

2010 ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY
Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga, Tennessee
THIRD PLENARY SESSION
Saturday, June 5, 2010
2:30 p.m.

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>> OH, THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE TARDY, MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE TARDY.

AND I'VE NOTICED THAT MY NAME BADGE, WHICH I UNFORTUNATELY LEFT ON THE DAIS, IS MISSING.

AND INSTEAD, THERE IS THE NAME BADGE OF MS. ASHLYN NEAS, WHICH MAKES ME THINK IF YOU SEE HER, SHE'S NOT BISHOP GORDY. SHE DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE BISHOP GORDY, FOR WHICH SHE GIVES THANKS TO GOD EVERY NIGHT.

BUT SOMEBODY HAS MY CREDENTIALS.

GOOD AFTERNOON.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

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

TURN TO PAGE A-5 IN YOUR MATERIALS, PLEASE.

WE TURN TO OUR CHAPLAIN FOR OPENING PRAYER, PASTOR

FLESBERG?

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

>> I'M CHECKING SEE IF I HAVE MY SLIDE.

IS IT COMING?

WELL, ALL RIGHT, LET ME START.

THE BILLBOARD THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE SEEING SAYS: BE INSPIRED.

THAT WAS DRIVING AROUND, REMEMBER, LOOKING FOR BILLBOARDS

AND CONTEMPLATING THE HOLY IN THE MIDST OF THE ORDINARY.

AND IT'S THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA.

PERHAPS YOU'VE SEEN THEM AND KNOW THE BILLBOARDS THAT I'M

TALKING ABOUT.

THERE IT IS.

IT HAS A VERY YOUNG PICTURE OF DENZEL WASHINGTON ON THIS ONE,

AND A PICTURE OF HIS BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS CARD, AND DENZEL

WASHINGTON HAS LENT HIS FAME AND HIS COMMITMENT TO YOUNG

PEOPLE OF AMERICA, AND HIS PASSION HAS BEEN INVESTED IN THESE

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA, AND HE'S LENT HIS GOOD NAME AND

REPUTATION TO SUPPORT THAT.

SO "BE INSPIRED" GOT ME THINKING BEING HERE IN THE SEASON OF

PENTECOST ABOUT THE READING FROM JOEL.

"THEN AFTERWARD, I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH.

YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY.

YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL

SEE VISIONS.

EVEN ON THE MALE AND FEMALE SLAVES IN THOSE DAYS, I'LL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT."

THE POURING OUT OF THE SPIRIT.

IN ADDITION TO BEING A PASTORAL COUNSELOR, I'M ALSO A PROFESSOR AT VANDERBILT DIVINITY SCHOOL, AND THIS SPRING, I WAS TEACHING A CLASS, AND ONE OF MY STUDENTS ALSO A LUTHERAN, ELCA, JULIE FRANKS -- I HAVE PERMISSION TO READ FROM HER PAPER -- WROTE ABOUT TAKING ADOLESCENT SUFFERING SERIOUSLY, A PASTORAL CARE APPROACH.

SHE SAID THAT, THE TYPICAL ADOLESCENT PROBLEMS, THOSE THAT GENERATIONS PAST HAVE ALSO DEALT WITH, ARE DATING, SEXUALITY, CONFLICTS WITH PARENTS, STRUGGLING FOR INDEPENDENCE, BODY IMAGE, VOCATIONAL DECISIONS, ATHLETIC COMPETITION, FRIENDSHIPS, PROBLEMS IN SCHOOL, AND SO ON.

BUT THEN SHE QUOTES A FELLOW NAMED ROWATT, WHO SAID THAT AFTER 1989, THERE'S A WHOLE 'NOTHER LIST FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF ADOLESCENTS, YOUNG PEOPLE.

BEING ABDUCTED, AIDS, DEPLETION OF OIL RESOURCES, HOMOSEXUAL AND HETEROSEXUAL RAPE, ABANDONMENT BY PARENTS THROUGH DIVORCE OR DESERTION, POLLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, GROWING UP TO FIND A BUREAUCRATIC SOCIETY THAT HAS NO PLACE FOR THEM.

JULIE WAS YET NOT SATISFIED.

SHE ADDS HER OWN LIST.

THESE INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO: PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SOCIAL NETWORKING, WEBSITES SUCH AS FACEBOOK AND MYSPACE, ANXIETIES ABOUT AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS, BULLYING VIA THE INTERNET AND TEXTING, LEGAL CONSEQUENCES FOR EMAILING OR TEXTING NEWS PICTURES OF A BOYFRIEND OR GIRLFRIEND WHO IS UNDERAGE, AN INCREASED OBESITY RATE, TERRORIST ATTACKS HAPPENING ON AMERICAN SOIL, AND FINANCIAL ANXIETIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CURRENT ECONOMY. AND THIS IS A VERY WISE AND PROFOUND THING SHE SAYS.

"THOSE OLD ENOUGH TO COUNSEL YOUTH DID NOT EXPERIENCE THESE ISSUES."

THOSE OLD ENOUGH TO COUNSEL YOUTH DID NOT EXPERIENCE THESE ISSUES.

BUT THEY MUST BE RECOGNIZED AND TAKEN SERIOUSLY IF ADEQUATE CARE FOR TODAY'S ADOLESCENTS IS TO BE PROVIDED.

WISDOM, INSPIRATION FROM A YOUNG PERSON TO US AS A CHURCH.

I'D LIKE FOR US TO SING TOGETHER "TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE" AS J-5.

I'M INVITING YOU TO TAKE YOUR LIFE AND REACH OUT TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCHES TO REALLY TAKE THEIR SUFFERING SERIOUSLY.

WHETHER THEY'RE THE LITTLE ITTY BITTY ONES OR OUR YOUNG TEENAGERS OR YOUNG ADULTS, THEY NEED OUR CARE, THEY NEED ATTENTION TO THEIR OWN PARTICULAR SUFFERING.

SO LET'S STAND TOGETHER.

I KNOW YOU'VE JUST HAD LUNCH.

YOU'LL BE SITTING SLEEPING SHORTLY -- I MEAN, SITTING FOR A LONG TIME.

[LAUGHTER]

IT'S J-5.

[SINGING]

THANK YOU, JEANETTE, AND ALL OF YOU.

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING FOR THE PRAYERS.

I WILL READ OUR PRAYER PETITIONS, AND THEN I WILL END WITH A PRAYER FOR YOUNG PERSONS FROM THE ELW FOUND ON PAGE 83.

LET US PRAY.

HOLY GOD, YOU ARE EVERMORE READY TO LISTEN THAN WE ARE TO SPEAK.

HEAR THESE PRAYERS.

WE PRAY FOR ROBERT RECOVERING FROM BACK SURGERY.

FOR JOLENE RICHARDSON AND THE MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY AS THEY MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FUNERAL FOR JOLENE'S MOTHER, JESSIE THOMPSON.

WE PRAY FOR RAND SMITH RECOVERING FROM EYE SURGERY, FOR MARCUS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH.

FOR HELEN, CHRISTOPHER AND ALTON FOR STRENGTH AND HOPE.

FOR BECKY FOR RELIEF OF UNREMITTING PAIN FOLLOWING 5 ROTATOR CUFF SURGERIES OVER 4 YEARS.

