

2010 ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY
Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga, Tennessee
FOURTH PLENARY SESSION
Sunday, June 6, 2010
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>> GOOD MORNING.

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

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE A-6 IN YOUR MATERIALS.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT THIS MORNING, I FELT LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW, A MULE WHO HAD BEEN PLOWING HARD ALL DAY AND HAS SEEN THE BARN.

[LAUGHTER]

SO WE HAVE WORK YET TO DO BUT WE HAVE ALMOST COME TO THE END OF OUR TIME TOGETHER.

AND WE CALL ON OUR CHAPLAIN, PASTOR EVON FLESBERG, TO BRING US OUR OPENING PRAYER.

>> A BREATH TOGETHER, THINKING ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE COMING AND GOING, BUT LET'S JUST CENTER IN FOR A MINUTE.

MY LAST SLIDE IS THE AMERICAN RED CROSS SLIDE: TURN

HEARTBREAK INTO HOPE.

TURN HEARTBREAK INTO HOPE.

AS WE IN NASHVILLE WERE FLOODED OUT, SEEING THAT SIGN WAS A JOYOUS FEELING.

AND I JUST KNOW THAT MANY PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, WHEN THEY SEE THAT RED CROSS, DON'T FEEL ANYTHING BUT GLADNESS. SOME OF YOU IN THIS CONGREGATION MIGHT KNOW THE SOURCE OF THIS STORY I'M GOING TO TELL, AND IF YOU DO, PLEASE TELL ME.

I WANT TO GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.

I WAS READING ABOUT FINDING HOPE, AND THE AUTHOR TOLD A STORY THAT WHEN A SHIP IS DAMAGED, IT IS LASHED TO A WHOLE SHIP TO KEEP IT FROM CRASHING ONTO THE SHORE.

THERE ARE SOME OF US IN THIS COMMUNITY WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED SPECIFICALLY TO BE THOSE WHO COME ALONGSIDE THOSE IN DEEP PAIN AND HURT.

WE ARE YOUR CHAPLAINS FROM NURSING HOMES TO PRISONS, TO CARE CENTERS.

WE ARE YOUR MILITARY CHAPLAINS.

WE ARE YOUR PASTORAL COUNSELORS.

WE ARE YOUR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO TRAIN THOSE WHO ARE IN THE FIELD AS PRACTICAL THEOLOGIANS, CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATORS.

WE'VE TAKEN YEARS OF ADDITIONAL EDUCATION, SUPERVISION AND TRAINING TO BE HERE, TO BE YOUR RESOURCE.

AND THERE'S A SHORTAGE OF US, SO IF YOU ARE A CLERGY PERSON WHO THINKS YOU ARE IN EXCESS, COME AND TALK TO ME.

AND NOT ONLY ARE WE AS CLERGY TRAINED TO DO THAT ON BEHALF OF THE CHURCH, WE'RE TRAINED TO TRAIN YOU TO BE THOSE WHO COME ALONGSIDE THOSE WHO ARE HURTING AND TURN HEARTBREAK INTO HOPE.

IT IS, IN FACT, THE JOB OF ALL THE BAPTIZED TO BE MESSENGERS OF HOPE IN THE WORLD, TO BE THE BEARERS OF THE GRACE OF CHRIST THAT DOES NOT DISAPPOINT.

WE ARE THE AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST INTO ALL THE WORLD, AND THE WORLD IS YEARNING AS WE HAVE HEARD OVER AND OVER AGAIN THIS WEEKEND, FOR HOPE.

BUT WROTE YOU KNOW WHAT?

WE CAN'T RUN ON EMPTY SO WHEN WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD WE NEED TO COME BACK AND WORSHIP AND BE FED, AND GO DEEP INTO THE WORD, AND THEN GO BACK OUT.

TO HAVE THE COMMUNITY BLESS US AND SUPPORT US.

I WAS MINDFUL OF THAT YESTERDAY.

SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN TO HAITI AS A SUPPORT PERSON, AS A PERSON ENGAGED IN THE WORK, THE TRAUMA THAT COMES FROM BEING IN THE MIDST OF IT, WE NEED TO SUPPORT AND HEAL AND UPLIFT.

WE NEED TO LEARN FROM OTHERS WHO ARE INSPIRING.

HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE SEEN THE MOVIE: THE BLINDSIDE?

OKAY, THERE'S SOMETHING GOOD AND INSPIRING AND EMPOWERING UPON SEEING SOMEONE WHO WALKS OUT IN FAITH AND DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE.

THERE'S ANOTHER BOOK I COMMEND, A BOOK CALLED "HAVE A LITTLE FAITH."

A STORY OF AN 82-YEAR-OLD RABBI WHO SAID, WILL YOU PREACH MY EULOGY?

HE THOUGHT IF HE WAS GOING TO DO THAT, HE NEEDED TO GET TO KNOW THE RABBI.

IN THE MIDST OF GETTING TO KNOW THE RABBI, HE BECAME TO KNOW A REFORMED PASTOR, A REFORMED DRUG DEALER, I'M READING FROM THE FLY ON HIS BOOK.

A CONVICT WHO PREACHES THE POOR AND HOMELESS IN A DECAYING CHURCH WITH A HOLE IN ITS ROOF.

MOVING BETWEEN THEIR TWO WORLDS, CHRISTIAN AND JEWISH, IMPOVERISHED AND WELL TO DO, HE OBSERVES HOW THESE VERY DIFFERENT MEN EMPLOY FAITH SIMILARLY IN FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL.

HE ASKS ON THE TOP OF THE PAGE, WHAT IF OUR BELIEFS WERE NOT WHAT DIVIDED US, BUT WHAT PULLED US TOGETHER?

WHAT IF OUR BELIEFS WERE NOT WHAT DIVIDED US, BUT WHAT PULLED US TOGETHER?

IT'S EASY TO GET INTO THE THEM AND THE US.

I'M ALWAYS MINDFUL OF HOW WE SEE THE WORLD DEPENDS UPON HOW WE SPIN THE GLOBE, RIGHT?

WHERE DOES THE GLOBE END WHEN YOU SPIN IT?

THE UNITED STATES, RIGHT?

THAT BEAUTIFUL OUTLINE, THE NORTH AMERICA.

BUT THAT'S JUST BECAUSE WE LIVE HERE.

SOMEBODY ELSE SPINS THE GLOBE A DIFFERENT WAY AND SAYS,
THAT'S MY HOMELAND, BECAUSE THAT SPINNING OF THE GLOBE SAYS
SOMETIMES IT'S THEM AND SOMETIMES IT'S US.

WE'RE PART OF THE WHOLE.

YOU ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PUZZLE OF THE GLOBE OF THE
WORLD.

WHAT IF THE MISSING PIECE IS YOU?

I HEARD ABOUT THIS WONDERFULLY CREATIVE IDEA THAT HAIR
ABSORBS OIL, SO MAYBE ALL OF US SHOULD JUST GET BALD AND GIVE
IT TO THE COAST, AND IF IT WORKS, I PROMISE YOU I'LL SHAVE MY
HEAD.

I PROMISE YOU I'LL SHAVE MY HEAD FOR THE COAST.

IT'S THAT KIND OF UNEXPECTED IMAGINATIVE CREATIVITY THAT CAN
SAVE THE GLOBE.

I'M HERE STANDING BEFORE YOU BEING ABLE TO SHOW YOU THESE
SLIDES BECAUSE OF THE GIFT OF LINDA FEW, WHO TOOK WHAT I
BROUGHT, PICTURES IN THE WRONG KIND OF LANGUAGE.

I SAW THE BILLBOARDS, HAD TO RECREATE A COUPLE OF THESE, BUT
THE MESSAGE ON THEM IS THE SAME.

SO THANK YOU, LINDA FEW, AND BRIAN AND JOHN AND GENE FOR

YOUR MAGIC.

I WANT TO THANK MS. THOMAS, HEIDI THOMAS, OUR CAPTIONER, FOR HER WORK SO THAT YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH MY FAST TALKING MIDWESTERN PROBLEM.

WE ARE HERE BECAUSE EVERYBODY BRINGS THEIR GIFTS, OUR NECESSARY GIFTS FOR TURNING HEARTBREAK INTO HOPE.

AND I DON'T EVER WANT TO HEAR OUT OF YOUR LIPS: WELL, I'M JUST A.

I'M JUST.

YOU ARE JUST THE CHILD OF GOD.

AMEN?

>> AMEN.

>> I'M GOING TO BE PASSING OUT PIECES OF THE PUZZLE.

I WANT EVERYBODY TO TAKE A PIECE OF PUZZLE.

WE'RE GOING TO DO IT QUIETLY AND IN GOOD ORDER AT THE END, BUT WE AREN'T DONE YET.

WE'VE GOT SOME PRAYERS AND SOME QUICK SINGING TO DO, BUT WE'RE GOING TO PASS THESE OUT.

LET US PRAY.

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S PEACE AND GRACE, FOR LINDA AND BOB AS THEY DEAL WITH END OF LIFE ISSUES FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

WE PRAY FOR OUR NATION AND GUIDANCE TO OUR LEADERS.

WE PRAY FOR SHANA BERRY, JUST DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER.

WE PRAY FOR HEALTH, WELLNESS AND FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR

LINDA, MIRIAM, JOHN, STEFAN, QUINN, BERNADETTE AND JENNIFER.

WE PRAY FOR THE ELCA SYNOD AS WE DISCERN THE PATH THROUGH HOLY SCRIPTURE WE SHOULD BE FOLLOWING.

WE PRAY FOR DOROTHY JONES, FOR POSSIBLE SURGERY.

WE PRAY FOR COMPLETE HEALING FOR FRANKLIN FROM HIS CAR ACCIDENT.

WE PRAY FOR ATTITUDE AND COMMITMENT.

WE PRAY FOR DORIS FOR FINANCIAL HEALING, FOR CLAIRE'S SON, FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ENTER HIM AND HELP DIRECT HIS LIFE.

WE PRAY FOR THE ELDERLY IN HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES, AS WELL AS THEIR CARE GIVERS AND FAMILY.

WE PRAY FOR THE CREATION OF NEWLY MARRIED COUPLES AS THEY BEGIN THEIR WALK TOGETHER.

WITH THANKSGIVING, WE PRAY WITH THANKSGIVING FOR JASON ON HIS BIRTHDAY TODAY, FOR STEVEN TO LISTEN TO GOD'S CALLING.

WE REJOICE WITH CHRIS ON HER BIRTHDAY TODAY.

FOR CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NASHVILLE IN THE CALL PROCESS.

FOR THE REPORT THAT ART LEWIS IS STABILIZED.

WE PRAY FOR GARY DANIELSEN AND HIS MOTHER DOROTHY AS SHE APPROACHES THE END OF HER LIFE, AS YOU WALK WITH THEM.

