

MINUTES
DELAWARE-MARYLAND SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
2014 Synod Assembly
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, MD
May 30 – May 31, 2014

The 2014 Synod Assembly of the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was opened at 10:00 a.m. on May 30th in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, MD.

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION
Friday, May 30, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Members participated in the “Opening of the Assembly,” followed by Bible Study on Ephesians 4:1-16, led by Pr. Karen Brau, Assembly Chaplain, from Luther Place Memorial, Washington, DC.

Bp. Herz-Lane welcomed everyone to the assembly and introduced the three-year theme: Walking together in Christ, Evangelism, Leadership, Mission. This year the focus is “Mission.”

Special Guests introduced included: Rev. Stephen Bouman, ELCA Representative, Rev. Karen Brau, Assembly Chaplain, Rachel Kurtz, Music Leader, and members of the synod council. Also recognized were youth under 18 and young adults, between 18 and 30 years of age, including Heidi Kukkamkai and Pertti Pehkomen, Finnish students working at Mar-Lu-Ridge this summer. Synod Staff members were acknowledged for their work: Cindy VanVliet, Jennifer Baxter, Pat Walton, and Sonya Greene, Regional Gift Planner, Assistants to the Bishop: Pr. Ed Kay, Linda Chinnia, Pr. Kati Kluckman-Ault, Pr. Ron Schlak. Pat Walton was recognized on her retirement, September 1, 2014, following 24 years of service to the synod. Julie Stecker will join the synod staff on July 1, 2014, part-time, as Administrative Assistant for the Call Process & Roster Concerns and Director of Communications, full-time as of January 1, 2016.

Ann Iona Warner, St. Stephen’s, Wilmington, DE, served as the assembly parliamentarian. Ms. Warner is a certified professional parliamentarian, member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians and the National Association of Parliamentarians.

RECOGNITION OF PASTORS AND LAY ROSTERED MINISTERS NEW TO SYNOD:

The Rev. Moses B. Gobah	Ordained in the Lutheran Church of Liberia, transfer effective November 11, 2013
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These persons are new to the synod roster since the 2013 Synod Assembly:

The Rev. Ann B. Schlossnagle	Called as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Woodsboro, Maryland, June 9, 2013
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The Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta	Called as Associate Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Inner Harbor, Baltimore, effective October 1, 2013
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The Rev. Naomi J. Hartman	Called as Pastor of Faith Formation at Ascension Lutheran Church, Towson, Maryland, effective November 1, 2013
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The Rev. Janet S. Peterman	Called through the Synod Council as Interim Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Newark, Delaware, November 25, 2013
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Robert Federwitz	A retired Associate in Ministry, moved to Delaware and transferred to our synod
Eleanor Federwitz	A retired Associate in Ministry, moved to Delaware and transferred to our synod
The Rev. Kibreab B. Gudeta	Seminarian called through the Synod Council as Chaplain at Hospice of Washington County, Inc., Hagerstown, Maryland, and Associate Pastor at the Foxville-Greensburg Parish; November 16, 2013
The Rev. Stuart Luce	Called as Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, Maryland, effective March 15, 2014
The Rev. Moses B. Gobah	Called through the Synod Council as Chaplain for Pastoral Care and Psycho-Social Support at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, effective November 13, 2013
The Rev. Shawn O. Brandon	Called through the Synod Council as Interim Pastor of Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church, Arnold, Maryland, effective March 10, 2014
The Rev. Sara L. Yotter	Called as Pastor of Joy Reigns Lutheran Church, Edgewater, Maryland, effective April 27, 2014
The Rev. Meheret Y. Caruthers	Seminarian called as Associate Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Linthicum, Maryland, effective February 1, 2014
The Rev. Karin M. Albaugh	Seminarian called as Pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church, Frederick, Maryland, effective April 13, 2014
The Rev. Lauren Muratore	Called to Gettysburg Seminary as Director of Admissions and Assistant Dean of the Chapel/Coordinator of Spiritual Formation
Father James Hamilton	Episcopalian Priest, called as Canton Mission Developer

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.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

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

Clergy:	130
Lay Rostered Ministers:	18
: Lay:	230
Total Voting Members Registered:	378
Visitors:	62
Total Assembly Attendance:	440
Voting Strength:	563
Number of voting members present:	378
Number needed for quorum:	187

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.14.05.01 To adopt the Rules of Procedure for the 2014 Synod Assembly as presented.

