

2010 ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga, Tennessee  
**FIRST PLENARY SESSION**  
**Friday, June 4, 2010**  
**2:00 p.m.**

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

\* \* \* \* \*

Though this is being provided in a finalized format, Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

\* \* \* \* \*

>> MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE?

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH ALL OF YOU.

>> AND ALSO WITH YOU.

>> THIS MAY BE AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO CHECK TO SEE IF YOU HAVE A LADIES BAG WITH YOU.

ANY GENTLEMEN CARRYING A BAG?

WE'VE FOUND A LOST BAG.

WE WON'T GIVE YOU A DESCRIPTION BECAUSE IF YOU LOST IT YOU'LL KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

HAVE A BAG WITH SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN IT.

I DIDN'T CHECK THE MONEY BUT IF IT'S NOT PICKED UP SOON, IT COULD DISAPPEAR.

I'M JUST KIDDING.

WE HAVE A BAG THAT'S BEEN LEFT AT THE INFORMATION DESK, AND THEY'D LIKE FOR YOU TO PICK THAT UP.

THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, AND WE WANT YOU TO GO GET IT.

THANK YOU

>> FOLKS, AS A WAY OF EXTENDING OUR WORSHIP FROM THAT SPACE INTO THIS, WE'RE GOING TO SING.

AND IN THE BACK OF YOUR BOOKS, IN THE "J" SECTION, J-7 IS "PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS."

AND IF YOU FEEL WILLING, WE COULD STAND, BECAUSE WE'LL SING BETTER.

[ SINGING "PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS" ]

>> THAT HYMN WAS WRITTEN BY HERMAN STUEMPFLE, WHO DIED A WHILE AGO.

PRESIDENT OF THE GETTYSBURG SEMINARY.

WOULD YOU TURN TO TAB A, PAGE 2, IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS.

MY NAME IS JULIAN GORDY.

I'M THE BISHOP OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA AND THE CHAIR OF THIS ASSEMBLY.

IF YOU ARE THINKING THAT YOU'RE AT THE CONVENTION OF HARLEY OWNERS OR THE ROTARY CLUB, YOU ARE NOT.

AND I CALL THIS SESSION OF THE 23rd ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY TO ORDER.

NOW, FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, PLEASE TAKE OUT YOUR CELL PHONE, AND TURN IT OFF, OR SET IT TO "STUN."

[ LAUGHTER ]

SO THAT WE WILL NOT BE IN ON YOUR PHONE CALLS.

IF JESUS NEEDS TO CALL YOU, YOU WON'T NEED THE CELL PHONE.

SECOND, I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT CRUCIAL TO THE WORK OF OUR

TIME TOGETHER IN THIS ASSEMBLY IS THAT PACKET OF ASSEMBLY

MATERIALS, WHICH HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE INTERNET SINCE MID-MAY,

EXCEPT FOR THE BISHOP'S REPORT, WHO DIDN'T GET THAT DONE IN TIME.

YOU RECEIVED HARD COPIES OF THOSE MATERIALS WHEN YOU GOT HERE.

AND AS YOU'VE NOTICED, IT'S DIVIDED INTO SECTIONS.

THE PAGE WITHIN EACH SECTION ARE NUMBERED AT THE BOTTOM CENTER

OF THE PAGE EXCEPT FOR SECTION I, WHICH IS THE EXHIBITS SECTION.

EACH EXHIBIT IS LABELED AT THE TOP RIGHT CORNER.

SO DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THAT NOW.

THE POINT OF THIS PART OF THE PRESENTATION IS TO GIVE YOU SO MUCH

INFORMATION THAT YOU WILL THEN BE LISTENING TO EVERYTHING THAT'S

SAID UP HERE BECAUSE YOU'LL BE SO CONFUSED OTHERWISE.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PACKET OF MATERIAL, YOU CAN GO TO THE

REGISTRATION AREA RIGHT AWAY AND PICK UP ONE, BECAUSE YOU'LL NEED

IT.

NOW, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE TURN TO TAB J, PAGE 1, IN ASSEMBLY

MATERIALS, AND STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

AS THERE ARE MANY MEMBERS IN ONE BODY.

>> SO WE, THOUGH MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST.

>> WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER IN MY NAME.

>> THERE AM I IN THE MIDST OF THEM.

>> I URGE YOU TO LIVE A LIFE WORTHY OF THE CALLING YOU HAVE RECEIVED, BEING HUMBLE AND GENTLE, EAGER TO MAINTAIN THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BOND OF PEACE.

>> LET US PURSUE JUSTICE AND PEACE, FOR MUTUAL UPBUILDING.

>> THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

>> AND ALSO WITH YOU.

>> LET US PRAY.

LORD GOD, YOU TAUGHT THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL PEOPLE BY SENDING THEM THE LIGHT OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT.

GRANT THAT WE, BY YOUR SPIRIT, MAY HAVE A RIGHT JUDGMENT IN ALL THINGS AND EVERMORE REJOICE IN HIS HOLY COUNSEL.

THROUGH YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

>> AMEN.

>> I DECLARE THIS ASSEMBLY TO BE IN SESSION IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

>> AMEN.

>> YOU MAY BE SEATED.

A SYNOD ASSEMBLY IS NOT AN ORDINARY MEETING.

WE GATHER IN ASSEMBLY ONCE A YEAR TO DO SEVERAL THINGS.

FIRST OF ALL, ONE WE'VE ALREADY HAD A GOOD SHOT ABOUT THIS

AFTERNOON, PRAISING AND REJOICING IN THE TRIUNE GOD, WHO CREATED

US, SUSTAINS US, AND WHO HEALS THE WORLD.

WE GATHER HERE ONCE A YEAR TO BE FED BY THE WORD OF GOD, AND BY THE EUCHARIST.

WE GATHER AS DISCIPLES OF THE LIVING CHRIST, TO GIVE WITNESS TO OUR UNITY IN HIM.

WE GATHER TO SHARE GOD'S MISSION IN PRAYER AND TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF OUR CONGREGATIONS, OUR SYNOD, AND OUR NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CHURCH.

WE GATHER TO ENCOURAGE MUTUAL CONVERSATION.

AND WE GATHER TO MAKE PRAYERFUL DECISIONS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT.

THIS CANDLE WHICH, FOR MORE YEARS THAN I CAN REMEMBER, HAS BEEN LIGHTED AT EACH OF OUR SYNOD ASSEMBLIES, A REMINDER THAT THE RISEN CHRIST IS WITH US HERE IN THIS ASSEMBLY AS WE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER IN HIS NAME, AS WITH US, WITHIN AND THROUGH THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

NOW TO THE MUNDANE.

WE HAVE SOME HOUSEKEEPING THINGS TO TALK ABOUT.

WE ARE FORTUNATE AGAIN THIS YEAR TO HAVE WITH US AS OUR EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE WORKER MS. JAN LEVENGOOD, A PARISH NURSE FROM LIVING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TUCKER, GEORGIA.

I THINK THE FIRST TIME I DID THIS -- WHERE ARE YOU JAN?

STAND UP.

SHE'S IN THE BACK IN THE RED SHIRT BY THE PRAYER DESK.

I THINK I WAS HER FIRST CUSTOMER YEAR BEFORE LAST.

FELL OFF THE DAIS.

SO DON'T DO THAT.

[ LAUGHTER ]

BUT IF YOU DO, CHECK WITH JAN.

IF FIRST AID IS REQUIRED, YOU CAN SEND SOMEONE TO THE INFORMATION BOOTH, AND THEY WILL BE ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HER, IF SHE'S NOT SITTING THERE AT THE DESK WHERE SHE IS NOW.

THE OTHER THING I WANT TO POINT OUT TO YOU IS THAT AS A RESULT OF OUR CURRENT ECONOMIC REALITY IN THE SYNOD, YOU MAY NOTICE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW CHANGES.

ELAINE SCHWARTZ, WHO PLANS THIS ASSEMBLY EVERY YEAR, HAS SAID THIS IS THE EL-CHEAPO ASSEMBLY.

SHE'S ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THIS SO YOU WILL NOT BE ANGRY WHEN YOU DISCOVER IT ON YOUR OWN.

WE WILL BE PROVIDING A LIGHT, THAT'S CAPITALIZED ALL OF THE WORDS, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST FOR THOSE IN THE ASSEMBLY OUT IN THE AREA OUTSIDE THE PLENARY HERE BACK WHERE YOU, IN THE AREA WHERE YOU REGISTERED AND OUTSIDE THE DOOR HERE, BOTH TOMORROW MORNING AND SUNDAY MORNING FROM 7:00 TO 8:30.

LET ME STRESS, I DID STRESS, "LIGHT."

LIGHT LIKE MUFFINS, DANISH, FRUIT.

PRETEND YOU'RE IN EUROPE.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PRETEND YOU'RE IN EUROPE AND WANT TO PRETEND YOU'RE IN, SAY, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, AND WANT SOMETHING MORE SUBSTANTIAL, THERE WILL BE CONCESSIONS OPEN OUTSIDE IN THE AREA SO YOU CAN PURCHASE BREAKFAST.

WE HAVE PAID TO ACTIVATE WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE CONVENTION CENTER FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE THIS YEAR.

HOWEVER, THAT COMES AT A PRETTY HIGH PRICE, SO I WANT TO WARN YOU ABOUT THAT.

AND BECAUSE OF DOING THAT WE'VE DECIDED TO SKIP SOMETHING ELSE, WHICH WILL SAVE US EVEN MORE MONEY THAN THE INTERNET SERVICE COSTS.

AND THAT IS, ALL OF YOU WHO ARE NORMALLY SEEN WITH A CUP OF COFFEE IN YOUR HAND, PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE COFFEE PROVIDED FREE IN THE AFTERNOONS.

IT WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST THIS THE MORNING UNTIL IT RUNS OUT AND THEN YOU CAN PURCHASE IT, THERE'S A STARBUCKS STAND OUT THERE.

THIS WILL SAVE US \$4,000.

[ APPLAUSE ]

SO YOU'RE CLAPPING, I'M CRYING.

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT WE'RE IN AN ECONOMY WHERE EVERY \$4,000 COUNTS.

TONIGHT, DINNER -- DINNER TONIGHT AND LUNCH AND DINNER TOMORROW ARE ON YOUR OWN.

FOR DINNER, THERE'S A RESTAURANT AT THE HOTEL, AND THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHERS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE, AND JUST ABOUT 3 BLOCKS FROM HERE DOWN MARKET STREET TOWARD THE RIVER, THERE'S EVERY RESTAURANT YOU CAN IMAGINE.

ALL KINDS OF RESTAURANTS, ETHNIC AND OTHERWISE, SO THERE ARE PLENTY OF PLACES TO EAT.

YOU MIGHT NEED TO WALK A BLOCK OR TWO.

THERE'S ALSO AN ELECTRIC TROLLEY THAT HAS A STOP RIGHT OUTSIDE THE MARRIOTT HOTEL THAT CAN TAKE YOU DOWN TO THAT PLACE IF YOU'D LIKE TO DO THAT.

IT'S NEAR THE CHATTANOOGA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU.

ONE MORE NOTE REGARDING ANNOUNCEMENTS: TO MAKE THE MOST OF OUR TIME TOGETHER THIS YEAR, WE ASK THAT ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PODIUM BE LIMITED TO THOSE MATTERS THAT ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE CARRYING OUT OF OUR ASSEMBLY, THINGS LIKE ROOM CHANGES, LOST AND FOUND, SCHEDULE CHANGES AND SO FORTH.

SO IF YOU HAVE AN ITEM OF THAT NATURE THAT NEEDS TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE PODIUM PLEASE WRITE IT LEGIBLY, SIGN IT AND BRING IT TO JEANETTE BURGESS, WHO IS HERE ON MY LEFT -- NO SHE'S NOT, BUT SHE WILL BE -- SHE'S OVER ON MY RIGHT AT THE PIANO AT THE MOMENT.

SHE WILL BE ON THE LEFT.

AND AGAIN, AS ALWAYS, ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE BY OUR VICE PRESIDENT, THE EVER DEBONAIR WES CRENSHAW.

MINISTRIES OF OUR MINISTRIES SUPPORTED BY THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD MAY ALSO WISH TO DISPLAY SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE PLENARY SCREENS WHEN TIME IS -- ALLOWS.

SO PLEASE GIVE YOUR REQUEST TO MS. LINDA FEW, WHO IS IN THE BACK. EVERYONE SEE THE HAND IN THE AIR, LINDA FEW, WHO'S SEATED AT THE BACK OF THE PLENARY HALL.

SHE'LL MAKE SURE THOSE GET PUT UP ON THE SCREEN.

THE REQUEST FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT NEEDS TO BE MADE IN WRITING AND IT NEEDS TO BE SIGNED AND EVERY AT THE TEMPT WILL BE MADE TO RUN THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE SCREENS BY THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION.

WITH VERY FEW EXCEPTIONS, ONLY VOTING MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY ARE TO BE IN THE AREA IN FRONT OF THAT BLACK CLOTH BARRIER BACK THERE.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE, BUT IF YOU ARE NOT A VOTING MEMBER WITH A GREEN BORDERED CARD, PLEASE DON'T BE IN THE VOTING MEMBER AREA.

WE ARE SEATED AGAIN THIS YEAR BY CONFERENCES.

BUT IF YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR CONFERENCE, YOU CAN MOVE.

[ LAUGHTER ]

THAT'S ACTUALLY NOT WHAT IT SAYS HERE.

[ LAUGHTER ]

IT SAYS, IF YOU NEED TO MOVE CLOSER TO VIEW THE CAPTIONING OR SOMETHING, YOU'RE INVITED TO DO SO.

NOW WE TURN TO OUR CHAPLAIN FOR THIS SESSION FOR THE OPENING PRAYER.

OUR CHAPLAIN THIS YEAR WAS OUR PREACHER EARLIER, THE REVEREND DR. EVON FLESBERG.

PASTOR FLESBERG, I WAS THINKING AS SHE WAS PREACHING, CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT 40 YEARS AGO THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT WOMEN COULDN'T PREACH?

[ LAUGHTER ]

SHE IS PASTORAL COUNSELOR AT A TALKING PLACE, PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER IN BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE.

PASTOR FLESBERG?

THERE YOU ARE.

>> I'M WAITING FOR MY SLIDE.

GOOD AFTERNOON.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

>> I WILL BE OFFERING YOU BILLBOARD DEVOTIONS.

I AM A PRACTICAL THEOLOGIAN, AND I LOOK FOR GOD BE SPEAKING TO ME IN THE ORDINARY.

AFTER OUR FLOODING IN NASHVILLE, MY HUSBAND AND I WERE DRIVING AND I SAW THIS BILLBOARD.

"AFTER THE FLOOD, WHAT'S NEXT?

SUNDAY."

NOW, IT WAS FOR THE -- THEY WERE ADVERTISING THE SUNDAY SECTION OF "THE TENNESSEAN," BUT THAT PHRASE KEPT GOING OVER AND OVER IN MY MIND.

"AFTER THE FLOOD, WHAT'S NEXT"?

IF YOU WOULD LOOK AT J-13 FOR ME, WITH ME, WE'RE GOING TO READ ROMANS 5:1 THROUGH 5 EVERY TIME I'M UP HERE.

WE'RE GOING TO READ IT TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE YOU ALL HAVE YOUR VOICES CLEAR, BECAUSE WE'LL BE SINGING, AS WELL.

J-13 IN THE BACK OF YOUR FOLDER, OR IN THE STACK OF YOUR PAPERS SOME OF YOU.

LET US READ IT TOGETHER.

ROMANS 5:1-5: "THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHOM WE HAVE OBTAINED ACCESS TO THIS GRACE IN WHICH WE STAND, AND WE BOAST IN OUR HOPE OF SHARING THE GLORY OF GOD, AND NOT ONLY THAT, WE ALSO BOAST IN OUR SUFFERINGS, KNOWING THAT SUFFERING PRODUCES ENDURANCE, AND ENDURANCE PRODUCES CHARACTER, AND CHARACTER PRODUCES HOPE.

AND HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT US, BECAUSE GOD'S LOVE HAS BEEN Poured INTO OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US."

THESE ARE BILLBOARD DEVOTIONS BECAUSE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SHORT, AS THE BILLBOARD.

"AFTER THE FLOODING, WHAT'S NEXT?"

THE DOVE WITH THE GREEN LEAF.

PEOPLE POURING IN TO POUR OUT WATER.

BELOVED OF GOD, WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE IN A GOOD FRIDAY WORLD, AS JAMES HOFFERNING SAYS, EASTER PEOPLE IN A GOOD FRIDAY WORLD.

MAY THAT HOPE THAT DOES NOT DISAPPOINT FLOW THROUGH US ALWAYS, AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO HEAR ALL THE WAYS IN WHICH ALL OF YOU ARE POURING FORTH THAT HOPE.

AFTER THE FLOODING, WHAT'S NEXT?

SUNDAY, RESURRECTION.

WE'RE GOING TO SING "GOD WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD."

JEANETTE WILL LEAD US IN SINGING.

SINGING IS NOT ONE OF MY GIFTS AND I RECOGNIZE THAT.

AND THEN I'M GOING TO CLOSE WITH THE PRAYER REQUESTS SOME OF YOU HAVE LISTED IN THE PRAYER JOURNAL THAT'S AVAILABLE OVER THERE WITH THE FLOWERS AS YOU COME IN.

I'LL BE SHARING THOSE AND I WILL END WITH A PRAYER FROM OUR ELW.

[ SINGING "GOD WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD" ]

AND NOW HEAR THE PRAYERS OF OUR PEOPLE.

MAY GOD'S PRESENCE BE EXPERIENCED BY ALL AT THE ASSEMBLY.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY.

>> HEAR OUR PRAYER.

>> WE PRAY FOR GARY NAYLOR FOR HIS HEALTH AND PEACE.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY.

>> HEAR OUR PRAYER.

>> WE PRAY FOR BETHEL IN BILOXI, THE TIRE ON OUR VAN, FOR GRACE AND VISION, FOR MINISTRY.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY.

>> HEAR OUR PRAYER.

>> WE PRAY FOR ZION LUTHERAN IN GUYTON WITH THANKS FOR OUR JOYFUL FAITHFUL STEADFAST FOLKS, WHO CONTINUE AMID SUFFERING DUE TO DIVISION.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY.

>> HEAR OUR PRAYER.

>> WE PRAY FOR RYAN FASANI, THE ENCM DIRECTOR, WHO'S BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SWINE FLU.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY.

>> HEAR OUR PRAYER.

>> WE PRAY FOR LINCOLN AND McCANN WHITNEY BORN ON MAY 31, 2010.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY.

>> HEAR OUR PRAYER.

>> AND A PRAYER FOR OUTREACH.

THE SPREADING OF THE GOOD NEWS OF SUNDAY TO A GOOD FRIDAY WORLD.

BY YOUR WORD ETERNAL GOD, YOUR CREATION SPRANG FORTH AND WE WERE GIVEN THE BREATH OF LIFE.

BY YOUR WORD ETERNAL GOD, DEATH IS OVERCOME.

CHRIST IS RAISED FROM THE TOMB AND WE'RE GIVEN NEW LIFE IN THE POWER OF YOUR SPIRIT.

MAY WE BOLDLY PROCLAIM THIS GOOD NEWS IN OUR WORDS AND OUR DEEDS, REJOICING ALWAYS IN YOUR POWERFUL PRESENCE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR RISEN LORD.

AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>> BISHOP?

>> NOW I CALL UPON THE CHAIR OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY LINDA LARSON, A MEMBER OF ST. PAUL'S IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, WHO WILL GIVE THE FIRST REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

>> BISHOP GORDY, THE FIRST REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE FOR THE ASSEMBLY IS AS FOLLOWS:

CONGREGATIONAL LAY VOTING MEMBERS, 169.

CLERGY UNDER CALL, 87.

CLERGY ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 2.

CLERGY RETIRED, 15.

DIACONAL MINISTERS UNDER CALL, 1.

DIACONAL MINISTERS ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 1.

DIACONAL MINISTERS RETIRED, 0.

ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY UNDER CALL, 2.

ASSOCIATES MANY MINISTRY ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 0.

ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY RETIRED, 0.

DEACONESSES UNDER CALL, 0.

DEACONESSES ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 0.

DEACONESSES RETIRED, 0.

ECUMENICAL PASTORS, 1.

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS, 2.

LAY MEMBERS OF SYNOD COUNCIL, 11.

TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: 291, AND THAT NUMBER CONSTITUTES A QUORUM.

>> THANK YOU.

I THINK YOU'RE MOVING THE REPORT, MS. LARSON, THAT WE ACCEPT THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> IF THERE'S NO OPPOSITION, ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE.

>> AYE.

>> WE ACCEPT THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO ADOPT THE AGENDA.

THE AGENDA IS ON PAGES 1 THROUGH 6, BEHIND TAB-A IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS.

THERE ARE A FEW CHANGES TO NOTE.

THE FIRST IS ON PAGE A-3, ITEM E.

PLEASE STRIKE THE NAME MR. RICH KLEIN.