WE HAVE PRAYERS FOR JARED BUSH, WHO HAS HAD TWO FAILED STEM CELLS.

PLEASE GIVE HIM THE STRENGTH TO FACE THE PLANS GOD HAS FOR HIM.

WE PRAY FOR RETIRED PASTOR BILL WADDELL, WHO GOES HOME TOMORROW FROM REHAB HAVING BEEN THERE, AS HE SAYS, 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS.

WE PRAY FOR RUTHIE FOR TOTAL HEALING OF HER EYES, STAN FOR HEALING OF CANCER, FOR CHALMA OLSON RECOVERING FROM CANCER SURGERY.

FOR CAROL NEARING THE END OF HER LIFE.

WE PRAY FOR BISHOP GORDY AND HIS STAFF, FOR STRENGTH AND WISDOM TO GET THROUGH THESE TRYING TIMES.

HOLY ONE, ALL THESE THINGS THAT WE HAVE SAID OUT LOUD AND ALL THOSE WE NAME ONLY IN OUR HEARTS, POUR OUT YOUR LOVE THROUGH US.

STIR UP YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, THAT WE MIGHT LIVE OUT OF YOUR ABUNDANCE.

THE BIRD FLIES, FEEDS HER FAMILY AND DOES NOT WORRY.

THE RABBIT GOES OUT AND MUNCHES GRASS AND GOES BACK.

HOLY ONE, YOU HAVE GIVEN US EVERYTHING WE NEED AND MORE.

IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>> LET US STAND AND SING TOGETHER: I'M SO GLAD JESUS LIFTED ME.

NUMBER J-9 IN THE BACK OF YOUR BOOK.

[SINGING "I'M SO GLAD JESUS LIFTED ME"]

AMEN.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR FLESBERG.

WE THANK YOU NOT ONLY FOR THIS MORNING, BUT FOR HELPING US TO CENTER OURSELVES, KEEP OUR FOCUS ON THE ONE WHO CALLS US HERE, AND EVEN OCCASIONALLY INSPIRING US THIS WEEK.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

NOW CALL ON THE CHAIR OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, MS. LINDA LARSON, FOR THE FINAL REPORT OF THAT COMMITTEE.

>> BISHOP GORDY, THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

CONGREGATIONAL LAY VOTING MEMBERS, 260.

CLERGY UNDER CALL, 134.

CLERGY ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 2.

CLERGY RETIRED, 19.

DIACONAL MINISTERS UNDER CALL, 3.

DIACONAL MINISTERS ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 1.

DIACONAL MINISTERS RETIRED, 0.

ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY UNDER CALL, 3.

ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 1.

ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY ARE RETIRED, 0.

DEACONESSES UNDER CALL, 0.

DEACONESSES ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 0.

DEACONESSES RETIRED, 0.

ECUMENICAL PASTORS, 3.

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS, 2.

LAY MEMBERS OF SYNOD COUNCIL, 12.

TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS, 440.

VISITORS, 140.

GRAND TOTAL IN ATTENDANCE, 580.

NOW, DO I RESOLVE?

>> WOULD YOU.

>> RESOLVED, THAT THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE BE ACCEPTED.

>> WE HAVE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> ALL THOSE IN FAVOR PLEASE INDICATE BY SAYING AYE.

>> AYE.

>> THOSE OPPOSED, SAY NO.

THANK YOU.

THE MOTION IS CARRIED, AND THANKS TO ALL 580 OF THE FOLKS WHO HAVE BEEN HERE TO BE PART OF THIS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK, PASTOR.

[APPLAUSE]

WELL, NOT PASTOR, BUT LINDA, THANK YOU.

SORRY.

WE HAVE AN INORDINATE NUMBER OF PASTORS WHO ARE CHAIRING

COMMITTEES THIS YEAR.

AND HERE'S ONE OF THEM NOW, PASTOR JOEL EMERSON, CHAIR OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

PASTOR EMERSON?

>> GOOD MORNING.

THE RESULTS OF THE RUNOFF BALLOT FOR THE THIRD LAY MALE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NUMBER OF TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 353.

INVALID BALLOTS, 2.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 177.

LEE SMITH, 188 VOTES.

GERALD WEYRAUCH, 163 VOTES.

>> LEE SMITH IS ELECTED AS A VOTING MEMO OF THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY.

NOTE THAT THERE IS STILL A 4th LAY MALE VOTING MEMBER POSITION TO BE ELECTED.

ALL NOMINATED LAY MALES WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN ELECTED WILL APPEAR ON THE FIRST BALLOT THIS MORNING FOR THIS REMAINING POSITION.

PASTOR EMERSON?

>> THE RESULTS OF THE RUNOFF BALLOT FOR THE FEMALE CLERGY CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NUMBER OF TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 362.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 1.

[LAUGHTER]

OH, IT DOES TRY ME SO.

[LAUGHTER]

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 182.

MORGAN GORDY, 246.

JILL HENNING, 115.

>> PASTOR MORGAN GORDY IS ELECTED AS A CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER.

WE'VE NOW ELECTED ONE MALE CLERGY AND ONE FEMALE CLERGY AS VOTING MEMBERS OF THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY.

THE NAMES OF ALL NOMINATED CLERGY BOTH MALE AND FEMALE WHO HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT FOR THE REMAINING CLERGY VOTING MEMBER POSITION.

PASTOR?

>> THE RESULTS OF THE RUNOFF BALLOT FOR CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, LAY FEMALE, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 357.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 3.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 179.

MICHELLE ANGALET, 205.

MARY WINFREY, 149.

>> MICHELLE ANGALET IS ELECTED AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY.

WE NOW TURN TO THE FIRST BALLOT OF THIS MORNING.

BUT BEFORE I DO THAT, I WANTED TO POINT OUT THAT ONE OF OUR STAFF ASKED YESTERDAY, SAID HE HAD WONDERED HOW LONG IT WOULD BE BEFORE THE TRUE JOEL EMERSON CAME OUT.

AND I TOOK YOU TO THE SECOND TIME AT THE PODIUM BEFORE THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED.

>> IF THAT'S A REFERENCE TO MY GLORIOUS LEGS, YOU'RE WELCOME.

[LAUGHTER]

>> IT MOST ASSUREDLY WAS NOT.

[LAUGHTER]

>> THE SHORTS WOULD HAVE COME OUT YESTERDAY BUT AS YOU REMEMBER, WE WERE HANGING MEAT IN HERE YESTERDAY MORNING. IT WAS REALLY, REALLY COLD.

I'M PROUD TO BE THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ALBINO ASSOCIATION.

AND I SHOW MY LEGS WHENEVER I CAN.

>> PASTOR EMERSON.

>> ON THIS BALLOT, YOU WILL BE VOTING FOR THE REMAINING CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER POSITIONS IN THE CATEGORIES OF CLERGY AND LAY MALE.

AS BISHOP GORDY NOTED, ALL PERSONS NOMINATED IN THESE CATEGORIES BUT NOT YET ELECTED ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION ON THIS BALLOT.

YOU WILL ALSO BE VOTING FOR THE TWO SYNOD COUNCIL AT-LARGE

POSITIONS.

NOTE THAT BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR THE NOMINEES FOR SYNOD COUNCIL AT LARGE WERE DISTRIBUTED TO YOUR TABLES THIS MORNING.

YOU WILL BE VOTING FOR 2 OF THE 2 NOMINEES.

I BELIEVE YOU CAN DO THIS!

[LAUGHTER]

THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE.

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR EMERSON, I THINK.

IF THE ELECTION WORKERS WILL DISTRIBUTE THE BALLOTS NOW, PLEASE.

[VOTING]

IF YOU HAVE FINISHED VOTING, HOLD YOUR BALLOT UP HIGH SO THAT THE ELECTION WORKERS CAN SEE THEM AND PICK THEM UP.

ARE THERE BALLOTS STILL OUTSTANDING?

ANYONE STILL NEEDING TIME TO VOTE?

IF YOU ARE, PLEASE RAISE YOUR HANDS, BECAUSE I THINK -- OKAY.

ANYONE NEEDING MORE TIME TO VOTE?

ALL BALLOTS TURNED IN?

THEN WE'LL CALL THE POLLS CLOSED.

AND WE WILL CONTINUE WITH OUR AGENDA.

I WANT TO CALL UPON THE CHAIR OF THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE FOR ITS FINAL REPORT, PASTOR RANDY JONES.

>> BISHOP GORDY, WE DO THIS EVERY YEAR, AND I ALWAYS FORGET

ABOUT IT AND ELAINE TAKES CARE OF ME, SO THANKS BE TO GOD FOR ELAINE SCHWARTZ.

>> YES, INDEED.

[APPLAUSE]

>> WE ARE TRULY BLESSED.

>> SHE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE MISTAKES I DON'T MAKE.

[LAUGHTER]

>> INDEED.

THAT'S ABOUT THE SAME.

BY THE WAY, I WOULD NEVER SUBJECT ANYBODY TO MY LEGS.

THOUGHT I'D TRY.

THIS IS A RESOLUTION OF THANKS THAT THE 2010 SYNOD ASSEMBLY, AND I'LL READ THE WHEREASES AS THE RESOLVED, SINCE Y'ALL DON'T HAVE THIS.

WHEREAS, THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD REJOICES AND PRAISES GOD FOR OUR OVERSEAS PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE LUTHERAN CHURCHES IN MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, AUGSBURG, GERMANY, ETHIOPIA AND GUATEMALA, AND OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ELCA LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD IN WISCONSIN.

WHEREAS, THE BISHOP, OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD HAVE GIVEN MANY HOURS AND TRAVELED MANY MILES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY OF OUR SYNOD TO OFFER COUNSEL, SUPPORT AND CARE.

AND WHEREAS, THROUGH THEIR WITNESS, THEY CONTINUE TO

ENCOURAGE ALL OF US TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS THROUGH WORD, DEED, AND ACTION.

AND WHEREAS, THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF THE VARIOUS ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES, VOLUNTEERS AND SERVANT LEADERS ENABLE THE WORK OF THIS SYNOD TO MOVE FORWARD.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE 2010 VOTING MEMBERS AND VISITORS OF THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFER UP OUR HEARTFELT THANKS AND PRAYERFUL SUPPORT TO THE BISHOP, OFFICERS, AND STAFF NOT ONLY FOR ALL THEIR JOYFUL AND FAITHFUL LABORS, BUT ESPECIALLY FOR THEIR PERSISTENT AND LOVING ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL OF US IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD, AND SHARE IN MANY WAYS TO GO INTO ALL THE WORLD.

WE OFFER VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE REVEREND JOHN NUÑES, KEYNOTE SPEAKER, THE REVEREND STANLEY OLSON, ELCA CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE.