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

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.14.05.02 To adopt the agenda as presented.

Resolutions presented by the Synod Council:

Synod Council Resolution #1: To Change the By-Laws Regarding the Election of a Dean to the Synod Council

S10.07.06: To correct the time table for the election of a member of the Conference of Deans to the Synod Council so that such election will take place in 2015 and every two years thereafter.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.14.05.03 To adopt Synod Council Resolution #1, To Change the By-laws Regarding the Election of a Dean to the Synod Council as presented.

Synod Council Resolution #2: To Change the Synod Constitution Regarding the Spending Authority of the Synod Council

S15.13.02: The Synod Council shall have the authority to enter into contracts or otherwise incur expenses up to 5% of the approved budget, exclusive of mission support funds anticipated to be distributed to the ELCA, for items not included in the budget but determined to be necessary for the effective operation of the Synod or to fund prior year commitments to ministries or mission initiatives where such activities were underfunded in the previous fiscal year.

(This amendment was presented at the 2014 Synod Assembly and will be voted on at the 2015 Synod Assembly.)

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:

Pr. Earl Janssen, chair of the committee, thanked his predecessor, Pr. Michael Dubsky, and shared the work of the committee this past year. There were no other action items from the committee.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

Sallie Gartside, chair of the committee, presented the slate of nominees: Synod Council: Cluster C, Clergy: Rev. David James Albertson, Rev. Normal L. Schenning; Cluster C: Lay Male, Paul Richard Donnelly, Dennis Edward Page; Consultation Committee, Clergy: Rev. Dr. Fred Lehr, Rev. Virginia Price; Consultation Committee, Lay Female: Sue Fitzsimmons, Gail L. Wilson; Mission Through Partnership Team Leader: Claudia J. Harrington.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane, using an analogy of the movie, "The Titanic," shared thoughts on what actions happened when the ship hit the iceberg and how the church needs to react as it continues to face the iceberg of a changing world, declining membership, and interest in the church. "If we keep on doing what we've done, we'll continue to get what we've always gotten."

Bp. Herz-Lane offered that the ship of the church is starting to turn away from the iceberg and listed a variety of ways that God is working in the synod and what good things are happening. "With God all things are possible."

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 for "I Love Mar Lu Ridge" Month**

WHEREAS There is a need and desire to recognize that Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center (MLR) **IS** a ministry of the Delaware-Maryland (DE-MD) Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and

WHEREAS MLR's mission statement is:

We welcome all people to a mountain-top experience of Christian community that changes lives, makes disciples, builds friendships, and encourages care of God's creation; and

WHEREAS MLR serves annually close to 1000 campers ages 6-17 in its summer camp programs, and in addition, many family and adult campers during our summer sessions; and

WHEREAS MLR also offers retreat opportunities year-round to a wide variety of groups; and

WHEREAS MLR is committed to continually providing Community, Service, and Sanctuary to all; and

WHEREAS MLR is a non-profit ministry, depending upon donations and fund-raisers to help it keep its costs affordable as it supports current expenses and employee costs; and

WHEREAS MLR has a 54 year history of positively effecting children's lives and also has maintained good standing within the American Camp Association; and

WHEREAS MLR has created a solid reputation within the Synod and surrounding areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the month of February be declared to be "I Love Mar-Lu-Ridge" month within the DE-MD Synod; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations of the DE-MD Synod are encouraged to post notices in their bulletins and newsletters sharing the news of Mar-Lu-Ridge, in particular, regarding summer camp; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations of the DE-MD Synod be encouraged to invite MLR staff to come to their congregations to speak in an effort to raise awareness of this ministry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congregations of the DE-MD Synod would pray for the ministry of Mar-Lu-Ridge, seek to partner with them in a variety of ways, and support Mar-Lu-Ridge as much as possible.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Mark A. G. Huffman, The Rev. Charlene Barnes, The Rev. Gerry F. Rickel

(The committee recommends adoption.)

