

2007 ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta at Colony Square  
**SECOND PLENARY SESSION**  
**Friday, June 1, 2007**  
**4:30 p.m.**

CART SERVICES PROVIDED BY  
*EDUCAPTION, INC.*  
*ATLANTA, GEORGIA*  
*PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA*

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>> WE ARE ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AWAY, IF YOU COULD MOVE TOWARDS YOUR SEATS, PLEASE.

TWO MINUTES.

PLEASE MOVE TO YOUR SEATS.

IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COME TO ORDER.

THANK YOU.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS.

IF YOU ARE PROCEEDING TO YOUR SEATS, PLEASE HOLD YOUR VOICES DOWN, BECAUSE WE HAVE A LOT PACKED INTO THIS ONE-HOUR SESSION.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

FIRST, AN ANNOUNCEMENT AND A PLEA FROM OUR ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR, ELAINE.

>> HI.

WE REALIZE IT'S CROWDED IN HERE.

I THINK EVERY ONE OF US REALIZES THAT IT'S A LITTLE BIT CROWDED IN HERE.

WE HAVE MADE A FEW ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VISITOR SEATING SO THAT THERE'S A LITTLE MORE ROOM IN THE BACK FOR YOU TO GET THROUGH TO COME DOWN THE SIDE AISLE AND THE CENTER AISLE.

WE HOPE THAT WILL ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE CROWDING.

WE'RE ASKING THAT YOU PLEASE, IF YOU ARE A VISITOR, PLEASE STAY IN THE VISITOR SECTION.

WE'VE REMOVED ONE OF THE DRAPES BACK THERE TO GIVE A LITTLE MORE SPACE, BUT IT'S VERY OBVIOUS, VOTING MEMBERS AT THE TABLES, VISITORS AT THE CHAIRS.

WE ALSO ASK IF YOU'RE A VOTING MEMBER, THAT YOU PLEASE FIND A TABLE TO SIT AT.

THE PLENARY PAGES AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR YOU IN THE VISITORS SECTION, SO IF YOU'RE IN THE VISITORS SECTION, VOTING COULD BE AN ISSUE.

SO PLEASE, VOTING MEMBERS AT THE TABLES.

VISITORS AT THE CHAIRS.

THANKS VERY MUCH.

>> ONE MORE COMMENT.

IF YOU HAVE AN EMPTY SEAT OR SEATS, THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE VOTING MEMBERS, IF YOU HAVE AN EMPTY SEAT OR SEATS NEXT TO YOU, WOULD YOU RAISE YOUR HANDS.

BECAUSE WE NEED -- THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE VOTING MEMBERS WHO ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A SEAT, IF YOU WOULD JUST LEAVE YOUR HANDS UP FOR A MOMENT SO THEY CAN SEE YOU.

A LOT OF ROOM BACK HERE.

PLEASE COME TO ORDER.

OUR CHAPLAIN IS REV. DR. EVON FLESBERG.

SHE'S A PASTORAL COUNSELOR AND AT THE SAME TIME AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING AT VANDERBILT DIVINITY SCHOOL IN NASHVILLE.

SHE'S BEEN AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR FOR ALMOST 12 YEARS NOW.

EVON, WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU.

PLEASE COME FORWARD.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

>> I HAVE TWO TEXTS AND A SHORT PRAYER, LEST YOU THINK MY PRAYER IS GOING TO BE LONGER THAN IT NEED BE.

BEN, OUR CHAPLAIN, DR. MORAVITZ, STARTED THIS MORNING BY REMINDING US OF OUR OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THANKFUL.

THIS AFTERNOON, I WANT US TO FOCUS ON ALL THE GIFTS THAT GOD GIVES US.  
FOCUS WITH ME, AND THINK OF THE GIFTS THAT YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW --  
GIFT OF LIFE, CLEAN WATER, FOOD AND SHELTER, THE ABILITY TO BE HERE, ENOUGH  
HEALTH TO GET UP EVERY DAY.

A BEAUTIFUL EARTH.

THE FREEDOM TO TAKE TIME OFF TO BE HERE.

YOU'RE NOT HAVING TO SLAVE.

YOU'RE HERE FREE TO COME.

WE HAVE THE PEACE TO BE IN THIS ROOM AND ASSEMBLE.

WE'RE NOT WORRIED ABOUT MORTAR ATTACKS ON OUR BUILDING.

WE THINK OF IT, BUT WE ARE PRETTY CONFIDENT IT WON'T HAPPEN TODAY.

AN ABUNDANCE OF MATERIAL BLESSINGS ARE OURS FROM A GENEROUS GIVER OF  
GIFT, GOD.

AND THE CHURCH ITSELF, WE HAVE THE GIFT OF GOD'S HOLY WORD, AND JESUS,  
OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, WHO COMES FREELY TO BE THE GIVER OF LIFE ITSELF.

WE HAVE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US, WHOSE VERY FAITHFULNESS  
HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE HERE.

THE GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES THAT BLESS US EVEN TODAY.

WE HAVE THE COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS THAT SUPPORT US IN OUR WALK  
OF FAITH, WHOSE VERY FAITHFULNESS MAKE IT POSSIBLE STILL FOR US TO HAVE  
FAITH.

THIS AFTERNOON, I WANT TO THINK ABOUT WITH YOU HOW THE SPIRIT, THE HOLY  
SPIRIT, BLOWS, THE PENTECOST SPIRIT IS STILL BLOWING IN US.

HEAR AGAIN THE PRAYER FOR US MADE AT OUR BAPTISMS.

GOD THE FATHER OF LORD JESUS CHRIST, WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR FREEING THE  
SONS AND DAUGHTERS FROM THE POWER OF SIN, AND RAISING THEM UP FOR A NEW  
LIFE.

POUR OUT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT UPON ALL OF US.

THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, THE SPIRIT OF COUNCIL AND MIGHT.

THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

THE SPIRIT OF JOY IN YOUR PRESENCE.

I WAS PONDERING GIFTS, AND I WAS THINKING ABOUT ALL THE GIFTS THAT I DON'T  
TAP.

I WAS PARTICULARLY THINKING ABOUT MY COMPUTER.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT ALL THE THINGS I KNOW IT CAN DO THAT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT DO.

YOU RELATE TO THAT?

[ APPLAUSE ]

UNTAPPED GIFTS.

I WAS LOOKING AT MY LIBRARY AND I THOUGHT: I WONDER HOW MY LIFE WOULD BE DIFFERENT IF I ACTUALLY READ ALL THESE BOOKS I BOUGHT?

[ LAUGHTER ]

AND PROFESSOR POWELL SAID TO US THIS MORNING THAT THE HOLY SCRIPTURE IS GOD TALKING TO US, AND I THINK I'VE MISSED A LOT OF CONVERSATION BECAUSE I HAVEN'T OPENED UP THE BOOK AS MUCH AS I NEED TO, AND OUGHT TO AND WISH TO.

READING FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL WRITTEN TO THE CORINTHIANS.

THE GIVER OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS SAYS TO US: NOW CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I DO NOT WANT YOU TO BE UNINFORMED.

YOU KNOW THAT WHEN YOU WERE PAGANS, YOU WERE ENTICED AND LED ASTRAY TO IDOLS THAT COULD NOT SPEAK.

THEREFORE I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT NO ONE SPEAKING BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD EVER SAYS, LET JESUS BE CURSED.

AND NO ONE CAN SAY, JESUS IS LORD, EXCEPT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

NOW THERE ARE A VARIETY OF GIFTS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT, THERE ARE A VARIETY OF SERVICES, BUT THE SAME LORD.

THERE ARE VARIETIES OF ACTIVITIES BUT IT IS THE SAME GOD WHO ACTIVATES ALL OF THEM IN EVERYONE.

TO EACH IS GIVEN THE MANIFESTATION OF SPIRIT FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

TO ONE IS GIVEN THROUGH THE SPIRIT THE UTTERANCE OF WISDOM.

TO ANOTHER THE UTTERANCE OF KNOWLEDGE ACCORDING TO THE SAME SPIRIT.

TO ANOTHER, FAITH BY THE SAME SPIRIT.

TO ANOTHER, GIFTS OF HEALING BY THE ONE SPIRIT.

TO ANOTHER, WORKING OF MIRACLES.

TO ANOTHER, PROPHECY.

TO ANOTHER, THE DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS.

TO ANOTHER, VARIOUS KINDS OF TONGUES.

TO ANOTHER, THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES.

ALL THESE ARE ACTIVATED BY ONE IN THE SAME SPIRIT, WHO ALLOTS TO EACH ONE INDIVIDUALLY JUST AS THE SPIRIT CHOOSES.

FOR JUST AS THE BODY HAS MANY MEMBERS AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BODY THOUGH MANY ARE ONE BODY, SO IT IS WITH CHRIST.

FOR IN THE ONE SPIRIT, WE ARE ALL BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY.

JEWS OR GREEKS, SLAVES OR FREE.

AND WE'RE ALL MADE TO DRINK OF THE ONE SPIRIT.

GOD IS AT WORK IN EVERY ONE OF US IN THIS ROOM.

IT'S JUST NOT THE BUSINESS OF ELECTING A BISHOP WE'RE ABOUT TODAY.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REACHING OUT TO YOU AND TO YOUR COMMUNITIES, TO THIS COMMUNITY.

GOD IS BUSY ACTIVATING US.

I LOVE THAT PHRASE, RIGHT?

GOD IS GOING TO PUSH THE USE BUTTON ON OUR LIVES, IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE AN UNUSED PROGRAM IN THE COMPUTER THAT CAN DO MARVELOUS THINGS OR AN UNREAD BOOK.