SPECIAL GUESTS, THE RIGHT REVEREND TERRY AND MRS. SALLY KEE. ASSEMBLY CHAPLAIN, THE REVEREND DR. EVON FLESBERG, THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE, THE SYNOD WORSHIP TEAM, THE ASSEMBLY VOLUNTEERS AND THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS FOR PROVIDING FUNDING TO ALLOW CAPTIONING OF THE PLENARY SESSIONS.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL OBVIOUSLY RECOMMENDS ADOPTION.

>> YOU HAVE THE MOTION BEFORE YOU.

IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> ANY DISCUSSION?

MICROPHONE 2.

>> THANK YOU, BISHOP GORDY.

TERRI STAGNER-COLLIER, CROSS OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, THE MISSION CONFERENCE, ALSO SYNOD SECRETARY.

WHILE IN MANY WAYS THIS IS A ROUTINE MOTION THAT IS BEFORE US, THIS HAS NOT BEEN A ROUTINE YEAR.

OUR SYNOD STAFF AND OUR BISHOP HAVE BEEN TIRELESS AND FAITHFUL AND DEDICATED IN THEIR SERVICE TO THE SYNOD.

WORKING MANY, MANY HOURS, OFTEN AT THE EXPENSE OF ENERGY AND JOY.

THEY HAVE BEEN A FACE OF RECONCILIATION AND COMFORT TO THOSE WHO ARE ON THE DISAGREEING SIDE.

THEY HAVE BEEN THE GLUE THAT HAS BEEN HOLDING US TOGETHER.

THEY'VE EXPERIENCED PAY CUTS IN THE LAST YEAR, LOSS OF STAFF MEMBERS, FUTURE LOSSES AMONG OUR STAFF, AND YET THEY

CONTINUALLY FAITHFULLY CALL A US ALL TO GO FORWARD.

PLEASE BE OF PRAYERFUL SUPPORT TO THESE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE US SO WELL, AND PLEASE OFFER YOUR THANKS AND PRAISE TO

GOD, AND YOUR MISSION SUPPORT TO OUR SYNOD, SO THAT THEIR WORK CAN CONTINUE IN A LESS BURDENSOME WAY IN THE FUTURE.

GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

NOT UNTIL WE VOTE.

IT'S REALLY HARD TO DO THIS ROBERT'S THING SOMETIMES.

OTHER DISCUSSION OF THE MOTION THAT'S BEFORE YOU?

I ASSUME WE'RE READY TO VOTE, AND IF YOU'RE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION FROM THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE, PLEASE INDICATE BY HOLDING UP YOUR GREEN CARD.

THANK YOU.

YOU MAY PUT THOSE DOWN.

IF YOU'RE OPPOSED, HOLD YOUR RED CARD.

I BELIEVE THE MOTION CARRIES.

THANK YOU, PASTOR JONES, FOR YOUR HARD WORK ON REFERENCE AND COUNCIL, THOUGH IT WASN'T ALL THAT HARD THIS YEAR.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WELL, THAT'S GREATLY APPRECIATED, I CAN TELL YOU.

THANKS TO THE STAFF.

WE'LL SAY A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THAT LATER.

LAST YEAR, THIS ASSEMBLY LEARNED THAT THE SYNOD COUNCIL HAD APPROVED A DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN FOR OUR SYNOD.

IT WAS ONE THAT I HAD ASKED PASTOR MORGAN GORDY TO GATHER THE FOLKS TOGETHER WHO NEEDED TO BE INVOLVED IN WRITING THAT, BECAUSE SHE HAD WORKED FOR BISHOP WARREN ON THE COAST AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA, AND KNEW THE PLAYERS IN

DISASTER RESPONSE HERE IN THE DISASTER SYNOD.

[LAUGHTER]

I HAD TOLD HER, IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO DO THIS, AS SOON AS IT GETS PUT TOGETHER AND WE GET ALL THE PLAYERS, YOU CAN QUIT. IN THE MEANTIME, IT'S BEEN ONE DISASTER AFTER ANOTHER.

[LAUGHTER]

AND SHE'S BEEN WILLING TO CONTINUE DOING THAT, ABLY ASSISTED BY DISASTER VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN THE SYNOD, AND BY ESPECIALLY DIACONAL MINISTER SANDRA BRAASCH, WHO WAS OUR ASSISTING MINISTER TODAY.

YOU SAW HER TODAY DRESSED IN AN ALB AND LEADING THE PRAYERS. SHE ALSO JUMPS OUT OF AIRPLANES AND FIGHTS FIRES.

SHE'S A MULTITALENTED DIACONAL MINISTER.

THE TWO OF THEM NOW HAVE A REPORT ON THE DISASTER RESPONSE IN OUR SYNOD, IF THEY'RE HERE IN THE -- THERE THEY ARE.

THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE THEIR WAY RAPIDLY TO THE -- WELL, TAKE YOUR TIME.

>> SINCE THE LAST SYNOD ASSEMBLY, ALL 4 STATES HAVE HAD FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTERS.

IN MISSISSIPPI, 13 COUNTIES HAVE BEEN DECLARED DUE TO FLOODS AND TORNADOES.

IN GEORGIA, 17 COUNTIES ARE IN RECOVERY FROM THE FLOODS OF 2009.

IN ALABAMA, 3 COUNTIES DUE TO TORNADOES.

AND IN TENNESSEE, 45 COUNTIES DUE TO THE RECENT MAY FLOODS.
AND OUR GULF COAST STATES ARE BRACING AND PREPARING TO
RESPOND TO THE CATASTROPHIC OIL SPILL THAT NOW HAS REACHED
OUR SHORES, BRINGING WITH IT THE DEATH OF HABITAT AND
PRECIOUS CREATURES, AND WAYS OF LIFE.

THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC DISASTER IS JUST BEGINNING
TO UNFOLD.

AND ALL OF THIS ON THE BACK OF 5,000 FAMILIES STILL OUT OF THEIR
HOMES FROM KATRINA.

MANY, MANY IN OUR 4 STATES DID NOT HAVE INSURANCE, OR WERE
UNDERINSURED, OR LACKED THE RESOURCES TO RECOVER.

THE MOST A PERSON CAN GET FROM FEMA, WHO'S LOST EVERYTHING,
IS AROUND \$29,000.

THE MONEY THEY RECEIVE FROM FEMA AND THE EMERGENCY FUNDS
FROM THE RED CROSS IS NOT ENOUGH TO REBUILD A HOME.

SO THAT'S WHY THESE INCREDIBLE TEAMS OF VOLUNTEERS, THE
SUPPLIES THAT ARE NEEDED, THEY COME TOGETHER TO WEAVE
TOGETHER, STRETCHING THOSE DOLLARS SO THAT THEY CAN REBUILD
HOUSES, HOMES, AND LIVES.

THE CHURCH IS CALLED TO RESPOND, AND TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE
UNABLE TO RECOVER BECAUSE OF THESE LACKS OF RESOURCES.

WE ARE TO BE THERE.

WE ARE TO HELP THESE FOLKS GET BACK INTO HOMES THAT ARE
SAFE, SANITARY, AND SECURE.

THAT IS THE MISSION OF LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE, A MISSION WE ARE A PART OF TOGETHER.

>> WE ARE RESPONDING IN ALL 4 STATES.

IN ALABAMA, LUTHERAN MINISTRIES OF ALABAMA IS ACTIVE IN THE ALABAMA VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER LOOKING AT WAYS TO ASSIST IN THE RECOVERY PROCESS AFTER THE TORNADOES THERE.

THEY ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUPS MEETINGS TO SEE HOW TO BRING LUTHERAN FUNDS AND VOLUNTEERS TO HELP THOSE MOST IN NEED.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MOBILE CONTINUES TO HOUSE AND TO SEND OUT VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH REBUILDING, AND NOW WITH THE OIL SPILL.

IN GEORGIA, CONGREGATIONS SUCH AS NATIVITY IN AUSTELL AND OTHERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH LUTHERAN SERVICES OF GEORGIA AND DO MINISTRY ARE RESPONDING TO THE FLOODS.

IN THIS 17 COUNTY FLOOD DISASTER, 29,000 PEOPLE APPLIED TO HELP.

660 PEOPLE IN NEED HELP TOTALLY REBUILDING THEIR HOMES.

TO DATE, MORE THAN 70,000 IN GRANTS AND DONATIONS FOR FLOOD RELIEF HAVE BEEN ARE RECEIVED ARE FROM ARE THE LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE, THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS AND CONGREGATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS ACROSS GEORGIA AND THE SYNOD.

DISASTER RESPONSE TEAMS HAVE COME AS FAR AS FROM KANSAS

AND PENNSYLVANIA, AND AS CLOSE AS MARIETTA.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, NORCROSS, CHRIST THE KING.

LUTHERAN SERVICES OF GEORGIA IS THE LOCAL AFFILIATE FOR LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE, REMAINS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE REBUILDING AND RECOVERY EFFORTS FROM THE NORTH GEORGIA FLOOD DISASTER.

IN ADDITION TO THE RESPONSE TO THE FLOOD, IN FEBRUARY AFTER THE HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE, LUTHERAN SERVICES OF GEORGIA HAS WORKED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES OF ATLANTA TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR 48 INJURED HAITIANS AND THEIR COMPANIONS.

IN MISSISSIPPI, LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL SERVICES IN MISSISSIPPI CONTINUES TO WORK ON THE COAST, REBUILDING AFTER KATRINA, AND ALSO NOW IN PREPARATION FOR THE CATASTROPHIC OIL SPILL. LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL SERVICES ALSO HAS RESPONDED TO BOTH THE FLOODS AND TORNADOES, SETTING UP DISASTER HOUSING AND SUPPORT IN YAZOO CITY, AND LENDING ITS HAND IN DEBRIS REMOVAL. LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL SERVICES IS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS, ACTIVE IN DISASTER SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITIES IN MISSISSIPPI IN SETTING UP THE LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUPS.

LESM ALSO IS LENDING ASSISTANCE TO THE LUTHERAN SERVICES IN TENNESSEE, IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT FLOODING, AND THE

INITIATION OF THAT RESPONSE.

IN TENNESSEE, LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND LUTHERAN SERVICES IN TENNESSEE WORKING TOGETHER TO RESPOND TO THE UNPRECEDENTED RAIN THAT RESULTED IN FLOODS THAT HAVE DEVASTATED OVER HALF THE STATE, WITH FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTERS IN 45 COUNTIES.

LUTHERAN SERVICES IN TENNESSEE IS SETTING UP VOLUNTEER CAMPS IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH IN LEBANON AND IN THE RETREAT CENTER TO HOUSE 80-PLUS VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS RESPONSE.