THANKS FOR ONGOING RECOVERY FOR CHARLES SPINKS AND
CONTINUED HEALTH.

THANKS FOR OUR WORSHIP LEADERS AT ASSEMBLY.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE REPEAT OFFENDERS THAT THEY MIGHT BE
SUPPORTED WITH RESOURCES TO ENABLE THEIR SUCCESS IN LIFE.

WE PRAY FOR RICHARD.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS THAT IN THIS PLACE, THAT WE IN THIS PLACE BE
FILLED WITH GOD'S SPIRIT OF LOVE, ACCEPTANCE AND TOLERANCE,
AND THAT WE MAY VIEW EACH OTHER, VIEW OTHERS WITH A SOFT
EYES, THE SOFT EYES OF GOD'S COMPASSION AND UNCONDITIONAL
LOVE.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY.

>> HEAR OUR PRAYER.

>> LORD GOD OF OUR ANCESTORS, WE THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU
HAVE DONE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO WITH OUR DAUGHTERS AND
SONS.

WALK WITH THEM IN LIFE, AND KEEP THE EVIL ONE FROM
OBSTRUCTING THEIR PATH.

YOU SEE ALL.

YOU KNOW WHERE THE WATER IS DEEP.

KEEP THEM FROM DANGER.

ORDER THEIR STEPS, AND GUIDE THEIR FEET WHILE THEY RUN THE
RACE OF FAITH.

MAY THE GOOD WORK THAT YOU HAVE BEGUN IN THEM BE BROUGHT

TO COMPLETION AT THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST, IN WHOSE NAME WE
PRAY, AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>> AND ONE ADDITIONAL PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, WITH JOY AND
THANKSGIVING, FOR THE GREAT JOY OF THE MARRIAGE OF JUSTIN AND
SEYWARD ASK ON MAY 21, 2010.

GOD'S BLESSINGS ON THEM.

AMEN.

PLEASE BE SEATED.

>> IF YOU DON'T KNOW, SEYWARD AND JUSTIN ASK NEW PASTORS TO
OUR SYNOD SO THE NEWLYWED COUPLE IS HERE WITH US THIS WEEK.

[APPLAUSE]

AND I WANTED TO POINT OUT THAT THE CRACK STAFF HAS PROVIDED
ME WITH NEW CREDENTIALS.

IT'S GOOD TO BE THE BISHOP.

SO WHOEVER HAS IT, NA, NA, NA, NA.

OKAY, DOWN TO BUSINESS, FOLKS.

IT'S NOW TIME TO CALL UPON MS. LINDA LARSON, THE CHAIR OF THE
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, AGAIN TO SEE WHO'S STILL HERE.

>> MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE HAD AN EXIT LIST?

[LAUGHTER]

THEY'RE STILL COMING, FOLKS.

CONGREGATIONAL LAY VOTING MEMBERS, 257.

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 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, 437.

>> THANK YOU.

AND AFTER THE RECENT RULING FROM THE PARLIAMENTARIAN, WE UNDERSTAND THIS COMES AS BUSINESS TO THE FLOOR, AND SINCE IT COMES FROM A COMMITTEE, IT DOESN'T NEED A SECOND.

BUT ALL OF THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, PLEASE SAY AYE.

>> AYE.

>> ALL THOSE OPPOSED, SAY NO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WE NOW TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO ELECTIONS, AND CALL AGAIN

UPON THE CHAIR OF THAT COMMITTEE, PASTOR JOEL EMERSON.
WHILE PASTOR EMERSON IS GETTING READY TO START HIS REPORT, I
JUST WANT TO REMIND YOU, YOU: REMEMBER WE'RE IN A TRANSITION
TIME HERE AFTER LAST ASSEMBLY'S BUSINESS OF READJUSTING THE
CONFERENCES IN OUR SYNOD, THE RESTRUCTURING.

AND WE'RE WORKING TOWARD FULLY IMPLEMENTING THAT.

AS PART OF THAT TRANSITION, ALL OF THE CONFERENCES HAVE
CHOSEN NOMINEES TO BE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SYNOD
COUNCIL.

AS SPECIFIED IN THE SYNOD BYLAWS, REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED
FROM CONFERENCES 1 THROUGH 5 THIS YEAR ARE TO SERVE
ONE-YEAR TERMS.

AND THOSE ELECTED THIS YEAR FROM CONFERENCES 6 THROUGH 9
ARE TO SERVE 2-YEAR TERMS.

AFTER THAT, EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT.

OUR ELECTIONS CHAIR, PASTOR JOEL EMERSON, WILL REPORT THE
RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS, AND WILL THEN WE WILL
CONDUCT A VOICE VOTE TO OFFICIALLY ELECT THOSE PERSONS THAT
WERE NOMINATED BY THE CONFERENCES.

>> THE FOLLOWING PERSONS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THEIR
CONFERENCES FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS ON THE SYNOD COUNCIL
BEGINNING JUNE 6th, 2010.

CONFERENCE 1, ALLISON WARD.

CONFERENCE 2, PASTOR DON VOLLENWEIDER.

CONFERENCE 3, ANDREA GREEN.

CONFERENCE 4, PASTOR MATT HENNING.

CONFERENCE 5, PASTOR DAVID SMEDLEY.

>> THE CHAIR WOULD ENTERTAIN A MOTION THAT WE ELECT THESE.

>> SO MOVED.

>> I HEAR A MOTION.

IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> ALL IN FAVOR OF ELECTING THE PERSONS JUST NAMED TO SYNOD COUNCIL POSITIONS BEGINNING FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS BEGINNING JUNE 6, PLEASE SAY AYE.

>> AYE.

>> ALL OPPOSED, SAY NO.

THANK YOU.

THEY ARE ELECTED.

>> THE FOLLOWING PERSONS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THEIR CONFERENCES FOR 2-YEAR TERMS ON THE SYNOD COUNCIL, BEGINNING JUNE 6, 2010:

CONFERENCE 6, GARY TUSTISON.

CONFERENCE 7, LEE SMITH.

CONFERENCE 8, PASTOR ANN BASSETT.

CONFERENCE 9, PASTOR MICHAEL HUNTLEY.

>> DO WE HAVE A MOTION TO ELECT THESE?

>> SO MOVED.

>> IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> WE HAVE A MOTION AND SECOND TO ELECT THE FOUR PEOPLE JUST NAMED TO SERVE 2-YEAR TERMS BEGINNING JUNE 6, 2010.

ALL OF THOSE IN FAVOR PLEASE INDICATE THAT BY SAYING AYE.

>> AYE.

>> ALL THOSE OPPOSED, SAY NO.

THEY ARE ELECTED.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL NEWLY ELECTED SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS AS WELL AS THE CURRENT AND OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO THE COUNCIL LUNCH AND MEETING TOMORROW, SUNDAY, BEGINNING AT 12:15 IN PLAZA B OF THE MARRIOTT HOTEL, PLAZA B OF THE MARRIOTT HOTEL.

PASTOR EMERSON, WE'RE READY FOR THE RESULTS OF BALLOT 1.

>> THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST BALLOT FOR SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT ARE, NUMBER OF TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 407.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 4.

THE NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION: 204.

