

**FINAL MINUTES
DELAWARE-MARYLAND SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
2016 Synod Assembly
“Walking Together in Christ, God’s Church: Led by the Spirit
Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, MD
June 2 – June 4, 2016**

The 2016 Synod Assembly of the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was opened at 2:00 p.m. on June 2nd in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, Ocean City, MD.

**FIRST BUSINESS SESSION
Thursday, June 2, 2016
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane opened the assembly with welcome and introductions.

RULES OF PROCEDURE – *Reference Bulletin of Reports.*

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

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.16.06.01 To amend the Rules of Procedure for the 2016 add a provision of voice and vote for the two individuals who will be ordained at the end of this assembly.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.16.06.02 To adopt the Rules of Procedure for the 2016 Synod Assembly as amended.

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

Nancy Gordon, Synod Secretary, presented the agenda with a change to the end time during Business Session 4. The proposed end time is 5:35 in order to give an extra 5 minutes per candidate during the group meeting time for the top 7 candidates for bishop.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.16.06.03 To adopt the agenda as presented.

OVERVIEW OF THE ELECTION FOR BISHOP: Rev. Wm. Christopher Boerger, ELCA Representative, provided a review of the process used in the election for bishop, including a description of the duties and responsibilities of the office and the process of using an ecclesiastical ballot.

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION: Bishop Thomas Skrenes, Northern Great Lakes Synod, provided spiritual preparation prior to the first ballot, using Isaiah 52:7-10 and speaking about the bishop as spiritual leader.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS:

Geneva Wallace, chair of the Committee on Credentials, presented the following report:

Clergy:	154
Lay Rostered Ministers:	12

Lay Voting Members:	284
Total Voting Members Registered:	520
Visitors:	70
Total Assembly Attendance:	520
Voting Strength:	913
Number of voting members present:	450
Number needed for quorum:	304

Voting members completed the first ballot for the election for bishop.

Bishop Herz-Lane introduced Ann Iona Warner, St. Stephen's, Wilmington, DE, serving as the assembly parliamentarian. Ms. Warner is a certified professional parliamentarian, member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians and the National Association of Parliamentarians.

Julie Stecker, Director of Communications, gave a presentation on "Social Media at the Assembly."

Also introduced were members of the synod council Synod Council members John Auger, Vice President of the Synod, Nancy Gordon, Synod Secretary, The Rev. Robert Harvey, Synod Treasurer, Jennifer Simms, Mission Through Congregations Team Leader, The Rev. Michael Louia, Mission Through Leadership Team Leader, Claudia Harrington, Mission Through Partnerships Team Leader, The Rev. Clarence Pettit, Kevin Garrity, The Rev. Michael Guy, The Rev. Virgil Cain, The Rev. Matthew Furhman, Matthew Herzberg, Alex McKeague, and Mark Moser, Financial Secretary. Council members unable to attend the assembly were: Andrea Fuller, Shannon Baker, and Dennis Page.

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE: Mykel Hitselberger, chair, presented the proposed changes (removal of Mt. Union, Uniontown, and moving St. Luke, Parkville from the Baltimore North Conference to the Baltimore City Conference).

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

i. Westminster shall include congregations of Grace, Westminster; Holy Spirit, Eldersburg; Immanuel, Manchester; Jerusalem, Westminster; Lazarus, Lineboro; Messiah, Sykesville; ~~Mt. Union, Uniontown~~; St. Abraham, Hampstead; St. Benjamin, Westminster; St. James, Union Bridge; St. John, Westminster; St. Luke, New Windsor; St. Mark, Hampstead; St. Mark (Snydersburg), Hampstead; St. Mary (Silver Run), Westminster; St. Paul (Mt Joy-Harney Parish), Taneytown; St. Paul, Uniontown; St. Peter, Hampstead; Trinity, Taneytown; Trinity, Westminster in Carroll County; Christ (Trenton), Upperco; St. Paul, Upperco; and Mt. Joy (Mt. Joy-Harney Parish), Adams County in Pennsylvania; Calvary, Woodbine (Howard County); and Keysville, Keymar; and Mt. Tabor, Keysville (Frederick County)

As amended:

i. Westminster shall include congregations of Grace, Westminster; Holy Spirit, Eldersburg; Immanuel, Manchester; Jerusalem, Westminster; Lazarus, Lineboro; Messiah, Sykesville; St. Abraham, Hampstead; St. Benjamin, Westminster; St. James, Union Bridge; St. John, Westminster; St. Luke, New Windsor; St. Mark, Hampstead; St. Mark (Snydersburg), Hampstead; St. Mary (Silver Run), Westminster; St. Paul (Mt Joy-Harney Parish), Taneytown; St. Paul, Uniontown; St. Peter, Hampstead; Trinity, Taneytown; Trinity, Westminster in Carroll County; Christ (Trenton), Upperco; St. Paul, Upperco; and Mt. Joy (Mt. Joy-Harney Parish), Adams County in Pennsylvania; Calvary, Woodbine (Howard County); and Keysville, Keymar;

and Mt. Tabor, Keysville (Frederick County).

