

**DRAFT MINUTES
DELAWARE-MARYLAND SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
2013 Synod Assembly
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, MD
May 30 - June 1, 2013**

The 2013 Synod Assembly of the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was opened at 2:00 p.m. on May 30th in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, MD.

**FIRST BUSINESS SESSION
Thursday, May 30, 2013
2:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

David Ludwig, Worship Leader, opened the assembly with songs of the Trinity and Pr. Stephanie Steele, Assembly Chaplain, from Christ Church, Hagerstown, MD, led the assembly in prayer.

VP Yolanda Tanner introduced Ann Iona Warner, St. Stephen's, Wilmington, as the assembly parliamentarian. Ms. Warner is a certified professional parliamentarian, member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians and the National Association of Parliamentarians.

VP Tanner also provided an orientation to the assembly members, reviewing the "Rules of Procedure," and providing overview of the work of the assembly for the next two days.

Bible Study was led by Bp. Thomas Skrenes, Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA on Acts 6:1-7, "Leaders Chosen to Serve."

Bp. Herz-Lane introduced the theme of this year's assembly, "Walking Together in Christ: Evangelism, Leadership, Mission," with this year's focus on Leadership. He recognized the youth and young adults in attendance. Bp. Herz-Lane asked the assembly members to share two postcards (included in their registration packet) with individuals they might meet in Ocean City.

Special Guests included: The Rev. Brenda K. Smith, Program Director for Faith Practices & Missional Leadership, Congregational & Synodical Mission Unit, ELCA; The Rev. Michael W. Foss, Senior Pastor, St. Mark Lutheran Church, West Des Moines, Iowa, Author of "Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church"; David Ludwig, Worship & Arts Director, Redeemer Lutheran, Winter Park, Florida; Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes, Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA.

RECOGNITION OF PASTORS AND LAY ROSTERED MINISTERS NEW TO SYNOD:

The Rev. Jacob K. Simpson Seminarian called as Pastor/Re-developer to Salem Lutheran Church, South Baltimore, Maryland, effective June 4, 2012

The Rev. Harry F. Biles A retired pastor of the ELCA living on Maryland's Eastern Shore, transferred to the Delaware-Maryland Synod, effective June 4, 2012

Sharon M. Biles A retired Associate in Ministry of the ELCA living on Maryland's Eastern Shore, transferred to the Delaware-Maryland Synod, effective June 4, 2012

The Rev. Julia A. Hart	A retired pastor living in Maryland, transferred to the Delaware-Maryland Synod, effective July 9, 2012
The Rev. Matthew A. Day	Seminarian called as Pastor of the Mt. Joy-Harney Parish (Mt. Joy, Gettysburg and St. Paul, Harney), effective July 22, 2012
The Rev. Susan E. Tjornehoj	Called as Senior Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Inner Harbor, Baltimore, effective, August 1, 2012; transferred to the Delaware-Maryland Synod
The Rev. Brandon L. Cian	Seminarian called as Associate Pastor at St. Johns Lutheran Church, Phoenix, Maryland, effective August 1, 2012.
The Rev. David Wangaard	Transferred to our synod from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, effective August 28, 2012
The Rev. Karen E. Larson	Seminarian called as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Easton, Maryland, effective September 10, 2012
The Rev. Diane L. Day	Seminarian called as Pastor of Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Westminster, Maryland, effective October 1, 2012
The Rev. Carolyn E. Simonds	Called through the Synod Council as Interim Associate Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fulton, Maryland, effective December 9, 2012
The Rev. David A. Wangaard	Called through the Synod Council as Interim Pastor at First Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, Maryland, effective December 9, 2012
The Rev. Paul F. Warnke, Jr.	A retired pastor living in Maryland, transferred to the Delaware-Maryland Synod, effective February 1, 2013
Scott R. Lee	Seminarian called through the Synod Council as Chaplain at Delaware Hospice, Inc., as of March 16, 2013; to be ordained June 1, 2013
Reginald B. Price	Seminarian called through the Synod Council as a Diaconal Minister for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland, as of March 16, 2013; to be consecrated June 1, 2013.
The Rev. Jason P. Chesnut	Called through the Synod Council on March 16, 2013 to be the Mission Developer for a new start in the Waverly-Charles Village area of Baltimore, as of May 30, 2013
The Rev. Kim Triplett	Called as Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, Maryland, on April 21, 2013
Michael O'Donnell	Called on April 21, 2013, by Evangelical Lutheran Church, Frederick, and to be commissioned as an Associate in Ministry (AIM), in the ELCA on June 1, 2013

Kenneth Powell

Seminarian called as Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church,
Edmondson, to be ordained June 1, 2013

These rostered persons have died since the 2012 Synod Assembly:

January 20, 2012	The Rev. Luther Burns Saltzgiver, born August 14, 1917,ordained November 23, 1941
September 11, 2012	The Rev. David Lamar Michel, born December 22, 1926,ordained July 17, 1966
December 4, 2012	Gladys Irene Reidenouer born August 12, 1919, consecrated September 9, 1956
December 21, 2012	The Rev. Donald Vincent Grohs born May 21, 1930, ordained June 11, 1967
December 29, 2012	The Rev. Eric Walter Gritsch born April 19, 1931, ordained June 4, 1962

These rostered persons have retired since the 2012 Synod Assembly:

The Rev. John R. Sabatelli	July 1, 2012
The Rev. Charles H. Zang	July 1, 2012
The Rev William G. Wallace	July 1, 2012
The Rev. Robert W. Moore	November 1, 2012
The Rev. Lois M. Nehmer	January 1, 2013
The Rev. Anne Langerak	January 1, 2013
The Rev. Bruce M. Kelley	April 1, 2013

CLOSED CONGREGATIONS

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland (02699)	Closed September 16, 2012
St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Dundalk, Maryland (02710)	Closed September 16, 2012
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Dundalk, Maryland (10346)	Closed September 16, 2012
St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Timonium, Maryland (10527)	Closed October 31, 2012

NEW CONGREGATIONS

New Light Lutheran Church, Dundalk, Maryland (31005)	Started September 16, 2012
Breath of God Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland (30944) (successor to St. Paul)	Started November 4, 2012
Living Grace Lutheran Church, Urbana, Maryland (30928)	Started February 10, 2013

Claudia Harrington, synod council member, offered prayer for the twelve synods also meeting this weekend and for the afternoon business session.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Geneva Wallace, Chair of Committee on Credentials, presented the following:

Clergy:	91
Lay Rostered Ministers:	7
: Lay:	240
Total Voting Members Registered:	337
Visitors:	61
Total Assembly Attendance:	389
Voting Strength:	468
Number of voting members present:	337
Number needed for quorum:	156

Bishop Herz-Lane declared that a quorum was present.

RULES OF PROCEDURE – *Reference Bulletin of Reports.*

Nancy Gordon, Synod Secretary, presented the Rules of Procedure for adoption.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.05.01 To adopt the Rules of Procedure for the 2013 Synod Assembly as presented.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – *Reference Bulletin of Reports.*

On behalf of Synod Council, Nancy Gordon moved the agenda:

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.05.02 To adopt the agenda as presented.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

John Carter, chair of the committee, acknowledged and thanked the committee. The slate of open positions was presented: Treasurer; Mission Through Congregations Team Leader; Synod Council Representatives - Dean; Cluster A, Clergy; Cluster A, Lay Male; Member-at-Large; Youth Member, Male or Female; Young Adult (18-30 at time of election, Male or Female); Committee on Discipline: Clergy, 2 positions; Lay Female; Lay Male; Committee on Consultation: Clergy and Lay Male

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:

Pr. Michael Dubsy, chair of the committee, presented the first reading of the following Amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws & Continuing Resolutions of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA for consideration at the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly 2013, May 30 – June 1, 2013 Ocean City, MD. He alerted the assembly that the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August 2013 may adopt amendments that will become part of the “model for congregation constitutions” and require congregations to update their documents.

FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES (former years completed - continued pattern for future)

S10.07.06. For the Conference-cluster-based seats on the Synod Council, each Cluster shall submit to the Nominating Committee two names for each position as designated, for lay or clergy. The Conference-cluster-based clergy members shall be under call from a congregation or under call to

ministry in specialized setting. The Nominating Committee shall place the nominees from each Conference-cluster on the ballot. No further nominations shall be made from the floor. Inclusivity requirements shall be applied by the Nominating Committee in preparing the slate for all seats on the Synod Council that are open to general election.

a. The elected members of the Synod Council shall be chosen in this order:

Conference-clusters	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
CLUSTER A - East (Delmarva/Harford/ Baltimore East/Baltimore North)	C-3 & LM3			C-3 & LF3		
CLUSTER B – Central (Baltimore City/Baltimore West/Anne Arundel)			C-3 & LF3			C-3 & LF3
CLUSTER C – West (Westminster/Frederick/ Washington County/Allegany)		C-3 & LM3			C-3 & LM3	

Synod At-Large

Dean		C-2		C-2		C-2
Youth	Y-2		Y-2		Y-2	
Young Adult	YA- M/F3			YA- M/F3		
At Large - Lay	L- M/F3			L- M/F3		

Conference-clusters	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CLUSTER A – East (Delmarva/Harford/ Baltimore East/Baltimore North)	C-3 & LF3			C-3 & LM3		
CLUSTER B – Central (Baltimore City/Baltimore West/ Anne Arundel)			C-3 & LM3			C-3 & LM3
CLUSTER C – West (Westminster/Frederick/ Washington County/Allegany)		C-3 & LF3			C-3 & LF3	

Synod At-Large

Dean		C-2		C-2		C-2
Youth	Y-2		Y-2		Y-2	

Young Adult	YA- M/F3	YA- M/F3
At Large - Lay C-3= LF3=	Clergy 3-year term L- M/F3 Lay female 3-year term	L- M/F3

- C-3: Clergy 3-year term
- LF3: Lay female 3-year term
- LM3= Lay male 3-year term
- Y-2= Youth 2-year term (under 18 at time of election)
- L-M/F3= Lay male or female 3-year term
- YA-MF3 = Young Adult (18-30) 3 year term

b. The youth shall be entitled to one seat. Upon recommendation of the Youth Ministry alternate Committee or Task Force, the Nominating Committee shall place in nomination two nominees from this group with the election occurring on alternate years.

+S18.20. Amendments to Bylaws

†S18.21. This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution or with the constitution and bylaws of the churchwide organization. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

S18.21.01. Notice of proposed amendments shall be given to the Synod Assembly at a previous session of any meeting, and such amendment may be presented in writing over the signatures of at least five members of the voting body, or may be presented as a recommendation of the Synod Council. Such amendments shall require a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

Amendments to the Bylaws for 2013 Delaware-Maryland Synod

Amendment #1:

S12.01.01. There shall be 11 conferences in the synod designated as follows:

- a. Baltimore East shall include the following parishes: ~~First, Gray Manor; Good Shepherd, Dundalk;~~ Hope, Middleborough; ~~Luther Memorial, Baltimore; New Light, Dundalk;~~ Prince of Peace (Rosedale), Baltimore; St. John, Edgemere; St. John, Essex; St. Luke, Dundalk; St. Peter, Eastpoint/Colgate; ~~St. Timothy, Dundalk.~~

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Remove; "First, Gray Manor" (disaffiliated from ELCA); Remove: "Good Shepherd, Dundalk", "Luther Memorial, Baltimore", "St. Timothy, Dundalk" and Add: "New Light, Dundalk" (consolidation).

Amendment #2:

S12.01.01. There shall be 11 conferences in the synod designated as follows:

- b. Baltimore North shall include the following parishes: Ascension, Towson; Christus Victor, Parkville; Divinity, Towson; Faith, Cockeysville; Grace, Lutherville; St. Andrew, Baltimore; St. John, Parkville; St. John, Sweet Air; St. Luke, Parkville; St. Michael, Perry Hall; St. Paul, Lutherville; St. Peter, Fullerton; ~~St. Timothy, Timonium.~~

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Remove: "St. Timothy, Timonium" (merged with Grace, Lutherville).

Amendment #3:

S12.01.01. There shall be 11 conferences in the synod designated as follows:

- c. Baltimore City shall include the following parishes: All Saints, Baltimore; Amazing Grace, Baltimore; Augsburg, Baltimore; Breath of God (St. Paul), Highlandtown; Christ, Baltimore; Emmanuel, Baltimore; Epiphany, Baltimore; Faith, Baltimore; First English (Guilford), Baltimore; Grace, Hamilton; Holy Comforter (Govans), Baltimore; Jerusalem, Baltimore; Messiah (Canton), Baltimore; People's Community, Baltimore; Salem, Baltimore; Sts. Stephen and James, Baltimore; St. John, Brooklyn; St. John, Pimlico; St. Luke, Hampden; St. Mark, Baltimore; St. Mark Estonian, Baltimore; St. Paul, Curtis Bay; ~~St. Paul, Highlandtown~~; St. Philip, Baltimore; Zion, City Hall Plaza.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Remove St. Paul, Highlandtown, Add Breath of God (St. Paul) Highlandtown.

Amendment #4:

S12.01.01. There shall be 11 conferences in the synod designated as follows:

- f. Baltimore West shall include the following parishes: Abiding Savior, Columbia; Christ, Edmondson; Community of St. Dymas, Jessup; Epiphany (Columbia Hills), Ellicott City; First, Ellicott City; ~~Harmony, Rockdale~~; Holy Trinity, Laurel; Journey of Faith, Rockdale; New Hope, Columbia; Our Saviour, Lansdowne; Salem, Catonsville; Second English, Baltimore; Shepherd of the Glen, Glenwood; St. John, Columbia; St. Paul, Fulton; St. Stephen, Arbutus; Trinity, Reisterstown.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Remove Harmony, Rockdale, Replace with Journey of Faith, Rockdale (name change).

Amendment #5:

S12.01.01. There shall be 11 conferences in the synod designated as follows:

- h. Frederick shall include congregations of Bethany, Brunswick; Bethel, Frederick; Braddock, Frederick; Chapel (Israel's Creek Lutheran Parish), Frederick; Elias, Emmitsburg; Emmanuel Trinity, Adamstown; Evangelical, Frederick; Woodsboro Evangelical (Israel's Creek Lutheran), Frederick; Good Shepherd, Frederick; Grace (Grace-Mt Zion Parish), Rocky Hill; Harmony, Myersville; Light of Christ, New Market; Living Grace, Urbana; Luther Chapel, Petersville; Mt. Zion (Feagaville Parish), Feagaville; Mt. Zion (Haugh's), Keymar; St. John, Creagerstown; St. John (Myersville Parish), Myersville; St. John, Thurmont; St. Luke (Feagaville Parish), Feagaville; St. Mark (Myersville Parish), Wolfsville; St. Paul, Burkittsville; St. Paul (Utica), Thurmont; St. Paul, Jefferson; St. Paul (Myersville Parish), Myersville; St. Paul, Walkersville; Zion (Middletown) in Frederick County.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Add location for Emmanuel Trinity, Adamstown, Add Living Grace, Urbana (new congregation).