WE ARE THE SO THAT OF GOD IN THE WORLD.

SO THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE CLEAN WATER.

SO THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE SHELTER.

SO THAT ALL PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE HEALTHCARE.

SO THAT THERE MIGHT BE PEACE IN THE WORLD.

SO THAT ALL MIGHT CLAIM JESUS AS LORD.

ACTIVATE US.

LET US PRAY.

GOD OF GIFTS, GOD OF LIFE, GOD OUR ACTIVATOR.

STIR UP YOUR HOLY SPIRIT IN US.

HELP US DISCERN OUR GIFTS.

THE ONE CALLED TO BE BISHOP, DISCERN THE BISHOP'S ROLE.

THE ONES CALLED TO OTHER ROLES, DISCERN THE SPIRIT IN THEM.

AND IN EACH OF US, ACTIVATE US.

AND NOW, AS YOUR HOLY COMMUNITY, THE BODY OF CHRIST, WE PRAY FOR THOSE

WHO HAVE ASKED US TO REMEMBER THEM.

WE PRAY FOR MATTHEW HOFFMAN.

WE PRAY FOR HEALING THE LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

WE PRAY FOR HEALING FOR DIANE GRAY, AS SHE STRUGGLES TO GET A GOOD JOB AND HAVE HER CHILDREN BACK.

WE PRAY FOR HEALING FOR JOE HAMILTON, AS HE RECOVERS FROM SURGERY.

THESE THINGS AND THE PRAYERS OF ALL THOSE WOULD BE EASY TO FORGET.

THE HOMELESS AND THE HUNGRY, THE MENTALLY ILL AND THOSE WHO STRUGGLE WITH ADDICTIONS.

THOSE WHO ARE THE GOD FORSAKEN, SEND US TO THEM AND ACTIVATE YOUR LORD IN THE WORLD THROUGH US.

IN JESUS' NAME WE PRAY, AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR.

WANT TO INTRODUCE SOMEONE THAT WAS NOT ABLE TO BE HERE AT OUR FIRST SESSION AND HE HAS SERVED THIS SYNOD AT NO COST TO THIS SYNOD FOR 20 YEARS.

HE IS OUR SYNOD ATTORNEY, MR. PAUL ARNE.

AND PAUL WAS A LITTLE EMBARRASSED WHEN I TOLD HIM I WANTED TO IDENTIFY HIM AND GIVE HIM THANKS.

STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE WITH YOUR ARM UP.

WE NEED TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO HIM.

[ APPLAUSE ]

HE APOLOGIZED FOR BEING LATE.

CAN YOU IMAGINE AN ATTORNEY WHO HAD A CRISIS TO DEAL WITH?

BUT HE'S HERE, AND WE'RE SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THE COUNSEL THAT HE HAS GIVEN ME AND THE STAFF OVER THE YEARS.

DELEE, IF YOU COULD COME BACK AND GIVE US ANOTHER UPDATE OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, PLEASE.

>> BISHOP WARREN, THE THIRD REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE FOR THE ASSEMBLY IS AS FOLLOWS --

CLERGY UNDER CALL, 152.

CLERGY ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 3.

CLERGY RETIRED, 26.

DIACONAL MINISTER UNDER CALL, 3.

DIACONAL MINISTER ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 0.

DIACONAL MINISTER RETIRED, 0.

ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY UNDER CALL, 9.

ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 1.

ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY RETIRED, 1.

LAY LICENSED MINISTERS, 0.

LAY VOTING MEMBERS, 283.

LAY MEMBERS OF SYNOD COUNCIL, 9.

SYNOD COUNCIL OFFICERS, 1.

ECUMENICAL PASTORS, 1.

TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS, 489.

>> THANK YOU.

CHAIR WOULD ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO ACCEPT THIS CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT.

IT'S BEEN MOVED AND SECONDED.

ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, SAY YES.

>> YES!

>> WONDERFUL.

YOU ARE ALIVE AND AWAKE.

WONDERFUL.

AS PASTOR KATIE PASCH, OUR ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR, COMES FORWARD.

AGAIN, REMINDERS TO VOTING MEMBERS WHO MAY HAVE ARRIVED LATE.

TWO COMMENTS.

ONE, VOTING MEMBERS ARE TO GIVE BALLOTS ONLY TO PEOPLE WHO ARE WEARING GREEN BUTTONS.

AND SECONDLY, THOSE PERSONS COLLECTING THE BALLOTS WILL ONLY TAKE THEM FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE GREEN NAMETAGS.

QUALIFYING THEM AS VOTING MEMBERS.

PASTOR PASCH?

THANK YOU.

>> THE FOLLOWING 35 PEOPLE HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR NAMES FROM FURTHER

CONSIDERATION IN THE ELECTION FOR BISHOP.

[ LAUGHTER ]

[ APPLAUSE ]

PAUL BAUMGARTNER, CARL BERKOBIN, WYVETTA BULLOCK, NANCY CHRISTENSEN, LAWRENCE CLARK, TED COLEMAN, WILLIAM DIAMOND, EVON FLESBERG, MICHAEL FOSS, MARIE HATCHER, JILL HENNING, MATTHEW HENNING, HARVEY HUNTLEY, TOM KENNEY, DARRYL KIEHL, DAVE KOPPEL, FRED KRAUTWURST, HOWARD METTEE, STEVE MISENHEIMER, BOB MITCHELL, JAMES NIPPER, RICK OHSIEK, AMY ONSTAD, BUD ONSTAD, KATHERINE PASCH, WILLIAM ROEN, JOHN ROSSING, DEBRA SAMUELSON, DAVID SMEDLEY, PETER STROMMEN, JAMES THALACKER, BEVERLY WALLACE, JOHN WEBER, LAMONT WELLS, WILLIAM WHITE.

THE REMAINING 25 NAMES WILL APPEAR ON THE SECOND BALLOT.

AS WAS THE CASE ON THE FIRST BALLOT, 75% OF THE LEGAL VOTES CAST ARE NECESSARY FOR ELECTION ON THE SECOND BALLOT.

NOTE THAT BALLOTING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS ASSEMBLY WILL BE DONE USING AN ELECTRONIC SCANNER.

YOU MUST USE A NUMBER-2 PENCIL TO COMPLETE YOUR BALLOT.

THE SCANNER DOES NOT READ INK.

EXTRA PENCILS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE TABLES.

PLEASE SHARE THEM IF THERE ARE NOT QUITE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.

WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT, YOU'LL SEE THAT THERE IS A NUMBER NEXT TO THE NAME OF EACH CANDIDATE.

VOTE BY FILLING IN THE NUMBERED SPACE CORRESPONDING TO THE PERSON YOU WISH TO VOTE FOR.

PLEASE DO NOT FOLD YOUR BALLOT.

>> I'D LIKE TO CALL ON PASTOR FLESBERG, OUR CHAPLAIN, TO PLEASE LEAD US IN PRAYER.

CHAPLAIN ON THE MOVE.

>> ACTIVATING, ACTIVATING!

ACTIVATING!

HOLY ONE, WITH JOY, WITH A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, WITH A SENSE OF HOPE, WITH A SENSE OF VISION, WITH GRATITUDE FOR ALL THAT'S BEEN, GIVE THIS COMMUNITY WISDOM AS WE SEEK A LEADER THAT WE MIGHT CALL BISHOP IN OUR

MIDST.

AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>> POLLS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE SECOND BALLOT FOR BISHOP.

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THE BALLOTS.

DOES EVERYONE HAVE A BALLOT?

[ VOTING ]

IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR BALLOT AND IT HAS NOT BEEN PICKED UP, PLEASE RAISE YOUR BALLOT OVER YOUR HEAD.

WE'RE CLOSE TO CLOSING THE POLLS.

IF YOUR BALLOT HAS NOT BEEN PICKED UP, PLEASE RAISE YOUR BALLOT.

THE POLLS ARE NOW CLOSED, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE COME TO ORDER.

PLEASE COME TO ORDER.

WE MOVE NOW TO MS. ELIZABETH HUNTER, WHO IS PART OF THE LUTHERAN STAFF.

SHE'S GOING TO GIVE US A VERY BRIEF PRESENTATION ABOUT "THE LUTHERAN."

IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD, IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN "THE LITTLE LUTHERAN," FOR LITTLE ONES, IT IS ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL.

MY GRANDKIDS ARE GOING TO GET SUBSCRIPTIONS.

WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU.

WELCOME.

>> THAT'S WONDERFUL.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

THANKS TO BISHOP WARREN AND YOUR SYNOD LEADERSHIP FOR THIS

OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH YOU TODAY.

WHAT'S THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF "THE LUTHERAN"?

IT WAS DESIGNED TO BE THE PRINCIPAL COMMUNICATION VEHICLE OF THE ELCA, LINKING CONGREGATIONS, SYNODS, CHURCHWIDE AND OUR GLOBAL LUTHERAN COMMUNITY.

"THE LUTHERAN" IS VITAL TO THE GROWTH OF THE ELCA.

BECAUSE OF THIS, WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF "THE LUTHERAN" MAGAZINE.

WHAT DO WE DO RIGHT?

WHAT COULD WE DO BETTER?

AND, YES, WHAT DO WE DO WRONG?

AFTER ALL, YOU ARE THE OWNERS, THE PUBLISHERS.

IS IT RELEVANT IN YOUR LIFE?

IF NOT, WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP ADDRESS YOUR NEEDS?

IN A FEW SECONDS, I'D LIKE TO SHARE SOME OF THE MANY THINGS "THE LUTHERAN" HAS RECENTLY DONE TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE.