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; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Sept 3, 2013 43 Lutherville; St. Andrew, Baltimore; St. John, Parkville; St. John, Sweet Air; ~~St. Luke, Parkville~~; St. Michael, Perry Hall; St. Paul, Lutherville; St. Peter, Fullerton.

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. Luke, Parkville~~; St. Mark, Baltimore; St. Mark Estonian, Baltimore; St. Paul, Curtis Bay; St. Philip, Baltimore; Zion, City Hall Plaza.

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE (elections other than Bishop): Rev. Dave Albertson, chair of the Nominations Committee presented the ballot for elections: Synod Council Secretary: Nancy Gordon, Kevin Garrity; Synod Council: Mission Through Congregations Team: Jennifer Simms; Synod Council, Conference Cluster A, Clergy: Rev. Clarence Pettit, Rev. Chasity Wiener; Synod Council, Conference Cluster A, Lay Female: Pamela Estes, Gretchen Rockafellow; Synod Council, Young Adult: Julie Anderson, Leanne Elliot; Synod Council, Lay Male, At Large: Robert Federwitz, Matthew Herzberg, Alex McKeague; Consultation Committee, Lay: Robert Fairchild, Robert Patterson; Consultation Committee, Clergy, Rev. Chris Litton, Rev. David Oravec; ELCA Church Council, Young Adult (18-30), female: Colleen Carpenter-Gonia, Leanne Elliot

REPORT OF THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE: Rev. Martha Clementson, chair, presented Memorial #1 for adoption.

**Memorial #1
African Descent Lutheran Lives Matter**

WHEREAS, the United Nations declared 2015-2024 the "International Decade for People of African Descent." African American, African Caribbean and African national communities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are gifted and culturally diverse, represented by more than 200 million people living in the Americas. Whether as descendants of the transatlantic slave trade or as more recent migrants, people of African Descent constitute some of the poorest and most marginalized groups with limited access to quality education, health services, housing, and Social Services; and

WHEREAS, people of African Descent represent 13% of the total population of the United States of America. Within the ELCA there are more than 46,100 members that identify as people of African Descent, or 1.9% of the ELCA's total population; and

WHEREAS, as the ELCA prepares to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, the political, social and economic injustices affecting African Descent communities still remain largely invisible to a society indifferent to black life. The legacy of slavery, post-Reconstruction 'Jim Crow' laws and racial subordination in the United States remains a "serious challenge" as there has been no real commitment to recognition and reparations for people of African descent. Despite many advances by people of African Descent within the ELCA and society, racism and racial discrimination, both direct and indirect, de facto and de jure, continue to manifest themselves in inequality and disadvantage; and

WHEREAS, the 1993 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted the social statement, “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity & Culture” as a confession of the sin of racism. However, Black Liberation Theology is often rejected and avoided within many Lutheran academic institutions. African Descent rostered leaders acquire higher education debt, wait longer to receive calls, are less likely to receive full-time calls, and less likely to reach synod compensation guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the majority of African Descent ELCA congregations were birthed out of “white flight,” a divestment from urban areas, taking socio-economic resources and abandoning a connection, call and witness. What is left are deteriorating, debt-filled buildings with shrinking memberships, in part due to the systemic and structural issues of discrimination and lack of full inclusion of the gifts of leadership and worship styles of people of African Descent; and

WHEREAS, the African Descent community is within a denomination that affirms “There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; for all of you are one in Christ (Galatians 3:28).” We are called to be a church that embraces each person and confronts racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual orientation, physical, personal and class barriers that often manifest themselves in unjust treatment, inequalities, exclusion and violence. The ELCA constitution (7.31.12 section A number 7), states “Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every ordained minister shall: speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God’s love for the world.” Justification by grace through faith is a principle of scripture and Lutheran identity for all races, ethnicities, genders, gender identities, sexual orientation, class, cultures or nationalities; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly memorializes the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to:

1. Direct the Church Council to create a “Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community” similar to the “Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community (4/18/1994)” acknowledging the Lutheran church’s complicity in the 400+ years of slavery and the oppression of other marginalized groups; that people of African descent were victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism and continue to be victims of its consequences; and, the ELCA has perpetuated racism and discrimination through attitudes, actions, policies and practices these communities still endure. The Council will bring this “Declaration” to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly for its consideration and action with a recommendation to include this Declaration in the governing documents of the ELCA;

2. Direct the Church Council to require the Advisory Committee of the Church Council focusing on Theological Education in partnership with the Conference of International Black Lutherans (CIBL) to recognize and dismantle white hegemony by lifting up, encouraging and incorporating academic exploration of Black Liberation theology across ELCA educational expressions, to allocate funds for the development of resources and to accomplish this by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; and,

3. Direct the Church Council to require the Congregational and Synodical Missions Unit of the ELCA, to work in partnership with the African Descent Lutheran Association to increase by 10% the number of African Descent leaders, congregations and communities served, thereby renewing its commitment (see African Descent Strategy, CWA, 2005) to create, sustain, reinvest in and support this plan of action by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly and to encourage Synods and congregations to do likewise.