REPORT OF THE BISHOP:

Bp. Herz-Lane, in his report, offered observations on "change," how Lutherans traditionally react to change, and shared challenges facing the church today, but shared how this church, God's church, is still doing what God wants it to do. Mission is happening throughout the territory, no matter how large or small the congregation. He shared ten "Good News" stories of the synod:

- First English, Baltimore, voted to use \$350,000 of its endowment to fund a new outreach ministry.
- New Light Lutheran Church was formed from three congregations in Dundalk
- Living Grace, Urbana, organized in February 2013
- St. Paul, Highlandtown, birthed a new ministry from the existing congregation, Breath of God
- Emmanuel Trinity, Frederick, grew out of three congregations in southern Frederick County

- Journey of Faith, Rockdale, formed from two declining congregations, an interracial couple called as mission developers
- Grace English, Lutherville, merged with St. Timothy; a mission plan is being developed
- Mission Strategy in several rural Frederick County congregations is under discussion
- St. Martin, Annapolis, took a vote to leave the ELCA which failed, the pastor left, but under interim ministry there is growth a vote to call a new pastor is underway
- All Saints Lutheran, Baltimore, growing under redevelopment

Christ, Catonsville, Bethel, North East, and St. John, Cumberland are in continuing redevelopment discussions.

He also introduced and expressed appreciation to the Assistants to the Bishop, Pr. Ron Schlak, Pr. Ed Kay, Linda Chinnia, and Pr. Katie Kluckman-Ault, Director of Evangelical Mission and synod staff members, Cindy VanVliet, Pat Walton, and Jennifer Baxter.

RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE BISHOP:

The Mutual Ministry team, Pr. John Sabatelli, Gary Kulik, and Pr. Kathy Rohrbach, offered insights and personal reflections on the report.

Kevin Philpy, synod council member, offered prayer for the continuing work of the assembly.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL AND MEMORIALS:

Pr. Jim Cobb, chair of the committee, began the report of the committee.

**Resolution #1
A Resolution on the Relationship between the
Order of St. Stephen, Deacon, in the Lutheran Churches and
the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA**

WHEREAS, The Order of St. Stephen, Deacon (OSSD), in the Lutheran Churches has been a pan-Lutheran effort, begun in 1974 at Peace Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, (then American Lutheran Church), to strengthen the biblical and historic office of deacon on the territory that is now the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA; and

WHEREAS, the OSSD provides appropriate levels of education in several areas of diaconal ministry accessible to lay leaders, preparing them for a variety of congregational contexts in Lutheran churches; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of the active deacons on the OSSD roster serve in or through congregations of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA; and

WHEREAS, local orders of deacons are serving in many synods of the ELCA, including Florida-Bahamas, Metropolitan New York, New Jersey, New England, Southeast Pennsylvania, and under other names in West Virginia-Western Maryland, Upper Susquehanna, and other synods; and

WHEREAS, during the ministries of Bishops H. Gerard Knoche and Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, the OSSD has become more involved in the life of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA, and more accountable to supervising pastors; and

WHEREAS, those same bishops have participated in the setting-apart of OSSD Deacons to this local diaconate; and

WHEREAS, there is an increased emphasis on strategic visioning and sharing resources on the territory of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA; and

WHEREAS, competent, called, and well-trained lay leadership, such as is developed through OSSD, is vital to the life of this Synod; and

WHEREAS, it seems appropriate for the Office of the Bishop in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA, to have oversight in the call and deployment of these locally trained and raised up deacons; and

WHEREAS, OSSD desires a closer working relationship with the Office of the Bishop and the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, a committee was appointed by the Synod Council in 2011, consisting of Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane, a conference dean (Rev. Matthew Fuhrman), a pastor currently supervising an OSSD deacon (Rev. Kristi Kunkel), the archdeacon of OSSD (Deacon Gail Wilson), a second OSSD deacon (Deacon Robin Schaefer), the OSSD chaplain (Rev. Robin Simpson Litton), an ELCA-Rostered Diaconal Minister (Ms. Shari Trotter, DM), the Mission Through Leadership Team Leader or their designate (Rev. Kati Kluckman-Ault), a lay person (Ms. Sue Fitzsimmons), an Associate in Ministry (Ms. Joanne Strunck, AIM), the Region 8 Coordinator for Ministry Leadership (Ms. Nancy Gable, DM), and a local theologian (the late Rev. Dr. Eric W. Gritsch); and

WHEREAS, this committee studied the relationship between OSSD and the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA, creating the following recommendations for further service together;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware-Maryland Synod in Assembly recognize the Order of St. Stephen, Deacon; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the application and discernment process of those persons seeking to enter the OSSD will include a mandatory background check and psychological evaluation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the bishop appoint an official liaison between OSSD and the Delaware-Maryland Synod to serve as a member of the Executive Council of the Order of Saint Stephen, Deacon, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the archdeacon and the bishop, or his/her representatives, along with the Executive Council of OSSD, review and approve candidates to be set apart; and that the bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod signs OSSD letters of call; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all OSSD Deacons submit an annual report to the Bishop's Office; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all OSSD Deacons be invited to Synod events such as the Bishop's Leadership Days, ordinations, commissionings, consecrations, renewal services, etc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the educational requirements for OSSD Deacons continue to be rigorous and include an ethics course, that an annual retreat be held for all OSSD deacons, and that there be

an intentional theological emphasis on diakonia for the purpose of understanding their unique diaconal identity and ministries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Sue Fitzsimmons
Rev. Matthew Fuhrman
Ms. Nancy Gable, DM
Bishop Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane
Rev. Kati Kluckman-Ault
Rev. Kristi Kunkel
Deacon Robin Schaefer

Rev. Robin Simpson Litton
Ms. Joanne Strunck, AIM
Ms. Shari Trotter, DM
Deacon Gail Wilson
Rev. Bettye Wolinski

Reference and Counsel recommends: Adoption

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.05.03 To adopt Resolution #1, “A Resolution on the Relationship between the Order of St. Stephen, Deacon, in the Lutheran Churches and the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA” as presented.

Resolution #2, “A Resolution on Creation Care and Environmental Stewardship among the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA and its Congregations,” was presented for discussion.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.05.04 To refer Resolution #2, “A Resolution on Creation Care and Environmental Stewardship among the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA and its Congregations” to the Synod Council.

Resolution #4, “Resolution for PossABILITY Sunday” was presented for discussion.

The assembly recessed until Friday morning.