DORIS UNDERWOOD, 265 VOTES.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU.

MARY WINFREY, 59 VOTES.

BILL ALDERFER, 56 VOTES.

EARLENE REEDER, 23 VOTES.

>> DORIS UNDERWOOD HAS BEEN ELECTED AS OUR SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT.

NOW YOU MAY APPLAUD.

[APPLAUSE]

>> PASTOR EMERSON.

>> AND WE DO WANT TO AFFIRM EVERYONE'S VOTES THAT THEY RECEIVED, SO IF WE COULD HOLD APPLAUSE UNTIL AFTER WE'VE ANNOUNCED WHO WAS ELECTED, THAT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED.

NUMBER OF TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 389 -- I'M SORRY, THIS IS THE RESULT OF THE BALLOT FOR CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, YOUTH.

THAT'S YOUTH.

AS FOLLOWS:

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 389.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 3.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 195.

ELIZABETH HAWKINS, 198 VOTES.

LINDSAY RUTLEDGE, 188 VOTES.

>> ELIZABETH HAWKINS IS ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBER.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THE RESULTS OF THE BALLOT FOR CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, YOUNG ADULT, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NUMBER OF TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 388.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 2.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 195.

CRYSTAL ROWE, 277 BALLOTS.

GWYNETH DRISKILL 109 VOTES.

>> CRYSTAL ROWE IS ELECTED AS A CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBER.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST BALLOT FOR CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY
VOTING MEMBER, CLERGY, INCLUSIVE, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NUMBER OF TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 376.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 1.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 189.

JAMES THOMAS, 205 VOTES.

LINDA BOSTON, 170 VOTES.

>> PASTOR JAMES THOMAS IS ELECTED AS A CHURCHWIDE VOTING
MEMBER.

[APPLAUSE]

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

NUMBER OF TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 354.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 0.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 178.

GARY PEDERSON, 119 VOTES.

BERT BLOOD, 107 VOTES.

LEE SMITH, 98 VOTES.

JOHN THOMAS, 97 VOTES.

GERALD WEYRAUCH, 94 VOTES.

JOHN BOST, 91 VOTES.

MICHAEL BRANDT, 88 VOTES.

MONROE HERRING, 87 VOTES.

THOMAS PRITCHARD, 64 VOTES.

JIM ADAMS, 60 VOTES.

PAUL BLACKNEY, 58 VOTES.

ALLAN ELLSTROM, 52 VOTES.

EDWIN BRYANT, 47 VOTES.

>> THERE IS NO ELECTION.

THE NEXT BALLOT WILL CONTAIN THE NAMES OF GARY PEDERSON,
BERT BLOOD, LEE SMITH, JOHN THOMAS, GERALD WEYRAUCH, AND
JOHN BOST.

>> THE RESULTS OF THE BALLOT FOR YOUNG ADULT MEMBER OF THE
SYNOD COUNCIL ARE:

NUMBER OF TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 378.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 0.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 190.

CRYSTAL ROWE, 209 VOTES.

WHITNEY LaFOLLETTE, I'M SORRY IF I PRONOUNCED THAT WRONG.

>> YOU DIDN'T.

>> GOOD FOR ME!

102 VOTES.

BRITTANY COGGINS, 67 VOTES.

>> THE CHAIR DECLARES CRYSTAL ROWE ELECTED AS A YOUNG ADULT MEMBER OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

[APPLAUSE]

WOULD YOU JOIN ME IN THANKING ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE AGREED TO SERVE AND WERE ON ANY OF THESE BALLOTS FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DO THAT, TO SERVE OUR SYNOD IN THIS WAY.

[APPLAUSE]

BUT WE'RE NOT DONE YET.

WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE NEXT BALLOT, PASTOR.

>> BALLOT NUMBER 2 INCLUDES THE RUNOFF ELECTION FOR THE FIRST 3 LAY MALE POSITIONS FOR CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER. ALSO, BECAUSE PASTOR JAMES THOMAS WAS ELECTED AS A CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER IN THE CLERGY INCLUSIVE POSITION, ON THIS BALLOT, YOU WILL BE VOTING FOR A FEMALE CLERGY CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBER.

OUR RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE REQUIRE THAT WE ASSURE THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT IS ELECTED AS ONE OF OUR CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS.

SO YOU'LL SEE A CATEGORY ON THIS BALLOT WITH THE INSTRUCTION TO VOTE FOR 1 OF 1, WITH THAT 1 PERSON BEING THE NEWLY ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT.

IT IS PRO FORM MA BUT WE HAVE TO DO IT.

WE HAVE TO ACTUALLY ELECT THEM.

THEY WILL BE THE ONLY ONE IN THAT CATEGORY THAT YOU CAN VOTE FOR.

PLEASE VOTE FOR THEM SO THAT WE CAN ELECT THEM, FOR HIM SO THAT WE CAN --

>> FOR HER.

>> SORRY.

PLEASE VOTE FOR HER SO THAT WE CAN DO THAT.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT OF THE 4 LAY FEMALE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED, 3 OF THEM WILL CONSIST OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE YOUTH AND THE YOUNG ADULT VOTING MEMBERS.

THAT WHAT WE JUST DID IN THE LAST ELECTION.

SO ON THIS BALLOT, WE'LL BE ELECTING ONLY ONE ADDITIONAL LAY FEMALE.

FINALLY, WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT, THE PROPER WAY TO FILL IT OUT IS TO LOOK FOR THE BUBBLE NUMBER THAT MATCHES THE POSITION NUMBER OF THE CANDIDATE THAT YOU ARE VOTING FOR. IT LOOKED LIKE ON BALLOT 1, PERHAPS, THAT JUST A FEW MARKED WHATEVER BUBBLE WAS CLOSEST TO THE NAME PRINTED ON THE BALLOT.

SO I WANT TO BE SURE WE'RE CLEAR ON THIS.

FIRST OF ALL, FROM THE COMMITTEE, I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU.

Y'ALL DID A GREAT JOB THE FIRST TIME.

WE HAD VERY FEW BALLOTS THAT HAD TO BE DISQUALIFIED, AND THAT

WAS WONDERFUL.

WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT WE'RE CLEAR IF YOU'RE LOOKING DOWN THE BALLOT AND YOU SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, HYPOTHETICALLY MY NAME, JOEL EMERSON, FOR KING, AND YOU WANT TO VOTE FOR ME FOR KING, AND HYPOTHETICALLY, THE NUMBER, POSITION NUMBER, WITH MY NAME IS NUMBER 7 FOR PERFECTION, YOU WILL WANT TO GO --

[LAUGHTER]

-- DOWN THE LEFT-HAND SIDE OF NUMBERS IN THE LITTLE BOXES AND FILL IN NUMBER 7 PERFECTLY SO THAT YOUR VOTE IS COUNTED.

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHERE THE NUMBER ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE IS IN RELATIONSHIP TO MY NAME.

>> CAN YOU TELL HE'S FROM NASHVILLE?

>> I JUST MIGHT CLARIFY TO YOU WHILE I'M HERE: THE KING CONFERENCE IS BECAUSE CHRIST IS THE KING.

IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT ELVIS IS ASSOCIATED WITH ALL THREE. WE LIKE TO THINK THAT JESUS IS ASSOCIATED WITH ALL THREE, FOR THOSE OF YOU TALKING IN THE HALL.

AND WE HEARD YOU.

[LAUGHTER]

IF YOU CAN'T HAVE SOME FUN HERE, I'M NOT SURE WHY WE'RE HERE.

SO, PLEASE, WHEN YOU GET YOUR BALLOT, BE CAREFUL.

PICK OUT THE NAME YOU WANT TO VOTE FOR, AND BEARING IN MIND HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU CAN VOTE FOR IN EACH SECTION, AND MAKE SURE YOU FIND THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER AND FILL THAT IN WITH

PENCIL, NUMBER 2 PENCIL ONLY.

ANOTHER QUESTION THAT CAME UP WAS WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN VOTE FOR FEWER CANDIDATES THAN THOSE INDICATED.

AND THAT ANSWER IS: YES.

IF YOU VOTE IN ONLY ONE ELECTION AND OMIT THE OTHERS, YOUR VOTE FOR THAT ONE ELECTION WILL STILL BE VALID, AND WILL STILL BE COUNTED.

THE MAIN THING THAT YOU CANNOT DO IS VOTE FOR MORE THAN THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES INDICATED FOR EACH ELECTION.

AND THAT'S HOW YOU GUARANTEE THAT YOUR BALLOT FOR THAT ELECTION WILL BE CONSIDERED INVALID.

>> THANK YOU, DOCTOR.

>> IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.

[LAUGHTER]

>> BOY, YOU LEFT A REAL HOLE TO DRIVE A TRUCK THROUGH THERE, BUT I WON'T DO IT.

OKAY.

THANK YOU FOR THE REPORT, AND ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS BEFORE WE BEGIN THIS BALLOTING?

CERTAINLY THERE COULDN'T BE, I GUESS.

WE'LL DISTRIBUTE THE BALLOTS NOW.

WHEN YOU FINISH VOTING PLEASE HOLD THEM UP SO OUR ELECTION WORKERS CAN SEE THEM AND PICK THEM UP.

[VOTING]

DO PEOPLE STILL NEED MORE TIME?

IF YOU FINISH YOUR BALLOTS, HOLD THEM UP.

AND IF YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED VOTING, VOTE QUICKLY.

HAS EVERYONE FINISHED VOTING?

IF YOU STILL NEED TIME, RAISE YOUR HAND.

OKAY, WE HAVE ONE STILL VOTING.

ANYONE ELSE NEED ADDITIONAL TIME VOTING BEFORE THE POLLS ARE CLOSED?

I DON'T SEE ANY HANDS, AND SO THE POLLS ARE CLOSED.

WE ARE PREPARING TO HEAR FROM OUR CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE.

IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE AMONG US, IN THIS SYNOD, WHO HAVE BEEN FACEBOOKING WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE.

THERE'S ONE GUY, A PERSON WHO'S EVIDENTLY A PASTOR NAMED JASON TALSNESS, WHO PUT THIS ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE: "THE BISHOP JUST REPORTED THAT OUT OF 323 PASTORS IN OUR SYNOD, ONLY 43 ARE BELOW THE AGE OF 50."

TO WHICH A PASTOR WHO I WON'T NAME, SINCE HE'S FROM ANOTHER SYNOD AND THIS MIGHT EMBARRASS HIM, SAYS: "YO, I'M UNDER 50, IN FACT UNDER 40, WILLING TO MOVE SOUTH."

[LAUGHTER]

TO WHICH PASTOR TALSNESS REPLIED: "THE REPORT ALSO MENTIONED THAT OVER 300 PASTORS HAVE SENT THEIR MOBILITY

PAPERS TO THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD."

TO WHICH THE AFOREMENTIONED PASTOR REPLIED: "ALL MY DAYDREAMS ARE DISASTERS."

[LAUGHTER]

ONE MORE, AND I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TALK TO PASTOR TALSNESS ABOUT THIS ONE, BECAUSE I THOUGHT WE'D BEEN HAVING A GOOD TIME HERE.

"LUTHERANS DO BELIEVE IN PURGATORY," HE WRITES.

"IT'S CALLED SYNOD ASSEMBLY."

I JUST CAN'T SAY WHAT I'M FEELING HERE.

[LAUGHTER]

BUT, JASON, WE'RE GOING TO TALK -- THERE IS ANOTHER PASTOR, KAREN JOHNSON, WHO SAID: "TWO WEEKS BEFORE ASSEMBLY, MY CAR GOT TOTALED, I BROKE A RIB, AND THE BISHOP ACCEPTED IT AS AN EXCUSED ABSENCE, JUST IN CASE YOU EVER NEED AN EXCUSE."

[LAUGHTER]

A PASTOR RUTH HETLUND RESPONDED: "I CHANGED CALLS AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME OF YEAR, MISSED THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY FOR THE SYNOD I WAS LEAVING AND THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY TO WHICH I WAS GOING."

[APPLAUSE]

JASON, WE'RE ONTO YOU, BUDDY.

I INTRODUCED THE REVEREND DR. STAN OLSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE VOCATION AND EDUCATION UNIT OF THE EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA TO YOU EARLIER.

HE'S BACK NOW, THIS TIME TO GIVE OUR REPORT FROM CHURCHWIDE.

PASTOR OLSON, WELCOME BACK.

>> THANK YOU, BISHOP.

WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT SYNOD ASSEMBLY AS PURGATORY, IT

REMINDS ME OF TWO THINGS.

ONE, JUST TO SHOW YOU THAT SOME OF THESE THINGS HAVEN'T

CHANGED OVER THE YEARS, MY DAD'S OLDER BROTHER WAS A

PASTOR -- HE DIED A FEW YEARS AGO AT 95 -- TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE

WAS IN SEMINARY, THEY HAD CONDUCTED SOME KIND OF A CONTEST,

AND FIRST PRIZE WAS GOING TO BE A TOUR OF CHURCH

HEADQUARTERS IN MINNEAPOLIS.

SECOND PRIZE WAS TWO TOURS OF CHURCH HEADQUARTERS.

WITH THAT AS A PREFACE, LET ME INVITE Y'ALL TO COME VISIT US.

IT IS ACTUALLY WORTH COMING UP TO YOUR OFFICE BUILDING IN

CHICAGO TO DISCOVER THAT THE PEOPLE WHO WORK THERE ARE

JUST LIKE YOU AND ME, AND WONDERFUL FOLKS.

THE OTHER STORY I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU IS THAT I ONLY SKIPPED

SYNOD ASSEMBLY ONCE.

WE DID GET THE BISHOP'S AGREEMENT.

WE WENT TO EUROPE.

THAT WAS THE ONLY WEEK WE COULD GO.

THAT WAS '93.

THE NEXT YEAR, I WAS ELECTED BISHOP.

LET THAT BE A WARNING TO YOU IF YOU SEEK THESE EXCUSED ABSENCES.

TWICE IN ONE DAY I GET THE PRIVILEGE OF SPEAKING WITH YOU, AND TWICE IN ONE DAY THE PRIVILEGE OF SHARING WITH YOU SOME OF MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE PORTIONS.