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.14.05.04 To adopt Resolution #1, I Love Mar-Lu-Ridge, as presented.

**MEMORIAL #1
Memorial to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Regarding: Portico Benefits Services Covering Hearing Aids**

WHEREAS the age of the rostered leaders is skewed toward senior citizens who typically have a more frequent incidence of hearing loss, and

WHEREAS hearing aids can cost \$2,000 to \$6,000 each, and

WHEREAS most insurance companies do not cover hearing aids because they do not consider them a “medical necessity”, and
WHEREAS most people believe that being able to adequately hear IS a “medical necessity,” and
WHEREAS it appears that Jesus valued hearing as a “medical necessity” ... note Luke 22:51 “Jesus said, ‘No more of this.’ And He touched his ear and healed him...”, and
WHEREAS we are called to model our lives after Jesus,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware-Maryland Synod memorialize the ELCA in Assembly to request the Portico Benefits Services to provide full insurance coverage for hearing aids for the rostered professionals in its members.

Submitted by:
The Rev. Dr. J. Fred Lehr

(The committee recommends adoption.)

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.14.05.05 To refer Memorial #1, Portico Benefits Services Covering Hearing Aids, to Synod Council

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION
Friday, May 30, 2014
2:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Pr. Karen Brau, Assembly Chaplain, led the assembly and prayer and in Bible Study from John 21:4-19.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

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

Clergy:	146
Lay Rostered Ministers:	18
: Lay:	261
Total Voting Members Registered:	425
Visitors:	65
Total Assembly Attendance:	490
Voting Strength:	563
Number of voting members present:	425
Number needed for quorum:	187

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Pr. Ryan Roberts, chair of the committee, gave instructions for the completing the ballot.

A video on the “Malaria Campaign” was shown to the assembly. Baskets were passed around for collections for the synod campaign.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENTS AND ANNIVERSARIES

RETIRED

These rostered persons have retired since the 2013 Synod Assembly:

The Rev. Bruce Heggen	July 1, 2013
The Rev. Blaine E. Feightner	July 1, 2013

The Rev. W. Gregory Martin	September 1, 2013
The Rev. Judith A. Moller-Gavlick	September 1, 2013
The Rev. John W. Keating	November 1, 2013
The Rev. Barbara Melosh	November 1, 2013
The Rev. Barbara N. Parrish	November 1, 2013
The Rev. David G. Berg	January 1, 2014
Dorothy E. Lewis, AIM	February 24, 2014
The Rev Thomas Williamsen	April 1, 2014
The Rev. G. Neale Wirtanen	April 1, 2014

ORDINATIONS

Scott R. Lee	June 1, 2013 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly Ocean City, Maryland
Kenneth Powell	June 1, 2013 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly Ocean City, Maryland
Kibreab B. Gudeta	January 11, 2014 Calvary Lutheran Church Mt. Airy, MD
Meheret Y. Caruthers	May 3, 2014 Christ Lutheran Church Baltimore, Maryland
Lauren Muratore	May 3, 2014 Christ Lutheran Church Baltimore, Maryland
Karin M. Albaugh	May 3, 2014 Christ Lutheran Church Baltimore, Maryland

CONSECRATIONS AND COMMISSIONINGS

Michael S. O'Donnell	June 1, 2013 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly Ocean City, Maryland
Reginald B. Price	June 1, 2013 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly Ocean City, Maryland

ANNIVERSARIES OF ROSTERED LEADERS

Associate in Ministry:

35 years: Maxim R. Hoffman

50 years: Clair A. Johannsen

Ordained Minister:

5 years: Rev. Churchill B. Wotherly, Rev. Mark E. Parker, Rev. Michael K. Louia, Rev. Naomi J. Hartman

10 years: Rev. Kathleen A. Ierien, Rev. Vicki L. Hamel, Rev. Wayne A. Reed, Rev. Ann E. Dentry, Rev. Chad Kline, Rev. Eric W. Evers, Rev. Gregory C. Fetzer, Rev. Judith A. Moller-Gavlick, Rev. Michael B. Guy, Sr., Rev. Zavandro Andriamaheninkaja

20 years: Rev. Anke Deibler, Rev. Eric L. Deibler

25 years: Rev. Eric T. Campbell, Rev. Julia A. Hart, Rev. Jurgen Hilke, Rev. Richard P. Rutkauskas, Jr., Rev. Susan C. Roy, Rev. Virginia K. Price

30 years: Rev. Brian H. Hughes, Rev. David D. Howell, Rev. Jason F. Burns

35 years: Rev. Edward H. Heim, Rev. George E. Tuttle, Rev. Harry T. Miller, Jr., Rev. Matthew S. Schenning, Rev. Philip C. Huber, Rev. Torben G. Aarsand

40 years: Rev. Charles H. Zang, Rev. Donald L. Hudson, Rev. Douglas H. Strachan, Rev. Fred N. Melton, Rev. G. N. Wirtanen, Jr., Rev. Harry L. Wolpert, III, Rev. John P. Seltzer, Rev. Joseph I. Donovan III, Rev. Raymond C. Myers, Rev. Richard L. Krebs

45 years: Rev. Michael C. Adams, Rev. Stephen F. Yelovich

50 years: Rev. Charles R. Frederick, Rev. David L. Himmler, Rev. Edward H. Pepler, Rev. Henry E. Schaefer, Jr., Rev. John V. Trautwein, Rev. Thomas E. Davison, Rev. Walter P. Fogarty

55 years: Rev. George P. Mocko, Rev. Hans-Joachim S. Otto, Rev. John F. Steinbruck, Rev. Richard G. Hembrock, Rev. Robert H. Mack

60 years: Rev. David P. Wasgatt, Jr., Rev. Richard E. Manning

70 years: Rev. Ellis K. Kretschmer

CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES

25 years: Harmony Community Lutheran Church, Myersville, MD
All Saints Evangelical Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD

50 years: Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Columbia, MD

100 years: St. Luke Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD

125 years: St. Mark Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, MD
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Smithsburg, MD
Messiah English Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD

PRESENTATION OF THE 2015 FAITH SPENDING PLAN:

Dave Roberson, chair of the committee, shared items which were used to develop the plan: Congregation Mission Projected to be similar to SY2014; ELCA Mission Support Mission Teams; Priority Driven to include Campus Ministry and New/Renewing Congregations, Seminary. He also reviewed the income and expenses projected for the coming budget cycle. Procedures for amending the budget were outlined.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL AND MEMORIALS

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

Resolution #2
A Call for a Coordinator for the African Descent Strategy
of the Delaware-Maryland Synod

A Call for a Coordinator for the African Descent Strategy of the Delaware-Maryland Synod