Submitted by:

Mydea Reeves-Karpeh,-Chair, ADLA (Delaware-Maryland Chapter)

Rev. Patrick Gahagen- Chair, Racial Justice Ministry Team

Rev. Eric Campbell- Coordinator, African Descent Strategy

When the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was formed in 1987, a commitment was made to widen membership and leadership of this church to include at least 10% people of color or whose primary language is not English. Clearly, we have fallen far short of that goal. Even more disturbing is the fact that racism, both outward and hidden, is at work every day in our church as well as in the world.

In 1999, the 12th anniversary of the formation of the ELCA, the Rev. Frederick E.N. Rajan, then the Executive Director of the Commission for Multicultural Ministries said, “Denial never has been a source of creativity, innovation or renewal.” His words are still true today.

The Reference & Counsel Committee supports Memorial #1 which calls on the ELCA to put into action three specific strategies. If adopted and worked on, these strategies will help to reignite the goal of expanding the ELCA membership and leadership in a way that will make us more reflective of the population around us. More importantly, these actions call upon all who are part of the ELCA to be involved in acknowledging the sin of racism and working toward overcome its devastating results.

The Reference & Counsel Committee recommends adoption of Memorial #1.

Proposed amendment to Memorial #1: To add following: 10% **above** the **current** number of leaders.... in the third Resolve.
(The amendment was defeated.)

NOISY CHANGE OFFERING: The Rev. Fred Melton, Hunger Appeal, shared a video from ELCA Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, and encouraged the assembly to put their “noisy change offering” for the Hunger Appeal in the trash cans as they exited the assembly for the coffee break.

VISION 2018 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: Vice President, John Auger, gave an overview of the plan based on the Four Ways (The Way of Discipleship, The Way of Connectedness, The Way of Communication, and The Way of Leadership), and provided an understanding on how the plan will help congregations, various ministries and the synod, and invited members that their leadership was key to the plan.

REPORT OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE: Rev. Clementson continued the report of the committee by introducing Resolution #1, “Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment.”

REPORT OF THE FIRST BALLOT FOR THE BISHOP’S ELECTION:

Leslie Hobbs, chair of the Bishop’s Election Committee gave the report of the first ballot.

Wolfgang Herz-Lane	173	Mark Parker	2
Bill Gohl	77	Gerry Rickel	2
Virginia Price	27	Gordon Simmons	2
Katrina Holland	18	Charles Zang	2
Kevin Clementson	10	Bruce Barth	1
Ed Kay	10	Susan Beck	1
Stanley Steele	8	Julie Brigham	1
Richard Carlson	7	Michelle Carlson	1
Susan Tjornehoj	6	Martha Clementson	1
Kathy Vitalis-Hoffman	6	Anke Deibler	1
Karen Brau	5	Eric Evers	1
Michael Dubsky	5	Timothy Feaser	1
John Sabatelli	4	Greg Fetzer	1
David Simpson	4	Arwyn Gohl	1
Patrick Downes	3	Greg Knepp	1
Michael Guy	3	Kristin Kunkel	1
Stacy Marsh	3	Fred Lehr	1
Neil O’Farrell	3	Glen Ludwig	1
David Schaefer	3	Mike McQuaid	1
Ron Schlak	3	Barbara Melosoh	1
Mark Vitalis-Hoffman	3	Lauren Muratore	1
Donald Burgraff	2	Pat Payne	1

Jason Chesnut	2	Ray Ranker	1
Kristen Dubsy	2	John Ranney	1
Matthew Fuhrman	2	Susan Roy	1
Ed Heim	2	Marcia Thompson	1
Earl Janssen	2	Mark Walters	1
David Oravec	2	Tom Williamsen	1

Needed for election: 320 votes. There was no election on the first ballot.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION
Thursday, June 2, 2016
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

NEW TO THE SYNOD ROSTER

These persons are new to the synod roster since the 2015 Synod Assembly:

The Rev. Thomas K. Frizzell	Called through the Synod Council as Chaplain at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, as of May 4, 2015
The Rev. Flavia Skilbred	Called as Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cordova, Maryland, as of June 15, 2015
The Rev. Melvin A. Kirk, Jr.	Retired; transferred to the Delaware-Maryland Synod as of June 23, 2015
Melinda L. Holland, DM	Called through the Synod Council as Chaplain at the University of Delaware Lutheran Campus Ministry, Newark, Delaware, as of July 1, 2015
The Rev. Sharon F. Kelly	Called through the Synod Council as Transitional Redevelopment Pastor at All Saints Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland, as of August 30, 2015
The Rev. Tara L. Magoon	Called as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Hockessin, Delaware, as of September 1, 2015
The Rev. Gordon E. Simmons	Retired; transferred to the Delaware-Maryland Synod September 1, 2015
Kimberly K. Hintzman	Seminarian called as Diaconal Minister to Evangelical Lutheran Church, Frederick, Maryland
The Rev. Bruce W. Barth	Retired; transferred to the Delaware-Maryland Synod January 1, 2016
The Rev. Ray E. Blanset	Retired; transferred to the Delaware-Maryland Synod, as of January 14, 2016
The Rev. Christopher L. Otten	LT Col, USAF, assigned to the roster of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, as of February 13, 2016
The Rev. Linda M. Gunderson	Called as Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Newark, Delaware, as of February 15, 2016