On Thursday evening, a banquet celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA was held. During that banquet, church and ordination anniversaries were recognized:

CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES:

50 years	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Bel Air, MD Christ Lutheran Church, LaVale, MD
100 years	St. John Lutheran Church, Franklin Ave., Baltimore, MD
125 years	St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wilmington, DE
175 years	Bethel Lutheran Church, Frederick, MD St. Paul Lutheran Church, Utica, Thurmont, MD
275 years	Evangelical Lutheran Church, Frederick, MD

ANNIVERSARIES OF ROSTERED LEADERS

5 years: Paula Thistle, AIM, Rev. Linda Lewis, Cynthia Ranker, Diaconal Minister, Rev. Michelle Carlson

10 years: Rev. Cornelius O’Farrell, Rev. John Greenstone, Rev. Elaine Swinehart, Rev. Kathryn Rohrbach, Rev. Katrina Holland, Rev. Titus Clarke, Rev. Marsha Garrett

15 years: Rev. Eileen Kelley-Warner, Rev. James Luedeke, Rev. Gregg Knepp, Rev. Stacey Brady

20 years: Rev. Ann Durboraw, Rev. Blaine Feightner, Rev. Clarence Pettit, Rev. Grace Brigham, Rev. Holger Roggelin,

25 years: Rev. Andrea Ernest, Rev. David Schafer, Rev. Gary Dittman, Rev. John Mohan, Rev. Mark Huffman, Rev., Kathy Vitalis-Hoffman, Rev. Mark Hoffman

30 years: Rev. Connie Miller, Rev. David Wangaard, Rev. Susan Tjornehoj, Rev. Paul Lundmark

35 years: Rev. Charles Erzkus, Rev. Darrell Layman, Rev. David Baker, Rev. John Ranney, Rev. Kenneth Consie

40 years: Rev. John Keating, Rev. David Myers, Rev. Glenn Ludwig, Rev. Jerrett Hansen, Rev. John Barton, Rev. Harry Biles, Rev. James Cobb, Rev. Richard Michael, Rev. William Gilroy

45 years: Rev. Michael Merkel, Rev. Quentin Fleming

50 years: Rev. Carroll Youse, Rev. James Kinney and Lois Kinney

55 years: Rev. Athisayam Victor, Rev. George Evans, Rev. William Fearer

60 years: Rev. Alfred Buls, Rev. Carl Greenawald, Rev. Elmer Zick, Rev. John Yost

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, May 31, 2013

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The second business opened with song by Worship Leader, David Ludwig, and prayer by Assembly Chaplain, Stephanie Steele.

Bp. Thomas Skrenes continued the Bible Study on Acts 6:1-7, “Leaders Chosen to Serve.”

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Geneva Wallace, Chair of Committee on Credentials, presented the following:

Clergy:	159	
Lay Rostered Ministers:	7	
:	Lay:	268
Total Voting Members Registered:	433	

Visitors:	79
Total Assembly Attendance:	513

Voting Strength:	468
Number of voting members present:	433
Number needed for quorum:	156

Prayer before balloting was led by synod council member, George Bowden.

REPORT OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE:

Pr. Ryan Roberts presented the first ballot for 2013 Elections and gave directions for using the Scantron ballots.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

The Rev. Michael Foss, Senior Pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church, West Des Moines, Iowa, and author of “Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church,” presented the keynote address. Continuing on the theme bible passage, Acts 6:1-6, Pr. Foss provided insight to the assembly on “Why Change?”, “No one changes because it’s a ‘Good Idea,’” “Leadership is doing the right thing at the right time.” He offered that Functions of Leadership are to: raise up leaders, cast vision, and make useful change. Pr. Foss encouraged members that if they believe the Holy Spirit has put resources needed in the synod and their own congregations, it is necessary to shift from “membership to discipleship.”

PRESENTATION OF THE 2014 FAITH SPENDING PLAN:

David Roberson, chair of the Budget Committee, presented the 2014 Faith Spending Plan. Highlights include: Congregation Mission Support projected to be similar to FY2013, ELCA mission support increased to 54.5%, reduction in ELCA subsidies and Grants, FY2013 budget reduced by 10%. Priorities of the Faith Spending Plan are: Campus Ministry, Seminaries, Mission Teams. The committee presented a balanced budget.

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:

Pr. Michael Dubsky presented the proposed changes (second reading) for approval.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.05.05 To approve the proposed amendments (Amendments #1 through #5) en bloc as presented:

Amendment #1:

S12.01.01. There shall be 11 conferences in the synod designated as follows:

- a. Baltimore East shall include the following parishes: ~~First, Gray Manor; Good Shepherd, Dundalk;~~ Hope, Middleborough; ~~Luther Memorial, Baltimore;~~ New Light, Dundalk; Prince of Peace (Rosedale), Baltimore; St. John, Edgemere; St. John, Essex; St. Luke, Dundalk; St. Peter, Eastpoint/Colgate; ~~St. Timothy, Dundalk.~~

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Remove; “First, Gray Manor” (disaffiliated from ELCA); Remove: “Good Shepherd, Dundalk”, “Luther Memorial, Baltimore”, “St. Timothy, Dundalk” and Add: “New Light, Dundalk” (consolidation).

Amendment #2:

S12.01.01. There shall be 11 conferences in the synod designated as follows:

- b. Baltimore North shall include the following parishes: Ascension, Towson; Christus Victor, Parkville; Divinity, Towson; Faith, Cockeysville; Grace, Lutherville; St. Andrew, Baltimore; St. John, Parkville; St. John, Sweet Air; St. Luke, Parkville; St. Michael, Perry Hall; St. Paul, Lutherville; St. Peter, Fullerton; ~~St. Timothy, Timonium.~~

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Remove: “St. Timothy, Timonium” (merged with Grace, Lutherville).

Amendment #3:

S12.01.01. There shall be 11 conferences in the synod designated as follows:

- c. Baltimore City shall include the following parishes: All Saints, Baltimore; Amazing Grace, Baltimore; Augsburg, Baltimore; Breath of God (St. Paul), Highlandtown; Christ, Baltimore; Emmanuel, Baltimore; Epiphany, Baltimore; Faith, Baltimore; First English (Guilford), Baltimore; Grace, Hamilton; Holy Comforter (Govans), Baltimore; Jerusalem, Baltimore; Messiah (Canton), Baltimore; People’s Community, Baltimore; Salem, Baltimore; Sts. Stephen and James, Baltimore; St. John, Brooklyn; St. John, Pimlico; St. Luke, Hampden; St. Mark, Baltimore; St. Mark Estonian, Baltimore; St. Paul, Curtis Bay; ~~St. Paul, Highlandtown;~~ St. Philip, Baltimore; Zion, City Hall Plaza.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Remove St. Paul, Highlandtown, Add Breath of God (St. Paul) Highlandtown.

Amendment #4:

S12.01.01. There shall be 11 conferences in the synod designated as follows:

f. Baltimore West shall include the following parishes: Abiding Savior, Columbia; Christ, Edmondson; Community of St. Dymas, Jessup; Epiphany (Columbia Hills), Ellicott City; First, Ellicott City; ~~Harmony, Rockdale~~; Holy Trinity, Laurel; Journey of Faith, Rockdale; New Hope, Columbia; Our Saviour, Lansdowne; Salem, Catonsville; Second English, Baltimore; Shepherd of the Glen, Glenwood; St. John, Columbia; St. Paul, Fulton; St. Stephen, Arbutus; Trinity, Reisterstown.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Remove Harmony, Rockdale, Replace with Journey of Faith, Rockdale (name change).

Amendment #5:

S12.01.01. There shall be 11 conferences in the synod designated as follows:

h. Frederick shall include congregations of Bethany, Brunswick; Bethel, Frederick; Braddock, Frederick; Chapel (Israel's Creek Lutheran Parish), Frederick; Elias, Emmitsburg; Emmanuel Trinity, ~~Adamstown~~; Evangelical, Frederick; Woodsboro Evangelical (Israel's Creek Lutheran), Frederick; Good Shepherd, Frederick; Grace (Grace-Mt Zion Parish), Rocky Hill; Harmony, Myersville; Light of Christ, New Market; Living Grace, Urbana; Luther Chapel, Petersville; Mt. Zion (Feagaville Parish), Feagaville; Mt. Zion (Haugh's), Keymar; St. John, Creagerstown; St. John (Myersville Parish), Myersville; St. John, Thurmont; St. Luke (Feagaville Parish), Feagaville; St. Mark (Myersville Parish), Wolfsville; St. Paul, Burkittsville; St. Paul (Utica), Thurmont; St. Paul, Jefferson; St. Paul (Myersville Parish), Myersville; St. Paul, Walkersville; Zion (Middletown) in Frederick County.