THIS MORNING IT WAS A STORY, THE RATHER LENGTHY STORY, OR A PIECE OF THE LENGTHY STORY, OF THE EXODUS AND THE PROMISED LAND.

THIS AFTERNOON, IT'S A FOUNDATIONAL VERSE, AND IT'S ONE YOU ALL KNOW FROM MEMORY.

IN FACT, IT'S THE ONE YOU PROBABLY FIRST MEMORIZED.

THAT WOULD BE JOHN 3:16.

WILL YOU SAY IT WITH ME?

ACTUALLY, SAY IT TO EACH OTHER.

LET'S PROCLAIM THIS WORD TO ONE ANOTHER.

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM MAY NOT PERISH, BUT MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."

WE DO ALL KNOW IT.

SOME OF JUST LEARNED IT IN KING JAMES.

SOME OF US IN RSV, AND SOME OF US IN NRSV, BUT INDEED, THOSE FAMILIAR WORDS HAVE BEEN A FOUNDATION FOR MY OWN FAITH THROUGHOUT MY LIFE.

MY ROLE TODAY IS, AS THE BISHOP SAID, TO SHARE WHAT'S CALLED

THE CHURCHWIDE REPORT.

THIS IS A CHANCE FOR US TO THINK TOGETHER ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WE DO TOGETHER.

THIS FOUNDATIONAL VERSE, OF COURSE, COMES TO MY MIND BECAUSE OF YOUR THEME FOR YOUR ASSEMBLY: INTO ALL THE WORLD.

BECAUSE GOD LOVED THE WORLD, AS I READ ONE OF THESE ASSEMBLY REPORTS TO MYSELF, THE EVENING BEFORE I GIVE IT, MY NORMAL REACTION IS: OH, I SHOULD HAVE TALKED ABOUT THAT INSTEAD.

OR, NO, MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TALKED ABOUT THAT INSTEAD.

THERE ARE JUST ALMOST ENDLESS STORIES OF THINGS THAT WE COULD TALK ABOUT TOGETHER THAT WE ARE DOING TOGETHER.

I'M FASCINATED BY INFRASTRUCTURE.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, NANCY AND I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT TWO DIFFERENT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT STRUCK ME IS THAT DEVELOPMENT INVOLVES INFRASTRUCTURE.

IN ONE CASE, WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT THERE WAS NO GARBAGE COLLECTION IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE WE WERE LIVING.

AND THEN WE STARTED THINKING ABOUT ALL THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE TO HAVE IN PLACE BEFORE YOU CAN HAVE ROUTINE GARBAGE COLLECTION.

YOU HAVE TO HAVE RELIABLE ROADS.

YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOME KIND OF A TAXATION SYSTEM THAT BRINGS IN THE FUNDS.

YOU HAVE TO HAVE A GASOLINE SUPPLY SYSTEM.

YOU HAVE TO HAVE A PLACE TO TAKE THE GARBAGE AFTER YOU COLLECT IT, ALL THESE PIECES OF INFRASTRUCTURE.

AND I'VE JUST BEEN INTRIGUED OVER THE YEARS SINCE THEN ABOUT HOW WE TAKE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GRANTED: THE HIGHWAYS, THE ELECTRICAL GRID, NOW THE INTERNET, ALL THESE THINGS WE COME TO COUNT ON.

YOU'RE IRRITATED WHEN WI-FI ISN'T AVAILABLE OR WHEN IT'S DOWN. WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED.

WHAT WE -- PART OF WHAT WE DO TOGETHER AS INDIVIDUALS, CONGREGATIONS, SYNODS, DENOMINATIONS, INSTITUTIONS, IS CREATE AND TEND INFRASTRUCTURE.

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU A BIT ABOUT THIS MORNING, THIS AFTERNOON.

INFRASTRUCTURES HELP US GET THINGS DONE, BUT IT'S VERY EASY TO FORGET THEM, TO FORGET THEIR NECESSITY, TO FORGET TO SUSTAIN THEM.

OVER THE GENERATIONS, AS NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CHURCHES, THIS CHURCH AND ITS PREDECESSORS BUILT DEPENDABLE AND FLEXIBLE INFRASTRUCTURES THAT STILL BLESS US.

GOD SO LOVES THE WORLD THAT HE SENT CHRIST, AND GOD SO LOVES THE WORLD THAT IN CHRIST'S NAME, WE CAN BUILD

INFRASTRUCTURES TO SHARE THAT LOVE WITH THE WORLD.

I WANT TO START WITH SOME INDIVIDUAL STORIES.

I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO PRESIDING BISHOP MARK HANSON.

WE HAVE A VIDEO.

AND HE'S GOING TO TALK WITH US A BIT ABOUT EVERYDAY

EVANGELISTS.

[BEGINNING OF VIDEO]

>> BLESSINGS TO YOU, MY SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST, AS YOU GATHER AT YOUR SYNOD ASSEMBLY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING PRAYERS, LEADERSHIP, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

HOW DO YOU TELL THE STORY OF WHO WE ARE AS THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA?

I'M DRAWN TO OUR EMBLEM AS A WAY OF TELLING OUR STORY, WHERE WE SEE THE CROSS FIRMLY CENTERED IN OUR WORLD.

IN THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM, WE PROMISE TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD IN CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND DEED.

THAT MEANS WE ARE ALL EVANGELISTS.

TODAY I INVITE YOU TO MEET SOME ELCA EVANGELISTS WHO ARE LIVING OUT THEIR FAITH IN WORD AND DEED.

>> COFFEE IS BREWING IN THE BASEMENT OF BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH IN RURAL ILLINOIS, BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO DRINK IT.

THE WOMEN WHO GATHER HERE EVERY WEDNESDAY HAVE A STRICT QUOTA TO MEET, 25 QUILTS BEFORE THEY CALL IT A DAY AT 3:00.

>> THIS IS MY CHURCH FAMILY, YOU KNOW?

FAMILY OF GOD.

>> EACH QUILT THEY MAKE BY HAND IS A REMINDER THAT SOMEONE SOMEWHERE CARED ENOUGH TO CREATE A GIFT OF WARMTH AND A BEAUTY.

>> IT IS A TYPE OF EVANGELISM, AND IT IS A TYPE OF REACHING OUT. SO AS OUR QUILTS LEAVE US, THEY GO MANY, MANY PLACES.

SO THEY ARE REACHING OUT.

WE'RE TOUCHING SOMEONE SOMEPLACE.

IF SOMEONE WOULD SAY TO ME THAT I'M A HERO OR THAT WE ARE A HERO FOR WHAT WE DO DOWN HERE, I THINK WE WOULD ALL SAY: OH, NO.

WE JUST ARE DOING WHAT IS GOOD FOR US, WHICH WE LIKE TO DO, AND FORTUNATELY, IT'S HELPING SOMEBODY ELSE.

MY FAITH IS WHAT I TRY TO LIVE, AND SO MAYBE JUST COMING DOWN HERE AND DOING THESE THINGS, I HOPE SHOWS PEOPLE THAT I AM SERIOUS ABOUT MY FAITH.

>> LAST YEAR, THE WOMEN OF BETHESDA LUTHERAN MADE 1,195 QUILTS.

IN 2009, ELCA CONGREGATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY SHARED APPROXIMATELY 220,000 QUILTS WITH PEOPLE IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD.