The Rev. Mark D. Molter	Seminarian called as Pastor of Community Lutheran Church, Frankford, Delaware, as of February 28, 2016
The Rev. Douglas P. Jones	Called as Lead Pastor of Evangelical Lutheran Church, Frederick, Maryland, as of March 7, 2016
The Rev. Lesley M. Radius	Called as Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Parkville, Maryland, as of March 20, 2016
Matthew Beers	Called as Pastor of Grace, Rocky Hill, as of May 8, 2016
The Rev. Donald J. McClean	Retired, transferred to the Delaware-Maryland Synod as of May 12, 2016
The Rev. Peter J. Naschke	Transferred to the Delaware-Maryland Synod as of May 20, 2016
Bernard Barber	Called as Associate Pastor of St. Luke, Harford Road, Baltimore, as of June 5, 2016

REPORT OF THE HUNGER TASK FORCE: Rev. Mark Huffman and Rev. Fred Melton presented the Hunger Appeal Awards: Tim the Terrifying Hunger Terrapin for the most contributions to the Hunger Appeal to Grace Lutheran Church, Westminster, MD and Holy the Hunger Fighting Blue Hen to St. Luke's and Mt. Zion Lutheran Churches (Feagaville Parish) for innovative ways to fight hunger. It was reported that \$22,000 was raised through the "Noisy Change Offering."

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION: Bishop Skrenes led the assembly in preparation, focusing on Isaiah 40:9-11 and the bishop as servant leader. He continued with 2 Timothy 4:1-5, sharing that the bishop is the pastor of the synod.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS:

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

Clergy:	164
Lay Rostered Ministers:	12
Lay Voting Members:	300
Number of voting members present:	464
Visitors:	77
Total Assembly Attendance:	553
Voting Strength:	913
Number needed for quorum:	304

Voting members completed the second ballot for the election for bishop.

REPORT ON THE GETTYSBURG AND PHILADELPHIA SEMINARIES: Rev. John Spangler, Executive Assistant to the President for Communications and Planning at Gettysburg Seminary, shared a video on the vision of a new school of theology of the two schools together creating a stronger seminary of accessibility and affordability.

REPORT ON THE AFRICAN DESCENT STRATEGY: Rev. Eric Campbell gave information on the symposium held in October and offered thanks to the synod for being the church of today and the support given to implement the strategy.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT: Vice President Auger shared a review of his first year in office, thanking the synod staff, congregational leaders and members for their commitment to mission and ministry. VP Auger presented a resolution from the synod council regarding the formation of a Synod Task Force to evaluate the current synod structure and recommendations to be presented at the 2017 Synod Assembly.

Resolution from the Synod Council – Synod Task Group

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ instituted the church, saying to Peter, “I also say to you that *you are Peter*, and upon this *rock* I will build my church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it,” as recorded in Matthew 16:18; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians, 14:40, that “all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner;” and

WHEREAS, the current administrative structure of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, consisting of eleven conferences, dates to the formation of the synod in 1988; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware-Maryland Synod today has changed dramatically over the years and faces very different challenges and opportunities than it did almost 30 years ago, not the least of which is a dramatic decline in income which raises concerns related to staffing levels; and

WHEREAS, the synod’s strategic missional plan, “*Vision 2018: Discerning God’s Will*,” which was adopted with near unanimity at the 2015 Synod Assembly, calls on the Synod Council to “study and evaluate the current conference structure by 1/1/2018;” therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Delaware-Maryland Synod meeting in assembly hereby directs the Synod Council to form a Task Group for the purpose of evaluating our synod’s current structure, programs and staffing; and be it further

RESOLVED that this Task Group will strive to involve as many people as possible in its deliberations through the creative use of internet surveys, focus groups, one-on-one interviews and town hall meetings; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Task Group will bring a report and recommendations to the 2017 Synod Assembly, including possible constitutional and by-law changes that may become necessary.

Submitted by:

The Synod Council of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.16.06.04 To approve “Resolution from the Synod Council – Synod Task Force Group” as presented.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:

Nancy Gordon, Synod Secretary, recommended that two copies of the minutes of the 2015 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 2015 Synod Assembly and deposited in the archives of the synod.