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Add location for Emmanuel Trinity, Adamstown, Add Living Grace, Urbana (new congregation).

Council Member, John Carter, offered prayer as the assembly continued discussion of resolutions.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL AND MEMORIALS:

Pr. Jim Cobb, chair of the committee, continued the report of the committee.

**Resolution #4
Resolution for PossABILITY Sunday**

WHEREAS the ELCA social message about Human Disability (www.elca.org/disabilitiesmessage) states

Just as in Christ "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female" (Galatians 3:28), so also in Christ there are neither people with disabilities nor people without disabilities

and encourages congregations to be inclusive and accessible to those who live with physical, sensory, intellectual, mental and developmental challenges; and

WHEREAS we realize we have unintentionally put up physical and/or social barriers that have limited our welcome to those with special needs; and

WHEREAS throughout His ministry, Jesus and His followers sought to reincorporate the outcast and excluded,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sunday after Mother’s Day for 2014 and in the foreseeable future will be “PossABILITY Sunday” (formerly “Disability Awareness Sunday”) within the Delaware-Maryland Synod; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations and special ministries offer a worship that day (or sometime in May) with prayers, litanies, sermons, and/or exercises to highlight the issues and struggles of those with disabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations invite those with disabilities to serve in leadership positions within the worship service that day to witness to the unity we share in Christ.

Submitted by:

Definitely-Abled Advocacy Resource Team (DAART) Board

Reference and Counsel recommends: Adoption

ASSEMBLY ACTION: To amend the resolution by addition: that all participants be invited to be listed on the congregational worship schedule and become regular worship leaders.

The amendment was defeated.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.05.05 To adopt Resolution #4, “Resolution for PossABILITY Sunday” as presented.

The assembly recessed for worship, lunch and workshop sessions in the afternoon. During worship three new congregations were received into the synod: New Light, Dundalk, MD, Breath of God, Baltimore, MD, and Living Grace, Urbana, MD.

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, May 31, 2013

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

The third business opened with song by Worship Leader, David Ludwig, and prayer by Assembly Chaplain, Stephanie Steele.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Geneva Wallace, Chair of Committee on Credentials, presented the following:

Clergy:	164
Lay Rostered Ministers:	7
: Lay:	272
Total Voting Members Registered:	443
Visitors:	79
Total Assembly Attendance:	522
Voting Strength:	468
Number of voting members present:	443

REPORT OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE:

Pr. Ryan Roberts, chair of the committee, gave the elections results.

Synod Treasurer

Rev. Robert Harvey 277

David D. Edsall 98

Rev. Robert Harvey declared elected

Synod Council: Mission Team Leader – Congregations

Jennifer Simms 368

Jennifer Simms declared elected

Synod Council: Dean

Rev. Matthew Fuhrman 221

Rev. Timothy Leitzke 163

Rev. Matthew Fuhrman declared elected

Synod Council: Conference Cluster A – Clergy

Rev. Clarence Pettit 210

Rev. Dr. Thomas Sinnott 151

Rev. Clarence Pettit declared elected

Synod Council: Conference Cluster A – Lay Male

Kevin Garrity 211

Don Erickson 155

Kevin Garrity declared elected

Synod Council: Member-at-Large

Sallie Jean Gartside 210

George Bowden 166

Sallie Gartside declared elected

Synod Council: Youth Member

Deanna Bracken 204

Hannah Roberts 168

Deanna Bracken declared elected

Synod Council: Young Adult (18-30 at time of election)

Matthew Herzberg 193

Leanne Elliott 170

Matthew Herzberg declared elected

Committee on Discipline - Clergy

Rev. Charles Frederick 203

Rev. Ed Pepler 169

Rev. Charles Frederick declared elected

Committee on Discipline - Clergy

Rev. Charlene Barnes 229

Rev. Breonna Roberts 136
Rev. Charlene Barnes declared elected

Committee on Discipline - Lay Female

Carol Lettrich 248
Sheila Buttner Law 119
Carol Lettrich declared elected

Committee on Discipline - Lay Male

A.M. Mick Thistle 199
James Thomas 176
A.M. Mick Thistle declared elected

Committee on Consultation - Clergy

Rev. Martha Clementson 201
Rev. Chad Kline 177
Rev. Martha Clementson declared elected

Committee on Consultation - Lay Male

Hollis Thoms 183
Paul Kent Walker 180
Hollis Thoms declared elected

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT:

Yolanda Tanner shared the plans for the next strategic planning for the synod: "Visioning 2018: Discerning God's Plan." This proposal is for a one-year processes to develop a Synod Strategic Mission Plan for the years 2014-2018 that will be presented for discussion at the 2014 Synod Assembly. A handout described the steps, a timeline which includes an internet survey and "listening posts" in each synod conference, synod council work review input, a synod ministry review conducted by ELCA Research and Evaluation, and town hall meetings to discuss the draft, 40 days of prayer leading up to the synod assembly, discussion and vote on the draft at the assembly.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Nancy Gordon, synod secretary and chair of the assembly planning committee, acknowledged the work the committee, under the direction of Cindy Van Vliet. She encouraged members to complete the assembly evaluation which will be used for future planning. Nancy recommended that two copies of the minutes of the 2012 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as certified by the Synod Council, be approved as the official record of the 2012 Synod Assembly and deposited in the archives of the synod.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.05.06 To approve the 2012 Synod Assembly minutes as presented.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mick Thistle, treasurer, referred to the audit of 2012 Fiscal Activity, February 1, 2012, through January 31, 2013. Mick Thistle presented the letter of certification from the auditors, Klosterman and Associates. The audit has been approved by both the Finance Committee and the Synod Council.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.05.07 To adopt the statement of the auditor for the fiscal year February 1, 2012, to January 31, 2013.

Appreciation was shown to Mick Thistle for his work as treasurer of the synod for the past fourteen years.

REPORT FROM THE ELCA REPRESENTATIVE:

The Rev. Brenda Smith, Program Director for Faith Practices and Missional Leadership, offered appreciation for the partnership of the synod and shared information about the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the ELCA, encouraging congregations to visit the ELCA website for ideas and information to use during this year. The annual ELCA video, this year titled, “*Always Being Made New,*” was shown to the assembly. Pr. Smith highlighted the exciting ministries happening on the territory of the synod: 5 new starts, 7 renewing grants, 7 ELCA missionaries sponsored by the synod, 2 ELCA Fund Scholarship recipients, the contributions to the Hunger Appeal, Malaria Campaign, and Disaster Relief, and Rediscover Macedonia. She gave an update on the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to be held in Pittsburgh, PA, August 12-17, 2013. Pr. Smith closed her presentation with a song, “*Say Amen,*” dedicated to the DE-MD Synod.

Pr. Maria Hammons, synod council member, offered prayer as the assembly continued to discuss resolutions.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL AND MEMORIALS:

Pr. Jim Cobb, chair of the committee, continued the report of the committee.

**Resolution #3
Resolution Regarding Prevention and Response
to Crisis with Rostered Church Professionals and/or Their Families**

WHEREAS, Protestant clergy have been found to have higher levels of occupational stress compared to leaders of other faiths¹; and

WHEREAS, according to a study of clergy health conducted by the United Methodist (UM) church² the prevalence of chronic health conditions has increased among clergy. Depression was prevalent among a subgroup of North Carolina UM clergy, with 9% reporting depressive symptoms in the past two weeks (higher than the 6% national average). Clergy ranked the need for access to mental health counseling among their top 3 desired health programs;³ and

¹ A.J. Weaver, K.J. Flannely, D.B. Larson, C. Stapleton, & H.G. Koenig, “Mental Health Issues Among Clergy and Other Religious Professionals: A review of research.” *The Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling*, Winter 2002, Vol. 56. Nov. 4. 393-402.