WE NOW PUBLISH A STUDY GUIDE EVERY MONTH.

WE JUST ADDED A HIGHER EDUCATION SECTION.

WE PROVIDE MORE BALANCED COVERAGE OF ISSUES THE CHURCH FACES TODAY.

WE CONTINUE TO GIVE IN-DEPTH COVERAGE OF A VARIETY OF TOPICS, MOST RECENTLY THE LITURGY, OUR INTERRELIGIOUS WORLD, AND OUR SEMINARIES.

LATER WE'LL TACKLE THE RELEVANCE OF THE LUTHER 95 THESES, AS WELL AS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LUTHERAN TODAY.

WE WANT TO CHALLENGE YOU.

HELP US INCREASE OUR CIRCULATION FOR THE GOOD OF THIS CHURCH AND ITS FUTURE.

AS WE APPROACH OUR 20th ANNIVERSARY AS A MAGAZINE, WE REMAIN FINANCIALLY SOLVENT, YET PAID CIRCULATION JUST SLID BELOW 300,000.

SINCE 2003, THE DECLINE HAS ACCELERATED TO 35,000 COPIES A YEAR.

WE HAD MORE THAN A MILLION PAID SUBSCRIBERS WHEN THE CHURCH WAS FORMED.

THIS CANNOT CONTINUE.

THE FUTURE OF THE MAGAZINE IS AT STAKE.

IF YOUR CONGREGATION HAS AN EVERY FAMILY SUBSCRIPTION, BE OUR ADVOCATE FOR RENEWAL AT BUDGET TIME.

IF YOUR CONGREGATION HAS DROPPED ITS SUBSCRIPTION OR HASN'T HAD ONE IN YEARS, SPEAK UP TO RENEW OR MAKE A MINIMAL COMMITMENT.

GIVE US ANOTHER TRY.

50 MAGAZINES COST LESS THAN \$400 A YEAR.

THAT'S 67 CENTS AN ISSUE.

IF IT'S NOT POSSIBLE, LEAD EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO TALK WITH ME DURING BREAKS OR AT THE DISPLAY AREA.

LOOK FOR THIS PURPLE BADGE.

AND I PROMISE TO LISTEN AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE.

GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU.

OH, AND ASK ME ABOUT "THE LITTLE LUTHERAN," TOO.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> WE NOW TURN TO ONE OF THE MOST JOYOUS PARTS OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR ME. THAT'S WELCOMING NEW PASTORS, NEW LAY ROSTERED PEOPLE INTO OUR SYNOD SINCE THE LAST ASSEMBLY.

AND SOME OF YOU AT THE FRONT ARE GOING TO HAVE TO JUST SLIGHTLY TURN, BECAUSE WE HAVE A WHOLE SLEW OF NEW PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME INTO THE GREAT COMMISSION SYNOD.

AND I'M JUST THRILLED.

IT'S ALSO AN INDICATION OF THE HOURS AND HOURS AND HOURS THAT THE SYNOD STAFF PUTS IN ON CALL PROCESSES AND INTERVIEWING PEOPLE WHO WANT TO COME TO OUR SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

AS I CALL YOUR NAME, IF YOU WOULD STAND AND RAISE YOUR HAND, SO WE CAN SEE YOU, AND JUST REMAIN STANDING UNTIL I GET THROUGH THE LIST.

THAT WAY, PEOPLE CAN SEE ALL OF THE NEW FOLKS WHO HAVE ARRIVED DOWN HERE IN THE SOUTHEAST.

FIRST, MICHELLE ANGALET, ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY, GOOD SHEPHERD, WOODSTOCK.

[ APPLAUSE ]

REMAIN STANDING, PLEASE.

SANDRA BRAASCH, DIACONAL MINISTER, DEPUTY FOR MISSISSIPPI STATE, COORDINATOR FOR LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE SOUTH.

SHE CAME TO US FROM THE NEBRASKA SYNOD.

AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE NEBRASKA SYNOD.

WHERE ARE YOU?

[ APPLAUSE ]

SETH BRIDGER, MISSION DEVELOPER, POOLER LUTHERAN MISSION, OVER IN THE SAVANNAH AREA.

[ APPLAUSE ]

PLEASE, IN MY ANNUAL REPORT, I ASKED YOU TO SUPPLY NAMES OF POTENTIAL

PASTOR DEVELOPERS WHO COULD QUALIFY TO COME TO THIS SYNOD TO LEAD OUR NEW MISSIONS.

I HAD A YOUNG WOMAN COME UP HERE TO ME THIS MORNING, I DIDN'T EXPECT IT, AND SHE HANDED ME A NOTE WITH A NAME ON IT.

SHE SAID: THIS IS A POTENTIAL PASTOR DEVELOPER.

SETH IS ONE OF THOSE WHO CAME TO US FROM TRINITY SEMINARY, AND WE'RE DELIGHTED HE'S HERE.

SO KEEP THE NAMES COMING.

PALMER CLEMMER, PASTOR, ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HENDERSONVILLE, TENNESSEE, TRANSFERRED FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD.

WHERE'S PALMER?

[ APPLAUSE ]

THANK THE BISHOP FOR SENDING YOU TO US.

JULIE CROSBY.

WHERE'S JULIE?

RIGHT HERE.

JULIE IS THE PASTOR OF ST. JAMES IN NORCROSS, GEORGIA.

WAS ORDAINED LAST YEAR IN OCTOBER.

AND WAS INSTALLED IN NOVEMBER.

AND WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU'RE PART OF US.

[ APPLAUSE ]

STEVEN COUNTS.

WHERE IS STEVEN?

RIGHT HERE.

WONDERFUL.

PASTOR, HOLY TRINITY, KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE.

STARTED IN FEBRUARY.

TRANSFERRED AGAIN ANOTHER SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD.

WONDERFUL.

[ APPLAUSE ]

PASTOR DEAN EATMAN.

WHERE'S DEAN?

OH, RIGHT HERE.

WONDERFUL.

PASTOR, MEMORIAL CHURCH IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

YOU CAME A LONG WAY.

TRANSFERRED FROM THE SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD.

[ APPLAUSE ]

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE COMING FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

PASTOR MICHAEL FOSS, SENIOR PASTOR, REDEEMER, ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

TRANSFERRED FROM THE ST. PAUL AREA SYNOD.

WHERE'S MICHAEL?

>> HE HAD TO LEAVE.

>> HE HAD TO LEAVE.

I KNOW HE WAS SEATED BACK HERE.

WELCOME MICHAEL WHEN YOU SEE HIM.

DARREL GOLNITZ HAS COME HOME.

[ APPLAUSE ]

AT THE SAME TIME, IS MARY SEATED -- WE WE'VE GOT TO HAVE MARY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

SHE IS A THE REAL POWER IN THIS MARRIAGE.

DARREL, PASTOR DEVELOPER, BLAIRSVILLE AREA OF NORTHERN GEORGIA.

THEY SERVED IN KINGSPORT A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO.

THEN, I CAN'T IMAGINE, ACCEPTED A CALL TO START A NEW MISSION IN GREEN BAY,  
WISCONSIN, WHERE IT GETS VERY COLD.

WE'RE DELIGHTED YOU'RE BACK.

AND WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU.

DAVID HELFRICH, SENIOR PASTOR, RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN  
MARIETTA.

[ APPLAUSE ]

TRANSFERRED FROM THE DELAWARE-MARYLAND SYNOD.

GREAT TO HAVE YOU WITH US.

RON JOHNSON, TRANSFERRED FROM THE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN SYNOD.

RETIRED.

IS RON HERE?

OH, WONDERFUL.

WELCOME.

[ APPLAUSE ]

SANDRA JOHNSON, PASTOR, ADVENT, LAGRANGE, GEORGIA.

STARTED LAST YEAR IN JUNE IN LAGRANGE.

AND, SANDRA, I NEED TO TELL YOU A STORY.

AS MANY TIMES AS I'VE BEEN DOWN IN THAT AREA, I THINK YOU KNOW THIS, BUT YOU ALL NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE SOUTHEAST.

I MADE A WRONG TURN COMING BACK NORTH, AND I GOT LOST OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

HEADING NORTH.

I MEAN, IT WAS SO IS RURAL, THERE WEREN'T -- I COULDN'T SEE ANY HOMES.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE BUILDING?

A FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY.

OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

THAT IS AN INDICATION OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR FOUR STATES.

WE ARE BEGINNING TO BUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE COMING THIS DIRECTION.

NEVER FORGET THAT.

[ APPLAUSE ]

PASTOR CHERYL KESTER-HOFFMAN, PASTOR, SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS, MORGANTON, GEORGIA.

INSTALLATION, OCTOBER 8th, '06.

WHERE IS SHE?

[ APPLAUSE ]

OH, WONDERFUL.

I'M GOING INTRODUCE SOMEONE TO YOU NOW WHOSE CALL ACTUALLY BEGINS TODAY.

PASTOR ANDY KREY.

DID HE MAKE IT?

THERE HE IS.

[ APPLAUSE ]

THIS IS A UNIQUE CALL.

HE IS A PASTOR DEVELOPER OF MARITIME MINISTRIES IN SAVANNAH.

WELCOME, ANDY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

VIRGINIA KREKLING.

WHERE'S VIRGINIA?

WAY BACK HERE.

VIRGINIA IS ANOTHER PASTOR DEVELOPER, CELEBRATION OF GRACE, CANTON, GEORGIA.

AND SHE STARTED, LET'S SEE, AUGUST, LAST AUGUST.

I WAS JUST UP IN CANTON, AND, OH, MARVELOUS MINISTRY.