The minutes of the 2015 were approved by general consensus.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER:

Treasurer, The Rev. Bob Harvey, shared that SY2015 was a good year, ending in a \$30,000 income over expenses and a salary increase for the staff. He thanked congregations for their continued mission support.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.16.06.05 To adopt the statement of the auditor for the fiscal year February 1, 2015, to January 31, 2016.

REPORT OF THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE: The Rev. Martha Clementson continued the report of the committee.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.16.06.06 To adopt Resolution #1 as presented.

**Resolution #1
Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment**

WHEREAS, the continued occupation of the Palestinian Territories by the State of Israel, the ongoing building of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories, and other activities associated with this occupation and settlement, including but not limited to expulsion of Palestinians from their legally held lands; demolition of their homes; prolonged detention with torture and without due process; arrest, mistreatment, and detention of children; separate and unequal systems of law for Israeli settlers and Palestinians; severe restrictions on movement and travel through arbitrary permit systems, checkpoints and the separation wall; and segregated roads and buses; deny the fundamental human rights of Palestinians, hamper efforts to create a just and lasting peace, jeopardize a two-state solution and violate international law as set forth in the United Nations Charter, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted "Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land," as our church's strategy of engagement in the Holy Land, a strategy that advocates for equal human dignity and rights for all people in the Holy Land, an end to Israeli settlement building and the occupation of Palestinian land, and a two-state solution, with two viable, secure states living side-by-side; and

WHEREAS, Palestinian Christians, in the 2009 Statement "Kairos Palestine," written and supported by leaders and heads of thirteen churches in the Holy Land, including Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran – Bishop Munib Younan and Pastor Mitri Raheb of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land both contributed to the statement – called on churches of the world to "stand alongside the oppressed" and work to end "the sin of occupation imposed upon us;" and

WHEREAS, multiple sources, including the American Friends Service Committee's investment screening database, confirm that certain multinational corporations, including Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S have been complicit in the occupation and its associated human rights abuses: Caterpillar provides specialized bulldozers, including unmanned bulldozers, to demolish Palestinian civilian homes and property; HP Inc. and Hewlett Packard Enterprise provides IT services and systems so that the State of Israel can collect finger print and facial recognition data on every Palestinian over the age of 16 to track and control their movements; Motorola Solutions provides invisible radar fences, surveillance, and communication equipment used in the occupied territories; and G4S provides security systems for Israel's prisons and detention centers, West Bank settlements, and military checkpoints; and

WHEREAS, three of the ELCA's full communion partners - the Presbyterian Church USA, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church - have each voted within the past two years to divest funds from these and other companies and banks that profit from or are complicit in human rights violations arising from the occupation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to divest of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, such as Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation or cease operations in the illegal settlements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly encourage its members and congregations, to divest of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, such as Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation or cease operations in the illegal settlements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to direct the Church Council to divest of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, such as Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and

G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation and cease operations in the illegal settlements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to encourage synods, congregations, and agencies and institutions of this church to divest of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, such as Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation and cease operations in the illegal settlements.

Submitted By:

Ms. Tina Boyd, Joy Reigns Lutheran Church, Edgewater, MD
Ms. Angelika Fischer, Joy Reigns Lutheran Church Edgewater, MD
Rev. Mark Huffman, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Frederick, MD
Rev. Earl Janssen, Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Severna Park, MD
Rev. Fred Melton, retired, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Wilmington, DE
Rev. B. Nicki Parrish, retired, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Annapolis, MD
Mr. W. Brad Schlegel, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD
Ms. Selma Tepper, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Wilmington DE
Rev. Alan Traher, retired St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Annapolis, MD
Rev. Sara Yotter, Joy Reigns Lutheran Church Edgewater, MD

Lutherans and others who have visited the Holy Land have seen first-hand the devastation brought about by policies making it nearly impossible for Palestinians to legally build homes or businesses on the West Bank while the Israeli population in the area continues to grow. Driving through Bethlehem, for example, you see how Palestinian farmers have been cut off from their olive groves. Likewise, many Palestinians are currently unable to reach the Augusta Victoria Hospital to receive life-giving services such as chemotherapy and dialysis.

Resolution #1 asks us to put our prayers into action for the needs of the Palestinian people. Divestment is an action that has proven to be effective in getting the attention of American businesses. The Resolution calls for American companies to cease making profit by supporting the creation of illegal settlements, dividing people from their own land, and treating people with a variety of dehumanizing practices. The ELCA, in its statement, "Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land," has already spoken against these activities. This Resolution calls on the synod to put our concern into action, to invite congregations and individuals to consider doing the same, and to urge the ELCA assembly to take similar action.

The Reference & Counsel Committee recommends adoption of Resolution #1.

REPORT OF THE SECOND BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION FOR BISHOP: Leslie Hobbs, chair, gave the report on the second ballot.

