a great gift and privilege to serve as a synod officer for 11 of his 12 years as Bishop, covering 11 Synod Assemblies, 5 Churchwide Assemblies and over 60 Synod Council meetings.

#### COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

At 4:30 p.m. Bishop Stuck invited to the dais Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Rudy Mueller for presentation, on behalf of the Compensation Guidelines Committee, of the proposed 2011 minimum compensation guidelines for ELCA Rostered Clergy and ELCA Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers. Synod Council recommended adoption of the proposed guidelines in SC/2010/11. Pastor Mueller referred the Assembly to the changes proposed this year, noting no increase in the COLA in the salary chart for the call process as well as clarifications in references to IRS Publication 517 and

cell phone and mileage reimbursement. As recommended by Synod Council and by strong voice vote in both instances it was

**VOTED: SA/2010/20: that the proposed 2011 Minimum Compensation Guidelines for ELCA Rostered Clergy be adopted.**

**--AND--**

**VOTED: SA/2010/21: that the proposed 2011 Minimum Compensation Guidelines for ELCA Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers be adopted.**

#### REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

At 4:40 p.m. Bishop Stuck invited back to the podium Reference and Counsel Chair Pastor Knauff to begin the process of working through the proposed resolutions. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair first brought to the floor R-4-10, a resolution concerning Synod benevolence. Reference and Counsel recommended defeat of the resolution, regarding which author Pastor Will Peugeot spoke in favor as an idea to allow all to follow bound conscience. Treasurer Kate Knoerzer spoke in opposition, stressing the additional costs which would flow from adopting such a cumbersome procedure. By strong voice vote, **R-4-10 was defeated**. For future reference, as reviewed R-4-10 read as follows:

Whereas, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly adopted the social statement "Human Sexuality - Gift and Trust" that "acknowledges that consensus does not exist concerning how to regard same-gendered committed relationships"; and

Whereas, the document further states, "we further believe that this church on the basis of 'the bound conscience' will include these different understandings and practices within its life as it seeks to live out its mission and ministry in the world"; and

Whereas, these actions call us to a new day in which we are to live respecting the diversity of conscience among us; and

Whereas, these actions have caused much struggle and reflection by congregations, members, and rostered leaders upon how to live our common life together; and

Whereas, these struggles along with the economic recession have had negative impact on benevolence giving; and

Whereas, in this new day we need to build trust by adopting transparent operating procedures; and

Whereas, we should honor the bound consciences in the midst of our diversity; therefore, be it

**Resolved, that regular benevolence in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod will not be used for the**

candidacy, training, calling or program support of persons in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships; and be it further

Resolved, that the Synod Council designate a specific fund to which individuals and congregations may contribute for the support, candidacy, training, calling and program support of persons in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships; and be it further

Resolved, that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod in assembly memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to adopt this same procedure.

Chair Pastor Knauff next brought to the floor R-5-10, a resolution regarding stewardship. Reference and Counsel recommended defeat of this resolution, regarding which Southeast Indiana Conference Dean Pastor Pam Thiede spoke in favor as a response to reduced benevolence receipts. By strong voice vote, **R-5-10 was defeated**. For future reference, R-5-10 as reviewed read as follows:

WHEREAS the rostered leaders of the Synod depend upon the budget and leadership of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod for pastoral care, support, and call;

AND WHEREAS some congregations are now withholding portions of their benevolence support to the wider church;

AND WHEREAS rostered leaders' contribution of their tithes and offerings to the Synod would foster greater accountability on the part of the rostered leaders' giving; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that rostered leaders of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod be encouraged to remit a meaningful portion of their tithe and offerings directly to the Synod budget in support of the work, witness, mission, and ministry of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

Chair Pastor Knauff then brought to the floor R-6-10, a replacement resolution for initially proposed R-1-10 and R-2-10, resolutions pursuing rescission of the social statement on human sexuality as adopted by the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Reference and Counsel recommended defeat of the replacement resolution, stressing that social statements are teaching tools. After it was moved, seconded and voted that the question be called, by a strong voice vote **R-6-10 was defeated**. For future reference, R-6-10 read as follows:

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with ELCA bylaw 12.12.01, adopted a social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" by exactly a two-thirds vote; and

WHEREAS, the social statement has generated substantial disagreement and debate among faithful members of the ELCA;

WHEREAS, members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America believe that the social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" should be reconsidered and removed; and

WHEREAS, "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" expressly provides for reconsideration of a social statement by the Churchwide Assembly following its adoption and its removal or revision; and

RESOLVED that the Synod Council of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America request the Church Council to request the Churchwide Assembly to reconsider and remove the social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns."

On behalf of the Committee, Chair Pastor Knauff then brought to the floor R-7-10, a replacement resolution for initial R-1 and R-3, resolutions pursuing rescission of changes to ministry policies adopted at the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Reference and Counsel made no recommendation on this replacement resolution, regarding which multiple voting members spoke in favor. At the conclusion of the discussion, **R-7-10 was defeated** by voice vote. For future reference, R-7-10 read as follows:

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted resolutions on ministry policies that included a commitment to "finding ways for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church" [CA09.05.26] and also included a process of "structured flexibility" that would eliminate the prohibition on rostered service by individuals in such relationships while not imposing such service on any expression of this church [CA09.05.27]; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with and in order to implement the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA Church Council has amended the policy on reinstatement to the roster and has considered amendments to "Visions and Expectations," "Definition and Guidelines for Discipline," the "Candidacy Manual," and other documents; and

WHEREAS, members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seek the rescission of the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on ministry policies and of the actions adopted by the Church Council to implement them and desire the restoration of ministry policies that authorize sexual intimacy for rostered persons only in the context of heterosexual marriage; and therefore be it,

**RESOLVED** that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as follows: (1) to rescind actions CA09.05.26 and CA09.05.27 of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; and (2) to direct the appropriate churchwide units and offices to prepare, the Committee on Appeals to make, and the ELCA Church Council to approve and adopt, appropriate amendments to the policy documents, which were revised in response to those prior actions, in order to re-establish the prohibition of rostered service by non-celibate homosexual persons and to restore the requirement for rostered persons that sexual intimacy take place only in the context of heterosexual marriage.

Chair Pastor Knauff then brought to the floor R-8-10, a resolution presented at the conclusion of Plenary Session I with the support of at least 50 voting members of the Assembly and in support of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. Reference and Counsel recommended support of this resolution, regarding which multiple voting members spoke, both for and against. After it was moved, seconded and voted to call the question, by strong voice vote it was

**VOTED: SA/2010/22: that R-8-10 be adopted as follows:**

**WHEREAS, the ELCA voted 989-11 at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to develop the Lutheran Malaria Initiative in partnership with Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod & the UN Foundation, to fight malaria with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa where the disease is most deadly; and**

**WHEREAS, malaria causes 350-500 million illnesses per year and kills more than one million people, mostly under the age of five; and**

**WHEREAS, malaria has been brought under control and even eliminated in many parts of Asia, Europe, and the Americas, yet in Africa, with increasing drug resistance and struggling health systems, malaria infections have increased over the last three decades. In Africa, where 90% of malaria deaths occur, the disease is a leading killer of children. In fact, there are 10 new cases of malaria every second and a child in Africa dies from malaria infection every 30 seconds; and**

**WHEREAS, the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, which together with the partners, hope to raise \$75 million over five years, will begin with a program – “Nothing but Nets” – to buy \$10 bed nets; and**

**WHEREAS, bed nets work by creating a protective barrier against malaria carrying mosquitoes that bite at night protecting a family of four; and**

**WHEREAS, these insecticide treated bed nets last for 3-5 years; and**

**WHEREAS the benefits of bed nets extend even further than protecting those sleeping underneath them. The insecticide woven into each net makes the entire communities**

safer by killing and repelling mosquitoes so that they cannot go on to bite others who may not be protected by a net. In fact, when 60% of the inhabitants of a village use them over their beds while they are sleeping, malaria rates usually drop sharply; and