BOSTON IS KNOWN FOR ITS FINE DINING.

ONE PLACE TO FIND A GOURMET MEAL IS FAITH KITCHEN, BUT THE 50

GUESTS WHO WILL BE WELCOMED HERE TONIGHT WON'T PAY A PENNY.
SOME EVEN HELP PREPARE THE FOOD.

>> SOME PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED BY PRAYER.

SOME PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE CHURCH.

SOME PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED BY THEIR THOUGHTS.

SOME PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED BY SERVING SOUP.

AND IT'S A MINISTRY OF THE WHOLE CHURCH.

>> AT FAITH KITCHEN, EVERYONE SITS DOWN TOGETHER, GUESTS AND
VOLUNTEERS, TO ENJOY THE DELICIOUS FOOD AND TAKE A WELCOME
BREAK.

>> THE ATMOSPHERE OF FAITH KITCHEN IS VERY MUCH LIKE FAITH
LUTHERAN CHURCH.

IT'S A SMALL CHURCH.

THERE ARE A LOT OF YOUNG FAMILIES, AND IT'S VERY FAMILY
ORIENTED IN THE SENSE THAT IT'S SMALL, TIGHT-KNIT, INTIMATE.

I THINK FAITH KITCHEN HAS THAT SPIRIT, TOO.

I THINK THE CHURCH HAS GIVEN IT THAT SPIRIT.

THERE ARE REGULARS, REGULAR VOLUNTEERS, REGULAR GUESTS.

I USE THAT DISTINCTION GUEST VERSUS VOLUNTEERS BUT ACTUALLY,
MOST MEALS, THE LINES SEEM PRETTY BLURRY.

THERE MAY BE SOME FOLKS WHO SHOW UP EARLY TO HELP IN THE
KITCHEN, AND SOME FOLKS MAY JUST SHOW UP FOR A MEAL.

BUT WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER, THERE'S NOT A CLEAR SENSE OF WHO
THE HELPER IS AND WHO THE ONE BEING HELPED IS.

>> AFTER BEING AWAY FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR YEARS, DIVINITY STUDENT CRAIG SIMONSON HEARD A CALL TO ORDAINED MINISTRY WHILE WORKING PART-TIME AT FAITH KITCHEN.

>> THE EVANGELISM AT FAITH KITCHEN, A LOT OF TIMES FOLKS THINK OF EVANGELISM BEING YOU GO OUT, OUT, OUT.

BUT I THINK WHAT FAITH KITCHEN DOES IS WE BRING FOLKS IN, FOLKS WHO ARE HUNGRY, FOLKS WHO MAYBE DON'T HAVE A KITCHEN OR A PLACE TO COOK BY THEMSELVES, FOLKS WHO ARE ON THE MARGINS, ON THE OUTSIDE A LOT OF THE TIMES.

BUT FAITH KITCHEN OPENS THE DOORS FOR THOSE FOLKS TO COME IN.

>> IN MY HOME CHURCH IN NORTH CANTON, OHIO, MY FATHER AND MY PASTOR AT THE TIME STARTED A SOUP KITCHEN.

MY SISTER AND I WOULD GO AND DO WHATEVER WE COULD DO RUNNING IT AND GETTING STUFF FROM THE KITCHEN, TALKING TO THE PEOPLE THAT WERE ATTENDING THE SOUP KITCHENS, SO WE JUST LEARNED FROM A YOUNG AGE HOW TO HELP OUT.

>> KAYLEY IS ONE OF YOUNG ADULTS WHO FOUND A HOME AT FAITH LUTHERAN BY VOLUNTEERING AT FAITH KITCHEN.

>> WHEN MY FATHER FOUND OUT I WAS INVOLVED, HE COULDN'T BELIEVE IT, BECAUSE ALL THESE YEARS HE HAD MADE ME GO AND HELP, AND HE COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT I WAS ACTUALLY ATTENDING IT MYSELF AND WANTING TO DO IT, ENJOYING IT SO HE THOUGHT IT WAS GREAT.

>> ON A TUESDAY EVENING, FAITH KITCHEN WILL FEED 50 GUESTS.

THE ELCA PROVIDED EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF TO NEARLY 80,000 PEOPLE IN HAITI IN THE WEEKS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE.

JORGE SEVEREA KNOWS IT TAKES A PERSONAL INVITATION TO WELCOME OTHERS TO SUNDAY WORSHIP.

IT'S A COLD MORNING SOUTHWEST OF MINNEAPOLIS, BUT HE'S READY TO GO OUT AND KNOCK ON A FEW DOORS.

FIRST UP, A WARMING MOMENT OF PRAYER WITH FRIENDS, INCLUDING JORGE'S PASTOR.

FIRST, JORGE HAD TO KNOCK ON THE DOOR OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

>> HE AND PASTOR LUISA CAME TO OUR CHURCH AND CAME IN VERY EXCITEDLY TELLING ABOUT HOW THEY HAD BEEN OUT VISITING OTHER PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY, AND HOW WE HAD A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO REACH OUT TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO HADN'T HEARD THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST.

>> EVANGELISM IS ABSOLUTELY A PART OF WHO WE ARE.

AS THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.

>> EVANGELISM ISN'T A PROGRAM.

IT'S ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS.

IT IS ABOUT BEING OUT IN YOUR LIFE, AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY, LOOKING FOR PEOPLE.

THE RELATIONSHIP, THE CONNECTION IS MADE, BY PEOPLE BEING FRIENDLY, BY PEOPLE BEING WELCOMING.

AND IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

AND TO BE OPEN TO STRANGERS, TO GO OUT AND LOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT LIKE YOU, WHOEVER THAT MIGHT BE.

>> I REALLY APPRECIATE THE INVESTMENT OF THE ELCA IN SEEING AND HELPING TO DEVELOP PEOPLE WHO HAVE AN OPENNESS.

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT IN THIS OPEN DOOR IS ABOUT BEING A PEOPLE WHO CHRIST FIRST OPENED UP THAT DOOR, AND OUR JOY IS TO WALK THROUGH.

>> THIS MORNING, JORGE KNOCKED ON THREE DOORS IN THE TWIN CITIES NEIGHBORHOODS.

IN 2009, ELCA OPENED THE DOORS OF 32 NEW CONGREGATIONS AND SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES.

>> THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE THOUSANDS OF STORIES PORTRAYING WHO WE ARE AS THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.

WE ARE BAPTIZED BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST, SET FREE THROUGH FAITH, TO DO GOD'S WORK, WITH OUR HANDS.

YES, I'M AN EVANGELIST.

YOU ARE AN EVANGELIST, PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND DEED.

THAT GOSPEL SETS ME FREE TO RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL, SAYING, HERE I AM, LORD.

SEND ME.

>> HERE I AM, LORD.

SEND ME.

>> HERE I AM LORD, SEND ME.

>> HERE I AM, LORD.

SEND ME.

>> HERE I AM, LORD, SEND ME.

>> HERE I AM, LORD, SEND ME.

>> HERE I AM, LORD, SEND ME.

[APPLAUSE]

[END OF VIDEO]

>> GOD LOVES THE WORLD.