Wolfgang Herz-Lane	185	Stanley Steele	5
Bill Gohl	102	Michael Guy	4
Virginia Price	47	Ray Ranker	4
Katrina Holland	23	Anke Deibler	2
Kevin Clementson	16	Gerry Rickel	2
Michael Dubsky	15	Timothy Feaser	1
Kathy Vitalis-Hoffman	9	Earl Janssen	1
Charles Zang	9	David Schaefer	1
Richard Carlson	8	Michelle Carlson	1
Ed Heim	8	Arwyn Gohl	1
David Simpson	8	Marcia Thompson	1
Mark Parker	7	Mark Walters	1
Neil O'Farrell	5		

Needed for election: 319 votes. There was no election on the second ballot. The top eight candidates will meet with conferences/clusters during Friday afternoon for a question and answer session.

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION
Friday, June 2, 2016
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Bishop Herz-Lane opened the third business session with prayer.

“Forward in Faith Campaign”:

The Rev. Ray Ranker, Lutheran Campus Pastor at UMD, introduced the campaign through the sharing of stories of those that could be affected by the campaign: young adults involved in various ministries such as Mar-Lu-Ridge and Campus Ministry; Lutheran Community Services in Delaware; support of congregations in need such as All Saints recovering from a fire; strengthening and developing leaders; individual and congregational support to the campaign.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS:

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

Clergy:	165
Lay Rostered Ministers:	12
Lay Voting Members:	314
Number of voting members present:	479
Visitors:	75
Total Assembly Attendance:	566
Voting Strength:	913
Number needed for quorum:	304

PRESENTATION OF THE FAITH SPENDING PLAN:

Dave Roberson, chair, shared the plan, reviewing the process used, highlighting the major components of the plan, and the proposed income and expenditures. He indicated that the plan includes an increase in congregational mission support, ELCA Mission Support remaining at 50%, salaries based on synod salary guidelines, and that the plan is focused on Mission Teams.

REPORT ON ELECTIONS OTHER THAN BISHOP: Rev. Greg Fetzter, chair of the Elections Committee presented the ballot for voting on elections other than bishop.

Synod Secretary

Nancy Gordon 352 votes
Kevin Garrity 62 votes
Nancy Gordon declared elected.

Synod Council –

Mission Through Congregations Team Leader

Jennifer Simms 397 votes - yes
 7 votes – no
Jennifer Simms declared elected.

Synod Council – Conference Cluster A, Clergy

Rev. Clarence Pettit 195 votes
Rev. Chasity Wiener 222 votes
Rev. Chasity Wiener declared elected.

Synod Council – Conference Cluster A, Lay

Pamela Estes 211 votes
Gretchen Rockafellow 183 votes
Pamela Estes declared elected.

Synod Council – Young Adult

Julie Anderson 157 votes
Leanne Elliott 244 votes
Leanne Elliott declared elected.

Synod Council – At Large, Lay Male

Robert Federwitz 73 votes
Matthew Herzberg 176 votes
Alex McKeague 158 votes
There will be a run-off election.

Consultation Committee – Lay

Robert Fairchild 163 votes
Robert Patterson 240 votes
Robert Patterson declared elected.

Consultation Committee – Clergy

Rev. Chris Litton 186 votes
Rev. David Oravec 222 votes
Rev. David Oravec declared elected.

**Nominees for ELCA Church Council –
Young Adult (18-30), female (two elected)**

Colleen Carpenter-Gonia
Leanne Elliott

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Vice President, John Auger, introduced the keynote speaker, The Rev. David Dauberg, Lead Consultant and Managing Partner for Day 8 Strategies, a coaching and consulting firm for faith-based organizations. Rev. Daubert shared ideas about the “old church” (consumer-based), and the church now (being a Christian is about discipleship and being different). Change the church from a building to members being missionaries of grace, “being church.” He extended the ELCA tag: “God’s Work. Our Hands,” adding “God’s Word. Our Voice.” God’s church does not have a mission. God’s mission has a church. He urged the assembly to use these questions: What is God up to here? What does God want to happen here? How can we help?

FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 2, 2016

2:00 – 5:35 p.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS:

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

Clergy: 168

Lay Rostered Ministers:	13
Lay Voting Members:	319
Number of voting members present:	500
Visitors:	76
Total Assembly Attendance:	576
Voting Strength:	913
Number needed for quorum:	304

The members of the assembly participated in conference meetings with the top eight candidates in the election for bishop. Following the conference meetings, the assembly returned to the plenary hall and voting continued.

REPORT OF THE THIRD BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION FOR BISHOP: Leslie Hobbs, chair, gave the report on the third ballot.

Bill Gohl	162
Wolfgang Herz-Lane	137
Virginia Price	50
Katrina Holland	49
Kevin Clementson	42
Charles Zang	20
Michael Dubsky	9
Kathy Vitalis-Hoffman	7

Needed for election: 319 votes. There was no election on the third ballot. The top three candidates will address the assembly in the next business session.