**WHEREAS** the Lutheran Youth Organization of the Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA has already led their synod to raise over \$37,000 in gifts and pledges for LMI; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly encourage each family unit in the Indiana Kentucky Synod to consider giving \$10 in 2010 toward the Lutheran Malaria Initiative specifically for the "Nothing but Nets" program to purchase nets, in addition to their regular benevolence giving. [Go to [www.lutheranmalaria.org](http://www.lutheranmalaria.org) for further information and donations.]; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly encourage our congregations to pray for those who suffer from malaria, and for those who are working to prevent, treat, and contain the disease; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly encourage our congregations and communities to learn more about the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, malaria prevention and its advocacy.

#### REPORT OF THE FOURTH BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

At 5:15 p.m., Bishop Stuck again invited to the podiums Presiding Bishop Hanson and Elections Committee Chair Anderson to present the results of the fourth ballot for Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop. With 481 votes cast, all votes being legal, 289 votes (60%) were required for election on the fourth ballot. Chair Anderson reported the following votes:

Pastor Bill Gafkjen      265 votes

Pastor Steve Schwier    144 votes

Pastor Mike Brown      72 votes

No candidate having received 60% on the fourth ballot, the election proceeded to a fifth ballot containing the names of Pastors Bill Gafkjen and Steve Schwier.

#### FIFTH BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

Presiding Bishop Hanson then presided for the fifth vote for Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop, votes for which were cast after Bishop Hanson read from 2 Timothy 2 and offered prayer. (The number of registered voting members was unchanged.)

#### REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., Bishop Stuck invited Reference and Counsel Chair Pastor Knauff back to the podium for additional discussion of resolutions. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair brought to the floor R-9-10, another resolution submitted at the conclusion of Plenary Session I with the support of at least 50 voting members of the Assembly and supporting the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Reference and Counsel recommended adoption of the resolution, which was supported by speeches from several voting members. After discussion, by very strong voice vote it was

**VOTED: SA/2010/23: that R-9-10 be adopted as follows:**

**WHEREAS, the ELCA World Hunger Appeal responds to Christ's call to "Go and do likewise" (Luke10:37), compassionately serving people who are most vulnerable while striving for justice and sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all; and**

**WHEREAS, the ELCA World Hunger Appeal responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world by addressing root causes through a comprehensive program of relief, development, education, and advocacy, and connecting people to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty; and**

**WHEREAS, the humblest offerings of individuals, congregations and synods, gathered and blessed unite us as in the ELCA World Hunger Appeal; and**

**WHEREAS, the Indiana-Kentucky Synod World Hunger Task Force, the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, and Augsburg Fortress have numerous resources available for free enabling congregations to significantly expand and realize the transforming power of connection with the ELCA World Hunger Appeal in our synod congregations; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod in Assembly challenge all rostered leaders and worship leaders to give renewed attention to how Scripture, liturgy, preaching, hymnody, and prayers express God's will to feed the hungry; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod in Assembly challenge all congregations of the synod to carry out the substance and spirit of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and intensify their commitment to do more to alleviate the causes and consequences of hunger, poverty, and injustice; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod in Assembly encourage all synod rostered leaders and congregations utilize and support the resources provided by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod World Hunger Task Force and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod in Assembly encourage the individual congregations of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod to challenge their congregational**

**members to consider donating \$5 per baptized member to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal in 2010 in addition to their regular benevolence giving.**

Committee Chair Pastor Knauff then brought to the floor R-10-10, another resolution presented at the conclusion of Plenary Session I with the support of at least 50 voting members of the Assembly and proposing not meeting in Assembly on Sundays. Reference and Counsel recommended defeat of this resolution, regarding which several voting members spoke, both for and against. At 6:00 p.m., Bishop Stuck announced that further discussion of resolutions would be deferred to Plenary Session IV.