LESM IS WORKING WITH LST IN THIS RESPONSE AS THE AFFILIATE FISCAL SUPPORT FOR LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE.

TENNESSEE IS JUST BEGINNING THE FORMATION OF LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUPS AND ADDRESSING THE UNMET NEEDS.

CURRENTLY, MIDDLE TENNESSEE LUTHERANS AND MEMBERS OF LST BOARDS SIT ON 5 DIFFERENT COUNTY LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUPS, BRINGING LDR TO THE TABLE WHERE RESOURCES CAN REACH THOSE MOST IN NEED.

THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY REPORTS THAT CLOSE TO 58,000 HAVE REGISTERED FOR ASSISTANCE AND 960 FAMILIES HOMES SO FAR NEED TO BE ARE REBUILT, WITH MANY, MANY MORE WITH MAJOR AND MINOR REPAIRS.

>> DISASTER WORK REQUIRES A COMPLEX NETWORK OF RELATIONSHIPS TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

WE HAVE MANY PARTNERS IN THIS WORK.

JUST AS LUTHERANS COME TOGETHER TO BRING THE TYPICAL WORK THAT THEY'VE DONE WITH HOUSING AND REBUILDING AND PROVIDING EMOTIONAL/SPIRITUAL CARE, WE PARTNER WITH THE RED CROSS, WITH SALVATION ARMY, WITH UMCOR, WITH PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, AND ALL OF THESE OTHER FAITH-BASED ENTITIES.

ALL OF THOSE RELATIONSHIPS HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED AND NURTURED IN ORDER THAT AFTER AN EVENT, THAT WE ARE ABLE TO RESPOND SMOOTHLY, QUICKLY, EFFECTIVELY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. IT'S HELPFUL THAT ALL OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS ARE ALREADY ESTABLISHED AT OUR CHURCHWIDE AND NATIONAL LEVEL, AND AT THE STATE LEVEL, AS WELL, IN MANY OF OUR STATES.

BUT WHEN IT HAPPENS IN YOUR HOMETOWN, WE ALL NEED TO KNOW WHO IS WHO, AND WHO WE CONNECT WITH TO MAKE THE DISASTER RESPONSE FLOW QUICKLY, BECAUSE THE QUICKER THAT THE RESOURCES CAN FLOW, THE HEALING AND THE ARE RESPONSE CAN BEGIN.

THE BEST WAY IS FOR US TO DO THIS BEFORE A DISASTER OCCURS. THAT IS WHY OUR SYNOD PLANNED THAT WE REVISE THIS PAST YEAR. ONE OF THE KEY EMPHASIS IS ON RECRUITING DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATORS THROUGHOUT THE SYNOD.

WE HAVE A VERY LARGE SYNOD AND WE NEED PEOPLE WHO ARE TRAINED, AND BECOME VERY WELL-VERSED IN THE LANGUAGE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RESPONSE WHO WILL WORK WITH CONGREGATIONS AND WHO WILL WORK WITH THE PEOPLE

WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE OTHER FAITH-BASED TRADITIONS, AND ALSO WITH THE EMA, THEIR LOCAL CIVIC STRUCTURES.

THESE DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATORS HELP CONGREGATIONS BECOME RESOURCEFUL, OR ACKNOWLEDGE OR RECOGNIZE THEIR RESOURCEFULNESS, AND TO HONE THAT RESOURCEFULNESS SO THAT THEY CAN BE RESILIENT IN THE FACE OF A DISASTER.

VOLUNTEER DISASTER COORDINATORS HELP CONGREGATIONS DEVELOP A PLAN FOR HOW THEY WILL RESPOND, LOOKING AT WHAT GIFTS THEY BRING TO THE TABLE, AND HOW THEY CAN HELP MEMBERS WITHIN THEIR CONGREGATION PREPARE THEIR OWN FAMILIES.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A SHEPHERDING GROUP OR A CARE TEAM THAT NORMALLY CHECKS AFTER FOLKS WITHIN YOUR CONGREGATION, IMAGINE AFTER A DISASTER, THE WORK OF THOSE TEAMS ARE MAGNIFIED, AND THEY BECOME VERY IMPORTANT TO BE ACTIVATED IMMEDIATELY.

YOU'RE CARING FOR NOT ONLY YOUR OWN CONGREGATION MEMBERS, YOUR OWN COMMUNITY, BUT THEN YOU'RE ALSO BEING THE HANDS AND ARMS OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY.

IF YOUR CONGREGATION IS SEEN WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY AS A PLACE OF CARE, A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE GO FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OR HELP, AFTER A DISASTER, THAT WILL MAGNIFY MANY-FOLD, SO PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL.

THIS PAST JANUARY, WE TRAINED 10 COORDINATORS, 10, FOR

MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA, AND TENNESSEE.

WE HAVE ANOTHER TRAINING EVENT COMING UP IN AUGUST.

WE REALLY, REALLY NEED COORDINATORS IN GEORGIA.

IT GIVES ME GREAT CONCERN AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS HURRICANE SEASON THAT WE DO NOT HAVE COORDINATORS IN GEORGIA, ESPECIALLY ON THE COAST.

THESE TRAININGS ARE 3-DAY TRAININGS, AS ANY OF THESE COORDINATORS CAN TELL YOU, THEY ARE VERY INTENSE.

LOTS AND LOTS OF INFORMATION TO BE SHARED AND LEARNED.

BUT THESE COORDINATORS THEN ARE A SUPPORT TO ONE ANOTHER.

THEY NETWORK WITH EACH OTHER ACROSS THE SYNOD TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER JUST AS THE COORDINATORS WORK WITHIN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES TO BE A SUPPORT TO THE CONGREGATIONS THEREIN.

WE ARE CONTINUING TO LOOK FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATORS.

IF YOU OR YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS THESE GIFTS OR SKILLS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

PLEASE CALL THE SYNOD OFFICE.

GIVE US SOME NAMES AND NUMBERS, AND WE WILL CONTACT THEM AND TALK WITH THEM, AND BEGIN THAT PROCESS OF SEEING IF THIS IS AN AREA IN WHICH THEY ARE SO CALLED.

OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE ALL PARTS OF OUR SYNOD, ALL CONGREGATIONS, COVERED AND NETWORKED TOGETHER WITHIN

THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND WITH THE SYNOD AND WITH THEIR SOCIAL MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS, SO THAT WHEN A DISASTER OCCURS, THEY ARE READY TO RESPOND WITH CHRIST'S HEALING LOVE FOR THEIR OWN MEMBERS, AND FOR THOSE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

HELP US REACH THIS GOAL.

BE A READY CHURCH.

DO THE WORK OF THAT INTERNAL WORK OF PREPARING YOUR OWN CONGREGATION AND LOOKING AT HOW YOU CAN CARE FOR YOUR OWN COMMUNITY AND THE FAMILY WITHIN YOUR CHURCH.

ALSO, CONNECT WITH OTHERS WITH WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY NOW.

BEGIN TO ESTABLISH THOSE RELATIONSHIPS, THOSE ORGANIZATIONS ARE THERE IN DIFFERENT FORMS.

BE A PART OF THE PRE-PLANNING WORK SO THAT YOU MAY BE READY TO RESPOND.

OVER THIS PAST YEAR, WE HAVE WORKED VERY HARD, BOTH THE FOLKS FROM LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL SERVICES IN MISSISSIPPI, THE FOLKS FROM LUTHERAN SERVICES IN GEORGIA, THE FOLKS IN LUTHERAN MINISTRIES OF ALABAMA, AND THE FOLKS IN LUTHERAN SERVICES OF TENNESSEE.

AND THOSE WHO HAVE A PASSION FOR DISASTER MINISTRIES, INCLUDING, I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE OUT HAL SLOPE, ALL THINGS NEW MINISTRIES.

WE'VE BEEN WORKING VERY HARD TO WEAVE ALL OF US TOGETHER AS SEAMLESSLY AS WE CAN TO ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES THAT WE

EXPERIENCED AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA, WITH WHERE THE LACK OR HOLES WITHIN THE COORDINATION OR THE STOPPAGES BETWEEN ONE ORGANIZATION TO ANOTHER LED TO DIFFICULTIES BOTH AT THE -- ON THE GROUND AND FOR THE VOLUNTEERS.

WE WANT TO ELIMINATE THAT, SO THAT WE CAN BE THE CHURCH IN A FLOWING WAY OUT INTO THAT ENVIRONMENT.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER.

AS I MENTIONED, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.

VOLUNTEER TEAMS FROM CONGREGATIONS, FROM YOUR CONGREGATIONS, HAVE BEEN THERE SO MUCH FOR KATRINA, SO MUCH FOR THE FLOODS IN GEORGIA, AND WE ARE GETTING -- WE HAVE LISTS OF 20-SOME-ODD ON OUR LIST FOR TENNESSEE NOW.

YOU HELP FAMILIES RECOVER.

YOU ARE THE HANDS AND HEARTS OF CHRIST RECEIVED BY THOSE FOLKS.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO DO THAT.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO NURTURE WITHIN YOUR CONGREGATION THE SERVANT HEART FOR DISASTER MINISTRY.

THERE WILL BE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO VOLUNTEER NOW.

AND THOSE OPPORTUNITIES YOU CAN CONNECT THROUGH THE SOCIAL MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS WHO ARE ORCHESTRATING THE RESPONSES WITHIN THESE STATES.

I PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PLEASE DO SO.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU, THANK YOU BOTH.

THANKS FOR THAT REPORT.

IT'S A WONDERFUL THING TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE LUTHERAN
DISASTER RESPONSE, AND THAT THEY KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO
DISASTERS.

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI, THERE WAS A FULL-PAGE STORY A
DAY OR TWO LATER ABOUT ONE OF THE MEGA CHURCHES IN
NASHVILLE.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW NASHVILLE, IT'S THE MEGA CHURCH
HEADQUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

THERE ARE AT LEAST 2 ON EVERY BLOCK, AND OUT IN THE SUBURBS,
ONE SPACED ABOUT EVERY QUARTER MILE APART.

ONE OF THESE CHURCHES WAS COLLECTING SUPPLIES FOR THE
RELIEF EFFORT IN HAITI.

THEY WERE COLLECTING TOOTH BRUSHES, HAIR BRUSHES AND
TOOTHPASTE.

AND THEY WERE SAYING IN THE ARTICLE THAT THEY WEREN'T SURE
WHO THEY COULD ACTUALLY TRUST WITH CASH, SO THEY WEREN'T
GOING TO DO CASH.

THEY WERE ALSO UNAWARE THAT NONE OF THE PORTS WERE OPEN
AND THEY WEREN'T SURE HOW THEY WERE GOING TO GET ALL THE
TOOTHPASTE AND TOOTH BRUSHES AND HAIR BRUSHES TO HAITI.