² General Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church, *Church Systems Task Force Report*, May 2011, Accessible at: <http://www.gbophb.org/TheWell/Root/CFH/4225.pdf>

³ R.J. Proeschold-Bell, S. LeGrand, A. Wallace, J. James, H.E. Moore, R. Swift & D. Toole, “Tailoring Health Programming to Clergy: Findings From a Study of United Methodist Clergy in North Carolina,” *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*, 2012,40:3, 246-261

WHEREAS, none of the existing mission teams of the Delaware-Maryland Synod has the specific focus of care for the stress and crisis of rostered professionals and/or their families or the ability to make this a priority given their current work load;

WHEREAS, this synod has experienced several and severe episodes of crisis among its rostered professionals – including suicide;

WHEREAS, current processes and resources may not be sufficient to deal with every pending or current crisis among our rostered professionals and/or their families;

WHEREAS, many congregations do not fully understand the stress and pressure endured by our rostered professionals and/or their families or have a mechanism in place to support their rostered professionals;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Synod Council of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA, shall establish a separate Ongoing Task Force for the sole purpose of advocacy and management of resources and services to prevent and/or respond to crisis situations among the rostered professionals and/or their families in this synod. The Synod Council will determine the size and make up of the task force; with intention given to broad representation from across the synod, lay and rostered leaders with experience in counseling, social work, or other related fields, and diversity in regards to race, gender, and roster; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ongoing Task Force will consider new positions of “Synod Chaplain for Crisis Intervention” on the territory of the synod. The primary purpose will be to triage and connect each person with resources and services. Chaplains would be expected to periodically attend gatherings of rostered professionals to seek in all ways to build trust and rapport with the rostered professionals. Synod Chaplains would maintain confidentiality. Synod Chaplains would be asked to serve pro bono; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the Ongoing Task Force will partner with synod staff to create a referral network and list of counselors, coaches, and spiritual directors as soon as possible; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that, the Ongoing Task Force shall create a program of educational opportunities for the congregations of our synod. Educational opportunities will include equipping congregations to better understand the pressures of being a rostered church leader and empowering them to better support and care for rostered leaders and their families.

Submitted by: **(writing team written in bold)**

Rev. Michael Adams, Christ, Trenton, Rev. David Baker, Washington County Hospital, Hagerstown, Rev. AnkeDeibler, Calvary, Mt. Airy, Rev. Eric Deibler, Calvary, Mt. Airy Rev. Katrina Holland, St. Paul, Jefferson, Rev. Chad Kline, Abiding Savior, Columbia Rev. Kristi Kunkel, New Light, Dundalk, Rev. Fred Lehr, Interim Minister Rev. Stacy Marsh, Retired, Dr. Jane Pearson, Calvary, Mt. Airy, Rev. Kathryn Rohrbach, Interim Minister, Mrs. Regina Schneider, Calvary, Mt. Airy Rev. Jimmie Schwartz, Carroll Lutheran Village, Westminster

Additional signatures: Lois Bailey, News Hope, Columbia, Deacon Charles Barnhart, Keysville, Keymar, Rev. Susan Beck, St. John, Thurmont, Rev. Jeanne Befano, Craig and Grace Bester, Grace, Easton, Craig and Jacob Birkholz, St. Paul,, Jefferson, Carol Bublitz, New Hope, Columbia, Rev. Don Burggraf, First English, Baltimore, Rev. Dr. Erick Campbell, Augsburg, Baltimore, Rev. Michelle Carlson, Mt. Zion,

Keymar, Rev. Martha Clementson, Grace, Westminster, Rev. Dahl Drenning, Trinity, Deer Park, Rev. Michael Dubsky, St. Luke, Hampden, Rev. Eric Evers, Reformation, Milford, William Floria, St. Paul, Jefferson, Rev. Matt Fuhrman, Prince of Peace, Rosedale, Rev. Marsha Garrett, St. Paul, Cumberland, Rev. Arwyn Gohl, Jerusalem, Baltimore, Rev. Vicki Hamel, St. Peter, Baltimore, Rev. Maria Hammons, St. John, Parkville, Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane, Karen Morris Jeffery, St. Paul, Jefferson, Rev. Eileen Kelley-Warner, St. John, Essex, Rev. Karen Larson, Grace, Easton, Cynthia Lauster, Grace, Easton, Rev. Timothy Leitzke, Tree of Life, Chestertown, Rev. Emily Hollars Leitzke, St. Paul, Cordova, Rev. Robin Litton Simpson, Holy Spirit, Eldersburg, Margaret and Terry Lockridge, Living Water, Stevensville, Rev. Michael Louia, St. Paul, Funkstown, Rev. James Luedeke, Shepherd of the Glen, Glenwood, Jan Marshall, First Lutheran, Ellicott City, Rev. Greg Martin, Zion,, Williamsport, Todd Mason, Grace, Easton, Rev. Richard Michaels, St. James & Mt. Union, Union Bridge, Karl Muhlbach, St. John, Parkville, Christa Nuss, First Lutheran, Ellicott City, Rev. David Oravec, Trinity, Hagerstown, Cindy Ranker, Diaconal Minister, New Hope, Columbia, Rev. John Ranney, Retired, Rev. LaVern Rasmussen, Retired, Rev. Ron Reaves, Retired, Rev. Allen Reed, Conococheague Parish, Clear Spring, Ann and David Roberson, Calvary, Mt. Airy, James Rosebrock, St. Paul, Jefferson, Ann Rothchild, LCSW-C, Rev. David Schafer, St. Benjamin, Westminster, Rev. Matt Schenning, Immanuel, Westminster, Rev. Norma Schenning, Retired, Richard Schiming, Grace, Easton, Rev. Ann Schlossnagle, Carroll Hospice, Westminster, Rev. Josh and Rev. Rachel Semovoski, Trinity, Taneytown, Rev. Gigie Sijera-Grant, First, Ellicott City, Rev. Laura Sinche, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Linda Smith, AIM, Holy Spirit, Eldersburg, Kathi Storey, Diaconal Minister, Univ. of MD Medical Center, Baltimore, Rev. Melvina Stricklin, St. Paul, Upperco, Sharri Trotter, DM, Prince of Peace, Rosedale, June Tveekrem, New Hope, Columbia, Rev. Mark Walters, Living Water, Stevensville, Rev. David Wangaard, First, Ellicott City, Rev. Veronica Webber, Grace, Timonium, Eric Wendler, Calvary, Mt. Airy, Deacon Gail Wilson, Peace, Glen Burnie, Deacon Doug Wittich, Epiphany, Baltimore, Georgia Ziehm, Calvary, Mt. Airy, Jay Zumbrun, First, Ellicott City

Reference and Counsel recommends: Adoption

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.05.08 To adopt Resolution #3, "Resolution Regarding Prevention and Response to Crisis with Rostered Church Professionals and/or Their Families" as presented.