FIFTH BUSINESS SESSION
Friday, June 2, 2016
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS COMMITTEE: Mykel Hitselberger, chair, presented the two bylaw amendments for adoption.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.16.06.07 To adopt the proposed bylaw amendments as presented.

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

- i. Westminster shall include congregations of Grace, Westminster; Holy Spirit, Eldersburg; Immanuel, Manchester; Jerusalem, Westminster; Lazarus, Lineboro; Messiah, Sykesville; St. Abraham, Hampstead; St. Benjamin, Westminster; St. James, Union Bridge; St. John, Westminster; St. Luke, New Windsor; St. Mark, Hampstead; St. Mark (Snydersburg), Hampstead; St. Mary (Silver Run), Westminster; St. Paul (Mt Joy-Harney Parish), Taneytown; St. Paul, Uniontown; St. Peter, Hampstead; Trinity, Taneytown; Trinity, Westminster in Carroll County; Christ (Trenton), Upperco; St. Paul, Upperco; and Mt. Joy (Mt. Joy-Harney Parish), Adams County in Pennsylvania; Calvary, Woodbine (Howard County); and Keysville, Keymar; and Mt. Tabor, Keysville (Frederick County).

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. Luke, Parkville; St. Mark, Baltimore; St. Mark Estonian, Baltimore; St. Paul, Curtis Bay; St. Philip, Baltimore; Zion, City Hall Plaza.

REPORT OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE (elections other than bishop): Rev. Greg Fetzer conducted the run-off election for Synod Council, Lay Male, At Large:

Matthew Herzberg	259	Alex McKeague	179
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Matthew Herzberg declared elected.

The three remaining candidates, Bishop Herz-Lane, The Rev. Bill Gohl, and The Rev. Virginia Price were provided an opportunity to address the assembly prior to the fourth ballot.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS:

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

Clergy:	170
Lay Rostered Ministers:	13
Lay Voting Members:	319
Number of voting members present:	501
Visitors:	76
Total Assembly Attendance:	577
Voting Strength:	913
Number needed for quorum:	304

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION: Bishop Skrenes continued the spiritual preparation using Mark 4:5-9.

REPORT OF THE FOURTH BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION FOR BISHOP: Leslie Hobbs, chair, gave the report of the fourth ballot for Bishop's Election.

Bill Gohl	197
Wolfgang Herz-Lane	179
Virginia Price	86

Needed for election: 278 votes. There was no election on the fourth ballot.

Bishop Herz-Lane asked the members of the assembly for a moment of silence for those individuals who have died since the last assembly.

NECROLOGY

These rostered persons have died since the 2015 Synod Assembly:

May 28, 2015	The Rev. Churchill B. Worthery, Jr. Born November 28, 1945 Ordained September 13, 2009
June 2, 2015	The Rev. Ellis K. Kretschmer Born November 30, 1919 Ordained May 18, 1944
December 7, 2015	The Rev. Henry E. Schaefer, Jr. Born December 29, 1937 Ordained June 4, 1964
January 10, 2016	The Rev. Joseph W. Schwartz Born May 5, 1930 Ordained May 26, 1955
April 24, 2016	The Rev. Elmer L. Zick Born March 20, 1924 Ordained June 14, 1953
May 5, 2016	The Rev. Henry Gerard Knoche Born October 30, 1942 Ordained June 9, 1967

RECOGNITION OF ANNIVERSARIES AND RETIREMENTS:

RETIREMENTS:

These rostered persons have retired since the 2015 Synod Assembly:

The Rev. Alan D. Traher	July 1, 2015
The Rev. Fred N. Melton	July 1, 2015
The Rev. John P. Seltzer	August 1, 2015
The Rev. Melvina V. Stricklin	September 1, 2015
The Rev. J. Frederick Lehr	October 1, 2015
Richard E. Spies, AIM	October 4, 2015
The Rev. Patricia J. Payne	November 1, 2015
The Rev. James E. Luedeke	November 22, 2015
The Rev. Donald L. Burggraf	January 1, 2016
The Rev. Cameron Coe	January 1, 2016
The Rev. Robert L. Driver-Bishop	February 1, 2016
The Rev. John K. Burk	February 16, 2016
The Rev. S. Ileana Lindstrom	March 1, 2016

ANNIVERSARIES

Associate in Ministry:

25 years: Joanne P. Struck

Diaconal Minister:

15 years: Melinda L. Holland

20 years: Audrey D. Forbes

Clergy:

5 years: Rev. B. Jeanne Larsen, Rev. Melissa P. Lemons

10 years: Rev. Arwyn A. P. Gohl, Rev. Kenneth E. Gill, Jr., Rev. Kristi E. Kunkel, Rev. Lynelle A. AlJoe-Thurman, Rev. Robin Simpson-Litton

15 years: Rev. Wolfgang Herz-Lane, Rev. Paige G. Evers, Rev. Tara L. Magoon

20 years: Rev. Elsa L. Clark, Rev. Leonard M. Hummel, Rev. Carol O. Sipes, Rev. David L. Wright,