#### **CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES**

Bishop Stuck then dismissed the Assembly for the Celebration of Ministries, being held from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and highlighting the various ministries of and related to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

#### **EVENING MEAL**

The Evening Meal began at 7:15 p.m., with Al Poikonen offering table grace.

#### **REPORT OF THE FIFTH BALLOT FOR BISHOP**

At 7:40 p.m., Bishop Stuck again called to the podiums Presiding Bishop Hanson and Elections Committee Chair Anderson to report the results of the fifth ballot for Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop. Chair Anderson reported that 469 votes were cast, all legal, with 235 being required for election. The following vote was reported:

Pastor Steve Schwier 168 votes

Pastor Bill Gafkjen 301 votes

**SA/2010/24: Pastor Bill Gafkjen was declared elected to a six-year term as Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop.**

#### **RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES**

Bishop Stuck then introduced the rostered persons recognized at the noon luncheon honoring those celebrating 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in ministry. Several congregations observing significant anniversaries also were recognized, including Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Crown Point, Indiana; St. Matthew by the Lake Lutheran Church, Benton, Kentucky; and Christ Lutheran Church, Zionsville, Indiana (25 years each); Hilltop Lutheran Church, South Bend, Indiana; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Elkhart, Indiana; Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Terre Haute, Indiana; King of Glory Lutheran Church, Carmel, Indiana; St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Indiana; St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Fern Creek, Kentucky; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Merrillville, Indiana; Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Highland, Indiana; and Trinity Lutheran Church, Wabash, Indiana (50 years each); Christ Lutheran Church, Terre Haute, Indiana; and Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Gary, Indiana (100 years each) and

Shiloh Lutheran Church, Walton, Indiana (150 years). The Bishop also recognized those rostered persons who are retiring this year.

Celebration of Ministries gifts then were distributed.

#### RECOGNITION OF BISHOP STUCK

After Bishop Stuck introduced and thanked five fellow synodical bishops and numerous members of his family for their presence at the Assembly, Vice-President Michael then hosted a recognition event in appreciation for Bishop Stuck's 12 years as Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop. ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson spoke first, characterizing Bishop Stuck as one in whom the Word dwells richly and who has done the work of an evangelist. His wife, Ione Hanson, presented a gift to Kris Stuck. The youth participating in the SLINKY event then presented their gifts of a variety of hugs to both Bishop Stuck and Presiding Bishop Hanson.

A gift to Freed to Lead and words of recognition were presented by Dorothy Nevils, President of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Women of the ELCA, followed by video presentations first from Synod Council and Executive Committee member Jim Moore and then from Bishop Stuck's three children and their families. Synod Assembly Musician Ken Medema then presented a song he had written for the occasion, entitled "Missions Man".

In recognition of Bishop Stuck's commitment to Outdoor Ministries, Secretary of the LOMIK Board Allison Burbrink presented a \$10,000 camp scholarship endowment. Vice-President Michael then presented gifts from the Synod Council and a compilation of approximately 300 "love letters" written by individuals to Bishop Stuck. Pastor Tom Weitzel then presented the total of gifts received in honor of Bishop Stuck in the form of contributions to Freed to Lead, currently in excess of \$26,400 and still growing.

Bishop Stuck, accompanied by his wife Kris, then expressed his thanks to God and to all who have journeyed with him in ministry.

#### EVENING PRAYER

At 9:30 p.m., the Gloria Dei Praise Team led an uplifting service of evening prayer, including the song "Smooth Stones" written by Paul Goodridge for this Synod Assembly. The service included prayerful remembrance of the ministry of rostered leaders and spouses who passed to the Church Triumphant in the past year—Mrs. Mary Margaret Chellberg and Pastors Russell James Olson, David L. Williamson, Walter F. Johnson, Darlene Grega, Robert L. Leshner, Richard Whonsetler and Otto Spehr.

The evening concluded with a "meet and greet" reception in honor of Bishop Stuck and Bishop-Elect Gafkjen and their families at the adjoining Marriott Hotel Salon Ballroom.

**Sunday, June 6, 2010**

PLENARY SESSION IV

The final plenary session began with gathering music by Ken Medema at 7:45 a.m.