Resolution #5

A Resolution Concerning the Process for the Electing of a Bishop

WHEREAS, the Office of Bishop has evolved in the Delaware-Maryland Synod since procedures for electing a bishop were created in 1986; and

WHEREAS, we understand the bishop to be an administrative officer, a pastor to rostered leaders, a visionary leader, and a champion of mission strategy; and

WHEREAS, while this synod has benefitted from outstanding episcopal leadership from within our own ordained ministerium, it has been nearly impossible to identify potential leadership from the wider-church in our current election format; and

WHEREAS, we would never expect congregation or organization call committees to gather in a weekend retreat to identify candidates, participate in a minimal vetting process, and elect one of those candidates, present or not; and

WHEREAS, other synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Lower Susquehanna, Southeastern Minnesota, Rocky Mountain, etc.) have effectively expanded their procedures for identifying candidates for election to the Office of Bishop; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that this synod assembly direct the synod council to appoint an ad hoc Committee for the Election of a Bishop by February 1, 2014 in advance of the next electing assembly in 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this ad hoc committee, as appointed by the Synod Council, will honor the representational principles of our synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this ad hoc committee create, or provide for the creation of, a Ministry Site Profile for the Bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that within the boundaries of this church's tradition of the ecclesiastical ballot and Synod Constitution section 9.4, this ad hoc committee create, or provide for the creation of, a procedure for raising up and vetting candidates prior to the electing assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this ad hoc committee report the procedure for the election of a bishop in 2016 to the 2015 Synod Assembly with interim progress reports to the 2014 Synod Assembly, each Synod Council meeting, and regularly communicated to the wider synod through its conventional means of communication.

Submitted by

The Rev. William Gohl, Jr., Epiphany, Baltimore
The Rev. Mark Parker, Breath of God, Baltimore
The Rev. Michael Dubsy, St. Luke, Baltimore
The Rev. Judith Cobb, Ascension, Towson

Reference and Counsel recommends: Adoption

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

Resolution #5, "A Resolution Concerning the Process for the Electing of a Bishop," was defeated.

Resolution #6

A Memorial Addressing Seminarian Debt incurred through Inadequate Health Insurance

WHEREAS, full-time seminarians are required to have health insurance to attend classes. This can be obtained either through private insurance, parental insurance, spousal insurance, or school supplied insurance.

WHEREAS, the seminaries require a certain amount of health insurance coverage in the policy to limit a student's liability in the event of a major medical event.

WHEREAS, the ELCA and its seminaries have been looking into ways to reduce debt incurred by seminarians through offering financial coaching and subsidized tuition.

WHEREAS, the current seminarian insurance plans are inadequate and often do not cover basic and necessary medical expenses.

WHEREAS, many students fear going to the doctor or the emergency room because of the likelihood of incurring more student debt.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2013 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly memorializes the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to direct the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit to consult with the eight ELCA Seminaries and Portico Benefit Services to offer adequate and affordable health insurance coverage for ELCA seminarians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit encourage Portico Benefit Services to offer health advocates to students, free of charge, to assist students facing major medical expenses.

Submitted by,

The Rev. Matthew A. Day
The Rev. Jimmie Schwartz
The Rev. Charles Frederick

Reference and Counsel recommends: Adoption

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.05.09 To adopt Resolution #5, “A Memorial Addressing Seminarian Debt incurred through Inadequate Health Insurance,” as presented.

**Resolution #7
A Memorial presented to the
Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly**

The Presence of Firearms in Homes with Children

Whereas; Since 1994, when the ELCA identified domestic violence as a growing problem in America over sixty thousand children (18 and under, source: CDC) have been shot to death;

Whereas; American culture continues to glorify firearms both as entertainment and as the solution to insecurity and enmity between people;

Whereas; Our church has addressed this complex problem with little success;

Whereas; Our country has recently suffered a spate of mass killing in schools and homes;

Whereas; Christ calls the people of his Church to bear witness to His redeeming love in the work of peace, reconciliation, and the promotion of social order and productivity;

Be it resolved: that the Delaware-Maryland Synod take concrete and aggressive action to promote that peace, reconciliation, and order by the following actions, and to recommend these actions to the Churchwide Assembly.

1. To disseminate recommendations for the storage of firearms in homes in which children live that will impede accidental and deliberate death.
2. To publish and disseminate statistics related to death by firearms which will help adults make prudent decisions concerning the possession of firearms in homes with children.
3. To establish places in communities for the disposal of firearms.
4. To encourage the practice among parents of inquiring whether firearms are present in places where their children visit (schools, homes, public places, etc.).
5. To encourage among pastors the practice of discouraging the presence of firearms in homes where there is emotional stress.
6. To inform the public that it is the position of the ELCA that assault weapons and high capacity magazines should have no place in civilian life.

7. To initiate a study of violence in America – its causes and effects – with the intention of making clear that it is aberrant in the light of Christ’s person and work.
8. That to the extent the Second Amendment of our nation’s Constitution is interpreted to guarantee the right of every citizen to own firearms of any kind and quantity, the members and administrative bodies of the ELCA are called upon to consider the modification or repeal of that Amendment since, so interpreted and applied, it is placed above the interests of God’s creation, and his work of love in Christ, by which God has freed us from the work of wrath to promote the life of the Gospel.
9. That the ELCA, in its rank and file and in its administrative heads, call publicity for the registration of all firearms owned by civilians – including background checks – so that both in the administration of ownership and more generally in public consciousness, greater care and caution is promoted in the matter; and further, so that laws can be more effectively enforced.

Submitted by

The Second English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Baltimore

Reference and Counsel recommends: Not to Adopt

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

A motion to amend the resolution by deleting #8 from Resolution #7, “The Presence of Firearms in Homes with Children,” was defeated.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

Resolution #7, “The Presence of Firearms in Homes with Children,” was defeated.

**Resolution #8
The Community of St. Dysmas**

Whereas, The Community of St. Dysmas, one of the 177 congregations of the Delaware-Maryland Synod and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is a unique congregation called to minister to inmates within correctional institutions of the Maryland Department of Corrections (currently serving in four locations in the Jessup and Hagerstown areas) and to those members who have been released to return to society; and

Whereas, The Community of St. Dysmas seeks to affirm and extend the love of God’s creation, encourage spiritual growth, and enable people to live lives of service and witness by providing weekly offerings of Word and Sacrament, Bible studies, and other spiritual teachings; and

Whereas, The Community of St. Dysmas has, for over twenty-eight years supported the faith journeys and enriched the spiritual lives of many, both inside and outside these correctional institutions by proclaiming the Gospel and administering the sacraments according to Lutheran teachings; and

Whereas, in Matthew’s gospel [Matthew 25:34a, 36b, 39-40] we read, “Then the King will say...I was in prison and you came to visit me,” and to the question, “When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” responded, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’; and

Whereas, Christian believers both receive and give blessings by worshipping with other believers within the prisons, by welcoming those brothers and sisters who are returned to us,

and by praying for the ministry of The Community of St Dysmas to those who are incarcerated in the correctional institutions; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod in Assembly encourage its members and congregations to designate the third Sunday in October , 2013 and in years following as “Community of St. Dysmas Sunday” by

- Promoting Community of St. Dysmas Sunday in church communications,
- Consider a special offering on that day for The Community of St. Dysmas,
- Considering the addition of The Community of St. Dysmas as a ministry line item in the congregation’s budget,
- Offering prayers for the members and ongoing ministry of The Community of St. Dysmas,
- Promoting an ongoing awareness of The Community of St. Dysmas within the congregation in the worship and educational settings, through written and spoken communication and through invitation to the pastor or other St. Dysmas representative.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Gerry F. Rickel, Pastor of The Community of St. Dysmas
Paula S. Thistle, Associate in Ministry for The Community of St. Dysmas
The Rev. Allen Reed, Council Chair of The Community of St. Dysmas
Members of Council - The Community of St. Dysmas

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.05.11 To adopt Resolution #8, “The Community of St. Dysmas,” as presented.

FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION
Saturday, June 1, 2013
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The fourth business opened with song by Worship Leader, David Ludwig, and prayer by Assembly Chaplain, Stephanie Steele.

Bp. Thomas Skrenes completed the Bible Study on Acts 6:1-7, focusing on “risk-taking” and how leaders take risks.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Geneva Wallace, Chair of Committee on Credentials, presented the following:

Clergy:	164
Lay Rostered Ministers:	7
: Lay:	272
Total Voting Members Registered:	443
Visitors:	79
Total Assembly Attendance:	522
Voting Strength:	468
Number of voting members present:	443
Number needed for quorum:	156

APPROVAL OF 2014 FAITH SPENDING PLAN:

Vice President, Yolanda Tanner, reported that there were no proposed amendments to the 2014 Faith Spending Plan, but highlighted three items which were part of the discussion at the budget hearing on Friday:

1. Encourage the synod to have the Treasurer's Report mirror the Faith Spending Plan
2. Reason for the reduction in "New and Continuing Missions." The line item proposed mirrors actual amounts in recent years.
3. Increased mission support to the ELCA is the result of a Resolution passed by the 2012 Synod Assembly, .5 percent increase each year.

Incoming Treasurer, Pr. Bob Harvey, led the assembly in prayer prior to the vote on the Faith Spending Plan.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.06.12 To approve the 2014 Faith Spending Plan as presented.

(The budget was unanimously adopted.)

REPORT ON THE SYNOD MALARIA CAMPAIGN:

Pr. Dave Asendorf and Vice President, Yolanda Tanner, chairs of the Synod Malaria Task Force, gave an update on the campaign and reviewed materials voting members received to use in their congregations; these and additional resources are available on the ELCA website. The assembly viewed a video on the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Pr. Asendorf reminded the assembly that a goal of \$300,000 by 2015; contributions to date are \$100,040.

Pr. Earl Janssen offered a challenge to the assembly to pledge an amount per mile as he rides his bike next year. It was reported the CLAIM is also sponsoring a "WALK-A-THON" with proceeds to go to the campaign. "Lutheran Night at Camden Yards" will also be contributing to the campaign.

Portico Health Insurance Update:

Kathy Brody, Portico Representative, provided information to plan members on the changes in health care reform. Portico has revised the philosophy of benefits which will help congregations and policy holders make informed decisions for the sake of ministry and will continue to offer benefits in a changing marketplace. The ELCA Health Plan will go from one offering to four, focusing on wellness, but with various pricing. Contribution rates will now be based on age. Portico will provide all the necessary information to help congregations and individuals make informed decisions. She encouraged members to pick up information at the Portico display table.

Bp. Herz-Lane reminded the assembly that information on health benefit changes is also included in the resource packet in the "Compensation Guidelines."

REPORT ON THE HUNGER TASK FORCE:

Pr. Ron Schlak and Deaconess Jean Warren gave an update on the Synod Hunger Task Force.

Awards recognizing a congregation and ministry for their support of hunger:

- "Tim the Terrifying Hunger Terrapin" went to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Funkstown, MD,

- “Holy, the Fighting Hunger Blue Hen,” went to Lutheran Campus Ministry in Baltimore,
- “Melissa, the Mosquito,” went to Salem Lutheran Church, Catonsville, MD for their support of the Malaria Campaign.

The assembly members received a handout, “Brief Summary of the 2013 Assembly of the DE-MD Synod, ELCA to share with their congregations.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to: Jennifer Arnold, FaithLines editor and work in CLAIM; Pr. Michael Dubsky, Missions Through Congregations Team Leader; Synod Council Members: George Bowden, Kevin Philpy, Karl Muhlback, Pr. Maria Hammons, Pr. Earl Janssen, Deans’ Representative; Mick Thistle, Treasurer.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.06.13 To reconsider Resolution #2, “A Resolution on Creation Care and Environmental Stewardship among the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA and its Congregations.”

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.06.14 To amend Resolution #2 by removing the fourth “Whereas’ and replacing it with: “WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay watershed is known to have been negatively impacted by human activities, based on recent scientific studies²; and

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.13.06.15 To adopt Resolution #2, “A Resolution on Creation Care and Environmental Stewardship among the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA and its Congregations as amended.

Resolution #2

A Resolution on Creation Care and Environmental Stewardship among the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA and its Congregations

WHEREAS, the ELCA adopted its Social Statement on “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice” at the 1993 Churchwide Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Lutherans Restoring Creation (hereafter, LRC) is an ELCA initiative whose stated goal is “to incorporate a caring for creation ethic more fully into ELCA worship, educational programs, responsibility for buildings and grounds, lifestyle of members at home and work, and our public ministry, such that ‘earthkeeping’ and justice for the whole Earth community becomes integral to the identity and purpose of our church¹”; and

WHEREAS, the United States contains 4.5% of the world’s population³ but consumes approximately 19% of the world’s energy⁴ and 10% of the world’s water⁵; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay watershed is known to have been negatively impacted by human activities, based on recent scientific studies²; and

WHEREAS, climate change and its effects, which include increasingly erratic weather patterns and sea level increases due to global temperature fluctuations⁶, have detrimentally affected this Synod and others through flooding, drought, and property damage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA (hereafter, the Synod) affirm the validity of scientific research and discovery as a way of understanding God’s creation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod support the work of LRC within the Synod and authorize the local entity of LRC to seek funding, grants, and resources under Synod auspices; and be it further RESOLVED, that the Synod and its congregations commit to evaluating the environmental effects of their ongoing and future operations in an effort to decrease the Synod's environmental impact; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod branch of LRC be empowered to assist and provide consultation to the Synod and its congregations in their environmental evaluation process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod branch of LRC actively seek out and welcome the input and ideas of rural, urban, and suburban Synod members and congregations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Ann Dentry; Rev. Jon Greenstone; Rev. Bruce Allen Heggen; Mr. Tim Medicus; Mr. Kevin Philpy; Rev. Kathy Rohrbach; Rev. Ron Schlak; Rev. Tormod Svensson

1. <http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/about-us>
2. Chesapeake Bay Program Phase 4.3 Watershed Model, 05/11.
3. <http://www.eia.gov/cfapps/ipdbproject/IEDIndex3.cfm?tid=44&pid=44&aid=2>
4. <http://www.census.gov/main/www/popclock.html>
5. <http://www.waterfootprint.org/Reports/Report50-NationalWaterFootprints-Vol1.pdf>
6. <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/science/indicators/weather-climate/index.html>

Sally Kopp reviewed the 2013 Synod Assembly Evaluation and encouraged members to complete the on-line (or paper) versions as soon as possible. Feedback, suggestions, and comments are important to assist the planning committee in working to continually make improvements to the assembly.

Bishop Herz-Lane gave a preview of next year's assembly: The 2014 assembly will be held in Ocean City, MD on Friday, May 30th and Saturday, May 31st and will include a "Tent Revival" worship at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Coastal Highway. Rev. Stephen Bouman will be the keynote speaker, continuing the assembly theme: Walking Together in Christ: Evangelism, Leadership, Mission.

The assembly concluded with closing worship which included the Ordinations to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament of Scott Lee and Kenneth Powell, the Commissioning of Michael O'Donnell as Associate in Ministry, and the Consecration of Reginald Price as Diaconal Minister.

Following worship the installation of synod officers, synod council, conference officers, mission team leaders, and consultation and discipline committee members was held.

Members shared in the Order for Closing of the Assembly.