25 years: Rev. Lans E. Alexis, Rev. Sandra C. Alexis, Rev. H. Lee Brumback II

30 years: Rev. John K. Burk, Rev. Doris J. Doub, Rev. Eleanor S. Doub, Rev. Robert M. Harvey, Rev. J. Christopher Ramsey, Rev. Norma L. Schenning, Rev. Stephanie S. Steele,

35 years: Rev. Dr. Richard H. Bliese, Rev. Cameron Coe, Rev. David Eisenhuth, Rev. Margaret Herz-Lane, Rev. Janet S. Peterman, Rev. G. Stanley Steele, Rev. F. Mark Walters

40 years: Rev. James M. Russell

50 years: Rev. Gary T. Bilbie, Rev. Harold T. Fries, Rev. Barry L. Laird

55 years: Rev. Donald E. Bauer, Rev. Richard G. Goff, Rev. Donald Haas, Rev. Paul A. Lautenschlager, Rev. John Little, Rev. Lowell S. Thompson

60 years: Rev. John H. S. Austin, Rev. William J. Black, Rev. Donald F. Sause

Congregations

50 years: Faith Lutheran Church, Cockeysville, MD

100 years: St. John Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, MD

125 years: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Curtis Bay, MD
Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Lansdowne, MD
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Walkersville, MD

150 years: Trinity Lutheran Church, Deer Park, MD

175 years: Second English Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD

225 years: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Williamsport, MD

Vickie Whetstone, LWR Representative, gave an update on the work of Lutheran World Relief and the quilt/blanket project which many of the synod's congregations support. She encouraged congregations to continue to make quilts/blankets and bring them to the assembly next year. LWR will then send them to areas around the world in need.

SIXTH BUSINESS SESSION

Saturday, June 4, 2016

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS:

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

Clergy:	170
Lay Rostered Ministers:	13
Lay Voting Members:	319
Number of voting members present:	501
Visitors:	76
Total Assembly Attendance:	577
Voting Strength:	913
Number needed for quorum:	304

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION: Bishop Skrenes concluded the spiritual preparation, reminding the assembly of the call of bishop, the responsibilities, and the role this individual plays in the work of the synod.

FIFTH BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF BISHOP:

The final two candidates, Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane and The Rev. Bill Gohl, addressed the assembly, answering questions posed by The Rev. Chris Boerger.

REPORT OF THE FIFTH BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF BISHOP: Leslie Hobbs, chair, gave the report on the fifth ballot.

Bill Gohl	227
Wolfgang Herz-Lane	225

Needed for election: 227 votes. Rev. Bill Gohl was declared elected as Bishop of the DE-MD Synod and introduced to the assembly.

The assembly also gratefully acknowledged Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane for his service to the synod.

REPORT OF THE ELCA REPRESENTATIVE: Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger shared a video from Bishop Grace Gathering, the September 11th "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday to recognize first responders on this anniversary, and the ELCA Capital Campaign.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: Rev. Kati Kluckman-Ault thanked congregations for their mission support and highlighted the various aspects which are supported: faith formation, new

congregations, renewing congregations, ministries at home, ministry around the world, and reminded the assembly that “We are Church Together.”

REPORT OF THE BISHOP: Bishop Herz-Lane, in the interest of time, referred the assembly to his report in the Bulletin of Reports and shared a video of synod activities during the unrest in Baltimore and offered thanks for allowing him to serve as bishop. He introduced the synod staff: Cindy VanVliet (Administrative Assistant to the Bishop and Chief of Staff and Administrative Assistant for Call Process and Roster Concerns), Jennifer Baxter (Administration Assistant for Stewardship, Communications and IT Coordinator), Julie Stecker (Director of Communications), Pat Walton (part-time for roster items), Karen Pugatch Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry) and Assistants to the Bishop: Linda Chinnia, Rev. Kati Kluckman-Ault, Rev Ron Schlak, Rev. Gordon Simmons, who, in turn, offered their sincere appreciation and thanks to Bishop Herz-Lane.

REFORMATION 500 TASK FORCE: The Rev. Neil O’Farrell gave an update on the plans for the recognition of the anniversary of the Reformation.

ADOPTION OF THE 2017 FAITH SPENDING PLAN:

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.16.06.08 To adopt the SY2017 Faith Spending Plan as presented.

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

SA.16.06.09 To authorize expenditures of up to \$10,000 each year during SY2016 and SY2017 to support Mar-Lu-Ridge with the provision that the expenditures match those funds raised by Mar-Lu-Ridge in a special appeal by the camp each year.

CREATION CARE TEAM: The Rev. Tormod Svensson presented the “Gretchen Green Sheep” award to a congregation doing something extraordinarily “green” in their congregation. This year’s award went to Holy Communion, Fallston, who planted 91 trees and are creating an outdoor worship space.

Julie Stecker reminded the voting members to complete the assembly evaluation.

There being no other business, the assembly adjourned for worship at 10:50 a.m.