GOOD WORKS FROM PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO HELP, BUT HAVING

BEEN ON THE GROUND AFTER DISASTERS, TOOTH BRUSHES AND HAIR BRUSHES ARE NOT WHAT'S USUALLY NEEDED RIGHT AWAY.

BY CONTRAST, BECAUSE WE HAVE THAT INFRASTRUCTURE THAT PASTOR OLSON WAS TALKING ABOUT ALREADY IN PLACE IN OUR CHURCH, WE KNOW THAT THE RESPONSE THAT THE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS WERE DOING IN NASHVILLE AND AROUND THE COUNTRY, THAT \$11.5 MILLION THAT WENT THERE MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD A FRONT-PAGE STORY IN THE NEWSPAPER, BUT GOT THE RELIEF THAT WAS NEEDED ON THE GROUND RIGHT AWAY.

THIS IS THE WORK THAT WE DO BETTER BECAUSE WE DO IT TOGETHER. KEITH JOHNSON TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE WAS FLYING THE OTHER DAY, HE WAS SITTING ON THE PLANE BY A WOMAN THAT INTRODUCED HERSELF AS CHARMAINE NEVILLE.

SHE SEEMED DISAPPOINTED HE DIDN'T KNOW WHO SHE WAS.

SHE SAID, "MAYBE YOU KNOW MY FATHER, AARON."

AND I WON'T TELL YOU THAT KEITH DIDN'T KNOW WHO THAT WAS EITHER.

[LAUGHTER]

SHE ASKED HIM WHAT HE DID.

HE TOLD HER HE WAS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LUTHERAN CAMP.

SHE SAID LUTHERANS!

THEY'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE STILL IN NEW ORLEANS.

[APPLAUSE]

SHE HAS A RESTAURANT, SHE HAS A RESTAURANT IN NEW ORLEANS CALLED "DESSERT FIRST," WHICH SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO ME. AND SHE HAS FOR A LONG TIME BEEN GIVING THE LUTHERANS WHO COME DOWN TO HELP, THEY COME THERE TO EAT, BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE TO PAY THE WHOLE THING FOR IT.

SO LUTHERANS KNOW HOW TO DO DISASTER RESPONSE, AND WE'RE WORKING ON DOING THAT BETTER IN OUR STATE.

AND THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, THE DIRECTORS AND BOARDS OF OUR SOCIAL MINISTRY ORGANIZATION, ALL THOSE 10 DISASTER COORDINATORS AND ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED IN MISSISSIPPI, IN GEORGIA, AND WILL VOLUNTEER IN TENNESSEE, THANK YOU SO MUCH.

ONE OF THE OTHER PARTNERS WE HAVE IN DISASTER RESPONSE, IF YOU HAVEN'T MET KEVIN McCOY AT THE CHURCH WORLD SERVICE DESK, KEVIN HAS BEEN WORKING WITH CHURCH WORLD SERVICE AND DOING THINGS LIKE WALKS, BUT HE'S ALSO BEEN INVOLVED IN DISASTER RESPONSE.

HE LIVES IN NASHVILLE.

HE'S A LUTHERAN, TOO, BY THE WAY.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE SAID HE WAS THE RECIPIENT OF A DISASTER EARLIER IN MAY.

IF YOU HAVEN'T MET HIM, YOU MIGHT WANT TO DO THAT.

WE SORT OF HAVE A FEW THINGS TO DO WHILE WE'RE WAITING ON THE ELECTIONS TO BE TALLIED.

ONE OF THE THINGS I WANTED TO DO IS SOMETHING WE DIDN'T DO IN THE FIRST SESSION BECAUSE WE RAN OUT OF TIME, AND THAT'S JUST A FEW MORE FOLKS THAT WE NEED TO SAY THANKS TO.

I WAS GOING TO SAY THANKS TO THE STAFF AT THE FIRST SESSION, BUT YOU'VE CERTAINLY MORE THAN ADEQUATELY DONE THAT HERE. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THAT.

I WANT TO AGAIN RECOGNIZE PASTOR RANDY JONES.

YOU HAVE KNOWN HIM THROUGHOUT THIS ASSEMBLY AS THE CHAIR OF OUR REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE, BUT HE'S ALSO OUR SYNOD'S ECUMENICAL OFFICER, AND THE CONSTITUTION REVIEWER. HE'S THE PERSON WHO FOR REASONS WE DON'T KNOW FEELS INCLINED TO READ CONSTITUTIONS THAT CONGREGATIONS SUBMIT. AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DOES FOR FUN.

[LAUGHTER]

BUT WE THANK RANDY FOR HIS HARD WORK ON BEHALF OF THE SYNOD THERE.

YOU'VE MET THE CONFERENCE DEANS, THEY WERE INSTALLED AT THE FIRST SERVICE, BUT THEY ALSO SERVE OUR SYNOD WELL.

BACK IN THE DAY WHEN THINGS WERE DIFFERENT, THEY ACTUALLY GOT A LITTLE STIPEND FOR ALL OF THEIR WORK.

THEY DON'T DO THAT ANYMORE, BUT THEY STILL DO THE WORK SO THANKS TO ALL OF THEM.

WE NEED TO THANK ESPECIALLY OUR SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE, AND ALL OF THOSE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE BEEN MAKING IT POSSIBLE

FOR US TO DO THE WORK THAT WE'VE HAD TO DO IN THIS ASSEMBLY.
THEY'VE WORKED WITH ELAINE SCHWARTZ IN PUTTING TOGETHER ALL
OF THE THINGS THAT YOU'VE SEEN IN THIS ASSEMBLY.
THEY'RE THE PEOPLE WHO DO EVERYTHING FROM CHECK
IDENTIFICATION AT THE DOOR TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING IS IN
PLACE THAT YOU NEED, TO COUNT UP THE BALLOTS AND SO FORTH.
ALL OF THOSE VOLUNTEERS ARE OVERSEEN BY THE GROUP THAT
PLANS THIS ASSEMBLY WITH ELAINE, THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE.

I WANT TO INTRODUCE THEM TO YOU AND ASK THEM TO STAND SO YOU
CAN GIVE THEM YOUR APPRECIATION.

MS. JAN LEVENGOOD WHO IS ALSO OUR NURSE WHO'S NOT HAD A BAD
YEAR THIS YEAR, SHE SAID.

[APPLAUSE]

MS. LINDA FEW.

IS LINDA BACK THERE?

SHE'S GONE, BUT LINDA HAS BEEN DOING A LOT OF THE TECHNICAL
STUFF BOTH BEFORE HAND AND DURING THE ASSEMBLY.

MS. KLEAH JAQUES.

THERE SHE IS.

SHE'S BEEN SITTING DILIGENTLY AT THE INFORMATION TABLE.

PASTOR MICHELLE KUHLMAN WHO WORKS LONG BEFORE, DURING,
AND EVEN AFTER THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. CHRIS SCHWANEBECK HE'S BACK IN THE VERY BACK OF THE

HOUSE.

YOU'RE RIGHT BACK UNDER THE LIGHT AND MS. DONNA HOGLUND, IN THE BACK, ALSO.

AND WE ALSO, HE'S NOT EXACTLY ON THE COMMITTEE, BUT WE HAVE BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY WELL SERVED BY THE TECHNICAL CREW. THEY'RE PROVIDED BY THE CONVENTION CENTER, AND THEY TOLD ME TODAY THAT WE'VE BEEN A GOOD GROUP.

THEIR WORK HAS BEEN COORDINATED BY GENE LEWIS, A MEMBER OF OUR SYNOD, WHO SITS IN THE BACK BACK THERE.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU, GENE.

WE APPRECIATED HIS WORK FOR MANY YEARS.

SO ONE MORE THING, IF YOU WERE A VOLUNTEER THIS YEAR.

I KNOW A LOT OF YOU ARE STILL OUTSIDE BUT YOU VOLUNTEERS, WOULD YOU STAND UP AND LET US THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

I WANT A LITTLE BIT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE TO THANK MY OWN VOLUNTEER, INTERN MATT TITUS, WHO HAS KEPT THE COFFEE COMING, LET ME TELL YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'VE BEEN INSPIRED AT 3 WORSHIP SERVICES AT THIS ASSEMBLY.

[APPLAUSE]

OUR SYNOD WORSHIP TEAM HAS BEEN WORKING ON THIS WORSHIP

FOR MONTHS, AND IT'S BEEN REALLY INTERESTING TO WATCH,
BECAUSE IT'S EMAILS THAT GO OUT, MEETINGS THAT HAPPEN, MORE
EMAILS GO OUT, CORRECTIONS GET MADE.

AND WE STILL HAVE ENOUGH THINGS THAT WEREN'T QUITE RIGHT TO
KEEP US HUMBLE, BUT THE SYNOD WORSHIP TEAM IS ONE OF THE
EXCELLENT TEAMS TO WORK WITH.

THEY'VE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB THIS YEAR AS THEY HAVE BEFORE.
WOULD YOU GUYS STAND IF YOU'RE HERE AND LET US THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

I BELIEVE THAT WE'RE READY.

YEAH, I COULD FINISH THIS OR I COULD DO THAT LATER.

I'LL DO THAT WHILE WE'RE WAITING ON THE NEXT COUNTING SO WE'LL
GO AHEAD.

DON'T LET ME FORGET.

WE'LL GO AHEAD WITH ANOTHER REPORT FROM THE ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE.

PASTOR EMERSON IS BACK WITH SOME RESULTS.

>> THE RESULTS OF THE BALLOT FOR THE 4th LAY MALE CHURCHWIDE
ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER POSITION ARE AS FOLLOWS.

TOTAL NUMBER BALLOTS CAST, 282.

INVALID BALLOTS, 1.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 142.

PLEASE NOTE NOW I WILL PROVIDE THE RESULTS IN THE ORDER IN
WHICH THE NAMES APPEARED ON THE BALLOT THIS TIME.

JIM ADAMS, 7.

PAUL BLACKNEY, 10.

BERT BLOOD, 41.

JOHN BOST, 41.

MICHAEL BRANDT, 14.

EDWIN BRYANT, 8.

ALLAN ELLSTROM, 9.

MONROE HERRING, 35.

THOMAS PRITCHARD, 13.

GERALD WEYRAUCH, 103.

>> ONCE AGAIN THERE IS NO ELECTION.

SO THE NEXT BALLOT WILL CONTAIN THE NAMES OF GERALD
WEYRAUCH, BERT BLOOD, AND JOHN BOST.

PASTOR?

>> THE RESULTS OF THE BALLOT FOR THE FINAL CLERGY CHURCHWIDE
ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 286.

INVALID BALLOTS, 3.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 144.

AGAIN, I'LL PROVIDE THE RESULTS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY
APPEARED ON THE BALLOT.