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS III

At 8:00 a.m., Bishop Stuck again invited Dr. Diana Butler Bass to the podium for her final keynote presentation, which began after Ken Medema again led the Assembly in "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying", followed by prayer by Pastor Sue Socha.

Dr. Bass stressed that, in this latest time of cultural change moving the church to an "incoherent" place, people still have a longing for what they currently call spirituality. People now respond best to those who are authentic, who relate from their heart. In developing practices displaying being open and being real in Jesus, faith communities need to explore their histories and their cultural contexts. Armed with that understanding of their individual tradition, a faith community then needs to ask how to re-tradition to arrive at an equivalent in 2010. By way of example, Dr. Bass showed a video from a BBC broadcast of "Songs of Praise" on "Fresh Expressions of Church", embracing contemporary culture in a spiritual journey by using a labyrinth. In integrating practice as well as tradition and wisdom, contemporary movement is to "the gathering", to which Christ calls us all.

Vibrant congregations are people who choose to be communities of practice, memory and mission. Intentional engagement of history can be used to initiate and learn from the wisdom of our ancestors, for example regarding the importance of hospitality. Integrating practice, wisdom and tradition ultimately will lead people of faith to being more like Jesus.

### REPORT OF THE BISHOP (CONTINUED)

Beginning at 9:15 a.m., Bishop Stuck completed his report by emphasizing that he has been honored and privileged to serve as Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop for 12 years, building on what God already has done in so many areas of ministry. The Bishop named and thanked each person who has served in the capacity of Assistant to the Bishop during the past 12 years. In addition, he called forward each member of the current staff to receive his thanks and that of the Assembly for their service behind the scenes to make efforts such as called2connect possible. Bishop Stuck also thanked each of the seven other synodical officers who have served during his tenure as well as all others who have served on Synod Council.

Noting that at first blush it may seem odd that Jesus told the widow whose son had died not to weep, Jesus knew what was coming next was a raising from the dead. Similarly, no matter how we perceive the condition of our church, God is doing great things in calling us to serve in a new way. Jesus remains present for our bright future.

### ELCA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Beginning at 9:40 a.m., ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson responded to several of the written questions submitted by Assembly participants. In response to questions concerning how he is doing personally in the chaos of the past year, the Presiding Bishop stressed that God is faithful and inside he

is at peace even though he aches for the church. Having served for nine years as ELCA Presiding Bishop, at the end of busy days he still sleeps well because this is the Lord's Church. Several questions addressed how the ELCA is responding to the need for more rostered leaders and to care for those in such service. The Presiding Bishop pointed to seminary training for more missional leaders and to more lay training such as Diakonia. With regard to pastoral burnout, Bishop Hanson noted that many problems arise from unspoken expectations. Communication is crucial, as it is in handling conflicting world views. Particularly with respect to communal discernment, the focus should be first on prayer and in engaging deep dialogue.

In response to whether tweeting counts as testifying, the Presiding Bishop noted that social connections are changing and that the faith needs to be communicated with technology. Turning to what makes the Indiana-Kentucky Synod unique, Bishop Hanson underscored the early stirrings of the missional church as reflected in the focus upon "every person a missionary". The Presiding Bishop encouraged a deepening of that commitment to mission, including inviting others into our communal lives even outside of worship. In inviting others to worship, we need to look at ourselves from the eyes of others. There still are things to which we must die as a church which remains 97% Caucasian and significantly older than the general population.

With regard to sexuality, Bishop Hanson responded that the open discussion leading to the social statement was far better than simply deferring to culture on the complicated question regarding how one lives faithfully. Although people in the ELCA are of many different minds regarding sexuality, we agree on demanding fidelity and public accountability.