DELIGHT TO HAVE YOU HERE, AND ORDAINED.

[ APPLAUSE ]

JUSTIN LIND-AYRES.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR, GOOD SHEPHERD, WOODSTOCK, GEORGIA.

[ APPLAUSE ]

SOMEONE ELSE WHO HAS COME FROM THE ST. PAUL AREA SYNOD.

THE WEATHER IS BETTER.

MARCUS MILLER, DR. MARCUS MILLER, PRESIDENT OF LUTHERAN SOUTHERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN COLUMBIA.

TRANSFERRED, NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD.

MARCUS, WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU PART OF US.

[ APPLAUSE ]

SHELLEY NELSON-BRIDGER, PASTOR, BETHEL CHURCH IN SPRINGFIELD, GEORGIA.

WHERE ARE YOU?

I SAW YOU EARLIER.

[ APPLAUSE ]

JUST SWOONED OVER THEIR LITTLE SON.

OH.

MY KIND OF -- WELL, BEING A GRANDFATHER.

PASTOR MATTHEW SIMPKINS.

WHERE'S MATT?

RIGHT OVER HERE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

ASSOCIATE PASTOR, FAITH, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.

AND THE BETTER PART OF YOUR MARRIAGE IS MELODY, ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY,  
FAITH, KNOXVILLE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

PASTOR LESTER WHITE.

IS LESTER HERE?

HOPE HE IS.

LESTER IS THE SYNOD TRANSITIONAL PASTOR.

CAME FROM THE CARIBBEAN SYNOD AND HAS BEEN SERVING AS THE TRANSITION  
PASTOR AT SHADES VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

THESE ARE THE NEW FOLKS THAT HAVE COME SINCE THE LAST SYNOD ASSEMBLY.  
PLEASE WELCOME THEM.

[ APPLAUSE ]

NOW WE HAVE MORE WHO ARE IN THE PROCESS OF COMING.

WE HAVE THREE SEMINARIANS WHO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO OUR SYNOD.

I'M GOING TO HAVE THEM STAND.

PASTOR JOSEPH BOLICK, SOON TO BE PASTOR.

I THINK WE CAN CALL HIM PASTOR SINCE IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN QUICKLY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

HOW DOES THAT SOUND, PASTOR?

>> A LITTLE STRANGE, BUT GOOD.

[ LAUGHTER ]

>> MICHAEL JANNETT.

[ APPLAUSE ]

HOW DOES "PASTOR" SOUND?

AND KEVIN MARTIN.

KEVIN IS NOT HERE.

ALL THREE OF THESE FINE FOLKS ARE FROM SOUTHERN SEMINARY, AND WE ARE  
DELIGHTED YOU'RE GOING TO BE PART OF THIS GREAT COMMISSION SYNOD.

[ APPLAUSE ]

NOW, TWO SPECIAL GUESTS.

ONE YOU'VE MET, BUT, WELL, I THINK I'VE INTRODUCED BOTH OF THEM.

AT THIS TIME, I'D LIKE TO HAVE REVEREND DR. LARRY CLARK, WHO IS THE NEW  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

HE'S BEEN ON FOR A FEW MONTHS, BUT HE'S AT HOME NOW.  
LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL CENTER IN ATLANTA TO GIVE US A BRIEF READING.  
WELCOME, PASTOR.

>> THANK YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

THANK YOU, BISHOP WARREN.

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO SERVE AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL CENTER IN ATLANTA HOUSED ON THE  
INTERDENOMINATIONAL CENTER'S CAMPUS FOR THE PAST NINE MONTHS.  
I'M BLESSED TO HAVE SERVED AS CONGREGATIONAL PASTOR.

I AM UNASHAMEDLY AFRICAN AMERICAN, AND UNAPOLOGETICALLY LUTHERAN.

[ APPLAUSE ]

AND PROUD TO SAY THAT I AM AN ALUMNUS OF THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL  
CENTER IN ATLANTA.

DR. MAX DUPREE, A WRITER OF A NUMBER OF LEADERSHIP BOOKS, SAYS THE FIRST  
RESPONSIBILITY OF A LEADER IS TO DEFINE REALITY.

THE LAST IS TO SAY THANK YOU.

AND IN BETWEEN, THE LEADER MUST BE SERVANT AND DEBTOR.

I AM TRULY INDEBTED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD --  
THE BISHOP, THE STAFF, THE CONGREGATIONS AND PASTORS, AND THE LAITY WHO  
HAVE MADE ME FEEL RIGHT AT HOME.

THERE IS MUCH WORK FOR US TO DO.

AND SO I SOLICIT YOUR PRAYERS, AS THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME IN THE LIFE OF THE  
CENTER.

THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL CENTER, FOR THOSE THAT DON'T KNOW, IS ONE OF  
TWO CENTERS IN THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, WE HAVE 8 SEMINARIES, BUT THERE ARE ALSO TWO  
CENTERS IN WHICH STUDENTS CAN FROM ANY OF THE 8 SEMINARIES COME AND  
PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAMS OF THE CENTER.

THERE ARE THREE UNIQUE PROGRAMS THE CENTER OFFERS.

THE J-TERM, URBAN PLUNGE, SUMMER CPE, CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION, AND A  
TWIST THAT STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ALONG SIDE THE CPE  
EXPERIENCE IN CONGREGATIONS IN THE ATLANTA AREA.

AND FINALLY, STUDENTS CAN SPEND A SEMESTER OR A FULL YEAR OF ACADEMIC WORK AT THE CENTER, TAKING CLASSES AT I.T.C., EMORY'S CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY OR COLUMBIA SEMINARY.

WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO TELL THE OLD, DULL STORY, THE LTCA STORY, VERY FITTING IN THE GREAT COMMISSION SYNOD.

PROBABLY BIBLICAL, TOO, DR. POWELL.

FOR SOME HAVE NEVER HEARD AND OTHERS HOW PLEASANT TO REPEAT, WHICH SEEMS EACH TIME I TELL IT MORE WONDERFULLY SWEET.

I INVITE YOU TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION.

IF YOU HAVE A CHANCE VISIT THE BOOTH THAT'S OUTSIDE.

FINALLY, AS WE MOVE FORWARD AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE, THE CENTER WILL BE HOSTING LUTHERAN DAYS IN 2008 AS WE CELEBRATE 20 YEARS IN MINISTRY RIGHT HERE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

IT WILL FEATURE PROMINENT AFRICAN AMERICAN LUTHERANS AND PREACHERS AND THEOLOGIANs, SO CHECK THE WEBSITE.

I'M EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE, AND I WOULD ASK THAT FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND CONTINUED SUPPORT.

FINALLY, LET ME CONCLUDE WITH A HEARTY "THANK YOU" TO THE BISHOP, REVEREND DR. RONALD WARREN, FOR HIS LEADERSHIP FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS, AND FOR HIS SERVICE ON THE LTCA ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK YOU, AS A SYNOD, FOR YOUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP, FOR YOUR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT, AS WELL AS THE SUPPORT OF THOSE WITHIN THE SYNOD, WHICH INCLUDE THE SOUTHEASTERN LUTHERAN BLACK PASTORS CONFERENCE, GEORGIA CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION, AND NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS AND CONGREGATIONS.

PLEASE COME BY THE BOOTH.

AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THANK YOU, DR. CLARK.

PRESIDENT MARCUS MILLER, WOULD YOU PLEASE COME FORWARD.

AGAIN, HE'S THE FORMER BISHOP.

ACTUALLY, RESIGNED AS BISHOP TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE SEMINARY, AND WE'RE GLAD AND DELIGHTED YOU CAME OUR DIRECTION.

AND YOU'RE ON OUR SYNOD ROSTER.

WELCOME.

>> I AM.

IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

FIVE MINUTES.

ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY AND STAFF AT LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SOUTHERN SEMINARY AND OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES, I BRING YOU HEARTFELT GREETINGS.

I'VE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS CHANCE TO BE HERE.

AND TO GET TO MEET SOME OF YOU AND LOOKED FORWARD TO LIFE IN THIS SYNOD, EVEN THOUGH I RESIDE IN COLUMBIA.

I ALSO, ON THEIR BEHALF, WANT TO BRING YOU OUR PROFOUND THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO ON BEHALF OF THE SEMINARY.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS, FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT, FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

A FEW WEEKS AGO, WE HAD COMMENCEMENT AT THE SEMINARY AND THERE WERE 6 STUDENTS WHO GRADUATED FROM THE SOUTHEAST SYNOD ON MAY 18th.

THERE ARE 4 INTERNSHIPS IN THIS SYNOD.

WE HAVE 9 SEMINARIAN PARTNERSHIPS.

17 PEOPLE ENROLLED FROM THIS SYNOD AT LTSS, AND IT IS A DELIGHTFUL PLACE, AND A WONDERFUL PLACE TO SERVE.

I ALSO WANT TO PROFOUNDLY THANK YOU FOR PEOPLE YOU SEND TO BE ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SEMINARY.

PASTOR JULIAN GORDY HAS JUST COMPLETED A COUPLE OF TERMS, AND RECENTLY, AS SECRETARY OF THE BOARD, AND EILEEN LIEPHART FROM YOUR SYNOD ARE INVALUABLE COLLEAGUES IN PROVIDING LEADERSHIP FOR THE LIFE OF THE SEMINARY.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR GIFTS, AND FOR YOUR SENDING THEM TO US.