MR. KLEIN WAS NOT ABLE TO JOIN US, SO PLEASE STRIKE THAT NAME ON PAGE A-3.

ON PAGE A-4, ALSO ITEM E, THE CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP ARENDS AND THE LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD TOMORROW WILL BE AT 10:00 INSTEAD OF 9:15. THAT WILL BE AT 10:00 A.M. INSTEAD OF 9:15.

WOULD SOMEONE LIKE TO MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.

>> SO MOVED.

>> SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> THE AGENDA AS CORRECTED HAS BEEN MOVED AND SECONDED.

ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, PLEASE SAY AYE.

>> AYE.

>> ALL OPPOSED, SAY NO.

THE MOTION CARRIES.

THE AGENDA IS ADOPTED.

NOW IF YOU'LL TURN TO TAB-I, EXHIBIT 1.

THIS IS THE ASSEMBLY RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE.

THE ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE REQUIRES A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE.

THE RESOLUTION THAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU ON PAGE A-3 IS BROUGHT TO

YOU BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL AND DOES NOT NEED A SECOND.

HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING YESTERDAY, THE SYNOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDED A CHANGE IN THE PROPOSED RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE THAT WERE DISTRIBUTED IN THE PRE-ASSEMBLY MATERIALS.

THAT CHANGE IS PRINTED ON REPLACEMENT PAGE 5 FOR EXHIBIT 1. THIS PAGE WAS IN THE MATERIALS THAT YOU PICKED UP WHEN YOU REGISTERED.

DOES EVERYONE HAVE THAT?

IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, YOU COULD RAISE YOUR HAND, AND I THINK WE HAVE SOME EXTRAS, BUT IT WAS IN THE MATERIALS THAT YOU WERE GIVEN WHEN YOU CAME HERE, THE REPLACEMENT PAGE 5.

WE HAVE ONE WHO NEEDS ONE HERE.

ONE IN THE BACK.

IF WE COULD GET THOSE TO YOU.

AND IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO LOOK ON WITH THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU, WE WILL MOVE RIGHT ALONG SO THAT WE, WHILE YOU'RE WAITING TO GET YOUR COPY OF THAT.

THE SYNOD COUNCIL DISCUSSED -- WELL, DISCUSSED AT -- LET ME BACK UP JUST A MINUTE.

THE SPECIFIC CHANGE THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IS AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT PAGE 5, WHERE WE'VE USED UNDERLINING AND STRIKETHROUGH FONT TO DENOTE THE CHANGES FROM THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL.

AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION IN THE SYNOD COUNCIL YESTERDAY, THE REVISED PROPOSAL WILL REQUIRE THAT THE CLERGY ELECTED AS VOTING MEMBERS TO THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE MALE AND ONE FEMALE, AS WELL AS AT LEAST ONE PERSON OF COLOR, OR WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

THIS CHANGE IS MADE BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL SO THAT WE ARE ASSURED OF MEETING OUR OVERALL INCLUSIVITY GOAL FOR CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBERS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ASSURING THAT ALL LAY PERSONS WHO WERE NOMINATED MAY ACTUALLY BE INCLUDED ON THE BALLOT FOR CONSIDERATION.

EVERYBODY FOLLOW THAT?

OKAY, SO WHAT IS BEFORE YOU IS THE RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE AS -- WITH THAT CHANGE MADE BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE?

IF THERE IS, PLEASE GO TO THE MICROPHONE NEAREST TO YOU AT THIS TIME.

OKAY, I -- YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE MICROPHONE, OKAY.

THERE ARE LIGHTS SHINING IN MY EYES.

I PRESUME THEN THAT YOU'RE READY TO VOTE ON THE RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE.

IF YOU -- ALL OF THOSE WHO FAVOR ADOPTING THE RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE, WOULD YOU PLEASE INDICATE THAT BY

RAISING YOUR HAND, AND HOLDING IT UP.

YOU MAY PUT THOSE DOWN.

THOSE OPPOSED, PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND.

AND THE RULES ARE ADOPTED.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

NOW I WANT TO INTRODUCE TO YOU OUR PARLIAMENTARIAN.

MS. ESSIE ROWSER IS A MEMBER OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN  
DECATUR, GEORGIA.

SHE'S SITTING RIGHT HERE.

SHE'S MY RIGHT-HAND PERSON DURING ALL OF THESE.

MS. ROWSER YOU'VE BEEN INTRODUCED TO BEFORE.

SHE HAS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKED AS A NURSE  
FOR 34 YEARS AT THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

SHE'S A RETIRED FULL COLONEL IN THE U.S. ARMY.

SHE'S A CERTIFIED PARLIAMENTARIAN BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
PARLIAMENTARIANS, AN ORGANIZATION THAT SHE CHAIRED AT ONE TIME.

AND SHE HAS BEEN TRYING TO RETIRE FOR THREE YEARS.

[ LAUGHTER ]

BUT SHE'S BACK!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

SO IF YOU'RE A REGISTERED PARLIAMENTARIAN, YOU COULD GIVE HER A  
BREAK NEXT YEAR, LET US KNOW.

NEXT, IF YOU WOULD TURN TO TAB I, EXHIBIT 2, WHICH IS A ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE.

I KNOW THAT WHEN YOU RECEIVED THESE MATERIALS ON THE INTERNET, YOU HAVE COMMITTED THIS TO MEMORY.

BUT IN THE OFF CHANCE THAT SOME OF YOU HAVEN'T, I WANT TO EMPHASIZE A FEW THINGS ABOUT THE RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE, AND ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.

THE POINT OF USING ROBERT'S RULES AND THE POINT OF USING THE RULES THAT WE HAVE JUST ADOPTED IS NOT TO MAKE THINGS CONFUSING OR DIFFICULT OR ARCANE, BUT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE, AND SIMPLE, AND TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE ALL PLAYING BY THE SAME RULES.

JUST A LITTLE OVERVIEW OF THE RULES, IF YOU WILL.

IN THE POLITY OF OUR CHURCH, WHENEVER AN ASSEMBLY MEETS, WE DO NOT MEET AS CAUCUSES OF CONGREGATIONS OR CONFERENCES OR CLUSTERS, BUT AS GATHERINGS OF ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS IN AN ASSEMBLY.

THAT'S WHY WE DON'T CALL THIS A CONVENTION.

IT'S AN ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH.

THE CHURCH, OR AT LEAST ONE EXPRESSION OF IT, IS ASSEMBLED HERE IN THIS HALL THIS WEEK.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT THEOLOGICAL POINT, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT WHENEVER WE GATHER TOGETHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, JESUS IS WITH US, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WILLING TO DIRECT US, AND THEREFORE, WE NEED

TO BE FREE TO ENGAGE ONE ANOTHER AND NOT SIMPLY SHOW UP TO VOTE AS WE'VE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO VOTE BY OTHER PEOPLE.

THAT'S WHY YOU ARE VOTING MEMBERS, AND NOT DELEGATES, OR REPRESENTATIVES.

AND THAT'S WHY EACH VOTING MEMBER MUST PARTICIPATE IN THESE PROCEEDINGS, MUST PRAY DILIGENTLY FOR WISDOM, AND FOR THE PRESENCE OF THIS HOLY SPIRIT THAT CHRIST HAS PROMISED US AS WE DELIBERATE TOGETHER AND VOTE ON THE ISSUES AND IN THE ELECTIONS OF THIS ASSEMBLY.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE LISTEN CAREFULLY TO ONE ANOTHER, AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE LISTEN FOR THE SPIRIT'S LEADING OF THIS ASSEMBLY.

WE USE ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER AND THE ASSEMBLY RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT EVERYTHING IS RUN IN A FAIR MANNER, AGREED TO BEFORE HAND, AND THAT IT IS RESPECTFUL OF THE RIGHTS OF EVERYONE WHO IS A VOTING MEMBER OF THIS ASSEMBLY.

SO THAT WHILE THE MAJORITY RULES, THE MINORITY'S RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE HERE BE HEARD, AND THAT WE TREAT ONE ANOTHER WITH COURTESY, WITH RESPECT, AND AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST.

AS THE BISHOP OF THIS SYNOD, I'M ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYNOD,

AND I'LL SERVE AS THE CHAIR OF THIS ASSEMBLY.

ON OCCASION, HOWEVER, I MAY CALL UPON OUR VICE PRESIDENT, MR. WESLEY CRENSHAW, WHO IS THE CHAIR OF OUR SYNOD COUNCIL, AND IS PROBABLY TIRED OF BEING CHAIR OF ANYTHING AFTER THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, BUT HE MAY PRESIDE OVER SOME OF THE ITEMS IN THE AGENDA.

WE JUST ADOPTED THE ASSEMBLY RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE, AND ACCORDING TO THOSE RULES, WE USE ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER TO GOVERN THIS ASSEMBLY, EXCEPT IN THE CASES WHERE OUR OWN RULES ARE DIFFERENT, AND THEN OUR OWN RULES SUPERSEDE ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.

I'LL GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE.

IN ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, EACH SPEAKER IS ALLOWED 10 MINUTES.

IN OUR RULES, IT'S 3 MINUTES.

YOU CAN SEE THE WISDOM OF THAT, I'LL BET.

[ LAUGHTER ]

DURING THE PLENARY SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU BE SEATED AT THESE TABLES.

THE PANEL THAT YOU WERE GIVEN WHEN THEY TOLD ME TO -- THE BADGE YOU WERE GIVEN -- WHICH THEY TOLD ME TO TAKE MINE OFF BECAUSE IT WAS MAKING BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO THE CAMERA -- THE BADGE THAT YOU WERE GIVEN SHOULD BE WORN ANY TIME YOU COME INTO THIS ROOM, BECAUSE THAT'S -- PEOPLE WEARING THOSE GREEN BADGES WILL BE ABLE

TO VOTE, WILL BE GIVEN BALLOTS FOR THE ELECTION AND SO FORTH.

I CAN'T SAY THIS NEXT PART WITH ANYTHING LIKE INTEGRITY.

BUT I WILL SAY IT ANYWAY.

VOTING MEMBERS SHOULD STAY IN THE PLENARY HALL AT ALL TIMES DURING PLENARY SESSIONS.

OKAY.

[ LAUGHTER ]

I USED TO LIVE IN THE HALLWAY WHERE THE COFFEE WAS.

PROXY VOTES AND ABSENTEE VOTES ARE NOT ALLOWED.

AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK TO THIS ASSEMBLY.

THE PROPER PROCEDURE IS TO GO TO ONE OF THE MICROPHONES THAT ARE NUMBERED 1 THROUGH 4.

I HAVEN'T FOUND NUMBER 1 YET BUT I KNOW IT'S HERE.

OH, IT'S BEHIND THE CAMERA, OKAY.

IT SAYS RIGHT HERE, THERE ARE 2 IN THE CENTER AISLE AND ONE ON EACH SIDE.

WAIT TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR.

IT IS NEVER APPROPRIATE TO SHOUT OUT A PROPOSAL OR TO SPEAK WITHOUT FIRST BEING RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR, OTHER THAN TO MAKE A SECOND TO A MOTION WHEN THE CHAIR ASKS FOR A SECOND.

WHEN YOU SPEAK, REMEMBER THAT YOU ADDRESS THE CHAIR, AND NOT OTHER VOTING MEMBERS.

THIS IS IMPORTANT AS IT KEEPS US FROM ENGAGING IN PERSONAL CONFLICT AND KEEPS THE DISCUSSION TO THE DISCUSSION.

IT'S IMPORTANT, PART OF ROBERT'S RULES, THAT WE SPEAK ONLY TO THE ISSUE AT HAND.

IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS NOT GERMANE TO THE ISSUE AT HAND, THEN THE CHAIR WILL HAVE TO RULE YOUR COMMENTS, OR THE DISCUSSION, OUT OF ORDER.

UNDER THE RULES OF THE ASSEMBLY, ANY SPEECH YOU MAKE AS I SAID EARLIER, IS LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES, UNLESS THE ASSEMBLY VOTES OTHERWISE.

IF YOU ARE A VOTING MEMBER, YOU OUGHT TO HAVE A SET OF RED, GREEN, AND YELLOW CARDS THAT YOU GOT WHEN YOU REGISTERED.

DOES EVERYBODY HAVE A RED, A GREEN, AND A YELLOW CARD?

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, YOU'LL HAVE TROUBLE VOTING.

A RED, A GREEN, AND A YELLOW CARD.

THE YELLOW CARD IS THE CARD FOR A POINT OF ORDER, OR A POINT OF INFORMATION.

THE ONLY TIME IT'S APPROPRIATE TO USE A YELLOW CARD IS IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE PROCEDURE, IF YOU NEED CLARIFICATION ABOUT SOMETHING THAT'S BEING DISCUSSED, OR IF THERE'S AN ITEM THAT NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION, FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU CAN'T HEAR IN YOUR PART OF THE HALL, OR IF IT'S TOO -- YOU KNOW, TOO COLD OR TOO HOT, WHICH OF COURSE IT ALWAYS IS.

BUT IF IT'S JUST UNBEARABLE, YOU COULD USE YOUR YELLOW CARD TO POINT THAT OUT.

IF YOU THINK THAT THE RULES OF THE ASSEMBLY ARE BEING VIOLATED, THEN YOU CAN USE YOUR YELLOW CARD TO MAKE A POINT OF ORDER, WHICH MEANS THAT YOU THINK SOMEBODY -- THAT THERE'S AN INFRACTION OF THE RULE BY SOMEBODY.

YOU RAISE THAT POINT OF ORDER.

ALL OF THE POINTS OF ORDER HAVE TO BE RAISED IMMEDIATELY.

FOR INSTANCE, IF WE HAVE A MOTION, AND THE CHAIR MOVES TO DISCUSSION BEFORE THERE'S A SECOND, AND YOU DON'T POINT THIS OUT UNTIL THE DISCUSSION IS ALREADY STARTED, IT'S TOO LATE.

WE JUST CONTINUE TO DISCUSS.

SO IF YOU HAVE A POINT OF ORDER, IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE YOUR YELLOW CARD AND GO IMMEDIATELY TO A MICROPHONE.

SPEAKERS WAITING AT THE MICROPHONE SHOULD ALLOW YOU, IF YOU HAVE A LEGITIMATE POINT OF ORDER, TO MOVE TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE AND MAKE THAT POINT.

SO BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE A LEGITIMATE POINT OF ORDER BEFORE YOU DO THAT.

A MOTION FOR THE PREVIOUS QUESTION DOES NOT TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER OTHER PEOPLE STANDING IN THE LINE.

YOU ALSO HAVE A GREEN CARD, WHEN YOU GO TO A MICROPHONE TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OF SOMETHING THAT'S BEING DEBATED, PLEASE BRING YOUR

GREEN CARD WITH YOU.

IF YOU GO TO SPEAK AGAINST IT, BRING A RED CARD WITH YOU, AND WE'LL TRY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO RECOGNIZE THE SPEAKER ON THE AFFIRMATIVE SIDE AND THEN ONE ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE.

OUR OWN VICE PRESIDENT, WES CRENSHAW, TRIES TO HELP ME WITH THAT TASK, BUT HE'S A LONG WAY OFF THIS YEAR, SO WE MIGHT NOT BE AS GOOD AS USUAL ON THAT.

IF YOU WANT TO AMEND A RESOLUTION OR A MEMORIAL WHICH IS BEING CONSIDERED, YOU'D GO TO THE MICROPHONE AND WAIT YOUR TURN, IDENTIFY YOURSELF ALWAYS WHEN YOU SPEAK BY NAME AND CONGREGATION.

IF YOU WANT TO AMEND THE MOTION, SAY, "I MOVE TO AMEND BY," AND THEN YOU EITHER ADD OR STRIKE OUT FROM THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION OR MEMORIAL.

YOU CAN ADD OR STRIKE OUT A WORD, YOU CAN ADD OR STRIKE OUT A PARAGRAPH OR A SENTENCE OR SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS.

YOUR MOTION TO AMEND HAS TO BE SECONDED BY ANOTHER VOTING MEMBER, AND THEN IT IS CONSIDERED.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT AMENDMENTS BE SUBMITTED TO THE SYNOD SECRETARY, PASTOR TERRY STAGNER-COLLIER, WHO'S WAY DOWN ON THE OTHER END THERE.

THEY NEED TO BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MOTION TO AMEND IS PROPERLY MADE.

PASTOR STAGNER-COLLIER IS SEATED -- I JUST SAID THAT -- JUST BEHIND ME  
HERE ON THE DAIS.

I HAVE THIS WRITTEN DOWN HERE SO WE DON'T SPEND ALL THIS TIME IN THE  
WORLD.

IF POSSIBLE, BEFORE YOU GO TO THE MICROPHONE OR WHILE YOU'RE  
WAITING IN LINE TO GET TO THE MICROPHONE, YOU COULD WRITE YOUR  
MOTION OUT SO THAT IT COULD BE GIVEN TO THE SECRETARY.

TO MOVE THE PREVIOUS QUESTION AND END DEBATE, I'VE SAID YOU NEED  
TO GO TO THE MICROPHONE, BUT YOU STAND IN LINE WITH OTHER PEOPLE  
AND YOU CARRY A RED CARD WITH YOU WHEN YOU GO THERE, NOT A  
YELLOW CARD.

IT'S NOT A POINT OF ORDER.

IT'S NOT A PRIVILEGED MOTION.

SO YOU HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN IN LINE, AS THEY TAUGHT US IN  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

THE RULES THAT WE JUST ADOPTED SAY THAT YOU MAY MOVE THE  
PREVIOUS QUESTION -- THAT YOU MAY NOT, RATHER, MAY NOT MOVE THE  
PREVIOUS QUESTION IF YOU'VE JUST FINISHED SPEAKING ON THE MATTER.  
SO YOU CAN'T GO UP AND SAY, "I THINK THIS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA., AND  
HERE'S WHY, AND I MOVE WE CLOSE THE QUESTION."

CAN'T DO THAT.

GOT THAT?

A MOTION TO MOVE THE PREVIOUS QUESTION HAS TO BE SECONDED AND

IT'S NOT DEBATABLE, AND IT REQUIRES A 2/3 VOTE.

YOU CANNOT MOVE THE PREVIOUS QUESTION UNLESS YOU'RE AT A MICROPHONE WITH A RED CARD AND HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR.

THAT WAS A LOT OF SAYING A LOT ABOUT THAT, BUT THAT'S PROBABLY THE SINGLE PROBLEM WE HAVE MOST WHEN WE GET TO DEBATES.

WE HAVE LOTS MORE RULES, BUT WE'LL TALK ABOUT THEM LATER.

WE WILL BE CONSIDERING PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUR SYNOD CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, AND YOU'LL HEAR THE TERM "REMOVAL FROM THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION."

THE SYNOD COUNCIL HAS PROPOSED THAT WE CONSIDER ALL OF THESE CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS AND THE CONSTITUTION TOGETHER, OR EN BLOC. YOU CAN SEE ALL THE CHANGES BEHIND TAB F IN YOUR MATERIALS.

AS A VOTING MEMBER, YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO REMOVE ONE OR MORE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES FROM EN BLOC CONSIDERATION, AND THAT MEANS WE WOULD THEN CONSIDER THAT PART OF THE CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION OR BYLAWS INDIVIDUALLY.

HOWEVER, YOU HAVE TO PROVIDE ADVANCED NOTICE OF YOUR INTENT TO DO THAT.

AND YOU DO THAT BY COMPLETING THE FORM THAT'S TAB-I, EXHIBIT 4, AND TURNING IT INTO THE ASSEMBLY OFFICE IN ROOM 8 BY 7:30 TONIGHT.

SO IF YOU WANT TO REMOVE SOMETHING FROM EN BLOC CONSIDERATION, FILL OUT THE FORM THAT'S EXHIBIT 4 UNDER TAB-I AND GIVE IT TO THE

ASSEMBLY OFFICE, ROOM 8, BY 7:30 TONIGHT.

OKAY, THAT'S A LOT OF INFORMATION.

THAT'S NOT A LOT OF TIME TO DO THAT MUCH INFORMATION.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, YOU CAN GO TO THE MICROPHONE NOW AND YOU'LL BE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK.

ANY QUESTIONS?

OKAY.

GOOD.

THE OFFICERS AND THE STAFF OF THE SYNOD ARE HERE TO HELP US CONDUCT THE BUSINESS OF THIS ASSEMBLY, AND TO MAKE THESE DAYS UPLIFTING, ENJOYABLE.

SO IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE WITH ANYTHING DURING THIS ASSEMBLY, OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING, DON'T HESITATE TO GO TO THE ASSEMBLY OFFICE, ROOM 8.

THERE ARE SMILING, HAPPY STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD THERE ALL THE TIME TO HELP YOU.

SO THAT'S ROOM 8, RIGHT OUTSIDE HERE, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

AT THIS TIME, I WANT TO INTRODUCE A GUEST TO OUR ASSEMBLY, MS. JANNELL SPELBRINK, THRIVENT MANAGER OF LUTHERAN ENGAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH AND KANSAS-MISSOURI REGIONS WHO IS GOING TO WELCOME US TO CHATTANOOGA.