AND EVERYDAY EVANGELISTS SHOW THAT GOOD NEWS LOCALLY IN WORDS AND ACTIONS.

WE HEARD THERE ABOUT 3 COMMUNITIES: THE QUILTERS WITH THEIR SELF-IMPOSED QUOTA.

THE NEIGHBORS EATING WITH HUNGRY NEIGHBORS.

AND THE JESUS STORYTELLER GATHERING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME.

YOU COULD ALL ADD MANY OTHER STORIES TO THOSE THOUSANDS

THAT THE BISHOP REFERS TO, LIKE WE PROBABLY SHOULD SAY

MILLIONS, PEOPLE WORKING LOCALLY.

EVERYDAY EVANGELISM IS PART OF THE SAME REALITY AS "INTO ALL THE WORLD."

IT IS THAT SAME REALITY.

EACH ONE OF US IS INVOLVED LOCALLY, AND THEREBY GLOBALLY.

SOME OF THOSE QUILTS IN THAT VIDEO, PROBABLY ALL OF THEM,

WERE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF NETWORKS THAT JOHN NUÑES TOLD US ABOUT YESTERDAY. THOSE NEIGHBORS EATING TOGETHER AND THOSE NEIGHBORS HEARING THE JESUS STORY TOGETHER COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

SOME OF THEM JUST ARRIVED A FEW MONTHS AGO.

SOME A FEW GENERATIONS AGO.

THEY HAVE CONNECTIONS.

AND EACH OF THEM HELPS THE OTHERS UNDERSTAND THE GOOD NEWS IN WAYS THAT MAKE SENSE: AT HOME, AND AT A DISTANCE.

THOSE OF US WHO GET TO BE CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVES AT SYNOD ASSEMBLIES HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF TELLING THE STORY OF OUR PARTNERSHIP, IN THE WAY WE WANT TO, AND ALMOST ALL OF US CHOOSE TO TELL IT IN WAYS THAT ARE IN OUR AREA OF WORK.

SO THAT'S, OF COURSE, WHAT I'M GOING TO DO, AS WELL, AND THEN TOUCH SEVERAL OTHERS.

BUT IT'S NOT EXCLUSIVE.

I WANT TO TALK A LITTLE PARTICULARLY ABOUT HOW WE TEACH AND LEARN THE FAITH GLOBALLY, MAKING SOME CONNECTIONS WITH HOW WE DO THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION WITH GLOBAL CONNECTIONS.

AND I WANT TO TALK ABOUT PREPARING AND SUPPORTING FAITHFUL LEADERS.

THESE ARE BOTH MATTERS THAT OUR VOCATION AND EDUCATION UNIT HAS A ROLE IN, BUT NOT ALONE.

THESE ARE THINGS WE DO TOGETHER.

FIRST SOME STORIES ABOUT TEACHING AND LEARNING THE FAITH GLOBALLY.

LAST WEEK, I WAS IN AN EMAIL CONVERSATION, NOT FACEBOOK, I'M TOO OLD FOR THAT.

IT'S JUST EMAIL.

E-MAIL CONVERSATION WITH PROFESSOR WALTER TAYLOR, WHO TEACHES NEW TESTAMENT AT OUR TRINITY SEMINARY IN COLUMBUS, OHIO.

WALLY HAD A SABBATICAL LAST YEAR.

HE RECEIVED A SMALL GRANT THROUGH THE ELCA GLOBAL MISSION DOLLARS THAT ARE SET APART TO HELP PROFESSORS STUDY AND TEACH IN ONE OF OUR PARTNER CHURCHES WHEN THEY HAVE A SABBATICAL YEAR.

WALLY WENT TO EGYPT, STUDIED AND TAUGHT AT THE EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN CAIRO.

HERE'S A PARAGRAPH FROM THE REPORT THAT WALLY SENT BACK TO US.

"I AM PARTICULARLY THANKFUL FOR HOW MY STUDENTS THERE HELPED ME UNDERSTAND THE LIFE AND WITNESS OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN EGYPT.

EVERY DAY, OF COURSE, WAS A CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE.

I LEARNED A GREAT DEAL, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS IN THE CLASSES THAT I TAUGHT, AND IN THE

OPPORTUNITIES TO PREACH IN LOCAL CONGREGATIONS."

AND THEN IN A NOTE TO ME, WALLY ADDED, "IN SOME WAYS, MY TIME OF GLOBAL SERVICE CONTINUES, AS JUST TODAY, I HAD ANOTHER IN THE REGULAR STREAM OF EMAILS AND FACEBOOK POSTINGS FROM STUDENTS AND PASTORS IN EGYPT."

NOW, THINK ABOUT THIS: WALLY IS A TEACHER OF PRESENT AND FUTURE ELCA PASTORS, ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY, DEACONESSES, DIACONAL MINISTERS.

AND HE'S OUT PREACHING AND TEACHING IN CONGREGATIONS AT SYNOD ASSEMBLIES, AND AT OTHER GATHERINGS.

THINK OF THE IMPACT THAT THIS GLOBAL EXPERIENCE, THIS YEAR IN EGYPT, IS GOING TO HAVE ON HIS TEACHING, ON HIS PREACHING, ON HIS SHARING THE GOSPEL.

THINK HOW THIS COMES AROUND, AND THINK ABOUT THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT MADE THIS POSSIBLE.

WALLY HAD NO PRIOR PERSONAL CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH IN EGYPT.

TRINITY SEMINARY HAD NO PRIOR CONNECTION WITH THAT SEMINARY IN EGYPT.

BUT THE ELCA GLOBAL MISSION UNIT HAS FAITHFULLY MAINTAINED CONNECTIONS TO OUR COMPANION CHURCH IN EGYPT.

WE HAVE HAD GLOBAL MISSION PERSONNEL TEACHING AT THAT EGYPTIAN SEMINARY OVER THE YEARS.

AND THEY HAVE FOSTERED INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONAL

CONNECTIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE.

GLOBAL MISSION, VOCATION AND EDUCATION UNITS, AND THE SEMINARIES, JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, SET UP A GLOBAL SABBATICAL PROGRAM, AND THAT'S WHAT ALLOWED WALLY TO GO TO EGYPT, AND ALLOWED HIM TO COME BACK ENRICHED FOR HIS WORK AMONG US.

THOSE DENOMINATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES HAVE BORN FRUIT.

THEY ARE BEARING FRUIT FOR THE MISSION OF CHRIST.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT THAT MAKES THOUSANDS OF OTHERS BETTER ABLE TO BE EVERYDAY EVANGELISTS.

THE ELCA HAS MANY GLOBAL MISSION PERSONNEL TEACHING LONG-TERM IN OUR PARTNER CHURCHES.

WITH BISHOP AND MRS. KEE HERE AMONG US, I'M THINKING ABOUT OUR PARTNER CHURCH DOWN THERE IN SINGAPORE WHERE DR. JEFF TRUSCOT IS A TEACHER, AND NEARBY IN MALAYSIA, DR. PHIL BAKER, WHO MANY OF YOU KNOW BECAUSE OF HIS YEARS AT SOUTHERN SEMINARY, IS TEACHING AND PROVIDING LEADERSHIP.