LINDA BOSTON, 24.

LEWIS GROCE, 14.

JILL HENNING, 53.

MICHAEL HUNTLEY, 8.

MICHAEL JANNETT, 20.

TOM KENNY, 18.

GINNY KREKLING, 17.

ED MYERS, 23.

AMARETTA ONSTAD, 23.

MARCIA SCHULTZ, 8.

BRADLEY SCHMELING, 41.

DAVID SMEDLEY, 18.

KEVIN STRICKLAND, 16.

>> AGAIN, THERE IS NO ELECTION.

THE NEXT BALLOT WILL CONTAIN THE NAMES OF PASTOR JILL HENNING
AND PASTOR BRADLEY SCHMELING.

>> THE RESULTS OF THE BALLOT FOR THE LAY MALE SYNOD COUNCIL
AT-LARGE POSITIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 275.

INVALID BALLOTS, 3.

WE HAVE FINALLY ANSWERED THE QUESTION: HOW MANY LUTHERANS
DOES IT TAKE TO FILL OUT A BALLOT PROPERLY?

[LAUGHTER]

THE ANSWER IS MORE THAN WE HAVE IN OUR SYNOD.

[LAUGHTER]

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 138.

MONROE HERRING, 238.

MICHAEL KREKLING, 272.

>> MONROE HERRING AND MICHAEL KREKLING ARE ELECTED AS
AT-LARGE MEMBERS OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

[APPLAUSE]

I HOPE YOU'RE APPLAUDING FOR MONROE AND MICHAEL.

I KNOW YOU'RE ALSO APPLAUDING, BECAUSE WE FINALLY HAVE AN
ELECTION.

[LAUGHTER]

WE NOW TURN TO WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE THE FINAL BALLOT OF THIS
MORNING.

AND I THINK THE WAY ELECTIONS GO, NO, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE.

THERE WERE THREE NAMES ON ONE OF THOSE.

>> THAT'S CORRECT.

BALLOT NUMBER 5 WILL ADDRESS THE RUNOFF ELECTIONS FOR
CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBERS IN THE CATEGORIES OF LAY MALES
AND CLERGY.

>> WOULD THE ELECTION WORKERS PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THE BALLOTS
NOW?

[VOTING]

>> ARE THERE ANY MORE BALLOTS?

PEOPLE NEED ANY MORE TIME TO DO THEIR BALLOTING?

SO EVERYONE HAS TURNED THEIR BALLOT IN?

OKAY.

THEN WE'LL DECLARE THIS CLOSED.

>> I'LL CONTINUE WITH A COUPLE OF ANNOUNCEMENTS ACTUALLY.

FIRST A QUICK STORY.

PASTOR KEVIN STRICKLAND WHO'S THE CHAIR OF OUR WORSHIP COMMITTEE, TOLD ME THAT THIS MORNING DURING WORSHIP, PROBABLY DURING THE SERMON WHEN HE DIDN'T HAVE TO CONCENTRATE TOO MUCH ON ANYTHING THAT WAS GOING ON, HE HEARD NOISE THAT SOUNDED LIKE IT WAS COMING THROUGH THE AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT THAT SOUNDED LIKE DRUMMING AND WIND. AND HE WENT OUTSIDE TO SEE IF MAYBE THE FOLKS WHO WORK HERE WERE MAKING SOME NOISE.

THEY WEREN'T AND HE ASKED ONE OF THEM, WHAT IS THAT NOISE? AND HE POINTED TO THE ROOM WHERE WE WERE WORSHIPING, AND THE WORKER SAID: IT'S JESUS.

[LAUGHTER]

THEY'RE WORSHIPING IN THERE, IT'S JESUS.

I WANT TO REPORT THAT WE PRAYED YESTERDAY FOR PASTOR ART LEWIS.

PASTOR PETER SAMUELSON LEFT HERE YESTERDAY TO GO AND BE WITH THE FAMILY.

PASTOR LARRY MILLER DID NOT COME IN ORDER TO STAY AND BE WITH THE FAMILY.

BOTH OF THEM HAVE REPORTED TODAY THAT ART IS RALLYING, AND THEY EXPECT HIM TO GO HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL.

[APPLAUSE]

OKAY, I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT AND A CHALLENGE.

IN OUR OFFERINGS WHICH WILL GO TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF, WE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$5,945.08.

THAT'S NOT BAD!

[APPLAUSE]

NOW, IF SOMEBODY FEELS MOVED BY THE SPIRIT TO GIVE \$54.92, THAT WILL BE A NICE ROUND \$6,000.

SO IF YOU DO, YOU CAN -- YES.

>> DONE.

I'VE GOT IT.

>> WE GOT IT.

THERE WERE SEVERAL WHO SAID "DONE," SO PLEASE, WE'LL GIVE 7 IF WE CAN, YEAH.

SO IF YOU SAID "DONE," THAT WAS THE SPIRIT, WRITE THE CHECK.

\$54.92.

GOOD!

HEY, WE'RE IN A GOOD PLACE.

OH, YES.

OH, YES.

FINALLY ON THE LIST OF THANK YOUS, THAT'S WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO START HERE, BUT I GOT OFF ON JESUS.

[LAUGHTER]

THOSE WHO AGREED TO SERVE ON THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES THIS YEAR, THERE'S A COMPLETE LIST OF THEM BEHIND TAB-I, EXHIBIT 9.

THAT'S REFERENCE AND COUNCIL, THE MINUTES COMMITTEE, THOSE PEOPLE HAVE AN INTERESTING JOB.

THE ELECTIONS AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

WOULD YOU ALL PLEASE RISE SO WE CAN THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

BACK IN THE LCA DAYS, IF YOU WERE A NEW PASTOR, YOU GOT TO SERVE ON THE MINUTES COMMITTEE.

THAT'S WHEN THERE WERE NO COMPUTERS, AND WE HAD TO TAKE THEM BY TYPEWRITER OR BY HAND.

ON FRIDAY, WE ASKED ROSTERED PERSONS TO COMPLETE A SURVEY AT THE SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK MINISTRY EXHIBIT.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO DID THIS.

I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY IT WAS MORE THAN WHO DID, BUT THANKS TO YOU WHO DID.

AND YOU KNOW THERE WAS TO BE A DRAWING FOR A WINNER, AND \$100 WOULD BE GIVEN IN THE WINNER'S NAME TO THE LUTHERAN CHARITY OF THEIR CHOICE.

AND THE WINNER, ONE OF OUR SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO DID NOT FIX THIS, I'M SURE, PASTOR MICHELLE KUHLMAN.

VOLUNTEERS.

YES.

[APPLAUSE]

OKAY, PASTOR, IF YOU WILL CONNECT WITH JERRY AND ELSIE WEYRAUCH AND TELL THEM WHAT A LUTHERAN ORGANIZATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE THAT TO.

IF YOU NEED HELP MAKING THAT DECISION, JUST COME UP TO THE DAIS AND WE'LL HELP YOU OUT.

>> THANK YOU.

>> HERE YOU GO.

>> KEEP THEM COMING, FOLKS.

I'M HAPPY NOW TO INTRODUCE TO YOU MR. GERALD JOHNSON, WHO IS THE AREA REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE ELCA MISSION INVESTMENT FUND, AND I HOPE HE HASN'T GIVEN UP ON US.

THERE HE IS.

JERRY, PLEASE COME UP AND GREET US, IF YOU WOULD.

I THINK YOU HAVE A LITTLE PRESENTATION FOR US, AS WELL, POWERPOINT PRESENTATION?

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> I'M REALLY GLAD TO BE HERE WITH YOU ALL THIS MORNING.

MY NAME IS JERRY JOHNSON, AS BISHOP GORDY SAID, AND THANK YOU FOR THE TIME, BISHOP.

I'M AN ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY AND I SERVE THE CHURCHWIDE UNDER ORGANIZATIONAL UNDER A CALL FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ELCA.

AND MY MISSION IN THIS CHURCH IS TO BRING AWARENESS TO AND PROMOTE THE MINISTRY OF OUR MISSION INVESTMENT FUND.

I LIKE TO SAY THAT WE SERVE AS THE INTERNAL BANK OF THE CHURCH.

YOU, AS INDIVIDUALS, CONGREGATIONS, AND AS THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD DEPOSIT NOT CONTRIBUTE, BUT DEPOSIT YOUR MONEY WITH US.

WE PAY IT ALL BACK, ALL OF IT, WITH INTEREST, AND WITHOUT ANY FAILURE FOR THE NEARLY 100-YEAR HISTORY OF THE FUND.

WE USE YOUR MONEY TO MAKE LOANS TO ELCA CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES FOR PROPERTY, BUILDINGS AND RENOVATIONS, AND THAT'S IT.

THAT'S ALL WE DO.

WE TAKE YOUR MONEY, WE GIVE IT BACK TO THE CHURCH, WE PAY YOU INTEREST, AND THE CHURCH GROWS.

ONE OF THE GREATEST LOANS THAT WE'VE DONE RECENTLY HAS BEEN TO LUTHERIDGE/LUTHEROCK MINISTRIES FOR THE LUTHERANCH SITE PURCHASE, AND THAT WAS AN AMAZING EVENT.

SO THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING A PART OF THAT.

[APPLAUSE]

NOW, HERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO PAY ATTENTION TO.

THIS SYNOD, YOUR CONGREGATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, HAVE OVER \$3.2 MILLION INVESTED IN THE BANK OF THE CHURCH, AND FOR THAT WE SAY THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YET YOU ALSO NEED TO KNOW THAT AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE OVER \$10.4 MILLION LOANED IN THIS SYNOD SO THAT'S MORE THAN 3 TO 1 UPSIDE DOWN IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

SO I'M JUST HERE TO SAY: WE NEED INVESTORS FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

PLEASE CONSIDER DOING JUST THAT, AS WE WATCH THIS 2-MINUTE VIDEO PRESENTATION.

[VIDEO]

>> SOMETIMES THE BEST THINGS YOU CAN PUT UP ARE WALLS.

WHEN ALL THE WORLD OFFERS IS A COLD, HARD SHOULDER.

WHEN DARKNESS DESCENDS IN A BLANKET OF NIGHT SWEATS.

WHEN FEAR AND ISOLATION TAKE HOLD LIKE TALONS.

IT'S AT THESE TIMES THAT WE ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND START RAISING THE WALLS OF HOPE.

OUR CHURCH IS A CHURCH THAT KNOWS HOW TO BUILD THINGS.

AND WHEN YOU INVEST WITH THE MISSION INVESTMENT FUND, A BUILDER IS WHAT YOU BECOME, BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW SELDOM

YOU SWING A HAMMER, WHEN YOU INVEST WITH US, YOU'RE NOT SIMPLY BUILDING YOUR RETIREMENT, OR BUILDING YOUR CHILD'S COLLEGE FUND.