AND SHE IS BRINGING WITH HER DAVE MIETZNER, PARTNER FOR THRIVENT SOUTH REGION BASED HERE IN CHATTANOOGA.

SO PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE MICROPHONES AND WE WELCOME YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THANK YOU.

GOOD AFTERNOON.

YOU CAN TELL THAT I AM NOT JANNELL SPELBRINK.

I AM DAVE MIETZNER, A PARTNER WITH THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS HERE IN CHATTANOOGA, REPRESENTING -- WE COVER FOUR STATES: TENNESSEE, ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, AND LOUISIANA.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE JANNELL STAND UP.

SHE'S IN THE BACK.

JUST SO YOU CAN SEE JANNELL SPELBRINK.

SHE'S THE MANAGER OF LUTHERAN ENGAGEMENT.

THOSE OF YOU --

[ APPLAUSE ]

SHE GETS A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THAT.

THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE IN TENNESSEE MAY HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY, OR ALABAMA, TO WORK WITH JANNELL.

WE DON'T -- IN THIS STATE, WE DON'T COVER GEORGIA.

FOR WHATEVER REASON THAT'S THE WAY THRIVENT DIVIDED US.

BUT ANYWAY, MY JOB HERE THIS AFTERNOON IS TO WELCOME YOU TO CHATTANOOGA.

I'VE LIVED HERE IN CHATTANOOGA FOR ABOUT 3.5 YEARS, AND I HAVE TO TELL YOU IT'S A GREAT CITY IN WHICH TO LIVE.

IT IS A GREAT CITY IN WHICH TO VISIT.

THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS TO DO, AND AS BISHOP GORDY SAID EARLIER,  
PRETTY MUCH ANY KIND OF FOOD THAT YOU WANT IS UP AND DOWN EITHER  
MARKET STREET OR BROAD STREET.

AND I HEARD HIM TALK ABOUT THE "LIGHT" BREAKFAST FOR TOMORROW.

IF ANY OF YOU WANT A HEAVY BREAKFAST IN CHATTANOOGA, YOU GO TO A  
PLACE CALLED ARETHA FRANKENSTEIN'S.

IT WAS ON RACHAEL RAY, AND THEY HAVE THE BEST FOOD.

BUT I'LL TELL YOU IF YOU ALL GO, YOU WOULD WANT TO LEAVE RIGHT NOW,  
BECAUSE IT IS NOT A REAL BIG PLACE.

IF YOU -- IF JUST ONE SECTION CAME, YOU'D BE THERE ALL DAY, BECAUSE IT  
ONLY HOLDS ABOUT 30 PEOPLE AT ONE TIME.

ARETHA FRANKENSTEIN'S.

YOU GO ACROSS THE RIVER AND ASK SOMEBODY.

THEY'LL TELL YOU WHERE IT IS.

IT'S A GREAT PLACE FOR BREAKFAST.

WHAT I'D LIKE TO HAVE EVERYBODY TO DO RIGHT NOW.

Y'ALL HAVE BEEN SITTING HERE FOR ABOUT 40 MINUTES, SO I'D LIKE TO HAVE  
EVERYBODY STAND UP.

OKAY.

NOW, WHY DID I ASK YOU TO STAND UP?

BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN SITTING FOR 40 MINUTES, THAT'S ABSOLUTELY TRUE,  
BUT THEN AS I MENTIONED, I WORK FOR THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR

LUTHERANS, AND SO ONE OF THE THINGS I USUALLY DO WHEN I TO BE IN FRONT OF LARGE GROUPS OF LUTHERANS HERE IN THE SOUTH, WHERE WE ARE NOT AS PREVALENT AS, SAY, OUR BAPTIST BROTHERS, IS TO -- I LIKE TO ASK: HOW MANY OF YOU ARE THRIVENT MEMBERS?

SO IF YOU ARE NOT A THRIVENT MEMBER, PLEASE SIT DOWN.

OKAY.

NOW, I WOULD LIKE FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE STILL STANDING WHO ARE THRIVENT MEMBERS TO LOOK AROUND THE ROOM.

AND PERSONALLY, I THINK THIS IS PRETTY COOL.

OF COURSE, I WORK FOR A GREAT COMPANY.

AND SO THE REST OF YOU MAY SIT DOWN.

I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU A SECOND TO STAND UP.

WHAT I HAVE HERE FOR THE NEXT, AND I HEARD BISHOP GORDY ALSO SAY 3 MINUTES, AND I'M PROBABLY APPROACHING THAT RIGHT NOW, IS A QUICK STORY ABOUT WHAT THRIVENT FINANCIAL IS, WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO.

SO FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE THRIVENT MEMBERS WHICH IS MOST OF YOU, AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT THRIVENT MEMBERS, WHICH YOU SHOULD BE SOONER OR LATER, HERE'S A QUICK STORY ABOUT WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, AND WHY WE DO IT.

I HAVE A BALLOON HERE.

AND I WANT YOU TO THINK OF THIS BALLOON -- I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN SEE IT BEING GREEN -- AS REPRESENTATIVE OF YOU AND YOUR LIFE.

AS YOU START OUT IN LIFE, YOUR BALLOON IS PRETTY SMALL, PRETTY

EMPTY.

AS YOU GROW IN LIFE OF COURSE, YOU GO TO SCHOOL YOU GO TO COLLEGE.

YOU GET MARRIED.

YOU HAVE CHILDREN MAYBE.

YOU HAVE A CAREER, YOU BEGIN A CAREER, YOU START A CAREER.

YOUR KIDS GET OLDER.

THEY MAY GO TO COLLEGE.

YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THAT COLLEGE, MANY OF YOU.

WHAT DO YOU SEE HAPPENING TO THIS BALLOON?

IT'S GETTING FULLER.

YOUR LIFE BECOMES FULL.

AND SO YOU'VE GONE THROUGH THIS WHOLE PROCESS AND OF COURSE, THEN, AND I LOOK AROUND THE ROOM, AND MANY OF YOU ARE PROBABLY IN MY AGE GROUP, I'M 56 YEARS OLD.

I'M APPROACHING RETIREMENT IN SOME YEARS DOWN THE ROAD, ALTHOUGH THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PASTORS KNOW THAT DOESN'T EVER GET TO HAPPEN FOR YOU.

[ LAUGHTER ]

I WILL TELL YOU, MY SON, WHO JUST GRADUATED FROM THE SEMINARY IN ST. LOUIS, WILL BE STARTING HIS PASTORAL MINISTRY IN JUST A COUPLE MONTHS, AND WHEN HE TOLD ME HE WANTED TO GO INTO THE MINISTRY, I SAID, "KYLE, YOU KNOW, PASTORS DON'T EVER GET TO RETIRE."

I SAID, "THEY MAY QUIT ONE CHURCH, BUT THEY GO TO ANOTHER, AND IF SOMEBODY IN THIS CONGREGATION FINDS OUT THIS GUY USED TO BE A PASTOR, WE CAN HAVE HIM PREACH."

PASTOR SENEKER KNOWS THAT HERE.

SO YOU APPROACH RETIREMENT, SO YOUR LIFE HAS BECOME PRETTY FULL.  
SO YOUR LIFE IS FULL.

SOMETIMES IN LIFE, THOUGH, THINGS HAPPEN.

LET'S JUST TAKE THIS NEEDLE.

[ LAUGHTER ]

AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THINGS THAT HAPPEN TO PEOPLE IN LIFE.

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS MIGHT THIS NEEDLE REPRESENT?

COULD BE YOU LOSE YOUR JOB.

COULD BE YOU DIE TOO EARLY.

YOU LIVE TOO LONG.

YOU BECOME SICK OR DISABLED.

COULD BE RETIREMENT APPROACHES AND YOU'RE NOT REALLY READY.

SO WE -- GOLLY!

ALL RIGHT, I HAVE TO CHEAT HERE.

WE AT THRIVENT TRY NOT TO LET THAT HAPPEN.

[ LAUGHTER ]

DIFFERENT COLOR BALLOON.

OUR JOB AT THRIVENT IS TO HELP THESE NEEDLES -- I'M SORRY, YOU'RE REALLY CLOSE HERE.

[ LAUGHTER ]

OUR JOB AT THRIVENT IS TO HELP PEOPLE GO THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT THE NEEDLES OF LIFE BURSTING THEIR BALLOON LIKE THE FIRST ONE DID.

AND YOU CAN SEE THIS IS GOING IN VERY SLOWLY, AND I'M BEING VERY CAREFUL BECAUSE I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DO THIS AGAIN.

I ONLY HAVE ONE MORE BALLOON UP HERE.

[ LAUGHTER ]

AND THIS USUALLY DOESN'T TAKE THIS LONG.

[ LAUGHTER ]

JANNELL, I TOLD YOU THIS HAS ONLY HAPPENED ONE OTHER TIME.

THERE WE GO.

I KNEW I COULD MAKE IT HAPPEN IF I WAS JUST PATIENT.

WHAT WE AT THRIVENT DO IS WE HELP TO PREPARE YOU FOR, AS YOUR LIFE GROWS, YOUR LIFE BECOMES FULL, WE PREPARE YOU FOR ALL THOSE NEEDLES IN LIFE THAT COME SO THAT THE NEEDLES DON'T CAUSE YOUR BALLOON TO BURST LIKE THE FIRST ONE DID, BUT THAT THE NEEDLES IN LIFE, THAT YOU'RE PREPARED FOR THOSE.

THAT WHAT WE AT THRIVENT DO.

I JUST THOUGHT I'M GOING TO DO IT A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THAN STAND UP HERE AND SAY HERE'S WHAT WE DO AT THRIVENT.

IF NOTHING ELSE, SOME GUY STOOD UP ON STAGE AND HE BLEW UP A BALLOON AND HE BROKE THE FIRST ONE, BUT THE SECOND ONE HE DIDN'T. SO ONCE AGAIN, I WANTED TO WELCOME YOU HERE TO CHATTANOOGA.

IT IS A GREAT PLACE.

YOU'LL HAVE A GREAT TIME THIS WEEKEND.

DO GET OUT FROM THE CONVENTION CENTER, IF THE WEATHER IS COOPERATIVE, AND SEE WHAT THE CITY HAS TO OFFER.

GO DOWN BY THE RIVER, THE AQUARIUM IS BEAUTIFUL.

IT'S A GREAT PLACE TO BE AND YOU'LL HAVE A GREAT TIME AND WELCOME AGAIN TO CHATTANOOGA.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THANK YOU, MR. MIETZNER.

I MAY NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME OF YOUR GIFTS THERE AT SOME POINT.

I CALL NOW UPON THE CHAIR OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, MR. HENRY HARRIS OF CHRISTUS VICTOR IN OCEAN SPRINGS.

CAPTAIN HARRIS, DOUBLE-TIME, SIR.

[ LAUGHTER ]

HE WILL BRING US THE REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW MR. HARRIS, FOR 28 YEARS HE WAS IN THE U.S. MARINE CORPS, WAS A DRILL INSTRUCTOR AT PARIS ISLAND, AND WAS MY BOSS AT CHRISTUS VICTOR FOR 10 YEARS.

>> AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO PLEASE TURN TO TAB D IN YOUR AGENDA MATERIALS.

PAGE D-1 SUMMARIZES THE ELECTIONS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THIS ASSEMBLY, AND PAGE D-3 LISTS THE PERSONS BEING NOMINATED BY THE

NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

THE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR EACH NOMINEE OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS PROVIDED ON PAGES D-4 THROUGH D-22.

THE COMMITTEE THANKS ALL OF THOSE WHO SUBMITTED THEIR INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL NOMINATION.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRAYERFULLY CONSIDERED ALL OF THE BIOGRAPHIES SUBMITTED IN DETERMINING WHO TO NOMINATE.

NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR MAY SUPPLEMENT THOSE MADE BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

IF YOU ARE NOMINATED FROM THE FLOOR, YOUR BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 P.M. TODAY.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THE ONLINE BIOGRAPHICAL FORM, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

YOU CAN ACCESS THE FORM USING ANY COMPUTER THAT HAS A WIRELESS CONNECTION TO THE WEB.

WE ALSO HAVE A COMPUTER SET UP IN THE ASSEMBLY OFFICE, ROOM 8, FOR YOU TO USE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN USE THE PAPER PRINTED ON PAGE D-2.

IF YOU COMPLETED THE ONLINE FORM FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS BUT WERE NOT ONE OF OUR NOMINEES, PLEASE NOTE THAT WE STILL HAVE YOUR INFORMATION, AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR YOU TO COMPLETE THE BIOGRAPHICAL FORM A SECOND TIME.

THIS YEAR, WE ARE ELECTING A SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT FOR A 4-YEAR TERM

TO 2014.

ONLY LAY PERSONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE PLACES IN NOMINATION THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

BILL ALDERFER.

EARLENE REEDER.

DORIS UNDERWOOD.

AND MARY WINFREY.

>> THANK YOU, MR. HARRIS.

ARE THERE OTHER NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT?

NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR?

I DON'T SEE ANYONE.

PRIOR TO THE FIRST BALLOT FOR SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT, EACH OF THE NOMINEES FOR THIS OFFICE WILL BRIEFLY ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY DURING TOMORROW MORNING'S PLENARY SESSION.

THE MAXIMUM TIME ALLOTTED FOR EACH SPEECH WILL BE 5 MINUTES.

A BRIEF WORD FOR THE NOMINEES FOR VICE PRESIDENT.

WE HAVE SOME LOGISTICAL INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH YOU ABOUT THE SPEECHES AND NEED TO SELECT THE ORDER IN WHICH YOU WILL SPEAK.

SO IF YOU WILL MEET AS A GROUP UP HERE IN FRONT OF THE DAIS

IMMEDIATELY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS PLENARY SESSION, WE'LL GET

ALL OF THAT TAKEN CARE OF.

MR. HARRIS?

>> THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD HAS BEEN ALLOCATED 12 VOTING MEMBERS FOR THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY IN ORLANDO.

BISHOP GORDY IS AUTOMATICALLY ONE OF THOSE 12 VOTING MEMBERS.

WE WILL BE ELECTING THE OTHER 11 VOTING MEMBERS AT THIS ASSEMBLY.

CONSTITUTIONALLY, IT IS REQUIRED THAT AT LEAST 60% OF THE VOTING MEMBERS BE LAY PERSONS, AND AT LEAST 10% OF ALL VOTING MEMBERS MUST BE PERSONS OF COLOR, OR WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

OF THE LAY PERSONS ELECTED, HALF ARE TO BE MALE, AND HALF ARE TO BE FEMALE.

THE RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE FURTHER SPECIFY THAT THE SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT IS TO BE ONE OF THE LAY PERSONS ELECTED. AT LEAST ONE OF THE LAY PERSONS IS TO BE A YOUTH, AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE LAY PERSONS IS TO BE A YOUNG ADULT.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, A YOUTH IS DEFINED TO BE A VOTING MEMBER OF ONE OF OUR CONGREGATIONS WHO IS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 AT THE TIME OF ELECTION.

A YOUNG ADULT IS DEFINED TO BE A VOTING MEMBER OF ONE OF OUR CONGREGATIONS WHO IS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 30 AT THE TIME OF ELECTION.

THE REPRESENTATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLERGY VOTING

MEMBERS WERE DISCUSSED EARLIER BY THE BISHOP.

THE BALLOTS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED TO ASSURE THE REQUIRED REPRESENTATION IN ALL THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES.

WE WILL BE ELECTING THREE CLERGY VOTING MEMBERS FOR THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE NOMINATED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

PASTOR LINDA BOSTON.

PASTOR MORGAN GORDY.

PASTOR LEWIS GROCE.

PASTOR JILL HENNING.

PASTOR MICHAEL HUNTLEY.

PASTOR MICHAEL JANNETT.

PASTOR ED MYERS.

PASTOR AMARETTA ONSTAD.

PASTOR MARCIA SCHULTZ.

PASTOR KEVIN STRICKLAND.

AND PASTOR JAMES THOMAS.

>> THANK YOU, MR. HARRIS.

THAT'S PASTOR LEWIS GROCE, BY THE WAY.

ARE THERE NOMINATIONS FOR COLLEGE VOTING MEMBER TO THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY FROM THE FLOOR?

MICROPHONE 4.

>> HI, PASTOR GORDON REINERTSEN, ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
CONFERENCE 3.

I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE PASTOR BRADLEY SCHMELING, PASTOR ST. JOHN'S  
ATLANTA.

>> PASTOR BRADLEY SCHMELING, ST. JOHN'S ATLANTA, HAS BEEN  
NOMINATED.

MICROPHONE 3.

>> YES, MICHAEL BATES, HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELLIJAY, GEORGIA.  
I WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE PASTOR DAVID SMEDLEY.

>> PASTOR DAVID SMEDLEY OF HOPE IN ELLIJAY, GEORGIA, HAS BEEN  
NOMINATED.

THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 4.

>> MY NAME IS MEREDITH HENDRICKS.

I'M FROM ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ATLANTA, CONFERENCE 3.  
AND I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE PASTOR GINNY KREKLING.

>> PASTOR GINNY KREKLING HAS BEEN NOMINATED.

PASTOR GINNY KREKLING, CELEBRATION OF GRACE IN CANTON, GEORGIA.  
ARE THERE OTHERS?

MICROPHONE 4?

>> MIKE WRIGHT, ROSWELL, CROSS OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE PASTOR TOM KENNY.

>> PASTOR TOM KENNY HAS BEEN NOMINATED.

ARE THERE OTHERS?

SEEING NO ONE ELSE, I'LL DECLARE THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED.

NOTE THAT WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR BALLOTS TOMORROW, THE CLERGY WILL BE GROUPED ACCORDING TO THE REQUIRED GENDER AND INCLUSIVITY CATEGORIES.

MR. HARRIS?

>> FOR THE POSITION OF YOUTH VOTING MEMBER OF THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE PLACES IN NOMINATION THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

ELIZABETH HAWKINS AND LINDSAY RUTLEDGE.

>> ARE THERE OTHER NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR YOUTH VOTING MEMBER OF THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY?

SEEING NONE, I'LL DECLARE THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED.

MR. HARRIS?

>> FOR THE POSITION OF YOUNG ADULT VOTING MEMBER OF THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE PLACES IN NOMINATION THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

GWYNETH DRISKILL AND CRYSTAL OXNER ROWE.

>> ARE THERE NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR YOUNG ADULT VOTING MEMBER FOR THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY?

SEEING NONE, I'LL DECLARE THOSE NOMINATIONS CLOSED.

MR. HARRIS?

>> FOR THE POSITION OF LAY FEMALE VOTING MEMBER OF THE 2011

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE PLACES IN  
NOMINATION THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

MICHELLE ANGALET.

DEBORAH BAUMGARTNER.

CAROLYN DAVIS.

MEREDITH HENDRICKS.

EARLENE REEDER.

ALICE SCHUNEMANN.

AND MARY WINFREY.

>> ARE THERE NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR LAY FEMALE VOTING  
MEMBER TO THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY?

MICROPHONE NUMBER 1.

>> I AM PAT CUNNINGHAM FROM ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN  
SAVANNAH, AND I WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE LINDA LARSON, ALSO FROM  
ST. PAUL'S IN SAVANNAH.

>> LINDA LARSON FROM ST. PAUL'S IN SAVANNAH IS NOMINATED.

ARE THERE OTHER NOMINATIONS FOR LAY FEMALE VOTING MEMBER?

SEEING NONE, I'LL DECLARE THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED.

MR. HARRIS.

>> FOR THE POSITION OF LAY MALE VOTING MEMBER OF THE 2011  
CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE PLACES IN  
NOMINATION THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

JIM ADAMS.

PAUL BLACKNEY.

JOHN BOST.

MICHAEL BRANT.

EDWIN BRYANT.

ALLAN ELLSTROM.

GARY PEDERSON.

THOMAS PRITCHARD.

LEE SMITH.

JOHN THOMAS.

GERALD WEYRAUCH.

DID I PRONOUNCE THAT CORRECTLY?

>> WEYRAUCH.

THANK YOU.

ARE THERE NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR LAY MALE VOTING MEMBER  
OF THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY?

MICROPHONE 3.

>> PASTOR RANDY JONES, MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONTGOMERY,  
ALABAMA, THE DIASPORA CONFERENCE.

I WISH TO PUT IN NOMINATION MR. BERT BLOOD.

>> EXCUSE ME, WOULD YOU SAY THAT NAME ONE MORE TIME?

>> MR. BERT BLOOD.

>> MR. BERT BLOOD.

I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID, BUT I WASN'T QUITE SURE.

BERT BLOOD HAS BEEN NOMINATED.

ARE THERE OTHER NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR?

MICROPHONE NUMBER 2.

>> I'M NICOLE HERRING FROM EMMANUEL IN BLOUNTVILLE, TENNESSEE,  
CONFERENCE 6.

I PLACE IN NOMINATION MONROE HERRING.

>> MONROE HERRING HAS BEEN NOMINATED, MONROE HERRING.

THANK YOU.

ARE THERE OTHER NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR LAY MALE VOTING  
MEMBER?