- WHEREAS** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted and approved the “Plan of Action for Ministry in African Descent Communities,” on August 11, 2005, at its Churchwide Assembly; and
- WHEREAS** the various mission goals in this strategy challenge people of African Descent within Lutheranism to live out in a variety of ways and through various callings the will of God which promotes justice, healing and human dignity for all; and
- WHEREAS** a Strategic Plan of the Delaware-Maryland Synod for congregations within the African Descent Communities on its territory was approved by the Synod Council on May 15, 2010, and subsequently approved by the Synod Assembly, 2010; and
- WHEREAS** the strategy offers a vision and plan of action that guides efforts to provide leadership and support to the Delaware-Maryland Synod and congregations as they reach out in witness to the gospel with and among peoples of African Descent, and to provide a framework for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the programmatic activities in developing new congregations and in supporting established congregations and engaging visionary leaders in the church; and
- WHEREAS** an African Descent Strategy is vital for the sustenance, growth, and understanding of African Descent Lutheran congregations in urban/suburban communities of the Delaware-Maryland Synod; and
- WHEREAS** an African Descent Strategy provides a platform for voices, experiences, and perspective of the underrepresented in the membership of the Delaware-Maryland Synod; and
- WHEREAS** to accomplish the goals as outlined in the above approved strategy a part-time Coordinator is essential; and
- WHEREAS** the full participation and financial support of the Delaware-Maryland Synod is required to successfully execute the strategy as agreed upon by its voting members at the 2010 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware-Maryland Synod act on the resolution passed during the 2010 Synod Assembly;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a person be engaged by the Synod Council of the Delaware-Maryland Synod as a part-time Coordinator of the African Descent Strategy in agreement with the understanding of “full participation and financial support” of the Delaware-Maryland as recommended and agreed upon in the original resolution “beginning with the 2012 Faith Spending Plan;”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Bishop in consultation with Churchwide Partners, the Budget Development Committee of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, and other existing synod committees identify financial support of \$18,000 per year for a three-year term engagement of a Coordinator for the African Descent Strategy on behalf of the Delaware-Maryland Synod to support our efforts as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to become more inclusive and representative of all of God's people.

Submitted by the following:

**The Rev. Eric T. Campbell
Marion Boston
The Rev. Titus Clarke
Sheron Chaplin
The Rev. Churchill Wortherly
David Wright**

**Augsburg Lutheran Church
St. John Lutheran Church
People's Community Lutheran Church
Augsburg Lutheran Church
All Saints Lutheran Church
Augsburg Lutheran Church**

(The committee recommends adoption.)

ASSEMBLY ACTION

SA.14.05.06 To approve the Resolution #2, A Call for a Coordinator for the African Descent Strategy of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, as presented.

**Resolution #3
Resolution of the 2014 Synod Assembly, "Super Storm Sandy"
Resolution for Somerset County Recovery**

WHEREAS Super Storm Sandy (October 29-30, 2012) caused considerable damage to lives and homes in Somerset County, MD, and

WHEREAS the Delaware-Maryland Synod and its congregations, Lutheran Disaster Response, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, Lutheran Partners in Disaster Response and many congregations of the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod have been supportive of the Recovery Effort, and

WHEREAS the Rev. Phillip C. Huber, and the Rev. Thomas G. Sinnott, representing Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran Partners in Disaster Response, have been instrumental in helping form the Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee (SCLTRC), Inc., (a 501(c)(3) organization) and coordinating the long term recovery effort, and

WHEREAS the SCLTRC is composed of an ecumenical, faith-based and non-profit partnership, which includes Episcopal Disaster Relief, Mennonite Disaster Services, American Red Cross, United Methodist Committee on Relief, the United Way, International Orthodox Christian Charities, Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware, Catholic Charities, Chesapeake Conference of 7th Day Adventist, 31 other partner agencies, and

WHEREAS the SCLTRC has a staff of seven persons (Case Manager, Case Worker, Office Administrator/Volunteer Coordinator, Manager of Construction Operations, Construction Superintendent, Data Technician, Volunteer Camp Manager), and

WHEREAS to date the SCLTRC and its Staff have:

- Engaged over 1,000 Disaster Volunteers
- Served over 700 individuals and 361 families
- Repaired over 175 homes
- Built 5 new homes
- Presently constructing 6 new homes
- Have 12 new homes remaining to be built
- Have over 65 homes remaining to be repaired, and

WHEREAS Lutheran Disaster Response has recently provided \$207,000 in staff support funding for the first 9 months in 2015 which establishes the date of September 30, 2015 as the ending date of our long term recovery efforts in Somerset County, and

WHEREAS there is a projected \$360,000 shortage in funding needed to complete the recovery effort in Somerset County, and

WHEREAS we are now half-way through the long term recovery effort and need a surge of energy and resources to complete the ministry we have been called to:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly encourages its congregations, agencies and institutions to renew their support of the on-going rebuilding efforts in Somerset County by offering their financial support, prayers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Synod Assembly recognizes the opportunity for mission in Somerset County, MD by encouraging its congregations to send work crews, work camp cooks, and long term recovery office volunteers to Somerset County to assist in the reconstruction efforts.