A YEAR AGO AT THIS TIME, MY WIFE KATHY AND I WERE JUST GETTING USED TO THE IDEA THAT AFTER 27 YEARS AS A PARISH PASTOR AND A SYNOD BISHOP AND AS A MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND DIRECTOR, THE TWO OF US WERE PACKING THINGS UP TO MOVE FROM OHIO DOWN THE STREET.

WE LIVED A MILE FROM I-77 IN OHIO, AND WE LIVE ABOUT TWO MILES FROM I-77 IN

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA.

[ LAUGHTER ]

BUT FOR US, MOVING DOWN THE STREET MEANT GOING ABOUT 560 MILES.

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT HAVE MADE THOSE KINDS OF MOVES, YOU KNOW THAT IT'S ANXIETY-PRODUCING, AND ONE WONDERS OFTENTIMES, WHERE IS GOD IN ALL OF THIS?

AND YET THE TRUTH IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN WARMLY WELCOMED IN COLUMBIA.

IT IS A MARVELOUS PLACE OF FORMATION AND LEARNING, OF WORSHIP AND JOY.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR THESE THREE CANDIDATES THAT YOU'VE RECEIVED, AND I KNOW THAT THEY'LL BE A VITAL PART OF YOUR SYNOD.

WE'VE BEEN WARMLY WELCOMED THERE, AND HAVE BECOME A PART OF THAT COMMUNITY.

AND I HOPE IF YOU'RE EVER DRIVING ON I-77, OR ON I-20, OR 26, OR IF YOU EVER JUST HAPPEN TO BE IN COLUMBIA, STOP BY, SEE US.

IF YOU COME TO THE PRICE HOUSE AND MY DOOR IS OPEN, WALK IN.

I WANT TO FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE, AND WE WANT TO WELCOME YOU TO YOUR SEMINARY, ONE OF 8 IN THE ELCA, BUT THE ONE IN THE SOUTHEAST.

I HAD TO JOIN A SYNOD, AND I DECIDED THAT THE BEST PLACE FOR ME TO BE WOULD BE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

[ APPLAUSE ]

THE OTHER FIVE SYNODS ARE TERRIFIC.

I LOVE THOSE BISHOPS.

THEY'RE DEAR FRIENDS.

BUT I WANT TO TELL YOU WHY I'M A MEMBER OF THIS SYNOD.

FIRST OF ALL, BECAUSE WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT ROSTERED PEOPLE AT THE SEMINARY ARE ON ALL THE SYNOD ROSTERS IN THE SOUTHEAST.

AND WE JUST DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

SO IT WAS JUST KIND OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE THING.

BUT SECONDLY, I DON'T KNOW YOU.

AND I'M AN EXTROVERT.

AND A ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE THAT I HAVE NEVER MET IS SOMETHING THAT JUST GETS MY JUICES FLOWING!

[ LAUGHTER ]

AND I WANT TO MEET YOU!

AND I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT, AND WHAT THIS SYNOD IS ABOUT.  
AND I WANT TO BECOME A PART OF YOU.

AND FINALLY, WE NEED, AT THE SEMINARY, TO BE CONNECTED TO YOU.

AS WE PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ORDAINED AND LAY LEADERS FOR THE  
LIFE OF THE CHURCH, WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH ARE.  
THAT'S WHY MY DOOR IS OPEN.

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BE CONNECTED TO YOU.

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORIES.

THAT'S WHY I HOPE YOU'LL STOP ME IN THE HALLWAY AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO  
ME.

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR CONGREGATIONS, IN YOUR MINISTRY,  
IN THIS SYNOD, SO THAT WE CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN DOING THAT TO WHICH GOD  
HAS CALLED US.

BISHOP WARREN, THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN SEMINARY JOIN ME IN THANKING GOD  
FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE.

AND WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR YOUR WITNESS, AND THE WITNESS OF THIS  
SYNOD.

AND I'M JUST PLEASED TO BE A PART OF YOU.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> JUST GIVE ME ABOUT 30 SECONDS.

IF YOU WOULD TURN IN YOUR MATERIALS TO TAB I, EXHIBIT 9.

PUT YOUR FINGER THERE.

AND THEN GO TO -- WE'RE GOING TO SEE HOW COORDINATED YOU ARE.

GO TO TAB B, B AS IN BAKER, BARTHOLOMEW, B, PAGE B-3.

I'M ABOUT TO INTRODUCE MR. ED BLANTON, A TRUE PARTNER IN MINISTRY, WHO IS  
REGIONAL PARTNER OF THE THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS IN SOUTH  
CAROLINA.

AND THE REASON I'VE HAD YOU LOOK AT THESE TWO THINGS, IS, ONE, IN MY REPORT  
ON PAGE B-3, I SAY, PART OF WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO IS CELEBRATE THE  
SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD BEING AWARDED A \$100,000 CHARITABLE MISSION GRANT  
FROM THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS FOUNDATION.

RARELY AWARDED TO SYNODS, THIS GRANT WILL ENABLE US TO DEVELOP FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES WHICH WILL TEACH THE ABSOLUTE JOY OF GIVING AS CHRISTIANS, GENERATE DIRECT AND DEFERRED GIFTS TO CONGREGATIONS, UNRESTRICTED MISSION SUPPORT, BENEVOLENCE FOR SYNOD, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ELCA MEN INDUSTRIES, PLANTING NEW CONGREGATIONS, AND SUPPORTING THE PURCHASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF LUTHERANCH.

IT IS SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WE'RE SO EXCITED TO BE HERE.

THIS BEATS MANNING THE BOOTH AT THE NORTH CAROLINA SYNOD, I CAN TELL YOU THAT.

IT'S A THRILL.

I'M HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE TO YOU THAT THIS CHECK BRINGS US OVER TO \$1 MILLION IN THE THREE STATES I GET TO WORK WITH, THE CAROLINAS AND GEORGIA, OF THIS TYPE OF GRANT.

THE TOPICS, THE MINISTRIES, THE OPPORTUNITIES, THE PILOT PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT FOR EACH GRANT, BUT WE'RE VERY EXCITED ABOUT IT.

SO I WANTED TO TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT TODAY ABOUT HOW TO GET MORE MONEY. I FIGURE THAT'S ON SOMEBODY'S MIND OUT THERE.

AND WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU GET MORE HERE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

BEFORE I DO, THOUGH, LET ME SEND GREETINGS FROM BRUCE NICK OLSON, OUR CHAIRMAN AND CEO FOR THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS BACK UP IN LUTHERAN LAND IN MINNESOTA, AND SCOTT MORRIS.

HE'S THE MANAGING PARTNER FOR THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OR REGION.

WE CALL THEM REGIONAL FINANCIAL OFFICES, BECAUSE THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD IS ACTUALLY SPLIT INTO TWO OF OUR THRIVENT OFFICES.

TENNESSEE AND ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI ARE WITH THE MID-SOUTH.

RFO AND CAROLINAS AND GEORGIA THAT I'M PRIVILEGED TO WORK WITH.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS.

I KNOW THERE'S A LOT OF THRIVENT MEMBERS AMONGST US HERE TODAY.

IT'S YOUR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN US AND IN YOUR REPRESENTATIVES THAT ENABLE US TO MAKE GRANTS LIKE THERE BOTH FROM THE FOUNDATION AND FROM

OUR ONGOING ANNUAL BENEVOLENCE BUDGET, AND WE'RE VERY EXCITED ABOUT THAT AND APPRECIATE IT.

IN TERMS OF HOW DO WE GET MORE MONEY, JUST A COUPLE THOUGHTS FOR YOU. ONE IS, TALK TO US.

AND I SAY "US."

SOMEONE IN TENNESSEE CAN CERTAINLY CALL ONE OF MY TEAM MEMBERS.

I HAVE ABOUT 100 REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CAROLINAS AND GEORGIA, AS WELL AS A GREAT FRATERNAL AND REGULAR MANAGEMENT TEAM, INCLUDING DON LARSEN, WHO'S HERE IN ATLANTA.

LET US KNOW.

THE BOUNDARIES OR GUIDELINES FOR THE GRANTS HAVE CHANGED THROUGH THE YEARS.

BUT NOW, RIGHT NOW, THERE'S AN OPEN DOOR.

THERE'S NO -- NOT NEARLY THE RESTRICTIONS, IF YOU WILL.

IF IT'S A GOOD IDEA AND IT'S SOMETHING THAT WILL FURTHER THE CAUSE, PARTICULARLY THE CAUSES OF STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

OUR ROLE LOCALLY IS TO SIMPLY PARTNER WITH YOU IN TERMS OF MAYBE PUTTING THE GRANT TOGETHER OR THE REQUEST TOGETHER.

THEN LOBBY FOR YOU TO MAKE SURE THAT THE GRANT GOES THROUGH, IF WE CAN. SO THAT'S ONE WAY.

JUST TALK TO US.

AND THE EARLIER WE GET ENGAGED IN THE PROJECT, I THINK THE BETTER OUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS.

SECONDLY, I WANT TO ASK YOU TO CONSIDER BECOMING AN ENGAGED MEMBER OF THRIVENT.

AN ENGAGED MEMBER IS SOMEONE LIKE MANY OF YOU WHO HAVE TRUST AND BUSINESS WITH US AND/OR OUR FRATERNAL VOLUNTEERS, BUT THE KEY THING WOULD BE, GEE, IF WE ASKED YOU THE QUESTION, HOW WILLING ARE YOU TO RECOMMEND THRIVENT TO SOMEONE ELSE, THAT YOU SAY YES.

ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 10, 10 BEING GOOD, THAT YOU'D SAY YES.

AND HONESTLY, NOT EVERYBODY IS AN ENGAGED MEMBER.