SEEING NONE, WE'LL DECLARE THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED.

MR. HARRIS.

>> PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PERSONS WHO RECEIVE THE MOST VOTES IN  
EACH OF THE CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBER CATEGORIES BUT WHO ARE  
NOT ELECTED WILL BE CONSIDERED ALTERNATES IN CASE SOMEONE IN THE  
DESIGNATED CATEGORY IS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE CHURCHWIDE  
ASSEMBLY.

THE OTHER ELECTIONS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THIS ASSEMBLY ARE FOR  
POSITIONS ON THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

FIRST, EACH CONFERENCE IS NOMINATING ONE PERSON TO BE ITS  
CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE ASKED TO RATIFY THOSE NOMINATIONS.

SECOND, THE 2009 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY AMENDED THE REQUIRED

PROVISIONS WITHIN THE SYNOD CONSTITUTIONS SO THAT SYNOD COUNCILS MUST NOW ELECT AT LEAST ONE YOUNG ADULT MEMBER, DEFINED AS BEING BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 30, AT THE TIME OF ELECTION.

AT ITS MEETING YESTERDAY, OUR SYNOD COUNCIL NOMINATED THE FOLLOWING PERSONS FOR YOUNG ADULT POSITION IN ON THE SYNOD COUNCIL:

BRITTANY COGGINS, WHITNEY LaFOLLETTE, AND CRYSTAL OXNER ROWE.

>> I BELIEVE THAT'S WHITNEY LaFOLLETTE.

>> THAT'S TWO.

[ LAUGHTER ]

>> BUT WHO'S KEEPING SCORE?

ARE THERE OTHER NOMINATIONS FOR YOUNG ADULT POSITION ON THE SYNOD COUNCIL?

OTHER NOMINATIONS FOR YOUNG ADULT ON THE SYNOD COUNCIL?

PLEASE GO TO A MICROPHONE QUICKLY.

SEEING NONE, WE'LL DECLARE THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED.

MR. HARRIS?

>> PLEASE NOTE THAT IT'S THE SYNOD COUNCIL THAT MAKES THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE OTHER AT-LARGE COUNCIL POSITIONS.

THOSE NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE TOMORROW.

I REMIND ALL PERSONS NOMINATED FROM THE FLOOR THAT YOUR BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 P.M. TODAY.

PLEASE USE THE ONLINE FORM, IF YOU CAN.

THERE IS A COMPUTER SET UP IN ROOM 8 FOR THIS PURPOSE.

YOU CAN ALSO ACCESS THE ONLINE FORM USING ANY OTHER COMPUTER WITH A WIRELESS CONNECTION, OR YOU MAY USE THE PAPER FORM PRINTED ON PAGE D-2.

IF YOU PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED THE ONLINE FORM FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS, IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR YOU TO COMPLETE THE FORM AGAIN.

FINALLY, THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ENCOURAGES ALL NOMINEES WHO ARE PRESENT AT THIS ASSEMBLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE "MEET THE CANDIDATES" WORKSHOP AT 5:00 P.M. TODAY IN MEETING ROOM 11.

BISHOP, THIS CONCLUDES THE REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. HARRIS.

GOOD WORK.

[ APPLAUSE ]

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE NUMBER OF PHONE CALLS INVOLVED IN THAT REPORT.

NOW WE WILL HEAR FROM THE REPORT OF THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE.

PASTOR RANDY JONES, MESSIAH IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, HAS THE REPORT OF THAT COMMITTEE.

HE'LL TALK TO US ABOUT THE NUMBER AND THE NATURE OF THE RESOLUTIONS THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT OUR ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR.

PASTOR JONES.

>> THANK YOU, BISHOP.

I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THIS YEAR THAT WE HAD A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS.

YOU CAN FIND THOSE BEHIND TAB G IN YOUR MATERIALS.

THE COMMITTEE THIS YEAR DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO BECAUSE BOTH OF THESE RESOLUTIONS WERE WELL DONE, SO THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE CHANGED WITH THEM.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1 IS A MEMORIAL TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY TO RESCIND ALL OF THE DECISIONS MADE AT LAST YEAR'S CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY WITH REGARD TO THE SEXUALITY ISSUE INCLUDING THE SEXUALITY STATEMENT.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2 IS A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN INITIATIVE ON HARMONY AND I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THIS IS FROM SESLYO.

I BELIEVE THIS IS OUR FIRST RESOLUTION FROM SESLYO, SO I'M VERY HAPPY THEY'VE GOTTEN INVOLVED IN THE GOVERNANCE OF OUR CHURCH.

I'M ASKING TO SEND OUT A LETTER TO ALL THE CONGREGATIONS FROM THE CHURCH SYNOD COUNCIL ASKING US TO LIVE IN HARMONY AS THEY HAVE LEARNED TO DO THEMSELVES EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE DIVIDED ON THE ISSUE OF SEXUALITY.

THERE WILL BE A RESOLUTION HEARING WORKSHOP THIS AFTERNOON IN ROOM NUMBER 2.

SO IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN TALKING ABOUT EITHER OF THESE RESOLUTIONS, PLEASE BE THERE.

I WILL BE THERE, AS WILL A FEW OTHER PEOPLE AND I WANT TO THANK THE COMMITTEE THIS YEAR FOR THEIR HELP.

DIDN'T NEED A LOT OF HELP.

IT WAS WITH A VERY EASY YEAR.

I'M PRAYING NEXT YEAR WILL BE SO.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR JONES.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE BISHOP'S REPORT AND WE'RE 20 MINUTES LATE, SO FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS.

ACTUALLY, THE BISHOP'S REPORT IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN OVER ONE MINUTE AGO.

BUT SO WHAT?

MY COLLEAGUE PASTOR DARREL PETERSON BEGINS HIS REPORT TO THIS ASSEMBLY WITH ONE OF THE YEAR'S BIGGEST UNDERSTATEMENTS.

HE SAYS: IT HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING YEAR IN THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

HE GOES ON TO SAY: NORMAL JOB DESCRIPTIONS HAVE GIVEN WAY TO CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND MEETINGS FOCUSED ON CONSTITUTIONAL DETAILS.

ONCE SUSTAINABLE MINISTRIES HAVE BEEN BURDENED BY REDUCED BUDGETS AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES.

THE ECONOMY AND THE CHURCHWIDE ACTIONS HAVE TAKEN A TOLL.

THAT PRETTY MUCH SUMS UP THE YEAR THAT WE'VE EXPERIENCED AROUND

THE SYNOD OFFICE SINCE THE TIME THAT WE MET IN ASSEMBLY IN MARIETTA  
LAST YEAR.

IT'S BEEN CHALLENGING, IT'S BEEN DIFFICULT.

IT'S BEEN EVEN DISCOURAGING AT TIMES.

BUT PASTOR PETERSON GOES RIGHT ON TO SAY: BUT GOD'S GRACE  
PERSISTS.

GOD'S ABUNDANCE CONTINUES.

AND SO IT DOES.

THE DIFFICULTIES FACING OUR CHURCH, OUR SYNOD, OUR  
CONGREGATIONS, CAN BE SEEN, I THINK, IN THE LARGER CONTEXT OF A  
SHIFT IN OUR CULTURE.

THE CHURCH IS RAPIDLY LOSING ITS FAVORED STATUS IN THE LAND.  
WE'RE CAUGHT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE LIKES OF CHRISTOPHER  
HITCHENS AND THE OTHER SO-CALLED NEW ATHEISTS' BEST SELLING  
EVANGELICAL NON-BELIEVERS WHO BLAME RELIGION FOR ALL OF THE  
SOCIETY'S ILLS AND ALL OF HISTORY'S.

WE'RE CAUGHT BETWEEN THAT ROCK AND THE LIKES OF POLITICAL  
OPPORTUNIST GLEN BECK, WHO URGES PEOPLE TO LEAVE CHURCHES THAT  
PREACH THAT GOD DEMANDS SOCIAL JUSTICE AND NOT JUST PERSONAL  
PIETY.

IT'S A HARD TIME TO BE THE CHURCH.

IT'S A HARD TIME TO BE A CHURCH THAT TAKES AMOS SERIOUSLY IN A  
CULTURE THAT FINDS THE PROPHETS, THE BIBLE'S JUSTICE AGENDA, TO BE

ANATHEMA.

IT'S A HARD TIME TO BE THE CHURCH THAT TAKES JESUS SERIOUSLY IN A CULTURE THAT HAS SENTIMENTALIZED HIM TO THE POINT THAT HE NEVER MAKES DEMANDS ON US AND NEVER MAKES DEMANDS ON OUR SOCIETY.

IT'S NOT AN EASY TIME TO BE THIS CHURCH, WHERE ANXIETY ABOUNDS, WHERE PEOPLE OF GOOD FAITH DISAGREE TO THE POINT THAT THEY CAN NO LONGER WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER.

BUT LISTEN, THERE'S ANOTHER SIDE.

I THINK WE ARE BLESSED TO BE PART OF THIS CHURCH.

TO BE PART OF SUCH A CHURCH.

CHRISTIANS ARE NOT PEOPLE, DESPITE MUCH OF CHURCH HISTORY, WE'RE NOT PEOPLE WHO HAVE IT ALL FIGURED OUT.

WE'RE NOT PEOPLE WHO HAVE IT ALL NAILED DOWN.

WE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THE WAY.

AND SOMETIMES THE WAY WE'RE ON IS PRETTY ROUGH.

BUT THE ONE WHO CALLS US SINNERS TOGETHER AND WHO MAKES OF A COLLECTION OF SINNERS LIKE YOU AND ME A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, GOD'S OWN PEOPLE, THAT ONE IS FAITHFUL.

AND DOES NOT ABANDON THE CHURCH, BUT WALKS WITH US, EVEN IN ROUGH PLACES LIKE THIS.

WELL, MY REPORT IS B-1 IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS.

IF YOU HAVEN'T READ IT, PLEASE DO.

I WANT TO HOLD UP A FEW HIGHLIGHTS THAT WE NEED I THINK A COMMON

HEARING OF IN THIS ASSEMBLY.

YOU KNOW, LAST YEAR, WE REDUCED OUR NUMBER OF CONFERENCES FROM 14 TO 9.

AND I'M REALLY HAPPY TO REPORT THAT MOST OF THEM HAVE MET, HAVE DONE STUFF TOGETHER, HAVE ELECTED OFFICERS, AND THEY'VE OUTDONE ONE ANOTHER IN COMING UP WITH INTRIGUING NAMES.

YOU HEARD THE DIASPORA CONFERENCE EARLIER.

APPLY NAMED, BY THE WAY, FOR ANY CONFERENCE IN THE SOUTHEAST OF LUTHERANS.

THERE'S ALSO THE RUACH CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI.

HEBREW WORD FOR "WIND."

CAN YOU SEE HOW THAT MIGHT APPLY TO SOUTH MISSISSIPPI AND SOUTH ALABAMA?

>> HEAR, HEAR.

>> AND THE ONE THAT THE LONGEST STRETCH FOR ACTUAL RELIGIOUS UNDERPINNING IS THE KING CONFERENCE, SO NAMED BECAUSE THE KING CONFERENCE INCLUDES TUPELO, WHERE ELVIS WAS BORN, MEMPHIS WHERE ELVIS LIVED, AND NASHVILLE WHERE ELVIS RECORDED.

[ LAUGHTER ]

THAT'S THE TRUTH.

I DIDN'T MAKE THAT UP.

I DIDN'T BELIEVE THEM EITHER WHEN THEY TOLD ME THAT.

NO LONGER ASSOCIATED DIRECTLY WITH CONFERENCES, WE NOW HAVE 18 DEANS.

YOU GOT TO MEET THEM AT WORSHIP.

YOU'LL ALSO REMEMBER THAT IN THIS RESTRUCTURING THAT WE DID, WE DID AWAY WITH ALL OF THE COMMISSIONS, AND WE MADE WAY FOR TASK FORCES AND COMMITTEES, AND INTEREST GROUPS, THAT COULD RISE UP FROM THE SYNOD AS NEEDED.

AND COULD LIVE AS LONG AS THEY WERE NEEDED, AS LONG AS INTEREST EXISTS, AND AS LONG AS THERE WAS WORK TO DO.

WELL, AT THIS POINT, WE HAVE NOW AT LEAST 26 SUCH AREAS OF INTEREST IDENTIFIED.

SEVERAL OF THOSE HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORMED INTO OFFICIAL TASK GROUPS OR COMMITTEES BY AN ACTION OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, AND OTHERS ARE BEING FORMED.

YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD ABOUT THE REACTION TO THE 2009 ELCA SOCIAL STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY AND ON THE MINISTRY POLICY CHANGES. MUCH OF OUR STAFF'S TIME AND ENERGY HAS BEEN DIRECTED AT WORKING WITH CONGREGATIONS WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH THE DECISIONS OF THAT ASSEMBLY.

IN ADDITION, WHILE MISSION SUPPORT GIVING HAS BEEN DECLINING SINCE THE MARKET CORRECTION OF 2008, SEPTEMBER OF 2008, IT'S FALLEN EVEN MORE STEEPLY SINCE THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS.

TO DATE, 15 CONGREGATIONS IN THIS SYNOD OF OVER 170 HAVE TAKEN

FIRST VOTES TO LEAVE THE ELCA.

8 OF THOSE FIRST VOTES FAILED.

7 SUCCEEDED.

6 OF THOSE 7 HAVE TAKEN SECOND VOTES.

ALL OF WHICH HAVE SUCCEEDED.

AND YESTERDAY, THE SYNOD COUNCIL TOOK THE UNHAPPY ACTION OF APPROVING THE WISHES OF THOSE CONGREGATIONS TO DISASSOCIATE WITH THIS CHURCH.

THERE WILL LIKELY BE OTHERS WHO MAY CONSIDER THIS ACTION IN THE FUTURE.

WHILE A LOT OF THE REACTION TO THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN UNFAVORABLE AND MOST OF WHAT WE HEAR HAS BEEN UNFAVORABLE, THERE'S ANOTHER SIDE TO THAT.

SOME HAVE FOUND THE ACTIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY TO BE A LONG OVERDUE OPENING TO MISSION AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD THE GOOD NEWS IN THE CHURCH BEFORE.

OUR PREACHER MENTIONED ONE OF THOSE ON AN AIRPLANE.

SOME CONGREGATIONS IN THIS SYNOD HAVE REPORTED NEW VISITORS AND RENEWED CONVERSATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS WHO HAVE NOT TALKED TO CHURCH IN A WHILE.

EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE DISAGREEMENTS ON THE ASSEMBLY'S ACTIONS AND ON MANY OTHER THINGS, I HOPE THAT NOW IN THE ELCA SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD, WE ARE READY TO WORK TOGETHER THROUGH OUR

DISAGREEMENTS, AND TO FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL WORK THAT WE ARE CALLED TO DO IN THESE 4 STATES AND IN THE WORLD.

SURELY, SURELY WHAT BINDS US TOGETHER IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM, AS THE ONE BODY OF CHRIST, IS STRONGER THAN ANY DISAGREEMENT WE HAVE WITH ONE ANOTHER.

[ APPLAUSE ]

I TOLD SOMEONE THE OTHER DAY WHEN THEY ASKED ME WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A BISHOP IN THE ELCA, I SAID: "WELL, WE JUST TALK ABOUT MONEY AND SEX."

[ LAUGHTER ]

WHICH HAS PRETTY MUCH BEEN IT, TOO, THIS YEAR.

WE HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN MISSION SUPPORT, AND BECAUSE OF THAT, HAVE MADE SOME VERY DIFFICULT DECISIONS REGARDING SYNOD STAFFING.

WHILE THE WORKLOAD OF THE SYNOD STAFF HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY AFTER CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS, WE'VE AT THE SAME TIME BEEN FORCED TO LAY OFF ONE STAFF MEMBER, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT MOBLEY HOPE. WE LAID HER OFF ON THE DAY OF THE 6th ANNIVERSARY OF HER EMPLOYMENT IN THIS SYNOD, A REALLY DIFFICULT MOVE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT JOB MARKET.

AND IT ALSO MEANS THAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE ONE-HALF THE NUMBER OF OFFICE STAFF THAT WE HAD JUST A BIT OVER 3 YEARS AGO.

IN ADDITION, WE'VE HAD TO ASK OTHER STAFF MEMBERS TO TAKE SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN SALARY, EVEN AS WE'VE ASKED THEM TO DO MORE WORK.

ANOTHER STAFF LAYOFF APPROVED BY SYNOD COUNCIL LAST NIGHT WILL BE ANNOUNCED VERY SOON, AND WITH IT, THE NUMBER OF ASSISTANTS TO THE BISHOP FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS WILL HAVE GONE FROM 3 1/4 AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR TO 1 3/4 BY OCTOBER 1st, AND THAT MIGHT NOT BE THE END OF IT.

AMONG THE STAFF CHANGES, PASTOR NANCY CHRISTENSEN HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF EVANGELICAL MISSION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

HER SALARY NOW IS COVERED BY THE EVANGELICAL OUTREACH AND CONGREGATIONAL MISSION UNIT OF THE ELCA CHURCHWIDE BUDGET, AND YET SHE WILL BE WORKING EXCLUSIVELY WITH CONGREGATIONS IN OUR SYNOD, AND WITH OTHER SYNOD STAFF.

BECAUSE OUR SYNOD HAS MORE MISSION DEVELOPMENTS AND REDEVELOPMENTS THAN ANY OTHER SYNOD IN THE ELCA, AND BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS RAPIDLY GROWING REGION OF THE COUNTRY, IMMENSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION, THE EOCM UNIT ALSO WILL BE PROVIDING FOR US A HALF-TIME MISSION DIRECTOR, OR MISSION WORKER, TO WORKERS SPECIALLY WITH ETHNIC SPECIFIC AND MULTICULTURAL CONGREGATIONS AND MISSIONS IN OUR SYNOD.

THAT HALF-TIME DIRECTOR WILL BE THE REVEREND DR. GEMECHIS BUBA,

WHO WILL BEGIN WORKING HERE ON SEPTEMBER 1st.

DETAILS ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT, BUT HE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HALF-TIME AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL MINISTRIES IN THE ELCA, AND HALF-TIME HERE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

HIS OFFICE WILL BE IN ATLANTA.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT HAVING MADE THOSE SHIFTS, OUR STAFF IS BEING STRETCHED VERY THIN.

HAVING MADE THOSE LAYOFFS AND THOSE CUT-BACKS.

ALL OF THOSE, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF US WHO TRAVEL, ARE WORKING VERY, VERY LONG HOURS WITH VERY, VERY FEW DAYS OFF.

SO IN LIGHT OF ALL OF THAT, THE SALARY CUTS AND THE LAYOFFS, I AM MORE THAN USUALLY GRATEFUL TO THE WONDERFUL STAFF WITH WHOM I WORK.

ALL OF US ARE BLESSED BY THEIR FAITHFULNESS, BY THEIR INTENSE SENSE OF VOCATION, WHICH IS EVIDENT EVERY DAY IN THE WAY THEY DO THEIR JOBS ON BEHALF OF THIS SYNOD.

[ APPLAUSE ]

STAND UP, STAFF.

COME ON.

STAND UP.

WOULD THE STAFF JUST STAND UP SO PEOPLE CAN SEE WHO YOU ARE?

THANKS.

[ APPLAUSE ]

NOW STAFF CAN SIT.

THANKS FOR THAT.

I WAS TRYING TO GET THE STAFF TO STAND UP.

[ LAUGHTER ]

YOU CAN SEE THE COMMAND I HAVE OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD STAFF.

IT'S BEEN THAT WAY FROM THE BEGINNING.

IN 2004 AT THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY, WE APPROVED AN AFRICAN DESCENT STRATEGY FOR THIS SYNOD, AND FOR THE MOST PART, I THINK IT'S FAIR AND HONEST TO SAY THAT THIS AFRICAN DESCENT STRATEGY HAS BEEN AN IDEA WITHOUT MUCH IMPLEMENTATION.

IT'S BEEN A DOCUMENT THAT WAS PASSED, AND THEN LARGELY FORGOTTEN.

BUT NOW WITH THE HELP OF PARTNERS SUCH AS THE SOUTHEASTERN LUTHERAN BLACK PASTORS COALITION, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS SLBP, AND THE AALA AND WITH THE EVANGELICAL OUTREACH AND CONGREGATIONAL MISSION UNIT, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS EOCM, WE'RE HOPING TO BRING THAT DOCUMENT UP TO DATE AND TO PUT IT INTO PRACTICE.

TOGETHER WE HOPE TO DISCERN HOW WE MIGHT WELCOME AND INCLUDE ALL PEOPLE IN THE SYNOD'S VAST TERRITORY IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH AND ITS CONGREGATIONS.

TO THAT END, EOCM HAS CONTRACTED WITH MR. GENE LEWIS TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF LISTENING TO AND WORKING WITH PARTNERS IN THIS SYNOD, AND ACROSS THE ELCA, TO BRING ABOUT A REVITALIZATION OF THIS AFRICAN DESCENT STRATEGY.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE AWARE OF THIS, BUT ATLANTA HAS MORE AFRICAN AMERICANS IN POPULATION THAN ANY CITY IN THE UNITED STATES OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK.