#### 2011 BUDGET CONSIDERATION

After the second winning "Mission Moment Video" by Randy Amos (St. Mark Lutheran Church, Louisville, Kentucky) was shown, at 10:20 a.m. Bishop Stuck invited back to the podium Synod Treasurer Kate Knoerzer and Finance Committee Chair Kevin Bardonner, who presented the proposed \$2,250,000 budget for 2011 as circulated on the pre-Assembly disc. The balanced budget, continuing shared benevolence of 51.5% to the ELCA, was recommended by Synod Council in SC/2009/29. With no further discussion, by strong voice vote it was

**VOTED: SA/2010/25: that the 2011 Indiana-Kentucky Synod budget be approved in the amount of \$2,250,000.**

#### REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Bishop Stuck then again invited Reference and Counsel Chair Pastor Knauff to the podium for completion of consideration of resolutions. The Chair brought back to the floor R-10-10 regarding not meeting in Synod Assembly on Sundays. After it was moved, seconded and voted that the question be called, by strong voice vote R-10-10 was defeated. For future reference R-10-10 as reviewed read as follows:

WHEREAS, more and more congregations are going to weekly Eucharist celebrations;  
and

WHEREAS, important resolutions and the budget are presented on the third morning of  
the assembly and attendance is generally low on a Sunday morning;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that after current contractual obligations are fulfilled  
future Indiana-Kentucky Synod assemblies be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

On behalf of the Reference and Counsel Committee, Chair Pastor Knauff then brought to the  
floor R-11-10, a resolution regarding conferring upon Bishop Stuck the title of Bishop Emeritus and  
presented with the signatures of at least 50 voting members at the conclusion of the first plenary  
session. Without discussion, as recommended by Reference and Counsel and by strong acclamation of  
applause it was

**VOTED: SA/2010/26: that R-11-10 be adopted as follows:**

**WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. James R. Stuck has served as Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky  
Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for twelve years since 1998; and**

**WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. James R. Stuck has fulfilled in an exemplary manner the  
constitutional, ecclesiastical, teaching and managerial duties of Bishop as the Synod's  
pastor, chief executive and principal leader; and**

**WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. James R. Stuck has challenged, motivated and led the Indiana-  
Kentucky Synod, its congregations, rostered leaders and laity to vital ministries and  
mission in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and advancing the Kingdom of God  
within our territory and beyond; and**

**WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. James R. Stuck empowered, equipped, and encouraged the  
people of God to make Christ known; by expanding our vision of who we are called to  
become by seeing every person as a missionary, every rostered leader as a mission  
director, and every congregation, conference, and ministry a mission center; and who  
has embodied the synod's core values and shepherded us; and**

**WHEREAS, the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, acting in assembly desires to recognize and  
honor the faithful service of the Rev. Dr. James R. Stuck as Bishop;**

**Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod in annual assembly that  
this Synod confer upon the Rev. Dr. James R. Stuck the honorary title of Bishop  
Emeritus.**

Finally, Reference and Counsel Chair Pastor Knauff brought to the floor R-12-10, a sending  
resolution of thanks. Without discussion, as recommended by Reference and Counsel and by  
acclamation of applause it was

**VOTED: SA/2010/27: that R-12-10 be adopted as follows:**

**WHEREAS, the Indiana-Kentucky Synod has gathered together in mission, worship and fellowship in Covington, Kentucky in June of 2010; and  
WHEREAS we are together on a journey of 10,000 hours of practice becoming more like Christ; and**

**WHEREAS we are a church not interested in merely surviving, but a church who intends to be in mission, re-rooted in the presence of God among us; and  
WHEREAS, we are called do God's work with our hands as ambassadors for Christ, with extraordinary grace through ordinary people; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED: That the Indiana- Kentucky Synod extends its sincere and heartfelt thanks to all those who helped make this gathering an expression of our mission and a truly joyful event.**

**To the synod assembly planning committee and the volunteers for all their hard work and generous donation of their time and talents to make our stay and proceedings a pleasant experience;**

**To all the synod staff for their hard work, dedication, expertise and patience as they competently complete their tasks, and for their many years of good and faithful service;**