WE WANT TO FIX THAT.

SO I'D ASK YOU TO CONSIDER BECOMING AN ENGAGED MEMBER.

AND IF YOU'RE NOT ONE, LET ME KNOW WHY NOT.

BECAUSE WE'D LOVE TO GET BEHIND THE CAUSE AND SEE IF WE CAN'T FIX THAT THING THAT WOULD MAKE YOU A LITTLE MORE LIKELY TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT REFERRING US TO OTHERS.

THIRDLY, AS WE GROW, WE CAN GIVE MORE MONEY AWAY.

IT'S JUST THAT SIMPLE.

A BIG PART OF MY JOB IS TO SIMPLY ATTRACT MORE EXCITED PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE PART OF THE THRIVENT TEAM.

SO AS YOU THINK ABOUT THAT, IF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES OPPORTUNITY IS NOT FOR EVERYBODY, BUT IT MIGHT BE FOR ONE OF YOU HERE, OR FOR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

AND FINALLY, AS YOU LOOK AT ALL THE THINGS GOING ON, YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT THRIVE-Q.

YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT HOW TO THRIVE IN RETIREMENT CENTER.

LOOK INTO IT.

GET ONLINE AND LOOK AT THRIVE-Q, OR LOOK AT THE WEBSITE.

LEARN MORE ABOUT US AND HOW WE CAN HELP.

AND WE DO FEEL LIKE WE'VE GOT A GREAT PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

WE KNOW THERE'S A TON OF GREAT THINGS GOING ON.

AND WE SURE HOPE WE CAN HELP MORE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

NOW WE'RE GOING TO CALL ON OUR CRACK EVANGELISM STRATEGY TEAM, WHO ALWAYS HAVE INTERESTING THINGS TO SHARE WITH US.

SO WELCOME.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> WE HAVE TO GET OUR -- YEAH.

WE HAVE A PRESENTATION.

CAN I GET THAT ON SCREEN?

>> IF YOU INVITE THEM, THEY WILL COME.

IF YOU INVITE THEM, THEY WILL COME.

IF YOU INVITE THEM, THEY WILL COME.

JOHN, IF YOU INVITE THEM, THEY WILL COME.

>> COME.

WE INVITE YOU.

WE INVITE YOU TO COME.

THE SYNOD EVANGELISM STRATEGY TEAM IS EXCITED TO PRESENT AGAIN THIS YEAR.

AS YOU GET READY TO GO OUT TO EAT, WE'RE GOING TO PLANT SOME SEEDS, AND WANT YOU TO DO A LITTLE EVANGELISM.

SO IF I COULD HAVE THE NEXT SLIDE.

WE ARE CALLED TO GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.

YOU KNOW THAT PHRASE, BAPTIZE IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT.

BUT THE QUESTION FOR MANY OF US IS: HOW?

HOW DO WE DO THAT?

NEXT ONE.

HOW?

HOW?

BECAUSE OF THAT, MANY OF US ARE JUST A LITTLE SKITTISH AS CHURCHES.

THAT'S BEEN OUR WORK AS EVANGELISM STRATEGY TEAM.

HOW DO WE DO THAT?

WELL, WE LEARN.

WE GO THROUGH WORKSHOPS, INFORMATION TABLES, BOOKS, SUPPLIES, VIDEOS.

ALL THE THINGS THAT WE HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO BRING TO YOU.

AND SO WE, AS THE SYNOD EVANGELISM STRATEGY TEAM, HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

WHAT WAS OUR VISION?

OUR VISION WAS THAT WE WOULD BE -- JEAN, THERE WE GO.

THAT WE WOULD BE A TASK FORCE.

THAT WE'D BE A CONDUIT, FILTER, CATALYST, FUNNEL, CONNECTOR, ANYTHING TO HELP YOU BECOME FAITH SHARERS AND VISIONARIES FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

IN THE FIVE YEARS THAT WE HAVE BEEN AN EVANGELISM STRATEGY TEAM, WE HAVE WORKED HARD ON FOCUSES.

REVIVAL, INVITE, WELCOME, AND EQUIP.

THIS YEAR, WE ARE LOOKING AT HOW WE CAN EQUIP YOU TO BECOME THE BEST EVANGELISTS IN YOUR CONGREGATION.

I'M HAPPY TO SAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL, I THINK.

AT LEAST YOU HAVE ENJOYED THE PRESENTATIONS SOMETIMES.

BUT WE HAVE, I THINK, MADE A CHANGE.

I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU A NEW AWARD THAT WE HAVE THIS YEAR.

THE VIRGINIA EASTWOOD SEEDS AWARD.

IF YOU WILL LOOK AT THE PACKETS THAT YOU HAVE AS A REMINDER AS YOU GO OUT TONIGHT THAT YOU HAVE THE SEEDS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST TO PLANT.

VIRGINIA EASTWOOD WAS A MEMBER OF THE SYNOD STRATEGY TEAM.

HER HUSBAND IS HERE.

VIRGINIA WAS FROM REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, AND LAST YEAR, VIRGINIA ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT.

AND HER WITNESS WAS SOMETHING THAT WE AS A SYNOD EVANGELISM STRATEGY TEAM WILL ALWAYS APPRECIATE.

HER PHRASE IN OUR MEETINGS WAS: IF YOU INVITE THEM, THEY WILL COME.

IF YOU INVITE THEM.

AND SO WE BEGAN A PROCESS OF LOOKING FOR THIS SEEDS AWARD FOR A CONGREGATION THAT HAD A WILLINGNESS TO REACH OUT TO OTHERS AND INVITE, TO ENCOURAGE AND HAVE THE COURAGE TO EVANGELIZE, AND THE WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE WHEN YOU GROW.

AND ABOVE ALL, TO PLAN TO GROW.

AND SO WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE FIRST RECIPIENTS OF THE VIRGINIA EASTWOOD SEEDS AWARD.

MOUNT PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HARALSON, GEORGIA.

WE HAVE THEIR DELEGATES HERE.

NOW, WHY?

WHY MOUNT PILGRIM?

MOUNT PILGRIM IS A CONGREGATION THAT IS 167 YEARS OLD, ACTUALLY.

IN FACT, THEY ARE KNOWN AND FAMOUS BECAUSE THEY SENT A MISSIONARY TO

START AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHURCH IN ATLANTA.  
AND THAT CHURCH WAS REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH.  
BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED IN SENOIA.  
THEIR AVERAGE WORE I'M ATTENDANCE IN 2006 WAS 9.  
THEY REACHED OUT AND MADE A DECISION TO PLANT THE SEEDS AND TO GROW.  
TODAY, TODAY WE'RE HAPPY TO SAY THAT THEY WORSHIP ON AN AVERAGE 22.  
THEY HAVE A NEW SIGN, A NEW WEBSITE.  
THEY HAVE EVEN GONE DOOR TO DOOR.  
LORRAINE AND I WENT ON OUR TEAM.  
THEY HAVE CLASSES ON CHANGE.  
AND YOU SEE ALL THOSE NAMETAGS?  
THERE'S 17 OF THEM.  
NOW, WHY DOES A CONGREGATION THAT HAS 17 MEMBERS NEED NAMETAGS?  
BECAUSE THEY HAVE HOPE SOMEDAY THAT CHURCH WILL BE FILLED AGAIN.  
THE WELCOMING SPIRIT AS THEY CHANGED FROM JUST 9 TO 22.  
IN FACT, THEY HAVE RECEIVED THIS YEAR 2 NEW FAMILIES, THE FIRST IN THE LAST 10  
YEARS.  
READY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL.  
AND SO WITH HONOR, OUR CHAIRPERSON, JON McKENZIE, WILL PRESENT.  
COME ON UP HERE.  
LORRAINE AND EDDIE JACKSON, FROM MOUNT PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH.  
>> YOUR CONGREGATION IS TRULY AN INSPIRATION AND EXAMPLE FOR EVERY  
CONGREGATION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.  
AND IT'S MY HONOR AS THE CHAIR OF THIS COMMITTEE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THE  
VERY FIRST, BUT NOT THE LAST, VIRGINIA EASTWOOD EVANGELISM AWARD.  
[ APPLAUSE ]  
>> YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HOW THIS MAKES US FEEL.  
THE CONGREGATION OF MOUNT PILGRIM CHOSE TO TAKE HOLD, AND WE WORKED  
HARD TO KEEP OUR CHURCH ALIVE, TO GROW AGAIN.  
WE WEREN'T READY TO CLOSE OUR DOORS, EVEN THOUGH WE THOUGHT WE WERE  
GOING TO HAVE TO.  
BUT WE COULD NOT HAVE COME THIS FAR WITHOUT THE LEADERSHIP AND THE  
ENTHUSIASM OF PASTOR WEBER, HIS STAFF, AND THE CONGREGATION OF CHRIST

OUR SHEPHERD.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THE ENTHUSIASM NOT TO CLOSE THE DOORS.

LORRAINE SAID SHE DIDN'T WANT TO SAY MUCH WHEN I TOLD HER THAT THEY WERE GOING TO GET THAT AWARD, SO WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THAT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NOMINATIONS IN THE COMING YEAR OF A CONGREGATION YOU KNOW THAT IS DOING AN EXEMPLARY JOB, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

WE HAVE ANOTHER AWARD.

THAT AWARD -- WHOOPS, I'M GOING TO BRING IT BACK UP HERE ON THE SCREEN.

OUR SECOND AWARD IS THE VISIONARY AWARD FROM WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION.

AND THAT GOES TO A VERY SPECIAL PERSON WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION.

I'M GOING TO ASK FOR THE NEXT ONE.