YOU'RE LITERALLY HELPING TO BUILD THE CHURCH.

WE USE THE MONEY YOU INVEST TO FUND BUILDING AND RENOVATION LOANS FOR ELCA CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES ACROSS COUNTRY.

FROM THE CONGREGATION THAT NOW CELEBRATES COMMUNION, NOT
IN AN OFFICE PARK OR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BUT ITS VERY OWN
SANCTUARY.

TO A HALFWAY HOUSE FOR THE HOMELESS.

TO A CHILD CARE CENTER, WHERE EVERY CHILD EXPERIENCES THE
GIFT OF AMAZING GRACE.

WHEN YOU BECOME A MISSION INVESTMENT FUND INVESTOR, EVERY
BRICK, EVERY NAIL, EVERY SINGLE PIECE OF SHEETROCK IS INFUSED
WITH A BEAUTIFUL PURPOSE, BECAUSE WITH US, YOU AREN'T JUST
BUILDING BUILDINGS.

WHAT YOU'RE BUILDING IS LOVE.

THE MISSION INVESTMENT FUND OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA, GOD'S WORK.

OUR HANDS.

[APPLAUSE]

>> IT'S TRUE, IN OUR CHURCH, WE KNOW HOW TO BUILD THINGS AND
WHEN YOU INVEST WITH US, A BUILDER IS WHAT YOU BECOME.

WE'RE AT ELCA.ORG/MIF.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU, JERRY.

I TOLD THEM THAT YOU COULD DO THE REPORT IN THE 3 MINUTES YOU
SAID, AND A GOOD ONE IT WAS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

NOW I WANT TO INVITE PASTOR MATT HENNING TO COME FORWARD
FOR A BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT.

WHILE HE'S COMING, PASTOR NANCY CHRISTENSEN HAS A BRIEF
ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP CONVO.

PASTOR CHRISTENSEN OUR DIRECTOR FOR EVANGELICAL MISSION IN
SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

>> THERE ARE MANY WHO BELIEVE THAT ALL LUTHERANS IN THE
UNITED STATES LIVE IN MINNESOTA.

OR --

>> WHOO-HOO.

>> HE'S AMONGST THEM.

OR MAYBE PENNSYLVANIA WITH A FEW STRAGGLERS IN CHICAGO.

BUT WE KNOW DIFFERENT.

WE KNOW THAT THERE IS A LONG AND RICH HISTORY OF LUTHERANISM
EVEN HERE IN THE SOUTHEAST.

EVEN AMONGST PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT SVEN OR HELGA.

EVEN WITH THOSE WHO COME FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND
TRADITIONS, AND WE KNOW THAT THIS HISTORY CONTINUES.

GROWING, CHANGING, AND EXPANDING THROUGH MISSION ALL
AROUND US.

ALL THE TIME.

I WOULD DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO EXHIBIT 7 UNDER TAB-I, AND
REMIND AND INVITE ALL OF OUR ROSTERED LEADERS AND

PROFESSIONAL STAFF, PEOPLE THAT THIS YEAR'S LEADERSHIP CONVOCATION WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 12 THROUGH 14 AT LUTHERIDGE CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER IN NORTH CAROLINA, AND THE THEME THIS YEAR IS: BEING LUTHERAN IN THE SOUTH. OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER WILL BE DR. SUSAN McCARVER, WHO HAS DONE HER DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ON THIS VERY TOPIC, AND IS AN AMAZING SPEAKER.

SHE IS FROM OUR VERY OWN LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SOUTHERN SEMINARY, AND THERE WILL BE WORKSHOPS AND WORSHIP AND PLENTY OF RECREATION.

SO PLEASE SAVE THE DATE, AND LOOK FOR THE REGISTRATION MATERIALS THAT WILL BE COMING IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO.

THANKS SO MUCH.

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR.

AND REMEMBER, ALSO, THAT BISHOP ARENDS FROM THE LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD WILL BE HERE SO HE CAN LEARN ABOUT LUTHERANS IN THE SOUTH.

PASTOR HENNING.

>> THANK YOU, BISHOP.

I FEEL LIKE IN 10th GRADE I HAD THE TO DO A BOOK REPORT THAT I FORGOT ABOUT.

AND I KIND OF FEEL THE SAME WAY.

WE ARE PLANNING "CATCH THE SPIRIT."

THERE WILL BE "CATCH THE SPIRIT" IN 2011.

AND OUR THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S CATCH THE SPIRIT IS: MYSTERY.
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE EVENT WILL BE YET.
WE DON'T KNOW WHO OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER WILL BE YET.
WE HAVE SOME IDEAS ON THE THEMES AND SOME WORKSHOPS.
BUT WE WILL EQUIP LEADERS, WE WILL SEND THEM OUT FOR MISSION.
AND WE'RE ASKING YOU TO GO TO ELCA-SES.ORG, SIGN UP FOR
eNEWS.

HOW MANY OF YOU GET eNEWS?

RAISE YOUR HANDS.

SO THERE'S PEOPLE HERE TO SIGN UP FOR eNEWS.

SO SIGN UP FOR YOUR eNEWS, AND YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S
"CATCH THE SPIRIT."

HOW MANY OF YOU FOLKS LIVE IN TENNESSEE?

HOW MANY OF YOU FOLKS IF YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE A "CATCH THE
SPIRIT" IN TENNESSEE?

KEEP YOUR HANDS UP.

OOH.

GOOD, GOOD.

BECAUSE THERE'S GOING TO BE A "CATCH THE SPIRIT" IN TENNESSEE.

I'M WORKING WITH A PASTOR.

I DID NOT GET HIS PERMISSION TO ANNOUNCE HIS NAME.

HE RIDES A BICYCLE ALL THE TIME, HE'S BALD.

HE'S ACTUALLY GOING TO GROW HIS HAIR OUT FOR CLEANING UP THE
OIL ON THE GULF COAST.

BUT WE ARE WORKING ON A "CATCH THE SPIRIT" IN TENNESSEE, AS WELL.

AND AGAIN, THAT'S ALSO A MYSTERY.

SO THAT'S WHAT I HAVE FOR "CATCH THE SPIRIT."

ALSO, ON A PERSONAL NOTE, JILL AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN PRAYING FOR SARAH.

YOUR PRAYERS HAVE MEANT A LOT TO US.

SARAH IS RECOVERING WELL, AND SHE'S GOING TO LUTHERIDGE NEXT WEEK.

SO WE'LL BE THERE AS A FAMILY.

BUT AGAIN, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR PRAYERS.

PEACE.

[APPLAUSE]

>> PLEASE LISTEN TO THIS NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT.

AN EVALUATE SURVEY WILL BE E-MAILED TO EACH ASSEMBLY PARTICIPANT, IF WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, IT SAYS HERE IN THE SMALL PRINT.

IF WE DON'T, PLEASE BE SURE YOU GIVE IT TO SOMEONE AT THIS DESK UP HERE.

IT WILL BE REALLY HELPFUL AS WE PLAN THESE ASSEMBLIES IN THE FUTURE, IF YOU WOULD COMPLETE THAT SURVEY AS SOON AS YOU CAN AND GET IT TURNED BACK IN.

WE PAY VERY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THOSE, AND TRY TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS INSOFAR AS WE'RE CONSTITUTIONALLY ALLOWED

ACCORDINGLY.

SO IF YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE THAT SURVEY, THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

A REMINDER THAT AS YOU GET READY TO LEAVE, WHICH YOU AREN'T READY YET, SO DON'T LEAVE, BUT THERE IS A CASH BUFFET AGAIN AVAILABLE OUTSIDE JUST AS BEFORE FOR \$7.50 AND THE MENU TODAY IS SALAD BAR, POTATO CHEDDAR SOUP, CHICKEN FAJITAS, AND A BEVERAGE.

PASTOR HENNING MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT THE eNEWS LIST, AND MOST OF YOU INDICATED YOU'RE ON IT.

IF YOU AREN'T, YOU SHOULD BE, AND HERE IS WHY: EVERY WEEK, WE SEND OUT AN ELECTRONIC EMAIL FULL OF THE LATEST SYNOD NEWS AND UPDATES, AND OCCASIONALLY IN BETWEEN WE SEND OUT REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS AND LATE-BREAKING NEWS.

ALL OF IT'S UP TO THE MINUTE, AND IT COMES IN FROM PEOPLE ALL ACROSS OUR SYNOD.

SO IF YOU'RE NOT ON THE LIST OR IF PEOPLE IN YOUR PARISH ARE NOT, PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO GO TO ELCA-SES.ORG, AND SIGN UP FOR THE eNEWS NETWORK.

WE ALSO HAVE A SYNOD BLOG WHICH WE INVITE YOUR PARTICIPATION AND COMMENTS ON.

THAT'S MODERATED BY PASTOR DELMER CHILTON, AND WE'RE DOING FACEBOOK THESE DAYS.

WE'LL SEE HOW THAT GOES.

ALSO ON OUR SYNOD WEBSITE IN OUR NEW STRUCTURE, WE HOPE

WE'LL HAVE TASK FORCES AND COMMITTEES TO DO THE WORK WE FEEL WE'RE CALLED TO DO, AND WE HAVE INTEREST AND BOTH THE GRACE AND THE GIFTS TO DO IN THIS SYNOD.

SO AT ANY TIME YOU CAN GO THERE AND FILL OUT AN INTEREST FORM AND WE'LL KEEP IT.

EVEN IF THERE'S NOTHING ON THERE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN, AND WISH WE AS A SYNOD COULD TAKE ON AS PART OF OUR MINISTRY YOU'RE WELCOME TO PUT THAT THERE.

SANDRA GUSTAVSON TAKES CARE OF KEEPING UP WITH ALL THAT, SO IT'S WELL CARED FOR.

IT GETS TO PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES, SO PLEASE CONSIDER DOING THAT.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER REPORT FROM THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

SO WE CALL AGAIN UPON PASTOR JOEL EMERSON.

>> AS I BEGIN JUST A BRIEF WORD OF THANKS TO THE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR HARD WORK THIS YEAR.

IT'S A SACRIFICE TO BE OFF THE FLOOR AND MISS SOME OF THE CONVERSATION AND DIALOGUE TO DO THIS, AND THEY WERE VERY EFFICIENT AND VERY FAIR, AND I'M GRATEFUL AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO SANDRA FOR HER INCREDIBLE HARD WORK.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA THE AMOUNT OF DETAILS SHE HAS TO PROCESS IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME TO MAKE THESE BALLOTS MAGICALLY

APPEAR, SO IF YOU HAVEN'T HUGGED HER LATELY, GO AND SIN NO MORE AND HUG HER.