**To the synod council and synod officers for their continued contribution to the mission of the synod, and especially to those Synod Council members who finish their term of faithful service: Tim Kraemer, Vicki Garber, John Malzahn, Mary Chapin, Marty Mielke, Paul Knoerzer, and Bishop Stuck;**

**To all those who joyfully and willingly served on councils, committees, task forces, etc. at congregation, conference, synod and churchwide levels;**

**To the Prayer Shawl Ministries of New Joy-Westfield, Holy Trinity-South Bend, St. Mark's-Albion, and Mt. Pleasant Kendallville, for wrapping us in prayer and giving us a tangible sign of their love and devotion;**

**To Ken Medema, singer, pianist, composer, for sharing his musical vision to lead us all on a journey of faith with his unique ministry as we gathered to do our work;**

**To Diana Butler Bass, author, teacher, speaker, who guided us through an exploration of dimensions of religion and spirituality in today's world;**

**To Bishop Mark Hanson for sharing with us the mission and vision of the ELCA, and for praying with us and for us as we elected a new bishop;**

**To Bill Gafkjen our bishop-elect for being open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to be called to a new ministry and for joyfully accepting the role of bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod;**

**To Bishop James Stuck who challenged who we are by empowering, equipping and encouraging the people of God to make Christ known; by expanding our vision of who we are called to become by seeing every person as a missionary, every pastor as a mission director, and every congregation, conference and ministry a mission center; and who has embodied our Core Values and remained Christ centered as he has shepherded us for the past 12 years. We bid you farewell, we will keep you in our hearts and prayers as you enter a new phase of your extraordinary ministry. The Indiana-Kentucky Synod has been blessed by the presence and leadership of Bishop James Stuck.**

## God's Work. Our Hands: Extraordinary Grace through Ordinary People

### TIME OF VOICE

Several persons then shared prayer concerns with the Assembly, lifting up Pastor/Developer James Capers and his wife Barbara as well as those impacted by the tornado in the area of Lake Township area of Toledo, Ohio. Pastoral Counselor Pastor Ted Stoneburg noted the availability of a self-help newsletter. Pastor Connie Thomson lifted up the work of the Mission Roundtable Team and the need for mission coaches. Pastor Dan Nugent lifted up the work of the fully accredited Wernle Children's Home. Elizabeth Haskins, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Indiana, thanked Presiding Bishop Hanson for his support of multicultural ministries.

### FINAL REPORT ON REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE

Synod Assembly Planning Committee Chair Jan Philpy then presented the final report of registration and attendance for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly. Total registered attendance was 592, including 204 rostered and 301 lay voting members plus 80 non-voting visitors, 5 office staff and 2 rostered persons on leave from call.

The Assembly business then was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. with a summary in song by Ken Medema.

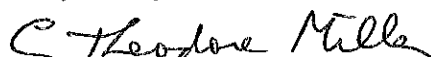
### SENDING EUCHARIST

Closing worship then was held, including celebration of Holy Communion. ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson preached on Gospel text from Luke 7, the raising of the son of the widow of Nain. Life and death, the Presiding Bishop noted, are less a journey than a head-on collision in terms of the profound impact of the end of earthly life. In our culture, you're expected to "get over it", but the Jewish mourner's prayer more realistically continues for a year in a time of convalescence. In today's reading from Galatians 1, Paul also recalls his head-on collision with Jesus on his well-planned journey. In today's reading from 1 Kings 17, too, Elijah acts decisively in the face of death with confidence and compassion. In raising the son of the widow of Nain, Jesus provides a prelude to His greater collision with death on the cross, where He stopped death cold. Jesus, resurrected, has gone mobile in the world. God has made a way, through Jesus, to stop us in our tracks. As individuals and as the ELCA, we lose ourselves in a collision with God's grace, with the crucified and Risen Christ, calling us to go and to act decisively in His Name.

Those elected to service on the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council were installed and the entire Assembly was sent with affirmation of Christian vocation.

Offering at the closing worship, designated for earthquake reconstruction projects of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile, totaled \$8975.45.

Respectfully Submitted in His Service,



C. Theodore Miller, Secretary