YOU MAY KNOW WHO THAT FIRST RECIPIENT IS.

THE BISHOP OF OUR SYNOD, THE BISHOP RON WARREN, WHO HAD THE VISION TO NOT ONLY DRAW TOGETHER THE WALKING TOGETHER APPEAL, TO IDENTIFY THIS SYNOD AS THE GREAT COMMISSION SYNOD, TO FORM AN EVANGELISM STRATEGY TEAM, AND TO WORK HARD TO GET NEW STARTS OF MISSION CONGREGATIONS IN ORDER TO BRING THE GOSPEL.

WHAT A VISION.

AND, BISHOP WARREN, COME ON OVER HERE, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE GOING TO BE WORKING AT DISASTER RELIEF, AND WE WANT EVERYBODY TO KNOW WHEN YOU GO OUT, THAT YOU ARE AN EVANGELIST AT LARGE.

OKAY?

[ APPLAUSE ]

AND WE ALSO HAVE MADE YOU CARDS THAT SAY: THE REVEREND DR. RONALD B. WARREN, THE LOCAL EVANGELIST, FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION.

[ APPLAUSE ]

AND FINALLY -- THAT'S NOT ALL.

AND FINALLY, THE AWARD THAT WE THINK, AS YOU REMEMBER YOUR WORK AS AN EVANGELIST IN OUR SYNOD AND A VISIONARY, WE HAVE THE "LUTHERANS INVITE" CLOCK THAT KIND OF IDENTIFIES THE GREAT COMMISSION, BISHOP RON WARREN. SO YOU COULD PUT IT ON YOUR DESK AND REMEMBER HOW YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE

TIME TO DO EVANGELISM WITHIN OUR SYNOD.

WE KNOW THAT BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU HAVE BUILT US UP TO BE A GREAT COMMISSION SYNOD.

AND WE APPRECIATE IT.

[ APPLAUSE ]

AND OUR SECOND EVANGELISM AT LARGE HAT GOES TO OUR CHAIRPERSON, WHO IS RETIRING, ALSO, THIS YEAR.

DON, THANK YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> WHEN I FIRST WAS OUT OF SEMINARY AND BECAME A NEW PASTOR, I KNEW I WAS SUPPOSED TO DO EVANGELISM, BUT I HAD NO IDEA HOW TO DO IT.

WHAT I DID WAS ASKED AROUND THE SYNOD.

THAT WAS SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN.

I ASKED: WHO WAS THE BEST EVANGELIST WE HAD?

I WENT TO THIS PASTOR AND I SAID: THERE'S ALL THESE PROGRAMS.

I HAD ABOUT 20 DIFFERENT EVANGELISM PROGRAMS.

AND I SAID, WHICH ONE WORKS?

AND HE SAID, ALL OF THEM IF YOU DO THEM.

THAT'S THE KEY.

WE ARE CALLED TO GO MAKE DISCIPLES.

AND IF WE EVANGELIZE, THEY WILL COME.

YOU HAVE THIS ON YOUR TABLE, OKAY?

WHEN WE START EQUIPPING, WHICH WE ARE DOING THIS YEAR AS OUR EMPHASIS,

WE DON'T WANT YOU TO BLOW IT, ALL RIGHT?

SO JUST REMEMBER NOT TO BLOW IT.

I WONDER IF YOU KNOW FRANK WALL, HE'S OUR VISIONARY.

OUR LATEST THING WE'LL LEAVE WITH YOU THIS YEAR IS OUR WEBSITE.

>> GREETINGS.

I WANT TO READ SOME SCRIPTURE TO YOU.

BIBLE STUDY IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS TO DO, SO WE'RE GOING TO READ A LITTLE SCRIPTURE FROM ROMANS.

ST. PAUL WRITES: WELCOME ONE ANOTHER THEREFORE, JUST AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

FOR I TELL YOU THAT CHRIST HAS BECOME A SERVANT OF THE CIRCUMCISED ON BEHALF OF THE TRUTH OF GOD, IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT CONFIRM THE PROMISES GIVEN TO THE PATRIARCHS, AND IN ORDER THAT THE GENTILES MIGHT GLORIFY GOD FOR HIS MERCY.

AS IT IS WRITTEN, THEREFORE I WILL CONFESS YOU AMONG THE GENTILES AND SING PRAISES TO YOUR NAME.

AND AGAIN, HE SAYS, REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE.

NOW, I READ THIS SCRIPTURE TO YOU BECAUSE IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS, THERE WAS A DISPUTE GOING ON IN THE COMMUNITY BETWEEN WHO WAS THE BETTER GROUP, THE JEWS OR THE GENTILES?

AND IN THIS PARTICULAR SECTION OF ROMANS, PAUL IS SPECIFICALLY TALKING TO THE JEWS, AND HE'S BASICALLY SAYING TO THEM: THIS THING WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO YOU DOES NOT ONLY BELONG TO YOU, IT IS GIVEN TO YOU FOR A PURPOSE, SO THAT YOU MIGHT FULFILL THE LIFE THAT I CALLED YOU INTO, TO BE A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS, WHICH IS THE GENTILES.

IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH, WITH OUR RICH, RICH HISTORY, WE HAVE A GREAT TENDENCY TO WANT TO CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A RICH HISTORY, AND TO CELEBRATE THAT WE ALL KNOW HOW TO SPEAK HEBREW.

BUT, FRIENDS, THE PEOPLE WE ARE TRYING TO REACH DO NOT SPEAK THE LANGUAGE THAT WE SPEAK.

WE MUST BEGIN TO SPEAK IN THE LANGUAGE THAT THE PEOPLE OUT THERE ARE SPEAKING, WHICH IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE GENTILES.

TO THE DEGREE THAT WE REQUIRE THEM TO COME INTO OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS, AND TO LEARN OUR LANGUAGE, RATHER THAN TAKING THE GOSPEL OUT THERE, AND SPEAKING THEIRS, WE WILL NOT GROW.

THE EVANGELISM STRATEGY TEAM THROUGH THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP MATERIALS TO HELP YOU GO OUT THERE, AND TO SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE.

TODAY, YOU HAVE AT YOUR DISPOSAL THE POTENTIAL FOR USING MULTIMEDIA TO EVANGELIZE, TO INTRODUCE YOURSELVES TO YOUR COMMUNITIES.

AS OF THIS WEEKEND, YOU ALSO HAVE A WEBSITE.

I BELIEVE IT'S LIVE.

THIS WEBSITE WILL ACTUALLY GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH

OTHERS ACROSS THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD AND ACROSS THE WORLD IN TERMS OF SHARING IDEAS ON HOW TO DO FRIEND TO FRIEND EVANGELISM.

WE'RE NOT ASKING YOU, "LUTHERANS INVITE" IS NOT ASKING YOU, TO GO OUT AND TO KNOCK ON STRANGERS' DOORS FIRST.

WE'RE ASKING YOU TO LOOK AROUND TO ALL THE FRIENDS THAT YOU HAVE, THAT ARE NOT ACTIVE IN CHURCHES, DO NOT KNOW CHRIST JESUS, AND WE'RE ASKING YOU TO INTRODUCE THEM TO ONE OF YOUR BEST FRIENDS, WHO IS CHRIST, THE LORD.

THE WEBSITE, IF WE CAN SEE IT.

IS AT LUTHERANSINVITE.ORG.

WRITE THIS DOWN, IT'S ON YOUR CARD THAT'S ON YOUR DESKS, ON YOUR TABLE.

AND AT THIS PARTICULAR POINT, I'M GETTING THE WRAP-UP CALL.

SO I JUST WANT TO GIVE YOU THE ENCOURAGEMENT TO CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE.

SEND US E-MAIL.

SEND US ANY INFORMATION THAT YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.

LET'S GO OUT, LEARN THE LANGUAGE OF THE PEOPLE OUT THERE.

NOT JUST THE ONES IN THIS ROOM.

THANK YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THANK YOU TO THE EVANGELISM STRATEGY TEAM, AS ALWAYS.

VERY DEEP THANKS.

WE'RE NOW READY FOR THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND BALLOT FOR BISHOP.

IF I COULD HAVE THE CHAIR OF THE -- IS SHE HERE?

AH, THERE SHE IS.

PASTOR KATIE.

>> THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND BALLOT FOR BISHOP ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NUMBER OF VALID BALLOTS, 478.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 0.

[ APPLAUSE ]

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 359.

JULIAN GORDY, 197.

GARY CHRISTENSEN, 90.

DAVID KEENER, 36.

SUE GAMELIN, 35.  
DAVID OSBORNE, 31.  
BRAD SCHMELING, 14.  
TOM QUICKEL, 9.  
DARREL PETERSON, 8.  
JAMES NELSON, 7.  
GARY SOOP, 7.  
DAVID HOOD, 6.  
RANDY JONES, 6.  
JOHN STIREWALT, 6.  
BARBARA HUNTER, 5.  
DALE SILLICK, 5.  
DELMER CHILTON, 3.  
DONALD REEDER, 3.  
JASON TALSNESS, 3.  
MARK ELLINGSEN, 2.  
PALMER CLEMMER, 1.  
JIM KRONINGER, 1.  
MARK SCOTT, 1.  
SETH BRIDGER, 0.  
JERRY KLINER, 0.  
JERRY WEEKS, 0.

>> THERE IS NO ELECTION.

THE THIRD BALLOT FOR BISHOP WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW MORNING.

THE BALLOT WILL CONTAIN THE NAMES OF THE FOLLOWING SEVEN PERSONS:

JULIAN GORDY, GARY CHRISTENSEN, DAVID KEENER, SUE GAMELIN, DAVID OSBORNE,  
BRAD SCHMELING, TOM QUICKEL.