MORE THAN CHICAGO, MORE THAN LOS ANGELES.

WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE MOVING BACK INTO THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY, AND WE ALSO HOPE THAT WHAT WE LEARN HERE IN THIS SYNOD WILL BE USED IN ALL OF REGION 9 IN THE SOUTHEAST, AND THE ENTIRE ELCA IN HELPING THIS CHURCH LIVE OUT THE DREAMS THAT IT HAD WHEN WE WERE FOUNDED 20-SOMETHING YEARS AGO, THE DREAM OF WELCOMING OH OF BECOMING A WELCOMING MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY THAT WE'RE CALLED TO BE IN JESUS' NAME.

MR. GENE LEWIS IS HERE WITH US SOMEWHERE.

WHERE IS GENE LEWIS?

HE'S IN THE BACK WITH THE HEADPHONES.

HE RUNS THE TECHNICAL STUFF, BUT HE'S THE GUY WHO'S GOING TO BE WORKING WITH THIS.

MANY OF YOU KNOW HIM.

THANK YOU, GENE.

HE'S STANDING UP.

[ APPLAUSE ]

NOW I WANT TO TELL YOU A FEW STATISTICS.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T LIKE STATISTICS, YOU CAN IGNORE THIS PART.

IT'S SHORT.

HERE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD, WE HAVE 323 ROSTERED PERSONS. OF THAT NUMBER, 122 ARE RETIRED -- SOMETHING ABOUT THE WEATHER -- WHICH LEAVES 201 ROSTERED PERSONS WHO ARE ACTIVELY SERVING IN THIS SYNOD.

OF THOSE 201, 158 ARE AGE 50 OR OLDER, WHICH MEANS THAT WE HAVE ONLY 43 ROSTERED PERSONS IN OUR SYNOD WHO ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 50.

ONLY 43 OF THE 201 ACTIVELY SERVING.

NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH BEING OVER 50.

WHEN I GET THERE, I'M GOING TO BE OKAY WITH IT.

[ LAUGHTER ]

AND PASTOR WALLACE TELLS ME THAT THIS TREND MAY BE TURNING AROUND AS OUR CANDIDACY PROCESS HAS MORE YOUNGER PEOPLE BY PERCENTAGE THAN IT'S HAD IN THE PAST.

WE'RE PRAYING THAT THAT'S TRUE.

IN THE MEANTIME, WHEN YOU SEE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH GIFTS FOR ROSTERED LEADERSHIP IN THIS CHURCH, PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM, NURTURE THEM, AND PRAY FOR THEM.

WE NEED THEIR GIFTS.

SECOND SET OF STATISTICS: WE HAVE 175, ROUGHLY, CONGREGATIONAL UNITS IN OUR SYNOD.

CONGREGATIONS AND MISSION CONGREGATIONS.

AND TOGETHER THIS YEAR, THOSE CONGREGATIONS HAVE PLEDGED JUST SHY OF \$2 MILLION IN MISSION SUPPORT, A DECREASE FROM WHAT WE NEED AND WHAT WE HAD HOPED, BUT STILL A PRETTY GOOD CHUNK OF CHANGE. YOU MIGHT FIND IT INTERESTING, HOWEVER, TO NOTE THAT OF THOSE 175 CONGREGATIONS, JUST 20 OF THOSE HAVE PLEDGED OVER HALF OF THAT MISSION SUPPORT.

THEY ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE 20 LARGEST CONGREGATIONS.

IF YOU REALLY LIKE STATISTICS, THAT'S 11% OF OUR CONGREGATIONS PLEDGED 54% OF OUR MISSION SUPPORT.

61 OF THOSE CONGREGATIONS, JUST OVER 1/3, PLEDGED 91% OF OUR MISSION SUPPORT.

THE OTHER 2/3 ACCOUNT FOR 9%.

NEARLY A QUARTER OF THE CONGREGATIONS IN THIS SYNOD MAKE NO PLEDGE AT ALL.

NOW, OF COURSE, SOME GIVE WHO DON'T PLEDGE, BUT YOU PARISH PASTORS AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED AND PARISH COUNCILS KNOW THAT'S NOT A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT USUALLY.

IT'S A RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT.

AND I WANT TO SAY TO YOU, AND WANT YOU TO HEAR THIS: IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO DO THE WORK OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING, OUTDOOR MINISTRY, MISSION DEVELOPMENT, AND ALL OF THE THINGS THAT WE DO WELL BECAUSE WE DO THEM TOGETHER, THEN WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN WE'RE DOING ON THAT SCORE.

NOW, CLOSING WORD ON OUR TIME TOGETHER: YOU MET A LITTLE WHILE AGO MR. JOHN TIRRO.

HE SPOKE TO OUR SYNOD COUNCIL YESTERDAY.

HE'S SOON TO BE PASTOR JOHN TIRRO, IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN.

HE WILL BE THE CAMPUS PASTOR AT THE LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS TYSON HOUSE.

YESTERDAY HE TOLD THE COUNCIL -- HE MADE A REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AND HE THREW OUT THIS WONDERFUL LINE: GRATITUDE IS MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN WORRY.

GRATITUDE IS MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN WORRY.

HE SAID THAT TO EXPLAIN WHY THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY MORE STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THE TYSON HOUSE MINISTRY LATELY, BECAUSE THEY QUIT WORRYING.

GRATITUDE IS MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN WORRY.

AND SO I HOPE THAT YOU HEAR MORE THAN WORRY IN MY REPORT, AND READ MORE THAN WORRY IN IT.

I HOPE THAT YOU ALSO HEAR GRATITUDE FOR THE MANY WAYS IN WHICH CHURCH HAPPENS HERE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD FROM CAMPUS MINISTRIES TO SERVICE MINISTRIES TO YOUTH MINISTRIES TO OUTDOOR MINISTRIES TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, TO CONGREGATIONS GATHERED EVERY WEEK AROUND THE WORD AND THE SACRAMENTS.

JOHN ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE STUDENTS AT TYSON HOUSE DISCOVERING

IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER AND IN THEIR EATING AND DRINKING TOGETHER THAT THEY ARE CALLED THE TO BE CHURCH TOGETHER.

AND TO THAT END, TO THAT END, THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN GIFTS FOR MINISTRY IN JESUS' NAME.

YOU AND I IN THIS SYNOD HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BE CHURCH TOGETHER AND TO THAT END, GOD HAS GIVEN US GIFTS, HAS POURED OUT GRACE UPON GRACE IN THIS SYNOD.

WE HAVE EVERYTHING IT TAKES TO BE THE PRESENCE OF JESUS IN THE 4 STATES OF THIS SYNOD AND INTO ALL THE WORLD.

IN BAPTISM, WE HAVE BEEN MADE STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERIES OF GOD.

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION IN A WORLD THAT'S DIVIDED, AND WE HAVE BEEN SENT OUT WITH THE TREASURE OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS FOR THE SAKE OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

THANK YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

HEY, WE'VE GOT A CHANGE IN THE TIME.

OKAY.

I HOPE I UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS.

LET ME TAKE A MOMENT NOW TO INTRODUCE SOME GUESTS.

WE MAY INTRODUCE SOME OTHERS LATER.

IS THAT THE POINT OF THIS?

OKAY.

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE, IS ACTUALLY, SOON TO BE THE REVEREND JOHN ARTHUR NUÑES, THE PRESIDENT AND CEO OF LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF.

YOU'LL MEET HIM IN JUST A MINUTE AT 3:30.

AND YOU CAN STAND UP LATER SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO -- OUR CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE IS THE REVEREND STANLEY OLSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ELCA UNIT OF VOCATION AND EDUCATION. PASTOR OLSON.

[ APPLAUSE ]

SOME SAY HE'S THE HARDEST WORKING PERSON IN THE ELCA.

AND WE'RE BLESSED THIS YEAR TO HAVE WITH US BISHOP TERRY KEE AND SALLY KEE, WHO WILL JOIN US FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE. AND THEY ARE HERE SOMEWHERE, WAY IN THE BACK.

IN THE VISITORS SECTION.

[ APPLAUSE ]

BOTH OF THEM WILL BE ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL MISSION BREAKFAST TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW AT OUR EUCHARIST, BISHOP KEE WILL BE THE PREACHER.

I ALSO WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO INTRODUCE A FEW OTHER PEOPLE TO YOU.

WE HAVE JUST A MINUTE TO DO THAT.

SOME OF THESE PEOPLE WILL JOIN US LATER IN THE WEEKEND, BUT IF YOU'RE HERE NOW, WOULD YOU.

AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, STAND UP AND LET US RECOGNIZE YOU.

MR. RON TURNEY, LUTHERAN MINISTRIES OF ALABAMA, PRESIDENT.

NEWLY ELECTED, I BELIEVE.

HE'S OUTSIDE DRINKING COFFEE.

[ LAUGHTER ]

OKAY.

ACTUALLY, HE'S MANNING THE BOOTH OUT THERE.

THE REVEREND GARY DANIELSEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LUTHERAN SERVICES IN GEORGIA.

AND I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM YET, BUT HE'S OUT THERE PROBABLY, ALSO.

MS. KATHY THORESON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LUTHERAN SERVICES IN TENNESSEE.

SHE'S HERE.

THANK YOU, KATHY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

MR. MICHAEL HUSETH, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL SERVICES IN MISSISSIPPI, RIGHT UP HERE IN THE FRONT.

[ APPLAUSE ]

ALSO A MEMBER OF OUR SYNOD COUNCIL.

MR. HAL SLOPE AND DR. MARIANNE ZOTTI OF ALL THINGS NEW MINISTRY.

I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM YET.

YOU CAN USUALLY TELL WHEN HAL IS WITHIN HALF A MILE.

AND THE REVEREND DAVID HARDY, WHO IS THE CHAIR OF THE ALLIANCE OF

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES OF THE SOUTHEAST.

PASTOR HARDY, ARE YOU AROUND?

YES, DAVID.

[ APPLAUSE ]

MR. KEITH JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF LUTHERIDGE/LUTHEROCK MINISTRIES, INCORPORATED, IN THE BACK THERE.

KEITH?

[ APPLAUSE ]

AND THE MAN WHO KEEPS ALL THE REGION 9 BISHOPS IN LINE, THE REVEREND DR. HARVEY HUNTLEY, JR., WHO IS THE COORDINATOR OF REGION 9.

I KNOW HARVEY IS HERE SOMEWHERE, BUT I DON'T SEE HIM IN THE HALL YET.

AT THE 2009 SYNOD ASSEMBLY, A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED TO PROMOTE SUICIDE EDUCATION, SUICIDE PREVENTION, AND TO PROVIDE MINISTRY TO THOSE IMPACTED BY THE SUICIDE OF A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE.

JERRY AND ELSIE WEYRAUCH, COFOUNDERS OF THE SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK KNOWN, AS S.P.A.N., ARE HERE WITH US THIS YEAR TO LEAD A WORKSHOP AND SHARE RESOURCES IN THE MINISTRY EXHIBIT AREA.

THEY'VE BEEN SEEKING PARTICIPATION FROM ROSTERED LEADERS TO TAKE AN ONLINE SURVEY.

IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG.

I'VE DONE THIS.

AND THEY'RE LOOKING FOR AT LEAST 125 MORE CLERGY AND/OR ROSTERED

PERSONS TO TAKE THE SURVEY.

SO IF YOU'RE A ROSTERED PERSON HERE TODAY, AND YOU WILL STOP BY THEIR MINISTRY EXHIBIT TURNING THE ASSEMBLY AND TAKE THE S.P.A.N. SURVEY FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU WILL PARTICIPATE IN A DRAWING AT THE END OF THE WEEKEND.

AND THE ROSTERED PERSON HOLDING THE NUMBER DRAWN WILL DESIGNATE A LUTHERAN CHARITY OF HIS OR HER CHOICE TO RECEIVE A \$100 GIFT FROM THE S.P.A.N. PEOPLE.

IF MORE THAN 125 QUALIFIED PERSONS PARTAKE DURING THE ASSEMBLY, THE CHARITY WILL RECEIVE \$250.

SO THAT SHOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO GO TAKE THIS SHORT SURVEY.

LET ME INTRODUCE THE SYNOD OFFICERS QUICKLY NOW.

YOU ALREADY KNOW THESE -- THE WEYRAUCHS, WHERE ARE THE WEYRAUCHS?

ARE THEY IN HERE?

THERE THEY ARE, UNDER THE "3".

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

I THINK WE HAVE 2 OF OUR SYNOD OFFICERS PRESENT WITH US HERE.

MR. WESLEY CRENSHAW, WHO YOU MET EARLIER, VICE PRESIDENT.

HE'S FROM HOLY SPIRIT IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

WES IS SERVING HIS LAST YEAR AS THE VICE PRESIDENT.

WES, WOULD YOU STAND UP JUST ONE SECOND.

WES WAS OVER 6 FEET TALL WHEN HE STARTED THIS 8 YEARS AGO.

[ LAUGHTER ]

AND HE IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE OR WE WOULD MAKE HIM VICE PRESIDENT FOR LIFE.

BUT WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR SERVICE.

WE'LL SAY MORE ABOUT THAT LATER.

AND BRAND NEW SECRETARY PASTOR TERRY STAGNER-COLLIER FROM CROSS OF LIFE IN ROSWELL, GEORGIA, SITTING AT THE OTHER END OF THE TABLE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

THE OTHER SYNOD OFFICER MR. JOHN LUCHT, OUR TREASURER, A MEMBER OF TRINITY IN LILBURN, GEORGIA.

JOHN WAS HERE YESTERDAY AND WILL BE BACK TOMORROW, BUT IS NOT HERE TODAY.

SO ARE WE READY?

WE HAVEN'T GOT TO THAT PART YET.

OKAY, WE'RE SKIPPING AHEAD, RIGHT?

HOW MANY OF YOU WERE AT WORSHIP A LITTLE EARLIER?

WERE THOSE IMPRESSIVE PLANTS IN THERE OR NOT?

SOMEBODY SAID THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN AT LEAST ONE DEAD LEAF ON ONE SO PEOPLE WOULD HAVE KNOWN THEY WERE REAL LIVING PLANTS.

THEY WERE BEAUTIFUL.

WE OWE A SPECIAL THANKS TO MS. BETH PAINTER AND THE GREEN THUMB

NURSERY.

MS. PAINTER IS A MEMBER OF TRINITY CHURCH IN HIXSON.

I SAW HER WORK AT THEIR 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, AND SHE AND GREEN THUMB PROVIDED ALL THE GREENERY YOU SEE IN THE WORSHIP SPACE.

MS. PAINTER, WOULD YOU STAND UP FOR A MINUTE SO WE CAN SAY THANKS TO YOU?

WHERE ARE YOU?

THERE YOU ARE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

AND FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, SHE'S A VOTING MEMBER, TOO.

NOW, ARE WE READY?

NOW IT'S MY PRIVILEGE AND TO INTRODUCE TO YOU OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER.

JOHN ARTHUR NUÑES PRONOUNCED, LIKE "NEWNESS OF LIFE," IS THE PRESIDENT AND CEO OF LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF, AN ORGANIZATION THAT ACTS TO END POVERTY AND UPHOLD HUMAN DIGNITY BY EMPOWERING THE WORLD'S MOST IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITIES TO BRING ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATION THEY NEED IN ORDER TO LIVE HEALTHY, SAFE, AND SECURE LIVES.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF COMBINES 63 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND AN UNCOMPROMISING PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE, FAITH AND PRAYER.

LWR WORKS WITH PARTNERS IN 35 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD TO

PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TO INCREASE HUMAN FLOURISHING.

PASTOR NUÑES IS A PROMINENT LUTHERAN LEADER, THINKER, AND SPEAKER.

HE'S KNOWN FOR HIS COMPELLING VOICE APPLYING THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT TO MATTERS RANGING FROM GLOBAL ISSUES TO URBAN AFFAIRS.

HE JOINED LWR IN JULY OF 2007.

PRIOR TO THAT, HE SERVED AS A COLLEGE PROFESSOR, A MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT, A CHURCH MUSICIAN, A COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, LIKE SOMEBODY ELSE WE KNOW, AND A PASTOR.

WHAT DIDN'T YOU DO, JOHN?

HE HOLDS ADVANCED ACADEMIC DEGREES FROM SCHOOLS AFFILIATED WITH THE ELCA AND THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD.

HE'S CURRENTLY A Ph.D. CANDIDATE AT THE LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT CHICAGO.

HE WAS BORN IN MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA.

GREW UP IN HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA, AND NOW LIVES IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1981, IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, WITH HIS WIFE MONIQUE, WHO IS THE PRINCIPAL OF BALTIMORE LUTHERAN SCHOOL, AND HE HAS A SON, JOHN JR., WHO'S 15, AND HE IS THE YOUNGEST OF 5 CHILDREN.

WELCOME PASTOR JOHN NUÑES.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, BISHOP, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION.

I WAS INTRODUCED NOT TOO LONG AGO, AND THE PERSON WHO INTRODUCED ME SAID THIS: "I WAS ONCE AT A LOW POINT IN MY LIFE, AND NEEDED A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT, AND THIS PERSON SPOKE IN A WAY THAT TURNED THINGS AROUND FOR ME.

AND HE PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE DIFFERENCE THAT HE HAS MADE IN MY LIFE.

UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S NOT AVAILABLE, BUT WE DO HAVE JOHN NUÑES."

[ LAUGHTER ]

ACTUALLY, I HAD MY CHEST A BIT PUFFED UP AND I WAS READY TO --

I AM SIMPLY DELIGHTED TO BE HERE.

I'M HAPPY TO BE HERE WITH YOU, BISHOP GORDY, FOR YOUR STRONG, FAITHFUL, AND LOVING LEADERSHIP THROUGH THIS TIME OF ECONOMIC AND ECCLESIAL CHALLENGE.

BUT ALSO HAVING THE EYES OF FAITH TO SEE WHAT GOD IS PROVIDING AND PRESENTING, THE FUTURE THAT GOD HAS FOR US.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP IN THIS PLACE.

THANK YOU, ELAINE, FOR ALL OF YOUR GOOD PLANNING TO GET ME HERE.

THANK YOU, EVON FLESBERG, FOR STIRRING US WITH THE WORD THIS MORNING.

I APOLOGIZE THAT I'LL HAVE LEAVE SHORTLY AFTER I TALK.

IT'S A SECURITY PRECAUTION I HAVE, IN CASE THE TALK DOESN'T GO WELL.

[ LAUGHTER ]

BUT I DO HAVE A PLANE TO CATCH AND ANOTHER SYNOD ASSEMBLY

TOMORROW MORNING TO KEYNOTE AT 9:30 IN THE MORNING IN MADISON,  
WISCONSIN.

SO I'M REALLY DELIGHTED TO BE HERE, ALTHOUGH I WASN'T SO SURE OF  
THAT WHEN I GOT ON THE ELEVATOR THIS MORNING WITH THE HARLEY  
DUDES.

[ LAUGHTER ]

BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY NICE PEOPLE.

SO I LEARNED SOMETHING IN THAT CROSS-CULTURAL IMMERSION  
EXPERIENCE --

[ LAUGHTER ]

-- ON THE ELEVATOR.

I WANT TO COMMEND YOU ALSO ON YOUR THEME, "INTO THE WORLD."

JESUS DID SAY THAT AND SEND US TO THAT PLACE, INTO THE WORLD, INTO A  
WORLD THAT IS MORE AND MORE LIKE WHAT THE PROPHET ISAIAH  
DESCRIBED, A PLACE WHERE JUSTICE IS TURNED BACK, WHERE  
RIGHTEOUSNESS STANDS AT A DISTANCE, AND TRUTH INDEED STUMBLES IN  
THE PUBLIC SQUARE.

A WORLD THAT'S NOT EASY TO GO INTO, ESPECIALLY DURING THESE TIMES,  
WHEN THE TEMPTATION IS TO BE TURNED IN ON OURSELVES.

OF COURSE, WE KNOW AS LUTHERANS THAT IN CURVATUS IN SE IPSUM IS TO  
BE RADICALLY TURNED IN ON ONESELF, TO ONLY WANT TO DEAL WITH  
PEOPLE WHO WALK LIKE US AND TALK LIKE US AND MAKE THE SAME KIND OF  
MONEY WE MAKE, OR USED TO MAKE, OR SHARE OUR SUPPOSED

MIDDLE-CLASS VALUES.

AND SO I COMMEND YOU ON YOUR THEME.

AND I'M GOING TO ATTEMPT TO DO SOMETHING OUT LOUD WITH YOU.

I'VE BEEN TOYING WITH A THEORY THAT WAS INTRODUCED BY SIMON SINEK.

AM I PRONOUNCING HIS NAME RIGHT?

I HEARD SOMEONE CORRECT ME, I THOUGHT.

SINEK.

AND I WANT TO KIND OF WORK WITH THIS THEORY THAT HE HAS UNDER A TITLE FOR A TALK, "THE WHY OF LWR."

THE WHY OF LWR.