Submitted by the following:

**Pastor Phillip Huber, Transforming Ministry Assoc
Pastor Thom Sinnott, Retired
Pastor Timothy Leitzke, Tree of Life, Odessa and Dean of Delmarva Confernece
Pastor Terry Landgon, Faith, Salisbury
Pastor Gregg Knepp, St Peter, Ocean City
Pastor Tormod Svensson, St. John, Cumberland
Pastor Jerrett Hansen, Journey of Faith, Baltimore
Pastor Laura Ingersol, Journey of Faith, Baltimore
Pastor Susan Tjornehoj, Christ, Baltimore**

(The committee recommends adoption.)

ASSEMBLY ACTION

SA.14.05.07 To approve the Resolution #3, Super Storm Sandy, as presented.

(The resolution was adopted unanimously.)

INTRODUCTION OF “Vision 2018: Discerning God’s Plan”

Paul Erbes, Facilitator, discussing Ephesians 4, which served as the scriptural basis for the year’s work. He reviewed the discernment process, listening in a variety of ways: scripture, prayer, surveys, listening posts, and an ELCA synod review. The Vision Plan has four

signposts: *Way of Discipleship, Way of Communication, Way of Connectedness, Way of Leadership.*

The assembly spent time reviewing the plan discussing in small groups what is exciting about this Vision, what will have the greatest impact on your ministry, what is missing. Time was allotted for members to share initial thoughts about the plan.

Malaria Campaign Offering: \$3,000.41 (cash) and \$2,028 (checks) with matching funds of \$3,000.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL AND MEMORIALS

Jim Cobb continued the report of the committee.

Resolution #4

A Resolution Regarding Violence/Abuse Against Women

- WHEREAS** violence/abuse against women is endemic yet often ignored within our communities and around the world; and
- WHEREAS** the church throughout history has not only neglected to address violence/abuse against women but has contributed greatly to patriarchal systems and a culture of silence and victim-blaming which exacerbate this violence; and
- WHEREAS** God calls us to recognize, comfort, and advocate for neighbors suffering under systems of oppression: "Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them" (Ecclesiastes 4:1, ESV); and
- WHEREAS** Jesus himself put his voice and his body between those who would commit violence/abuse against women, even as they used their faith to justify their actions (John 8:3-11);" and
- WHEREAS** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has taken good steps in providing resources related to "Justice for Women;" and
- WHEREAS** there is a long-delayed emerging national conversation about violence/abuse against women, and the church cannot remain silent any longer; and
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this synod confesses our role in supporting systems of patriarchy and misogyny which contribute to a culture of violence/abuse against women by our silence, by our inaction, and by our failure to create safe communities in which survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking can be heard and supported; and**
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this synod calls upon congregations to engage in conversation and education around violence/abuse against women from a faith-based perspective, and to create space where survivors feel recognized and supported; and**
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this synod will provide church leaders with training on best practices in responding to and supporting survivors of violence/abuse against women and human trafficking, within or in addition to the existing leadership training and continuing education opportunities offered by the synod; and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this synod will engage with and advocate for state and local efforts to address violence/abuse against women, and work to hold state and local authorities accountable for their efforts in this area.

Submitted by:

**Emma Wagner, St. Michael Lutheran Church, Perry Hall, Maryland
Deanna Bracken, Faith Lutheran Church, Cockeysville, Maryland
Cheri D. Smith, Breath of God Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland
Rev. Jacob Simpson, Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland, Rev. Mark Parker, Breath of God Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland**

(The committee recommends adoption.)