WE'RE DEEPLY GRATEFUL.

THE RESULTS FOR THE RUNOFF BALLOT FOR THE 4th LAY MALE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER POSITION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 268.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 0!

[APPLAUSE]

CLEAN LIVING.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION IS 135.

GERALD WEYRAUCH, 184 VOTES.

BERT BLOOD, 45 VOTES.

JOHN BOST, 39 VOTES.

>> GERALD WEYRAUCH HAS BEEN ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER.

>> I'M SORRY.

SHOULD THEY APPLAUD NOW?

>> THEY MAY.

[APPLAUSE]

>> I WAS GOING TO DO IT ALL AT THE END.

THE RESULT OF THE RUNOFF BALLOT FOR THE FINAL CLERGY CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 263.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 0.

YES.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 132.

JILL HENNING, 147 VOTES.

BRADLEY SCHMELING, 116 VOTES.

>> PASTOR JILL HENNING HAS BEEN ELECTED AS A CHURCHWIDE
ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER.

[APPLAUSE]

>> AS REPORTED ON FRIDAY BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, THE
PERSONS WHO RECEIVED THE MOST VOTES IN SPECIFIC CATEGORIES
FOR CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS BUT WHO WERE NOT
ELECTED IN THOSE CATEGORIES WILL BE CONSIDERED AS
ALTERNATES IN CASE ONE OF THE ELECTED PERSONS IS NOT ABLE TO
ATTEND.

THOSE PERSONS DESIGNATED AS ALTERNATE ARE THE FOLLOWING:

CLERGY, BRADLEY SCHMELING.

LAY MALE, BERT BLOOD.

LAY FEMALE: MARY WINFREY.

YOUTH: LINDSAY RUTLEDGE.

YOUNG ADULT, GWYNETH DRISKILL.

THIS COMPLETES THE WORK OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE FOR ALL OF
THAT COUNTING AND REPORTING AND COLLECTING AND HANDING-OUT

AND ALSO TO SANDRA GUSTAVSON WHO IS OUR STAFF PERSON WHO WORKS WITH THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

NOW WE WANT -- WE'VE HAD A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO POSITIONS IN OUR SYNOD.

THERE THEY ARE.

AND I WOULD ASK THAT THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ELECTED COME FORWARD SO THAT WE MAY INSTALL YOU INTO THE VARIOUS OFFICES TO WHICH YOU'VE BEEN ELECTED.

MAYBE YOU COULD COME AND STAND HERE.

AND WOULD YOU PLEASE CALL THEIR NAMES.

THANKS.

>> THANK YOU, BISHOP.

SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT, DORIS UNDERWOOD.

2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS:

BISHOP JULIAN GORDY.

PASTOR JAMES THOMAS.

PASTOR MORGAN GORDY.

PASTOR JILL HENNING.

GARY PEDERSON.

JOHN THOMAS.

LEE SMITH.

GERALD WEYRAUCH.

DORIS UNDERWOOD.

ELIZABETH HAWKINS.

CRYSTAL OXNER ROWE.

MICHELLE ANGALET.

ALTERNATES:

MARY WINFREY, LINDSAY RUTLEDGE, GWYNETH DRISKILL, PASTOR
BRADLEY SCHMELING, BERT BLOOD.

ELECTED AS SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS:

YOUNG ADULT, CRYSTAL OXNER ROWE.

MEMBERS AT-LARGE: MONROE HERRING AND MICHAEL KREKLING.

REPRESENTING CONFERENCES:

CONFERENCE 1, ALLEY SON WARD.

CONFERENCE 2, PASTOR DON VOLLENWEIDER.

CONFERENCE 3, DR. ANDREA GREEN.

CONFERENCE 4, PASTOR MATT HENNING.

CONFERENCE 5, PASTOR DAVID SMEDLEY.

CONFERENCE 6, MR. GARY TUSTISON.

CONFERENCE 7, MR. LEE SMITH.

CONFERENCE 8 PASTOR ANN BASSETT.

CONFERENCE 9, PASTOR MICHAEL HUNTLEY.

>> THESE ARE ALL JUST BEEN ELECTED.

CONTINUING TO SERVE ON SYNOD COUNCIL ARE MEREDITH

HENDRICKS, SHARON BOST, PRESTON JUTTE, JOHN LUCHT, AND OUR
SECRETARY, TERRI STAGNER-COLLIER.

AND MYSELF.

SO WOULD YOU ALL TURN AND FACE ME.

THANK YOU.

A READING FROM ROMANS.

AS IN ONE BODY WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS.

AND NOT ALL THE MEMBERS HAVE THE SAME FUNCTION, SO WE, WHO ARE MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST, AND INDIVIDUALLY, MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER.

WE HAVE GIFTS THAT DIFFER ACCORDING TO THE GRACE GIVEN TO US. PROPHECY IN PROPORTION TO FAITH, MINISTRY IN MINISTERING, THE TEACHER IN TEACHING, THE EXHORTER IN EXHORTATION THE GIVER IN GENEROSITY.

THE LEADER IN DILIGENCE.

THE COMPASSIONATE IN CHEERFULNESS.

NOW I ASK YOU, WILL YOU ASSUME THE OFFICE TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED?

AND WILL YOU ENDEAVOR TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES FAITHFULLY TO THE GLORY OF CHRIST OUR LORD, AND IN SERVICE TO THE ONE HOLY CHURCH?

IF THAT'S YOUR INTENTION, SAY, I WILL, AND ASK GOD TO HELP ME.

>> I WILL, AND ASK GOD TO HELP ME.

>> NOW, WOULD YOU TURN AND LOOK AT THE ASSEMBLY AND WOULD THE ASSEMBLY PLEASE STAND.

PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THIS QUESTION, AND THEN IF YOU ARE ABLE THE TO AFFIRM IT, SAY, WE WILL AND WE ASK GOT TO HELP US.

WILL YOU, PEOPLE OF GOD, OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD OF THE

ELCA, WILL YOU SUPPORT AND PRAY FOR THESE PEOPLE IN THIS WORK TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN ELECTED?

>> WE WILL, AND WE ASK GOD'S HELP.

>> I DECLARE THE OFFICES TO WHICH YOU'VE BEEN ELECTED ARE COMMITTED TO YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AMEN.

LET US PRAY.

GRACIOUS GOD, YOU CALL YOUR PEOPLE TO SERVICE, AND GIVE THEM VARIED TASKS IN THE WORLD AND IN YOUR CHURCH.

GRANT THESE MEN AND WOMEN GRACE AND STRENGTH THAT THEY MAY SERVE YOU FAITHFULLY TO THE GLORY OF YOUR NAME, THROUGH YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD, AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>> WOULD YOU TURN THIS WAY ONE MORE TIME?

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU.

THE LORDS FACE SHINE ON YOU WITH GRACE AND MERCY.

THE LORD LOOK UPON YOU WITH FAVOR AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

AMEN.

WOULD THE ASSEMBLY TURN TO PAGE J-2.

I THINK WE'RE DONE.

WOULD YOU HAVE A SEAT FOR JUST ONE SECOND?

I WAS SUPPOSED TO INVITE THE SESLYO BOARD TO COME UP AND BE INSTALLED AT THE SAME TIME, AND WE DIDN'T DO THAT SO WOULD THE SESLYO BOARD COME UP FOR JUST A SECOND?

PLEASE.

IT'S REALLY BAD WHEN YOU GO OUT ON AN ERROR, ISN'T IT?

APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.

WOULD YOU COME OVER HERE?

WELCOME.

[APPLAUSE]

THESE FOLKS HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD AS THE SESLYO BOARD AND ALSO AS VOLUNTEERS HERE AT OUR ASSEMBLY.

AND YOU ALL, WOULD YOU TURN THIS WAY, PLEASE?

YOU JUST HEARD THIS SCRIPTURE THAT I JUST READ?

GOOD.

[LAUGHTER]

TELL ME WHAT IT WAS ABOUT.

[LAUGHTER]

SO I WANT TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION: WILL YOU ASSUME THE OFFICE OF SESLYO BOARD MEMBER THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO?

AND WILL YOU CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES FAITHFULLY TO THE GLORY OF CHRIST OUR LORD, AND IN SERVICE TO THE ONE HOLY CHURCH?

IF THAT'S YOUR INTENTION, SAY YES, WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

>> YES, WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

>> WOULD YOU STAND, AND WOULD YOU LOOK AT THESE FOLKS HERE?

REMEMBER THAT PART ABOUT SUPPORTING AND PRAYING FOR PEOPLE, OKAY?

WILL YOU PEOPLE OF GOD SUPPORT AND PRAY FOR THESE SESLYO
BOARD MEMBERS IN THIS WORK TO WHICH THEY'VE BEEN ELECTED.

IF THAT YOUR INTENTION SAY YES, WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

>> YES, WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

>> NOW YOU CAN TURN BACK THIS WAY.

THE OFFICES TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED, I COMMIT TO YOU IN
THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>> MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

AND NOW WE'LL TURN TO PAGE J-2.

[APPLAUSE]

PAGE J-2 IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS.

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES.

>> TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

>> I CHOSE YOU AND APPOINTED YOU.

>> TO BEAR FRUIT WHICH ABIDES.

>> LO, I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

>> TO THE END OF TIME.

>> THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

>> AND ALSO WITH YOU.

>> LET US PRAY.

DIRECT US O LORD IN ALL OUR DOINGS WITH YOUR MOST GRACIOUS
FAVOR AND FURTHER US WITH YOUR CONTINUAL HELP, THAT IN ALL

OUR WORKS, BEGUN, CONTINUED, AND ENDED IN YOU, WE MAY
GLORIFY YOUR HOLY NAME, AND FINALLY, BY YOUR MERCY, OBTAIN
EVERLASTING LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

>> AMEN.

>> LORD GOD OUR FATHER, YOU KEPT ABRAHAM AND SARAH IN SAFETY
THROUGHOUT THE DAYS OF THEIR PILGRIMAGE.

YOU LED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL THROUGH THE MIDST OF THE SEA,
AND BY A STAR YOU LED THE WISE MEN TO THE INFANT JESUS.

PROTECT AND GUIDE US NOW IN THIS TIME AS WE SET OUT TO TRAVEL.
MAKE OUR WAYS SAFE AND OUR HOMECOMINGS JOYFUL.

AND BRING US AT LAST TO OUR HEAVENLY HOME WHERE YOU DWELL
IN GLORY WITH YOUR SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, GOD FOREVER.

>> AMEN.

>> I NOW DECLARE THIS ASSEMBLY CLOSED IN THE NAME OF THE
FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

>> AMEN.

>> GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD.

>> THANKS BE TO GOD!

>> AND LEAVE YOUR BADGES.

[END OF PLENARY FOUR]

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