SINEK MAINTAINS THAT PEOPLE DON'T BUY WHAT YOU DO, THEY BUY WHY YOU DO IT.

AND THE FACT THAT YOU ARE HERE IS PROOF OF WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT YOURSELF, AND BELIEVE ABOUT THE WORLD.

IT'S A "WHY" QUESTION.

THAT AT THE ROOT OF OUR ENGAGEMENT AND OF OUR MINISTRY.

SO I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE "WHY" OF LWR THEMATICALLY.

BUT FIRST, JUST A LITTLE INTRODUCTION ABOUT WHO I AM BECAUSE I'M MEETING MANY OF YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME.

WE BECAME LUTHERANS IN CANADA IN 1970 WHEN WE MOVED FROM JAMAICA TO THERE AND WE JOINED A CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THAT?

[ LAUGHTER ]

LCMS, WHICH STANDS FOR "LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS."

[ LAUGHTER ]

I CAN SAY THAT.

I'M STILL LCMS.

YOU CAN'T LAUGH AT THAT.

AND AS THE INTRODUCTION SAID, I WAS BORN IN MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA,  
AND WE MIGRATED TO CANADA.

SO I'M A DOUBLE IMMIGRANT NOW LIVING IN THE U.S.

AND I LEARNED A LOT IN THE LUTHERAN SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY AT  
CONCORDIA COLLEGE IN ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, WHERE I WENT TO  
UNDERGRADUATE.

I LEARNED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT I WAS A BLACK PERSON THERE.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW HOW I LEARNED THAT?

WE'RE IN CENSUS SEASON, SO I THOUGHT I'D JUST SHARE THIS.

IT CAME BACK TO ME RECENTLY.

ON THE SECOND DAY ON CAMPUS, WE WERE PROVIDED WITH A CAMPUS  
CENSUS FORM.

AND THE FIRST CATEGORY WAS: BLACK.

AND SO MY FATHER IS VERY BLACK.

SO I CHECKED THAT BOX.

THE NEXT CATEGORY WAS: WHITE.

SO MY MOTHER IS VERY WHITE.

SHE'S ACTUALLY SCOTTISH DESCENDED.

THAT'S VERY WHITE.

HIGHLANDS.

SO I CHECKED THAT BOX.

[ LAUGHTER ]

THE NEXT CATEGORY WAS: SPANISH SURNAMED.

MY LAST NAME IS NUÑES, WHICH IS PORTUGUESE, WHICH BORDERS SPAIN.

PORTUGAL BORDERS SPAIN.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS CLOSE ENOUGH, SO I CHECKED THAT BOX.

[ LAUGHTER ]

WE DON'T KNOW HOW WE GOT THE NAME.

WE LIKE TO SAY IT WAS SOME SWASHBUCKLING PIRATE, BUT IT WAS

PROBABLY A DECK HAND OR ROGUE WHO LANDED IN JAMAICA AND LEFT A  
NAME AND OFFSPRING.

SO THE NEXT CATEGORY WAS: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT.

SO BORN IN JAMAICA, LIVING IN CANADA, I CHECKED THAT BOX.

TWO DAYS LATER, THIS CAMPUS PERSON WHO WORKED IN ADMINISTRATION,  
WITH A BOW TIE THAT WAS OBVIOUSLY TIED FAR TOO TIGHTLY --

[ LAUGHTER ]

-- EXPERIENCING SIGNIFICANT CONNIPION FITS, CAME TO UP ME AND SAID,  
"YOU CAN'T BE ALL THAT."

THIS IS BEFORE BARACK OBAMA, AND BEFORE PEOPLE HAD HYBRID CARS.

HE SAID, "YOU HAVE TO BE ONE THING."

SO PERHAPS IT WAS ADOLESCENT SMART ALECKINESS OR PERHAPS IT WAS SOMETHING PROPHETIC -- I HOPE IT WAS.

BUT I SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "WELL, IF YOU WOULD HAVE HAD 'CHILD OF GOD' ON YOUR FORM."

[ APPLAUSE ]

"CHECK THAT BOX AND BE DONE WITH IT, BAPTIZED."

SO I GET THAT CATEGORIES DO MATTER, AND THAT YOU PAY ATTENTION TO THEM HERE IN THIS SYNOD AND THAT MATTERS.

BUT FINALLY, PEOPLE CANNOT BE REDUCED TO THE CATEGORY OF RACE, AS YOU WELL KNOW.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THIS -- NOBODY IS A HISPANIC UNTIL THEY MOVE TO THE UNITED STATES.

BEFORE THAT, RIGHT, YOU'RE VENEZUELAN OR MEXICAN, AND YOU GET HERE: HISPANIC.

YOU'VE GOT YOUR BOX.

SO I DON'T REALLY LIKE BOXES.

I THINK OUR GOD IS CALLING US INTO A WORLD THAT WHERE WE HAVE TO BE MESSENGERS OF TRANSCENDENCE.

SO LET'S GET STARTED BY TALKING ABOUT HAITI.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE "WHAT" OF THE WORK OF LWR BEFORE WE GET THE "WHY" OF LWR, BECAUSE HAITI IS, OF COURSE, AT THE FRONT OF ALL OF OUR MINDS.

I WANT TO THANK THE PREACHER THIS MORNING REMINDING US THAT ELCA

LUTHERANS, EVEN DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME, GAVE \$10.5 MILLION TO THE ELCA DISASTER RELIEF RESPONSE.

\$7 MILLION WAS GIVEN TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF.

HAITI, AS WE KNOW, WAS A DISASTER BEFORE AND PRIOR TO THE DISASTER OF THE EARTHQUAKE THAT HAPPENED THERE.

78% OF THE POPULATION OF HAITI LIVED ON LESS THAN \$2 A DAY PRIOR TO THE EARTHQUAKE.

AND SO, YEAH, TIMES ARE TOUGH IN THE U.S.

WE MIGHT BE LOSING HOMES AND LOSING JOBS, BUT AN ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IN A PLACE LIKE HAITI MEANS YOU CAN'T FEED YOUR CHILD.

AND YOU LOSE CHILDREN.

SO IT REALLY DOES MATTER THAT WE DO KEEP OUR LIVES IN THIS GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, BECAUSE IT DOES HELP US TO SEE OUR KIND OF RELATIVE POSITION IN THE WORLD.

AND SO OUR STAFF HAS BEEN ACTIVELY WORKING IN THE ARTIBONITE SECTION IN HAITI THE NORTHERN REGION AROUND RURAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

I WANT TO COMMEND TO YOU AND YOU TO THEM THE HAITIAN TIMOUN FOUNDATION, WHICH HAS A TABLE AND A BOOTH OUT THERE.

RICK BARGER IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOING FINE WORK IN HAITI.

STOP BY THEIR TABLE AND SEE WHAT THEY'VE GOT GOING THERE, AS WELL.

WE HAD A PHOTOGRAPHER THAT WE RECENTLY SENT TO HAITI, AND HE HAS COLLECTED SOME IMAGES THAT I THINK ARE VERY, VERY PROFOUND.

THIS VIDEO THAT YOU WILL NOW SEE LASTS ABOUT 6 MINUTES, CONTAINS NO SPOKEN WORDS, BUT MUSIC AND IMAGES.

AND WHAT I WANT YOU TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO IS THE PROGRESSION FROM DISASTER RELIEF, WHICH REALLY DOES MATTER, TO LONG-TERM, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

BECAUSE AS WE KNOW FROM KATRINA AND OTHER DISASTERS HERE IN THE U.S., THOSE WHO ARE MIDDLE CLASS SURVIVE BETTER.

GETTING PEOPLE OUT OF EXTREME POVERTY RADICALLY INCREASES THEIR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL.

IT'S THE POOR WHO DIE IN DISASTERS.

AND SO OUR WORK THERE IS TO BEGIN WHERE WE ARE WITH THE DISASTER AND MOVE PEOPLE TO -- TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS.

SO WE'LL CUE UP THE VIDEO NOW, THE HAITIAN RESPONSE.

[ VIDEO PLAYING ]

SO I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS THAT ARE MAKING A LIFE-SAVING DIFFERENCE IN PLACES LIKE HAITI, EVEN IN THESE TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES.

LAST YEAR, WE HAD A RECORD NUMBER OF QUILTS DONATED TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF, 378,000 QUILTS, IF YOU CAN IMAGINE.

LUTHERANS, LUTHERAN QUILTING GROUPS.

YES, GIVE IT UP FOR THEM.

[ APPLAUSE ]

AND A RECORD NUMBER OF DONATIONS FROM CONGREGATIONS AND

INDIVIDUALS TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF, AS WELL.

SO I WANT THE TO SAY THANK YOU.

WE BEGIN WITH GRATITUDE, MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN WORRY.

AS THE BISHOP MENTIONED, I HAVE 5 CHILDREN.

80% OF WHOM ARE FEMALES.

[ LAUGHTER ]

4 GIRLS WHO ARE ALL TEENAGERS IN THE HOUSE AT THE SAME TIME AT ONE POINT.

LET US PRAY: LORD HAVE MERCY.

CHRIST HAVE MERCY.

I HAVE ONE SON WHO IS A PRINCE OF A PIECE OF WORK!

BUT ALL OF THEM, OF COURSE, ARE GOD'S PIECES OF WORK.

BUT SPEAKING OF WORK, I MEAN, REAL BACK-BREAKING LABOR, DID YOU KNOW THAT 80% OF THE FARMERS IN THIS WORLD ARE WOMEN?

4 OUT OF 5 FARMERS ARE FEMALE.

ONE IS MALE.

I REMEMBER THAT BECAUSE OF MY CHILDREN.

THAT WAY, I'LL NEVER FORGET IT, UNTIL WE CHANGE THE STATISTIC.

THESE WOMEN COMPRISE THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY ON OUR PLANET.

1.5 BILLION PEOPLE WHO SCRATCH OUT THEIR EXISTENCE ON LESS THAN \$1 PER DAY.

80% OF THE FARMERS IN THIS WORLD ARE WOMEN, AS I SAID, BUT YET LESS

THAN 2% OF THE FARMS IN THIS WORLD ARE OWNED BY WOMEN.

MY GRANDMOTHER IN JAMAICA WAS ONE OF THOSE WOMEN WHO WORKED HARD, SUFFERED MUCH, AND DIED AT WE THINK ABOUT 90 YEARS OLD, OWNING BASICALLY NOTHING, EXCEPT FOR THE DIGNITY THAT GOD GAVE HER.

SHE WAS POOR, BUT NOT STUPID.

SHE SURVIVED BECAUSE SHE WAS A WOMAN OF THE SPIRIT.

AND SO I'M IN THIS WORLD, I BELIEVE, AS AN ANSWER TO THE PRAYERS THAT SHE PRAYED.

THE "WHY" OF LWR.

I'M IN THIS WORLD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR FARMERS IN BOLIVIA AND MALI AND THE PHILIPPINES AND 30 OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF WORKS.

IN THOSE FARMERS' FACES, I SEE THE FACE OF MY GRANDMOTHER.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, I SEE THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST, AND BEFORE I DIE, I WANT THE NUMBER OF FARMS IN THIS WORLD WHICH ARE OWNED BY WOMEN TO QUINTUPLE TO 10%, AND WITH YOUR HELP AND WITH THE HELP OF PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT LIKE YOU, WE CAN CREATE THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES AND SELF-HELP GROUPS SHOW CONCRETELY GOD'S WAY OF WORKING IN THE WORLD.

AND SO THAT'S PART OF MY "WHY."

WHAT'S YOURS?

WHAT'S YOUR "WHY"?

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU AND MOVES AND IMPELS YOU INTO MISSION IN THIS WORLD?

WE ARE LIVING IN A DIFFICULT WORLD, WHICH WHILE IT IS STRUCK WITH ECONOMIC CONFUSION IS ALSO A WORLD WHICH OFFERS A DIZZYING ARRAY OF MATERIAL CHOICES.

EVAN GOLDSTEIN PUTS IT THIS WAY.

SHE SAYS: WE'RE AWASH IN CHOICES BOTH TRIVIAL AND CONSEQUENTIAL.

IN 1949, A TYPICAL AMERICAN SUPERMARKET CARRIED 3750 ITEMS.

TODAY, THE NUMBER IS CLOSER TO 45,000.

BASKIN-ROBBINS BOASTS A FLAVOR LIBRARY OF ICE CREAMS THAT EXCEEDS 1,000.

NETFLIX OFFERS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DVDS.

AMAZON.COM NOTES 24 MILLION BOOKS.

THE EXPANSION OF CHOICE HAS BECOME AN EXPLOSION OF CHOICE.

AND ALMOST CERTAINLY, THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CHOICES WE FACE HAS OUTSTRIPPED OUR COGNITIVE ABILITY TO CHOOSE WISELY.

WHAT ARE YOU CHOOSING?

WHAT'S YOUR THING IN THIS WORLD?

HOW WILL YOU FIND YOUR WAY INTO THE WORLD?

TO WHAT POVERTY ARE YOU CALLED?

WHAT POVERTY OF WISDOM?

WHAT POVERTY OF JOY?

WE SUFFER FROM A JOY DEFICIT IN THE U.S.

THAT'S SOMETHING WE CAN LEARN FROM SISTERS AND BROTHERS AROUND THE WORLD, HOW TO EASE OUR CELEBRATION CONSTIPATION.

[ LAUGHTER ]

WHAT POVERTY OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY IS GOD CALLING YOU?

MY GRANDMOTHER IS THE FIRST REASON FOR MY "WHY."

THE SECOND REASON, THIS PAST FEBRUARY, MY OLDEST, OUR OLDEST DAUGHTER MARY, UNDERWENT A CRITICAL PRENATAL STRESS AT 8 MONTHS PREGNANT.

2 WEEKS LATER, WE LAID TO REST THE REMAINS OF HER DAUGHTER NAMED MALIA ELISE BURRELL.

YES, MALIA HAS A NAME, AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO USE IT TO REMEMBER A LIFE WORTHY OF LIFE, EVEN THOUGH IT HAD HARDLY BEGUN.

BUT DEEPLY SEARED ON MY MIND IS MY DEAR MARY'S GRIMACED FACE OF PURE UNDILUTED DISAPPOINTMENT AS SHE WATCHED HER DREAMS, A MOTHER'S DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE, CRUMBLE TO DUST, AND SLIP THROUGH HER HANDS -- TO DUST, AND SLIP THROUGH HER HANDS AS SHE WATCHED THE PINK MINIATURE CASKET LOWERED INTO THE COLD CHICAGO GROUND.

WE WALKED ARM AND ARM AS A FAMILY THAT DAY TO PLACE MALIA IN THE PLACE WHERE SHE WILL AWAIT THE RESURRECTION OF HER GLORIFIED LITTLE BODY.

THOUGH DEATH IS AGAINST US, GOD IS FOR US.

AMEN?

>> AMEN.

>> AND SO WE HOLD ONTO THAT HOPE.

AND THAT'S THE KIND OF WORLD, THE REAL WORLD, IN WHICH WE LIVE AND TO WHICH WE ARE CALLED.

NOW, MALIA'S CAUSE OF DEATH REMAINS A MYSTERY.

THE POINT OF MY SHARING THIS STORY, HOWEVER, IS TO BRING ATTENTION TO A SECOND CAUSE THAT HAS CAUGHT MY VOCATIONAL IMAGINATION: MOTHERS AROUND THE WORLD WHO LOSE CHILDREN TO BEATABLE AND TREATABLE DISEASES, 27,000 TIMES A DAY, A FOOTBALL STADIUM FULL OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

WHAT HAPPENED IN MY FAMILY IS REPEATED IN SIMILAR RITUALS AROUND THE WORLD 38 TIMES A MINUTE.

SOME CHILDREN DIE BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT, OR CLEAN WATER TO DRINK.

BUT MORE DIE FROM DISEASES OF POVERTY, DISEASES LIKE MALARIA AND PNEUMONIA AND DIARRHEA, AND MEASLES, DISEASES THAT DON'T EXIST IN THE DEVELOPED WORLD, AND WHERE THEY DO, THEY ARE HARDLY FATAL, OR RARELY FATAL.

SO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF IS WORKING IN A SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, THE ELCA AND THE LCMS, TO END MALARIA IN THE WORLD BY 2015.

[ APPLAUSE ]

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT VOTE LAST SUMMER AT THE ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY?

YOU HEARD ABOUT THE VOTE?

I MEAN, THE VOTE FOR MALARIA.

989 FOR, 11 AGAINST.

THIS CHURCH IS UNITED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD.

WE'VE ROUNDED UP THE 11 PEOPLE.

WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE.

[ LAUGHTER ]

HOW DO YOU VOTE AGAINST THAT?

BUT CHECK THIS OUT: IN LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD, THEIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECENTLY PASSED A UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION -- THEY DO NOTHING UNANIMOUSLY.

I KNOW, THEY'RE MY CHURCH -- A UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION TO WORK TOGETHER TO END MALARIA.

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE 2 MINUTES TO SEE THE VIDEO ON THE CELEBRATION AND THE JUBILATION AND THE JOY IN 2015 WHEN WE'RE DONE ERADICATING THE THREAT OF MALARIA.

[ VIDEO PLAYING ]

[ APPLAUSE ]

WE ARE BLESSED WITH AN INCREDIBLE THEOLOGICAL TRADITION AS LUTHERANS.

THE BISHOP MENTIONED IT, THIS GRACE THING THAT NORMS AND FORMS

AND SHAPES US, AND, FRANKLY, SHAPES THE WAY WE WORK IN THE WORLD. YOU'LL NOTICE THAT ON ALL OF THESE VIDEOS AND THE MATERIALS PRODUCED, BY LWR AND BY THE ELCA AND THE LCMS, PEOPLE ARE DEPICTED AS PEOPLE CREATED IN THE IMAGE AND THE LIKENESS OF GOD, PEOPLE WHO BEAR THE IMAGE OF GOD WITH DIGNITY.

OFTEN YOU'LL SEE THE WAY PEOPLE ARE DEPICTED IN SOME RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS -- I SHOULDN'T DO THIS, BUT WE CALL IT "RELIEF PORNOGRAPHY."

YOU'VE GOT TO BEWARE OF THAT.

I BELIEVE THERE'S SOMETHING THAT SHAPES OUR THEOLOGY, ACTUALLY THAT'S THEOLOGICALLY SHAPED THAT SHAPES US OUR THEOLOGY, SHAPES US IN SUCH A WAY THAT WHEN WE APPROACH PEOPLE AND WORK WITH PEOPLE, WE REALLY DO IT IN A DISTINCTLY LUTHERAN AND EPISCOPAL AND CATHOLIC WAY.

THEOLOGY IS ABOUT WORDS, ABOUT GOD.

BUT THOSE WHO POSSESS WORDS ABOUT GOD LIKE ELOQUENT PREACHING OR ELEGANT PRAYING OR EVEN EXCELLENT PASTORAL PRACTICE THAT IS NOT OF THE SPIRIT, AND DOES NOT GO INTO THE WORLD.

THOSE WORDS SOUND LIKE, ST. PAUL SAYS, NOISY GONGS OR CLANGING CYMBALS.

MAHATMA GANDHI WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID THAT THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE IN THE WORLD SO HUNGRY THAT GOD CANNOT APPEAR TO THEM EXCEPT IN THE FORM OF BREAD.

IN AN ESSAY TITLED, "THE ONE EUCHARIST FOR THE ONE WORLD," 40 YEARS AGO, A SEMINARY PROFESSOR OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD NAMED ARTHUR CARL PIEPKORN AMAZINGLY PUT IT LIKE THIS.

EXCUSE THE MASCULINE REFERENCES.

40 YEARS AGO:

"THE CHRIST WHO IN HIS LIFETIME MANIFESTED HIMSELF AS THE SWORN ENEMY OF INJUSTICE, OF DISEASE, OF PREJUDICE, OF DISCRIMINATION AND OF EXPLOITATION IS CALLING US TO AN IMITATION OF HIMSELF IN THESE AREAS ALSO.

HE CALLS US TO USE HIS GIFTS OF CREATION WITH REVERENCE AND WITH THE AWARENESS THAT WE HAVE NO MORAL RIGHT TO EXPLOIT THEM AT THE EXPENSE EITHER OF OUR CONTEMPORARIES OR OF THE GENERATION THAT WILL FOLLOW US.

GOD INDEED IS CALLING US INTO THE WORLD, TO BE A PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT, BEEN MADE DIFFERENT, IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

GOD IS CALLING US INTO THE WORLD, AND IT'S NOT OUR JOB TO CHANGE PEOPLE SO THAT GOD CAN ACCEPT THEM.

IT IS OUR JOB TO ACCEPT PEOPLE SO THAT GOD, BY GOD'S GRACE, CAN CHANGE THEM."

HAVE I MENTIONED I HAVE 5 CHILDREN?

A CLOSING STORY, AND I'M DONE.

YOU DON'T NEED TO HOLD ANY OF THOSE NICE THINGS UP ANYMORE.

I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

[ LAUGHTER ]

I'M GOING TO TELL THIS STORY.

MY FAMILY AND I WENT OUT TO A PLACE IN OAK PARK, ILLINOIS, TO HAVE DINNER ONE EVENING.