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.14.05.08 To amend Resolution #4, A Resolution Regarding Violence Against Women, with the addition of “and human trafficking” to the first and fourth “resolves.’

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.14.05.09 To amend Resolution #4, A Resolution Regarding Violence Against Women, with the addition of “/abuse” with each phrase “violence against women.”

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.14.05.10 To adopt Resolution #4, A Resolution Regarding Violence/Abuse Against Women, as amended.

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

Saturday, May 31, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Opening worship was led by DAART participants, followed by Bible Study led by Pr. Karen Brau, Assembly Chaplain.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

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

Clergy:	148
Lay Rostered Ministers:	18
Lay:	270
Total Voting Members Registered:	436
Visitors:	67
Total Assembly Attendance:	503
Voting Strength:	563
Number of voting members present:	436
Number needed for quorum:	187

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Pr. Ryan Roberts, chair, gave the report of the Elections Committee.

Synod Council, Cluster C, Clergy:

Rev. Dave James Albertson 252 votes
Rev. Norma L. Schenning 124 votes

Rev. Dave James Albertson declared elected.

Synod Council, Cluster C, Lay, Male:

Paul Richard Donnelly 289 votes

Dennis Edward Page 77 votes

Paul Richard Donnelly declared elected.

Consultation Committee, Clergy:

Rev. Virginia K. Price 292 votes

Rev. Dr. Fred Lehr 83 votes

Rev. Virginia K. Price declared elected.

Consultation Committee, Lay Female:

Gail L. Wilson 220 votes

Sue Fitzsimmons 148 votes

Gail L. Wilson declared elected.

Mission Through Partnership Team Leader:

Claudia J. Harrington 328 votes

Claudia J. Harrington declared elected.

REPORT OF THE ELCA REPRESENTATIVE

Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit of the ELCA, shared an ELCA video on several ministries, "ELCA in Action, Being Church Together." He acknowledged the commitment of the synod in mission support and support of World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response. Pr. Bouman shared the work of the synod and ELCA in new congregations starts, new and renewing congregations, participation on churchwide committees, missionaries, and worldwide growth of the church. Challenges to end hunger and poverty and deal with the immense issues surrounding immigration, especially as the numbers of children/minors entering this country continues to grow, were also provided.

**Synod Council Resolution # 4
Regarding the Delaware-Maryland Synod's
Participation in "The Campaign for the ELCA"**

WHEREAS, St. Paul lifts up "the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia" (2 Corinthians 8: 1, *The Message*), calling the early Macedonian Christians to financially support their brothers and sisters in the mother church in Jerusalem; and

WHEREAS, God's Holy Spirit is similarly calling us to respond in faith and generosity to our churchwide brothers and sisters and to the recently launched Campaign for the ELCA, "Always Being Made New;" and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Delaware-Maryland Synod gathered in Assembly to encourage our congregations and our people to provide increased financial support both for churchwide ministries and for the work of our own synod;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Delaware-Maryland Synod gathered in Assembly endorse and support "Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA", and be it further

RESOLVED that the Assembly direct the Synod Council to appoint a Campaign Action Team of seven to twelve members to develop the synod's official response to the

Campaign, including setting goals and developing action steps to reflect the mission needs of the synod in conjunction with the goals of the ELCA Campaign, and be it further

RESOLVED that the bishop, the synod vice president and the treasurer shall serve as ex officio members of the Campaign Action Team to facilitate a coordination of the work of the Campaign Action Team with the overall mission strategy for the synod as contained in the “Vision 2018” plan; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Campaign Action Team shall submit its plan with sufficient time for the Synod Council to review and refine the plan for presentation to the 2015 Synod Assembly for consideration and action.

ASSEMBLY ACTION

SA.14.05.11 To approve Resolution #4, Regarding the Delaware-Maryland Synod’s Participation in “The Campaign for the ELCA” as presented.

(The resolution was adopted unanimously.)