EACH OF THESE 7 PERSONS IS REQUESTED TO MEET HERE AT THE DAIS IN THE  
FRONT OF THE PLENARY HALL AT THE CLOSE OF THIS SESSION.

PLEASE COME UP AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN WITHOUT TRIPPING.

TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT TOMORROW.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU COME AND MEET WITH US IMMEDIATELY AFTER WE  
CLOSE.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE HARD WORK OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

OUR VICE PRESIDENT, WES, IF YOU WOULD GIVE US ANNOUNCEMENTS, PLEASE.

>> WOULD YOU BEAR WITH ME.

WE HAVE QUITE A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS.

I'LL TRY AND GET THROUGH THESE VERY QUICKLY.

THE CONFERENCE CAUCUS MEETINGS ARE THIS AFTERNOON IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PLENARY SESSION HERE IN THE GRAND HALL.

ANY ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CAUCUSES, PARTICULARLY NOMINATIONS FOR SYNOD COUNCIL, SHOULD BE PUT IN WRITING AND PLACED IN THE RECEPTACLE ON THE ASSEMBLY OFFICE DOOR BY 6:15.

THE ASSEMBLY OFFICE WILL CLOSE AT 7:00.

THE FESTIVAL EUCHARIST IS TONIGHT AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL OF ST. PHILIP ON PEACHTREE ROAD.

SHUTTLE BUSES WILL BEGIN RUNNING FROM THE UPPER FOYER OF THE GRAND HALL IN THE HOTEL ENTRANCE AT 5:30 P.M. AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 11:00 P.M.

THE CATHEDRAL BOOK STORE WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 7:30 P.M. IF YOU'D LIKE TO ARRIVE A LITTLE EARLY AND DO SOME BROWSING.

THE CHURCH IS LOCATED ABOUT 3.5 MILES NORTH STRAIGHT UP PEACHTREE STREET.

HOWEVER, DUE TO THE TIME AND TRAFFIC, WE SUGGEST YOU LEAVE EARLY.

MAPS TO THE CHURCH ARE AVAILABLE AT INFORMATION DESK FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO DRIVE.

THE LORD'S OFFERINGS PROCEEDS DURING WORSHIP SERVICE AT THIS ASSEMBLY ARE DESIGNATED TO BE ONE-HALF TO KATRINA RECOVERY AND REBUILDING AND ONE-HALF IN SUPPORT OF ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE BISHOP'S RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE THIS EVENING.

THE RECEPTION WILL BE HELD IN THE GREAT HALL OF ST. PHILIPS FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.

ALL VOTING MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO READ EXHIBIT 6, INSTRUCTIONS FOR QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS, PRIOR TO THE START OF PLENARY SESSION 3

TOMORROW MORNING.

THE GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERS WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO STOP BY THE MISSION PARTNERS DISPLAY TO HELP NAME THE SYNOD'S NEWEST ONE MONTH-OLD MISSION.

TOMORROW MORNING'S WORSHIP SERVICE, WE HAVE A RARE OPPORTUNITY, SATURDAY MORNING, FROM CHRIST OUR SHEPHERD PEACHTREE CITY, GEORGIA, WILL LEAD A PRAYER AND PRAISE SERVICE AT 7:30 A.M. IN THE HABERSHAM ROOM. BANNER TO YOU, A HEARTY THANK YOU TO ALL WHO BROUGHT THEIR CONGREGATIONAL BANNERS LOCATED HERE IN THE FRONT OF THE HALL. WE THANK YOU FOR THOSE.

VERY IMPORTANT, TONIGHT'S REHEARSAL FOR WORSHIP.

PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY.

WE'VE CHANGED A COUPLE OF THINGS.

IF YOU'RE IN THE SERVICE CHOIR, YOU MUST BE AT ST. PHILIPS IN THE SANCTUARY BY 6:00 P.M.

IF YOU'RE IN A NON-MUSICAL ROLE, OR BANNER BEARER, DEAN, ASSISTING MINISTER OR BISHOP, YOU MUST BE IN THE SANCTUARY BY 6:30.

OKAY.

MOVING RIGHT ALONG.

[ LAUGHTER ]

THE MEETING PASTORS AND ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY IN THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF THEIR MINISTRY, THE FIRST CALL GROUP WILL MEET AT 12:00 P.M. SATURDAY MANY THE HOTEL SUITE 2303, INSTEAD OF THE ANSLEY ROOM AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED.

VERY IMPORTANT: REDUCED PARKING RATE.

FOR THOSE NOT STAYING AT THE HOTEL, YOU CAN PURCHASE REDUCED PARKING TICKETS FOR \$10 RATHER THAN \$18.

GO TO THE INFORMATION BOOTH OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

PLEASE USE EITHER CASH OR CHECK.

OUR SECOND LIST OF ELW WINNERS.

KEITH WAHLIG, JOANIE SOMNER, BETH SMITH, EDWIN BRYANT, DONNA STEVENS, CHERYL KESTER-HOFFMAN, LORI CONAWAY.

BARBARA BURKHOLTZ, JOYCE CAIN, LORRAINE JACOBSON.

ON THE FIRST LIST, I SAID JAMES STATURE, BUT IT REALLY SHOULD BE JAMES THALACKER.

OKAY.

IF YOU'VE BEEN HAVING A PROBLEM READING SOME OF THE ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN FLASHED, WE DID FIND YOUR GLASSES, OKAY?

[ LAUGHTER ]

WE FOUND A PAIR OF GLASSES.

YOU CAN CLAIM THOSE AT THE INFORMATION BOOTH.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, I'D LIKE FOR MS. KAY SHACKELFORD.

ARE YOU HERE, MA'AM?

WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND?

MS. KAY SHACKELFORD HAS GOT A BIRTHDAY TODAY.

I WON'T ANNOUNCE HER BIRTHDAY.

BUT SHE'S HOLDING AT 29.

AND SHE'S ALSO CELEBRATING TODAY --

[ APPLAUSE ]

SHE'S ALSO CELEBRATING TODAY HER 50th ANNIVERSARY OF GRADUATING FROM DEACONNESS SCHOOL.

I WON'T SAY WHICH YEAR.

I'D ASK YOU TO QUICKLY SING ONE VERSE OF HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

MS. SHACKELFORD.

[ SINGING ]

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MRS. SHACKELFORD.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

THANK YOU.

>> PASTOR FLESBERG, IF YOU WOULD LEAD US IN A CLOSING PRAYER, PLEASE.

>> THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

>> AND ALSO WITH YOU.

>> AFTER ALL THE GIFTS THAT HAVE BEEN LISTED BY THE APOSTLE PAUL IN 1 CORINTHIANS, 12th CHAPTER, I KNOW SOME OF YOU ARE THINKING OUT THERE, HE

HAD THE SAME KIND OF COMMUNITY.

ARE ALL APOSTLES, ARE ALL PROPHETS, ARE ALL TEACHERS WHO ALL WORK  
MIRACLES?

DO ALL POSSESS GIFTS OF HEALING?

DO ALL SPEAK IN TONGUES.

NOT ME, NOT ME, NOT ME.

DO ALL INTERPRET?

NOT ME.

SO AFTER ALL THE OBJECTION PAUL SAYS, BUT STRIVE FOR THE GREATER GIFTS.  
AND I WILL SHOW YOU A STILL MORE EXCELLENT WAY.

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS, RIGHT?

THE 13th CHAPTER OF 1 CORINTHIANS, THE WAY OF LOVE.

WHEN WE GET EVERYBODY IN, WE'VE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OUR EVANGELIZING, WE  
NEED TO LOVE THEM AS ONLY GOD LOVES US IN JESUS CHRIST.

THAT WE ARE ALL FORGIVEN SINNERS.

THAT'S THE BEST NEWS, THAT THE PAST DOESN'T DEFINE US, BUT THE FUTURE IN  
CHRIST JESUS, THAT THERE'S RESURRECTION FOR ALL OF US IN OUR LIVES DAILY.

WE ARE LOVED INTO FAITH.

FAITH IS EMBODIED.

WHEN I SAY THREE, I WANT YOU TO SAY THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO LOVES YOU  
WELL IN YOUR FAITH WALK.

ONE, TWO, THREE.

TERRI.

LET US PRAY.

HOLY ONE, YOU ARE THE GIVER OF OUR GIFTS, THE ACTIVATOR OF OUR GIFTS.

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO CALLS US TO BE FAITHFUL.

CALL US TO LOVE.

CALL US TO KINDNESS.

WE PRAY FOR THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY OF  
ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER.

AND ALL SYNOD CAMPUS MINISTRIES.

WE PRAY FOR AN INCREASE IN RESOURCES, AND WE GIVE THANKS FOR SERVICES  
RENDERED TO THESE COMMUNITIES OF HARVEST FOR THE CHURCH.

FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL IN THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE IN THESE MINISTRIES WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

GIVER THEM PERSEVERANCE, DEDICATION, AND A SENSE OF JOY.

NOW LET US SING TOGETHER PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.

IF YOU'D STAND WITH ME.

I KNOW YOU'RE ACHING TO.

[ SINGING ]

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.

PRAISE HIM ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.

PRAISE HIM ABOVE YE HEAVENLY HOST.

PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST.

AMEN.

>> WE ARE IN RECESS UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING AT 8:30 A.M.

YOU NEED TO TAKE YOUR PERSONAL ITEMS WITH YOU.

PLEASE.

[ End of Second Plenary Session ]

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