AND IT WASN'T UNTIL I WAS AN ADULT THAT I COULD ACTUALLY AFFORD BRACES AND ORTHODONTIC DEVICES FOR MY TEETH.

SO I, WHEN I GOT ON THE HEALTH PLAN, SO I GOT BRACES WHEN I WAS IN MY LATE 30s.

AFTER YOU WEAR BRACES, YOU HAVE TO WEAR SOMETHING CALLED A RETAINER.

YOU KNOW THIS THING, OKAY.

SO I ACTUALLY BROUGHT MY RETAINER, BECAUSE IT IS THE COOLEST RETAINER YOU'VE EVER SEEN.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IT, STAN?

IT'S LIME GREEN, AND IT GLOWS IN THE DARK.

I'VE TRIED IT IN MY HOUSE.

[ LAUGHTER ]

AND THERE IT IS.

AND IT COMES IN THIS SWIRLY COOL RETAINER CASE.

AND ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY WHEN WE WERE AT THAT PARTICULAR RESTAURANT, I DIDN'T HAVE MY RETAINER CASE WITH ME.

SO I CAREFULLY TOOK THE RETAINER AND I WRAPPED IT IN A NAPKIN.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

YOU WERE THERE?

I PUT IT OVER ON THE EDGE OF THE TABLE.

WE ATE OUR MEAL, I PAID \$40, AND WE WENT HOME AND I REALIZED I DID NOT HAVE MY \$400 RETAINER WITH ME.

\$400, BY THE WAY, IS MORE MONEY THAN MORE THAN A BILLION PEOPLE ON OUR PLANET MAKE IN A YEAR.

THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY.

THAT MATTERS.

SO I CALLED UP THE RESTAURANT AND I SAID: YOU'VE GOT MY RETAINER.

AND THEY SAID: WE'LL HELP YOU FIND IT, COME QUICKLY.

AND I DID.

AND YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN TROUBLE WHENEVER YOU WALK THROUGH THE DOOR OF A RESTAURANT AND THE GREETER IS THERE WITH RUBBER LATEX GLOVES.

WHENEVER YOU SEE RUBBER LATEX GLOVES, THERE'S TROUBLE.

THAT'S ACTUALLY FUNNY, ISN'T IT?

SO I PUT ON THE GLOVES AND FOLLOWED HER OUT THROUGH THE RESTAURANT OUT THE BACK DOOR OF THE RESTAURANT, INTO THE ALLEY BEHIND THE RESTAURANT, WHERE SHE POINTED AT TWO DUMPSTERS.

AND SAID TO ME: I'M SURE IT'S IN THIS ONE, IN ONE OF THOSE 3 BAGS RIGHT THERE."

AND SO I LEARNED SOME THINGS THAT DAY IN THE ALLEY BEHIND

PETERSON'S ICE CREAM IN OAK PARK, ILLINOIS.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHAT I LEARNED?

I LEARNED AT LEAST THREE THINGS.

FIRST THING I LEARNED IS HOW MUCH A LIME GREEN RETAINER LOOKS LIKE  
LETTUCE.

OH!

[ LAUGHTER ]

SECOND THING I LEARNED IS HOW MUCH FOOD WE WASTE.

I MEAN, AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF FOOD, HARDLY EATEN, ONE BITE TAKEN  
OUT OF IT.

FOOD JUST SITTING THERE.

SOME OF IT TASTED PRETTY GOOD.

[ LAUGHTER ]

GOOD STEWARDSHIP, RIGHT?

BUT THE THIRD AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT I LEARNED IN THE  
DUMPSTER THAT DAY BEHIND PETERSON'S ICE CREAM WAS THE DEGREE  
AND THE DEPTHS TO WHICH PEOPLE WILL GO TO FIND THINGS THAT THEY  
HAVE LOST, MATERIAL THINGS THAT THEY HAVE LOST.

I SPENT 45 MINUTES THAT DAY TO FIND THIS LOST THING.

DINNER AT PETERSON'S, \$40.

A LOST LIME GREEN RETAINER, \$400.

IT'S PREDICTABLE, I'M SORRY.

LOST PEOPLE, PRICELESS TO GOD.

SO MUCH SO THAT GOD BY GOD'S GRACE DID THE ULTIMATE DUMPSTER DIVE  
FOR US AND FOR OUR SALVATION.

THE HYMN WRITER SAYS HE BREATHED FOR US OUR POISONED AIR.  
AND DRANK FOR US OUR DEEP DESPAIR.

THE ONE WHO CAME AND FOUND US WHEN WE COULDN'T FIND OURSELVES.  
AND SO I FOUND MY RETAINER THAT DAY, AND I GAVE IT TO MY WIFE,  
BECAUSE SHE HAS A WAY OF JUST GETTING THINGS CLEAN WITH THESE  
POTIONS SHE CAN CONCOCT, AND SO SHE JUST DID SOME THINGS TO IT, AND  
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE SPIRIT.

AND THAT'S WHAT GOD DID WITH US: FOUND US, WASHED US AND THEN  
SENT US DRIPPING WET INTO THE WORLD TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE  
SAKE OF THOSE WHO ARE LAST IN LIFE.

THE SAKE OF THOSE WHO ARE THE LOST AMONG US, THE SAKE OF THOSE  
WHO ARE THE LEAST OF THESE.

THOSE WHO ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF EVERYBODY'S LISTS.

THOSE WHOM NO ONE BUT GOD CARES ABOUT.

GOD SENT US TO FIND THE LEPROUS ONES, THE LAUGHED-AT ONES, THE  
LEFT-OVER ONES, AND SENT US WITH THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD.

AND THAT'S WHAT YOU DO IN JESUS.

AMEN.

>> AMEN.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> PASTOR.

[ APPLAUSE ]

THANK YOU.

INSTEAD OF PAYING OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER THIS YEAR, WE MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF.

I HOPE YOU KNEW ABOUT THAT.

[ LAUGHTER ]

BUT WHETHER YOU DID OR NOT, YOU'VE ALREADY DONE A GREAT JOB. AND HARD TO TAKE THAT BACK.

SECOND THING, ALL OF OUR OFFERINGS AT THE EUCHARISTS WILL GO TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF.

BUT WE ALSO WANTED YOU TO REMEMBER BEING HERE, SO WE HAVE PURCHASED A GIFT OF CHICKENS IN YOUR HONOR.

>> THANK YOU.

>> AND THOSE WILL BE GIVEN TO SOMEBODY OTHER THAN YOU.

AND THIS IS YOUR OWN LITTLE CHICKEN TO KEEP TO REMEMBER.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH.

THANK YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> DON'T FORGET THAT RETAINER.

THEY HAVE REALLY BIG DUMPSTERS IN CHATTANOOGA.

YOU'D BE HERE FOR A WHILE.

WHERE ARE WE?

OKAY.

THAT WAS TERRIFIC.

THAT THE THIRD TIME THAT I HAVE HEARD PASTOR NUÑES PREACH, OR  
SPEAK.

WELL, WHATEVER HE STARTS OUT DOING, HE ENDS UP PREACHING IN ANY  
CASE.

AND WONDERFUL -- FIND OUT WHERE WE ARE.

WONDERFUL TO HEAR THAT AGAIN, AND INSPIRING STUFF.

I HOPE THAT IT POINTS US TO WHERE WE GO, AS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST,  
WITH OUR MISSION TO SERVE IN ALL THE WORLD IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

I MENTIONED EARLIER THAT THIS YEAR, OUR CHURCH CELEBRATED THE 40th  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN.

>> WOO-HOO!

>> YEAH, LET'S HEAR IT.

LET'S HEAR IT.

AND AS I SAID EARLIER WHEN THAT HAPPENED, GUESS WHAT?

IT WAS CONTROVERSIAL IN THE CHURCH.

I'LL BET THE BISHOPS HAD A HARD TIME THAT YEAR GOING AROUND TO  
CONGREGATIONS AND TELLING PEOPLE: BUT THEY CAN DO IT!

THE SPIRIT DOES THINGS WE'RE NOT NECESSARILY IN FAVOR OF AT THE  
MOMENT.

BUT WE GET THAT WAY.

AND AS OUR PREACHER HAS ILLUSTRATED TO US TODAY, WOMEN CAN

PREACH, YES, THEY CAN.

HISTORY OF ORDINATION OF WOMEN IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA BEGAN ON JUNE THE 29th IN 1970, WHEN THE 5th BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA AMENDED ITS BYLAWS. ONLY FOUR MONTHS LATER, THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 24, 1970, VOTED TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL "THAT WOMEN BE ELIGIBLE FOR CALL AND ORDINATION IN THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH."

THE ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES WROTE ITS CONSTITUTION IN SUCH A WAY THAT WOMEN WERE ELIGIBLE FROM ITS INCEPTION.

THAT CONSTITUTION WAS ADOPTED DECEMBER 3, 1976, AT THE CHURCH'S FOUNDING CONVENTION.

ELIZABETH ALVINA PLATZ WAS THE FIRST WOMAN ORDAINED IN NOVEMBER 1970 IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.

THE ALC ORDAINED BARBARA ANDREWS IN DECEMBER OF THAT SAME YEAR. APPROVAL OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN BY BOTH THE ALC AND THE LCA BODIES WAS, AS I SAID EARLIER, HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL.

I HAVE BEEN READING THE BOOK OF ACTS, AND IT TURNS OUT THAT CONTROVERSY AND THE CHURCH ARE NOT STRANGERS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD, WE HAVE CURRENTLY 51 ORDAINED WOMEN. THE ONE CURRENTLY ON OUR ROSTER WHO HAS BEEN ORDAINED THE

LONGEST IS THE REVEREND MYRNA KYSAR, WHO IS NOT ABLE TO BE WITH US THIS WEEK.

SHE WAS ORDAINED IN 1978.

AND THE SECOND LONGEST IS THE REVEREND DR. EVON FLESBERG -- SAYS HERE "FELSBERG," BUT I KNOW THAT'S NOT RIGHT -- WHO WAS ORDAINED IN 1981, 11 YEARS AFTER THE FIRST.

SHE'S SERVING AS OUR ASSEMBLY CHAPLAIN.

THE MOST RECENTLY ORDAINED WOMAN IN OUR SYNOD IS THE PASTOR PAULINE PEZZINO ON OUR WORSHIP TEAM, WHO WILL BE OUR CELEBRANT ON SUNDAY.

AS OF LAST YEAR, THERE WERE MORE THAN 17,600 ORDAINED CLERGY IN THE ELCA.

ABOUT 20% OF THOSE WERE WOMEN.

OF THE TOTAL ELCA ROSTER, WHICH INCLUDES ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY, DEACONESSES AND DIACONAL MINISTERS AND CLERGY, 31.2% ARE WOMEN. AND SEMINARIES, THE NUMBERS OF WOMEN AND MEN PREPARING FOR MINISTRY ARE NEARLY EQUAL THESE DAYS.

ABOUT 86% OF ORDAINED WOMEN AND 83% OF ORDAINED MEN ARE ACTIVELY SERVING IN CONGREGATIONS.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS COMPILED BY THE WOMEN'S DESK OF THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION, APPROXIMATELY 2/3 OF THE 140 MEMBERS OF THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION ORDAIN WOMEN TODAY.

AT THIS TIME, I THINK WE OUGHT TO ASK ALL OF THOSE ROSTERED WOMEN

IN THE ELCA SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD WHO ARE IN THIS ROOM TO STAND UP  
AND LET'S RECOGNIZE THEM.

[ APPLAUSE ]

THANK YOU.

I JUST GOT A NOTE THAT SAYS: I BELIEVE MARCIA SCHULTZ WAS ORDAINED  
AFTER PAULINE PEZZINO.

I DID BOTH THOSE ORDINATIONS, I DON'T REMEMBER.

BUT WHEN WERE YOU ORDAINED, MARCIA?

DO YOU REMEMBER?

DECEMBER.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, PAULINE?

>> JULY.

>> OH, YES, MARCIA, YOU ARE --

[ APPLAUSE ]

SEE, THAT'S WHY WE HAVE A SYNOD STAFF.

SO YOU REALLY NEED TO CONTRIBUTE TO MISSION SUPPORT SO WE CAN  
KEEP THE SYNOD STAFF, OR YOU'LL BE DEPENDING ON ME.

[ APPLAUSE ]

WE WANT TO NOW RECOGNIZE ROSTERED PERSONS WHO HAVE RETIRED  
SINCE OUR LAST SYNOD ASSEMBLY.

ALTHOUGH MANY ARE ACTUALLY VERY ACTIVE IN MINISTRY STILL.

AS SOMEONE POINTED OUT EARLIER, YOU DON'T RETIRE, YOU JUST CHANGE  
JOBS SLIGHTLY.

SOME SERVE AS INTERIM AND SUPPLY PASTORS ACROSS THE SYNOD, AND OTHERS ARE DEANS AND SERVE IN OTHER WAYS, SO I WANT TO -- I'LL ASK ALL OF THESE FOLKS TO EITHER STAND OR WAVE YOUR GREEN CARD IF YOU PREFER NOT TO STAND.

THEN WHEN EVERYONE HAS BEEN NAMED WE WILL SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE YEARS OF WORK OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

PASTOR PAUL HANSON, PASTOR SANDRA JOHNSON.

SANDY JOHNSON.

SOME OF THESE PEOPLE ARE CELEBRATING THEIR RETIREMENT BY NOT COMING TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY.

[ LAUGHTER ]

I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

PASTOR MIKE LEMKE.

PASTOR MIKE McCORMACK.

PASTOR GEORGE COLONEL BUD ONSTAD.

I KNOW HE'S HERE.

YES.

PASTOR JERRY TROUTMAN.

WHERE IS JERRY?

THERE HE IS IN THE BACK.

JERRY.

PASTOR LARRY WARREN.

AND PASTOR JERRY WEEKS.

I KNOW HE'S HERE BECAUSE HE WAS -- SERVED AS ASSISTANT MINISTER  
TODAY.

THANK YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR THESE WHO HAVE RETIRED WITHIN THE LAST  
YEAR.

[ APPLAUSE ]

AND AS I SAID, SOME OF THEM HAVEN'T RETIRED VERY WELL, THEY'RE STILL  
WORKING VERY HARD.

NOW WE WANT TO GREET PEOPLE WHO ARE NEW TO OUR SYNOD IN THE  
LAST YEAR, PEOPLE WHO ARE -- SOME ARE IN FIRST CALLS.

WE'LL ALSO INTRODUCE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO US WHO ARE  
AWAITING CALL.

SO IF YOU WOULD STAND OR WAVE YOUR GREEN VOTING CARD WHEN YOUR  
NAME IS MENTIONED.

AND IF YOU DON'T MIND WAITING TILL EVERYBODY STANDS UP, WE WILL  
APPLAUD AT ONE TIME.

JUSTIN ASK WHO'S THE FIRST CALL PASTOR ASSOCIATE AT GOOD SHEPHERD,  
WOODSTOCK, GEORGIA.

PASTOR JOHN BARICHIVICH, FIRST CALL PASTOR AT JERUSALEM CHURCH IN  
RINCON, GEORGIA.

PASTOR LINDA BOSTON WHO IS PASTOR AT TRINITY IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

PASTOR DARIN EASLER, WHO JUST TRANSFERRED TO OUR SYNOD FROM

SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA, SPIRITUAL CARE AND BEREAVEMENT  
COORDINATOR, HEARTLAND HOSPICE SERVICES IN CONYERS, GEORGIA.  
FIRST CALL PASTOR PHIL HARKEY, PASTOR OF HOLY TRINITY IN ELBERTON,  
GEORGIA.

PASTOR RALPH KIRKPATRICK, PASTOR AT PEACE IN KNOXVILLE, GEORGIA.  
WELCOME.

PASTOR BARBARA KOCH, FIRST CALL PASTOR OF ZION IN GUYTON.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT BARBARA AND CAN'T SAY HER NAME RIGHT.

PASTOR LAKE LAMBERT WHO I THINK IS NOT HERE.

AN ALUMNUS OF MERCER UNIVERSITY, THAT DIACONAL MINISTER HAS JUST  
BEEN APPOINTED OF WARTBURG COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS, THAT SCHOOL  
THAT GAVE ME MY UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE.

TIMOTHY LANDRUM.

PASTOR LANDRUM IS PASTOR OF NATIVITY IN BRANDON, MISSISSIPPI.

I'VE ALREADY MENTIONED ERRONEOUSLY, GIVEN HER ORDINATION DATE,  
PASTOR PAULINE PEZZINO AT RESURRECTION.

ANOTHER FIRST CALL PASTOR, MARCIA SHUMATE-SCHULTZ OF BETHEL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI.

PASTOR TIM SMITH, THE NEW SENIOR PASTOR AT REDEEMER IN ATLANTA,  
GEORGIA, WAY BACK THERE IN THE BACK.

PASTOR HARRY TEDROW, FIRST CALL PASTOR, MT. ZION ST. LUKE IN  
OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA.

AND PASTOR ELDON THUROW.

I'M NOT SURE IF HE'S HERE OR NOT.

THERE HE IS.

HE'S BEEN WORKING AROUND HERE.

IT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER, BUT HE'S NEW TO OUR SYNOD, RECENTLY TRANSFERRED HERE, SERVING AS TRANSITION PASTOR AT CHRISTUS VICTOR IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI.

PASTOR OTTO WOOD, WHO IS THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR AT ST. MARK IN HUNTSVILLE.

OKAY, THOSE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NEW TO OUR SYNOD.

WELCOME, FOLKS.

THIS JUST IN.

I MEAN, BRAND NEW HERE.

PASTOR VERA JOHNSON, WHO HAS JUST ACCEPTED A CALL.

WHERE IS SHE?

THERE SHE IS IN THE BACK.

PASTOR VERA JOHNSON AT ALL SAINTS IN LILBURN, GEORGIA.

NEW TO OUR SYNOD.

WE ALSO HAVE NEW SEMINARY GRADUATES WHO ARE ASSIGNED TO OUR SYNOD.

WE HAVE SEVERAL OF THOSE.

AND I'LL ASK YOU PLEASE TO STAND AND WE WILL APPLAUD FOR YOU AFTER EVERYONE HAS BEEN INTRODUCED.

JOY BLALOCK, WHO'S FINISHED UP HER REQUIREMENTS AT LUTHERAN

THEOLOGICAL SOUTHERN SEMINARY.

THERE SHE IS.

OH, YES.

KRISTI KLEINBECK, WHO'S NOT WITH US, FROM YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL AND  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT CHICAGO.

WORKS ON THE CHURCHWIDE OFFICE STAFF.

IRK LUEDTKE, WHO JUST GRADUATED FROM PACIFIC LUTHERAN  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

SEYWARD MATTSON IS HERE FROM LUTHER SEMINARY.

SHE'S IN THE BACK THERE.

AND TRINA PETERSON, RECENTLY GRADUATE OF ITC WITH TIME AT  
LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SOUTHERN SEMINARY.

BEVERLY BROWN SHAW, WHO'S THE TIMEKEEPER, WHO ALSO DITTO FROM  
ITC AND LTSS.

AND MR. JOHN TIRRO FROM LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL OF CHICAGO  
AND ALSO YALE UNIVERSITY, AND YOU MET JOHN EARLIER JOHN IS IN THE  
BACK BACK THERE.

THESE ARE ALL ASSIGNED TO OUR SYNOD.

ALSO ASSIGNED TO THE SYNOD, AND NOT RECENT SEMINARY GRADUATES  
BUT FOLKS ORDAINED IN ANOTHER TRADITION OR APPROVED FOR  
REINSTATEMENT IN OUR SYNOD ARE:

SUNG BAE HAN.

PASTOR RON BONNER.

FRANK WAUGH.

LESLIE WILDER.

AND KENT LEWIS.

DR. KENT LEWIS, ALSO NEW TO OUR SYNOD.

SO WE PLEASE SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION FOR ALL OF THEM.

[ APPLAUSE ]

AND THE OMISSIONS KEEP PILING UP HERE.

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID, MISSION SUPPORT, WE HAVE TO KEEP STAFF  
AROUND.

MATT STEINHAUER.

HOW DID I FORGET MATT?

MATT STEINHAUER.

[ APPLAUSE ]

MATT HAD PASTOR MORGAN GORDY AS HIS INTERN SUPERVISOR SO I  
SHOULDN'T HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT.

ALL THE THINGS I HEARD ABOUT HIM EVERY NIGHT?

NO, THAT'S JUST --

[ LAUGHTER ]

THAT'S A JOKE, OKAY.

NOW WE WANT TO RECOGNIZE SOME FOLKS WHO HAVE SERVED OUR SYNOD  
AS DEANS WHO ARE OUTGOING DEANS, AND IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE HERE, I  
WANT YOU TO PLEASE STAND, IF YOU CAN, AND WE'LL GIVE A BIG THANKS TO  
YOU.

FIRST IS PASTOR JASON TALSNESS, PASTOR OF AMAZING GRACE IN  
LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA.

THERE HE IS STANDING IN THE BACK.

KEEP STANDING.