The assembly spent time as of “Committee of the Whole,” to discuss further Vision 2018: Discerning God’s Plan.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.14.05.12. To adopt Vision 2018: Discerning God’s Plan as presented.

**Synod Council Resolution # 3
Implementation of the “Vision 2018” Synod Missional Plan**

WHEREAS, “we take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other” (Ephesians 4:16, *The Message*); and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly is asked to consider and adopt the “Vision 2018: Discerning God’s Plan” document which seeks to determine the directions of the synod’s ministry for the years 2014 through 2018; and

WHEREAS, it is the deep and genuine desire of the Delaware-Maryland Synod in Assembly that this plan be implemented in the life and ministry of our synod so that God’s Holy Spirit might lead us in new directions and bring much fruit; and

WHEREAS, in order to fully implement the Vision 2018 Plan, we need to take the core concepts from that vision and move them into strategic action plans; and

WHEREAS, this process involves identifying specific tactics through prioritizing resources, setting measures for success and establishing timelines for completion;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Delaware-Maryland Synod gathered in Assembly direct the Synod Council to appoint a five- member team consisting of two staff persons, two Discernment Team members and one Synod Council member; the bishop and the synod vice president will serve ex officio;

AND THAT this Implementation Team be tasked with developing a detailed strategic plan to include specific tactics to implement the intent of the “WAY” together with identifying needed resources, building ownership, setting a time frame for completion and developing additional metrics for measuring success;

AND THAT a first draft of this strategic plan be ready by October 1, 2014 with approval by the Synod Council in November 2014.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.14.05.13 To adopt the Resolution on Implementation of the “Vision 2018” Synod Missional Plan as presented.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

VP Yolanda Tanner shared her experiences during the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, including, participating in the Installation Service of Bp. Eaton, the agendas of the synod council meetings, including Bible Study, the inner workings of the synod and the ministries of the territory of the synod, and the development of the Vision Plan. She thanked the council members for their commitment and dedication to the work of the synod.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Nancy recommended that two copies of the minutes of the 2013 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 2013 Synod Assembly and deposited in the archives of the synod.

The minutes of the 2013 were approved by general consensus.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Pr. Robert Harvey, synod treasurer, shared that SY2013, income was in excess of expenses by \$71,223. He thanked congregations for their mission support, ensuring the mission and ministries of the synod. Appreciation was shared also for the synod council, synod staff, finance committee.

Pr. Harvey referred to the audit of 2013 Fiscal Activity, February 1, 2014, through January 31, 2014. He 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.14.05.14 To adopt the statement of the auditor for the fiscal year February 1, 2013, to January 31, 2014.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.14.05.15 To approve the 2015 Faith Spending Plan as presented.

MALARIA CAMPAIGN

Pr. Dave Asendorf shared that the synod has raised \$203,387 as of this assembly for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. He challenged congregations to continue to raise funds for the campaign. Bp. Herz-Lane awarded St. Mark, Wilmington, DE an award for raising the most funds (\$20,000) and was awarded, “Melissa the Mosquito.”

MISSION INVESTMENT FUND

Ken Petersen provided information about the Fund: the Fund is financially strong, grants are used for new starts and capital projects, both individuals and congregations can invest in the Fund. He encouraged participation in the Fund.

HUNGER TASK FORCE

The annual awards to congregations raising the most money for the ELCA World Hunger Fund were acknowledged by Deaconness Jean Warren and Rev. Ron Schlak.

- “Tim, the Terrifying” awarded to the smallest congregation with 64 members: Epiphany Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, MD, raised \$6,711.
- “Holy, the Fighting Hunger Blue Hen,” awarded to the Community Partners (congregations) in the Frederick Conference.

Sally Kopp reviewed the 2014 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 related that next year's assembly will be a three-day event, held at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, MD, May 28-31, 2015.

The assembly concluded with closing worship which included the Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament to Kelly Pensinger, called as pastor to Grace of God Lutheran Church, Millsboro, DE.

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.