AND DAVID KEENER, PASTOR OF CHRIST THE KING IN EVANS, GEORGIA, WHO I  
THINK IS ATTENDING A FAMILY FUNCTION THIS WEEKEND AND PASTOR FRED  
KRAUTWURST FROM WOODSTOCK, GEORGIA.

I WANT TO MENTION THAT FRED SERVED THE SYNOD AS A DEAN FOR OVER 30  
YEARS BEFORE RETIRING.

THANK YOU ALL.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

FRED, I'VE NEVER HAD THE ATTENTION SPAN TO DO ANYTHING FOR 30  
YEARS.

SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WE WANT TO RECOGNIZE OUR OUTGOING SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND  
SINCE THEY'RE RESTRUCTURING THAT'S PRETTY MUCH ALL OF OUR SYNOD  
COUNCIL MEMBERS.

SO IF YOU'RE SERVING ON SYNOD COUNCIL AND ARE GOING OFF SYNOD  
COUNCIL, WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND.

SO THAT WE CAN RECOGNIZE THE WORK THAT YOU'VE DONE ON SYNOD  
COUNCIL.

THEY'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE.

AND THANK THEM, PLEASE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

I WANTED TO ESPECIALLY THANK OUR OUTGOING SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBER MARY KAY MOORE WHO IS MOVING TO MICHIGAN AND WHO DELAYED HER MOVE TO MICHIGAN TO FINISH OUT HER TERM AS A SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBER HERE.

SHE'S DONE WONDERFUL SERVICE AS HAVE THEY HAVE.

FINALLY WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE OUTGOING SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT MR. WES CRENSHAW.

8 YEARS OF SERVICE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

WE HAVE COME TO VERY MUCH APPRECIATE WES'S CALM LEADERSHIP, HIS INTENSE DEDICATION TO THIS SYNOD, AND HIS DRY WIT WHICH HAS BEEN TURNED ON EVERYBODY IN THE ROOM AT ONE POINT OR ANOTHER.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, WES.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE IT.

YES, WHAT ABOUT HIS PLAQUE?

THAT WASN'T WRITTEN HERE.

[ LAUGHTER ]

>> I'M SORRY, IT IS WRITTEN THERE.

>> OH, IT IS WRITTEN THERE.

I COULDN'T READ IT.

WES, HERE YOU GO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

WE WANT TO MOVE NOW TO SOME VERY SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS.

LET ME JUST TELL YOU THAT IT LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT BE GOING OVER BY ABOUT 10 MINUTES, IF THE ASSEMBLY WILL INDULGE THAT.

WE BEGIN BY RECOGNIZING ROSTERED PERSONS ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATIONS AND COMMISSIONINGS.

AND CONSECRATIONS, THERE ARE NO CONSECRATIONS THIS YEAR I THINK. THESE RECOGNITIONS ARE IN 5-YEAR INCREMENTS.

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE IF YOUR ANNIVERSARY WILL BE RECOGNIZED THIS YEAR, LOOK AT TAB B, PAGE 6 IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS AND SEE IF YOUR NAME IS IN THE BOOK.

TO HELP THESE RECOGNITIONS GO SMOOTHLY, IF YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE RECOGNIZED, LIKE, AHEAD OF TIME, IT WOULD BE REALLY GOOD TO GO AHEAD AND MOVE FORWARD TO THE AREA OVER HERE WHERE ELAINE IS STANDING.

SHE WILL HELP ORGANIZE THE LINE SO WE CAN MOVE THROUGH THE RECOGNITIONS IN A TIMELY MANNER.

WE'LL CALL THE NAMES IN GROUPS, ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ROSTERED FOR 5 YEARS AND THEN 10 YEARS AND SO FORTH.

YOU GOT THAT?

PASTOR NANCY CHRISTENSEN WILL CALL THE NAMES IN A GROUP, ONE GROUP AT A TIME.

ONCE EVERYBODY IN THAT CLASS HAS COME UP, WE'LL PAUSE JUST A MINUTE TO TAKE A GROUP PHOTO.

IF FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WANT TO COME FORWARD TO TAKE A GROUP PHOTO AS WELL, YOU COME ON UP WHEN THE PERSON COMES UP AND GET IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AISLE THERE.

THEN WE'LL MOVE TO THE NEXT GROUP.

ELAINE TELLS ME I HAVE TO MAKE AN OFFER AGAIN THIS YEAR THAT IF YOU REALLY WANT AN INDIVIDUAL PHOTO WITH THE BISHOP, IF, SAY, YOU'VE BEEN HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE FLEA BEATLES IN YOUR GARDEN, I'LL BE GLAD TO DO THOSE AFTER THE PLENARY SESSION HAS ENDED.

JUST MEET ME UP HERE AND WE'LL DO THAT.

IN ADDITION TO THE RECOGNITIONS, THOSE CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OR MORE WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE.

PASTOR BEVERLY WALLACE AND PASTOR DELMER CHILTON -- LOOK AT THESE 5 YEAR PEOPLE.

THEY'RE EAGER -- THEY HAVE THOSE CERTIFICATES SOMEWHERE.

THERE, RIGHT HERE.

SO DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR CERTIFICATE IF IT'S 25 YEARS OR MORE. AND IF YOU CAN'T COME FORWARD, WAVE YOUR VOTING CARD, OR PIECE OF PAPER, WHEN YOUR NAME IS ANNOUNCED, AND PASTOR DARREL PETERSON WILL MAKE SURE THAT HE'LL BE LOOKING FOR THE GREEN CARDS AND MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET YOUR CERTIFICATE.

AND IF YOU ARE HERE TO PICK UP A CERTIFICATE FOR SOMEONE WHO'S NOT

HERE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO SO AT THE TIME.

AGAIN, IF YOU'RE NOT SURE, LOOK AT TAB B, PAGE 6, IN THE ASSEMBLY MATERIALS, AND BE READY WHEN YOUR NAME IS MENTIONED.

LET ME ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE KNOW THAT SOME OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE ALSO BEEN ROSTERED IN OTHER DENOMINATIONS BEFORE THEY WERE IN THE ELCA.

SO WHEN I ANNOUNCE THE YEARS OF MINISTRY, THOSE ARE YEARS OF MINISTRY IN THIS CHURCH, NOT TOTAL YEARS OF MINISTRY.

PASTOR CHRISTENSEN.

>> CELEBRATING 5 YEARS:

SISTER SYLVIA COUNTESS.

PASTOR PAUL ELBERT.

PASTOR ROBERT HARRELL III.

PASTOR MICHELLE KUHLMAN.

ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY LINDA LARSON.

MS. PAULA SMITH.

AND PASTOR JENNIFER WEETMAN.

5 YEARS OF SERVICE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE:

PASTOR WILLIAM BENEDICT.

PASTOR CONNIE BRAMLETT.

PASTOR AMY FIGG.

PASTOR PATRICK FINLEY.

AND PASTOR EDWARD MEYERS.

[ APPLAUSE ]

THAT'S LITTLE EDDIE TO ME.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF MINISTRY:

PASTOR TERRELL FUGATE.

PASTOR JILL HENNING.

PASTOR MATT HENNING.

PASTOR ERIC MURRAY.

PASTOR MIN CHAN PARK.

PASTOR DONALD VOLLENWEIDER.

15 YEARS OF MINISTRY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF MINISTRY:

PASTOR WILLIAM BEHREND.

PASTOR KATHERINE PASCH.

PASTOR JENNIFER VENABLE.

20 YEARS OF MINISTRY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY:

PASTOR JAMES BRASWELL.

PASTOR STEPHEN DAMOS.

PASTOR DELORES DONNELLY.

PASTOR HOWARD EDWARDS.

ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY, JAMES FALLER.

BISHOP JULIAN GORDY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

PASTOR RICHARD JOHNSTON.

PASTOR DAVID KEENER.

PASTOR SUSAN SPRINGER.

PASTOR PHOTOGRAPHER CRAIG STORLIE.

[ APPLAUSE ]

PASTOR WILLIAM WHITE.

25 YEARS OF MINISTRY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF MINISTRY:

PASTOR DANIEL DAHL.

ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY, VIRGINIA KNUEPPEL.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A PERSONAL STATEMENT ABOUT THIS ONE: THIS IS MY BEAUTIFUL MOTHER.

AND UNTIL 30 YEARS AGO, ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY WERE NOT ROSTERED IN THIS CHURCH.

VIRGINIA KNUEPPEL HAS BEEN SERVING SINCE 1960.

SHE IS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN THIS CHURCH.

[ APPLAUSE ]

SHE'S IN THE VERY BACK.

I LOVE YOU, MOM.

PASTOR MARVIN LLEWELLYN.

I DIDN'T KNOW HIS NAME WAS MARVIN.

[ LAUGHTER ]

WE ALL THOUGHT IT WAS LARRY.

PASTOR DALE SILLIK.

PASTOR GARY SOOP.

PASTOR DAVID THORESON.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF MINISTRY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF MINISTRY:

PASTOR DAVID HENDRIX.

PASTOR GREGG KAUFMAN.

PASTOR GILBERT ROTH.

PASTOR THOMAS SMITH.

35 YEARS OF MINISTRY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY:

PASTOR JAMES CLARK.

PASTOR CHRISTIAN HANSEN.

PASTOR BRIAN JONES.

PASTOR ROBERT MAIER.

PASTOR DARREL PETERSON.

PASTOR GORDON REINERTSEN.

PASTOR HACO VAN HACKE.

40 YEARS OF MINISTRY.

45 YEARS OF MINISTRY.

PASTOR WILLIAM BOYS.

PASTOR HARRY CARLSEN JR.

PASTOR PAUL FRANK.

45 YEARS OF MINISTRY.

[ APPLAUSE ]

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY:

PASTOR PAULWYN BOLIEK.

PASTOR CARL FICKEN.

PASTOR RICHARD McLEROY.

AND BISHOP GERALD TROUTMAN.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> YEAH, I JUST WANTED TO SAY A COUPLE THINGS HERE ABOUT THIS GUY.

THAT LIST OF 50-YEAR PASTORS CONTAINED THREE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT IN MY FORMATION AS A PASTOR AND A PERSON.

THEY DON'T GET ANY BLAME, JUST MAYBE SOME CREDIT.

ONE OF THEM IS PASTOR PAULWYN BOLIEK, WHO WAS MY PASTOR WHEN I DECIDED THAT MAYBE GOD WAS CALLING ME TO SEMINARY.

HE'S HAD THE GOOD SENSE FOR YEARS NOT TO COME TO SYNOD

ASSEMBLIES AFTER RETIREMENT.

THE OTHER IS PASTOR CARL FICKEN.

DR. FICKEN WAS AN IMPORTANT SEMINARY PROFESSOR FOR ME.

AND ALSO THE MAN WHO ORDAINED ME 25 YEARS AGO, I TOLD BISHOP TROUTMAN THAT HE'S BEEN ORDAINED FOR 50 YEARS.

I'VE BEEN ORDAINED NOW FOR 25.

I ALWAYS KNEW THAT I WAS ONLY HALF THE MAN HE IS.

[ LAUGHTER ]

CONGRATULATIONS.

>> WONDERFUL.

I THINK I DONE GOOD, BISHOP, WITH YOU.

THANK YOU.

AND IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL 50 YEARS, AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY, AND GOD HAS LED ME SO FAR, AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT.

AND THEN, ALSO, MY DAD WAS A PASTOR.

I REMEMBER HIM, AND MY WIFE AND FAMILY.

BUT SOMEONE THAT STANDS OUT AND THE CHURCH CONGREGATION THAT STANDS OUT -- DO WE HAVE ANYONE HERE FROM ST. JOHN'S IN KNOXVILLE? WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND.

ST. JOHN'S IN KNOXVILLE.

THERE THEY ARE IN THE VERY REAR.

BACK WHEN I WENT TO SEMINARY, IT TOOK US 3 YEARS RATHER THAN 4.

WE DIDN'T HAVE INTERNSHIPS, BUT WE WERE EXPERIMENTING WITH IT.

AND IT WAS ONE PLACE OPENED THAT SAID, "WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO GO TO ST. JOHN'S KNOXVILLE AND WORK WITH PASTOR LEMUEL SPARKS?"

I SAID, "I'VE NEVER BEEN TO KNOXVILLE I'D LIKE TO DO THAT."

IT WAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE.

PASTOR SPARKS, AFTER WORKING WITH HIM AND MY DAD AND OTHERS, I KNEW THIS WAS IT.

SO 50 YEARS LATER, THANK YOU.

[ APPLAUSE ]

>> THAT JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU, YOU COME TO THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD, YOU'LL NEVER GO BACK TO NORTH CAROLINA.

[ LAUGHTER ]

WE HAVE SOME FOLKS WHO ARE NOT WITH US, BUT WE HAVE THREE PEOPLE WHO ARE CELEBRATING LONGER THAN 50 YEARS.

55 YEARS, PASTOR KARL SUHR AND PASTOR BILL RIZER, AND 65 YEARS, PASTOR DAVID CONRAD.

SO THOSE ARE ALSO.

[ APPLAUSE ]

I DON'T KNOW WHO DOES THIS EVERY YEAR BUT I APPRECIATE IT, THAT A TOTAL OF 1620 YEARS IN ROSTERED MINISTRY WE'VE JUST RECOGNIZED THERE.

1620 YEARS.

FOLLOWING THIS PLENARY SESSION IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CONFERENCES TO MEET AND CAUCUS.

YOU WILL NOTE THAT VOTING MEMBERS HAVE THEIR CONFERENCE NUMBER NOTED ON THEIR NAMETAG.

ON THE WALLS AROUND THE HALL, YOU WILL SEE SIGNS WITH NUMBERS FOR EACH OF THE 9 CONFERENCES.

ISN'T THAT CONVENIENT?

PLEASE GATHER AT THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS PLENARY SESSION FOR YOUR CONFERENCE CAUCUS.

IF YOUR CONFERENCE HAS NOT ELECTED A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SYNOD COUNCIL, PLEASE DO SO AND TURN THAT INFORMATION IN TO THE ASSEMBLY OFFICE BY 5:00 TODAY.

NOW IS IT TIME?

IT'S PAST TIME.

I NOW TURN THE MICROPHONE OVER TO VICE PRESIDENT WES CRENSHAW, WHO HAS THE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY.

MR. CRENSHAW.

>> GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE, OR AFTERNOON.

DINNER TONIGHT IS ON YOUR OWN.

THE CONVENTION CENTER IS PROVIDING A CASH BUFFET HERE IN THE AREA RIGHT OUTSIDE THE PLENARY HALL.

THE BUFFET WILL FEATURE SALAD BAR, TURKEY SOUP, PIZZA AND A BEVERAGE FOR ONLY \$7.50.

THERE'S ALSO A RESTAURANT HERE IN THE CHATTANOOGA MARRIOTT CONNECTED TO THE CONVENTION CENTER, AND DON'T FORGET THE CITY

CAFE DINER ATTACHED TO THE DAYS INN RIVERGATE ACROSS THE STREET.  
THE CHATTANOOGA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU HAVE PROVIDED  
MAPS AND COUPONS FOR OTHER NEARBY RESTAURANTS.

IF YOU DID NOT GET A MAP EARLIER, THEY'RE AVAILABLE AT THE  
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU TABLE OR AT THE INFORMATION BOOTH.  
THERE'S ALSO AN ELECTRIC SHUTTLE THAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO GET  
AROUND DOWNTOWN CHATTANOOGA.

HERE IS THE BEST NEWS: YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY.  
IT'S FREE.

ELECTRIC BUSES RUN DAILY ABOUT EVERY 5 MINUTES.

THERE'S A STOP JUST OUTSIDE THE CHATTANOOGA MARRIOTT NEAR THE  
FRONT DESK.

THE SHUTTLE GIVES YOU CONVENIENT ACCESS SHOPPING IN THE  
DOWNTOWN AREA.

ALL SHUTTLE BUSES ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.

WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO DO FOR DINNER, REMEMBER FROM 7:30  
TONIGHT TO 9:30 TONIGHT IS THE BISHOP'S RECEPTION RIGHT HERE IN THE  
CONVENTION CENTER.

THERE WILL BE TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP AND NETWORKING WITH OUR  
MINISTRY EXHIBITORS.

THAT'S 7:30 TO 9:30 RIGHT HERE IN THE CONVENTION CENTER IN THE AREA  
WHERE OUR MINISTRY EXHIBITORS ARE SET UP.

GLOBAL MISSION BREAKFAST TOMORROW AT 7:00 A.M. THE SOUTHEASTERN

SYNOD GLOBAL MISSION TEAM IS SPONSORING A PLATED BREAKFAST FOR ASSEMBLY ATTENDEES TO HEAR THE LATEST ON GLOBAL MISSION EFFORTS. THE SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE SALLY KEE, WIFE OF BISHOP TERRY KEE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE, AND THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION REGIONAL EXPRESSION COORDINATOR FOR ASIA.

THE COST TO ATTEND THIS BREAKFAST IS AN ADDITIONAL \$15 PER PERSON. THERE ARE A FEW TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING TICKETS FOR THE BREAKFAST, PLEASE GO TO THE GLOBAL MISSION EXHIBIT TABLE TONIGHT DURING THE RECEPTION.

ALSO, IF ANY OF YOU BROUGHT THEOLOGY BOOKS, IF YOU BROUGHT THEOLOGY BOOKS TO DONATE TO THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE, THE KIND PEOPLE AT THE GLOBAL MISSION TABLE WILL TAKE THEM.

IF YOU WILL NOT BE PARTAKING OF THE GLOBAL MISSION BREAKFAST TOMORROW, THERE IS A LIGHT CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST PROVIDED FOR ASSEMBLY ATTENDEES FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 A.M. IN THE MAIN CORRIDOR.

MORE SUBSTANTIAL BREAKFAST FARE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

I REMIND YOU OF TODAY'S DEADLINES, A 5:00 P.M. BIOGRAPHICAL FORMS -- AT 5:00 P.M., BIOGRAPHICAL FORMS FOR FLOOR NOMINEES ARE DUE AND AT 7:30 P.M., EN BLOC SEPARATION NOTICES ARE DUE.

BOTH OF THESE SHOULD BE TURNED INTO THE ASSEMBLY OFFICE AND THE ASSEMBLY OFFICE IS LOCATED IN MEETING ROOM 8.

WORKSHOP SESSION A IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY FROM 5:00 TO 5:45 P.M.

PLEASE SEE AT PAGE A-7 IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS FOR WORKSHOP LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS. DURING WORKSHOP SESSION A, THE LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF WORKSHOP HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

HOWEVER, THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE HAS AGREED TO OFFER THEIR WORKSHOP TODAY AS WELL AS SUNDAY.

YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISASTER RESPONSE WORKSHOP ON PAGE A-9.

SO THIS AFTERNOON, THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE WORKSHOP IS BEING HELD IN MEETING ROOM-E.

FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE RUNNING FOR VICE PRESIDENT, HERE'S AN IMPORTANT REMINDER: NOMINEES FOR VICE PRESIDENT, PLEASE MEET AT THE FRONT OF THE DAIS AS SOON AS RECESS IS CALLED FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SPEECH TOMORROW.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

>> THIS NEXT OMISSION I ACTUALLY REMEMBERED MYSELF.

I'M NOT SURE HOW IT WAS OMITTED FROM OUR LIST OF NEW TO THE SYNOD, MAINLY HE'S BEEN AROUND FOR A WHILE, BUT IS NEW ON THE ROSTERS OF THE CLERGY IN OUR SYNOD.

THAT'S PASTOR WILL ROGERS, WHO'S SITTING OVER HERE.

HE WAS THE GUY LEADING THE AMENS EARLIER.

HE'S THE REDEVELOPER AT CHRIST THE KING IN TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI.

[ APPLAUSE ]

WHEN HE WAS INSTALLED THERE, I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WAS THE LARGEST ECUMENICAL DELEGATION THAT ANYBODY IN THIS SYNOD HAS EVER SEEN AT ANYTHING.

WILL IS A NATIVE OF MISSISSIPPI, AND KNOWS EVERYBODY IN THE STATE.

SO WELCOME.

WE'RE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE.

I NOW CALL UPON CHAPLAIN EVON FLESBERG.

>> A PRAYER FOR THE HEALTH OF BODY AND SOUL FROM THE ELW, PAGE 84.

LET US PRAY.

BY YOUR POWER, GREAT GOD, OUR LORD JESUS HEALED THE SICK AND GAVE NEW HOPE TO THE HOPELESS.

THOUGH WE CANNOT COMMAND OR POSSESS YOUR POWER, WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO BE HEALED.

MEND THEIR WOUNDS.

SOOTHE FEVERED BROWS AND MAKE BROKEN PEOPLE WHOLE AGAIN.

HELP US TO WELCOME EVERY HEALING AS A SIGN THAT THOUGH DEATH IS AGAINST US, YOU ARE FOR US AND HAVE PROMISED RENEWED AND RISEN LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST THE LORD.

AMEN.

>> AMEN

>> THE ASSEMBLY IS IN RECESS UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING AT 8:30.

[ END OF PLENARY ONE ]

\* \* \* \* \*

Though this is being provided in a finalized format, Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

\* \* \* \* \*