ANOTHER OF YOUR COMPANION CHURCHES IS THE GUATEMALAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

THAT MAKES ME THINK OF OUR MISSIONARIES TEACHING IN LATIN AMERICA.

DAVID BRUNDOS IN THE LUTHERAN SEMINARY IN MEXICO.

DAVID AND CYNTHIA COOK AT UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE IN JAMAICA.

THERE'S A BRAND NEW -- THANK YOU.

YOU'RE MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE, YOU KNOW, CUP OF COLD WATER.

THERE'S A BRAND NEW ELCA PRESS RELEASE.

AFTER I WROTE THAT PARAGRAPH, A PRESS RELEASE CAME OUT TALKING ABOUT PASTOR JOSEPH LAVONIS, WHO IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HAITI.

HE'S A GRADUATE OF UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN JAMAICA.

AND HE COUNTS DAVID AND MARY COOK AS AMONGST HIS CLOSE FRIENDS, AND HIS VALUED TEACHERS.

NOW PASTOR LAVONIS AND HIS CHURCH ARE PARTNERS WITH ELCA, LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE, LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF, AS OUR GIFTS ARE DIRECTED TO EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN HAITI.

IT IS THIS INFRASTRUCTURE OF CONNECTION THAT ENABLES US TO DO THE WORK TO WHICH GOD CALLS US.

WONDERFUL GLOBAL MINISTRIES ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR WORK TOGETHER AS THE ELCA THROUGH THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF GOD'S LOVE.

CONNECTIONS WORK IN AMAZING WAYS.

THIS FALL, PRESIDING BISHOP MARK HANSON AND GLOBAL MISSION EXECUTIVE RAFAEL WILL TRAVEL TO ASIA FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHINA-CHRISTIAN COUNCIL, A COLLABORATION OF CHINESE LEADERS THAT IS PUTTING GREAT EMPHASIS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEADERS FOR CHURCH AND SOCIETY IN CHINA.

THE CHAIR OF THE CHINA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IS REV. JAO, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF A SEMINARY, THE FLAGSHIP PROTESTANT

SEMINARY LOCATED NEAR SHANGHAI.

DR. JAO HAS A MASTER'S DEGREE FROM THE ELCA'S LUTHERAN SEMINARY IN ST. PAUL, AND A DOCTORATE FROM LUTHERAN SEMINARY IN HONG KONG, WHERE THE ELCA HAS LONG BEEN AN ACTIVE PARTNER.

HE WAS ABLE TO PURSUE THAT LEARNING IN PART BECAUSE OF SCHOLARSHIP HELP THROUGH THE ELCA GLOBAL MISSION PROGRAM. THINK ABOUT THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT YOU HELPED MAKE POSSIBLE SO THAT TODAY, DR. JAO CAN BE A STRONG LEADER IN EFFORTS TO EVANGELIZE CHINA, AND TO PLACE CHRISTIANS AMONG THE CIVIL LEADERS IN THAT NATION.

AND THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO LEARNED FROM HIM, AS THEY STUDIED TOGETHER, IN THE U.S., IN HONG KONG.

AND THINK ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE WHO NOW HAVE MORE GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL BECAUSE THEY STUDIED ALONG SIDE A PERSON FROM A DIFFERENT PART OF THE WORLD, WHO SHARED THEIR FAITH.

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF STORIES LIKE THIS.

ACTUALLY, THERE ARE MORE THAN 800 STORIES LIKE THIS, BECAUSE THAT THE NUMBER OF GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIPS THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN JUST SINCE THE ELCA WAS FORMED.

800 LUTHERANS FROM AROUND THE GLOBAL WHO WERE ASSISTED IN THEIR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BY SOME OF THE MISSION SUPPORT DOLLARS THAT YOU SHARED.

THEY'VE STUDIED AT OUR SEMINARIES, AT MANY OF OUR COLLEGES,
AT OTHER SCHOOLS IN THIS COUNTRY, AND AROUND THE GLOBE.

AND IT'S NOT JUST ONE WAY, THIS INFRASTRUCTURE.

IT GOES BOTH WAYS.

WE ALSO HAVE TEACHERS ON OUR CAMPUSES THAT COME FROM OUR
PARTNER CHURCHES.

YOU MAKE THAT POSSIBLE.

40 YEARS AGO, I HAD A CLASSMATE IN SEMINARY, A FRIEND FROM
ETHIOPIA.

AFTER WE GRADUATED, HE WENT HOME AND WAS A PASTOR THERE
UNTIL HIS UNTIMELY DEATH.

HIS NAME WAS KEFLA JESUS.

IT MEANS "PART OF JESUS."

HE BECAME PART OF MY UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE
PART OF JESUS, BECAUSE WE STUDIED TOGETHER, BECAUSE WE MADE
FRIENDS.

THIS YOUNG GUY FROM IOWA, AND THAT YOUNG GUY FROM ETHIOPIA,
I'M SURE WE WERE BOTH CHANGED IN OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND OUR
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY, BECAUSE WE WERE BLESSED WITH THAT
INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTED OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY TOGETHER.
EXPLORING THE FAITH TOGETHER GLOBALLY.

NOT QUITE THEOLOGICAL STUDY BUT JUST LAST WEEK, 35 YOUNG
ADULTS FROM 23 GLOBAL PARTNER CHURCHES ARRIVED FOR
ORIENTATION IN CHICAGO, FOR OUR ELCA INTERNATIONAL CAMP

COUNSELOR PROGRAM.

THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON ABOUT 20 YEARS NOW.

THEY WILL SPEND THE SUMMER AT 29 LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES BUILDING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS WITH YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS WHO ARE ON THE STAFF OF THOSE CAMPS, AND WHO COME THERE AS CAMPERS.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, THE CHURCH WIDE ORGANIZATION DOES THE LOGISTICS FOR THIS, AND THE ORIENTATION.

IT'S A SMALL THING.

BUT YEAR AFTER YEAR, IT HAS A BIG IMPACT.

NOW SHIFTING TO ANOTHER KIND OF INFRASTRUCTURE, LET ME REMIND YOU OF THE ESSENTIAL WORK OF PREPARING AND SUPPORTING LEADERS.

LIKE THE GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURES, IT'S EASY TO FORGET THAT THIS ESSENTIAL STUFF IS HAPPENING.

SOMEDAY WHEN YOUR PASTOR RETIRES, OR ACCEPTS ANOTHER CALL, YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT A NEW PASTOR.

OR LET ME CONCLUDE PASTOR -- INCLUDE THE PASTORS IN THIS STORY, AS WELL.

YOU MAY SOMEDAY WANT A DIFFERENT CALL.

NOW, YOU ALL COULD GO ONLINE.

THERE MAY BE AN ONLINE DATING SERVICE FOR PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS.

I DON'T KNOW.

THERE PROBABLY IS.

SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO MAKE A BUCK.

BUT THAT APPROACH WOULD BRING YOU A LOT OF UNKNOWNNS.

INSTEAD, AS YOU FULFILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO FOLLOW GOD'S LEADING, TO SECURE NEW LEADERSHIP FOR YOUR CONGREGATION,

YOU CAN MAKE USE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT YOU HAVE HELPED CREATE AND SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS.

ELCA INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEMS.

YOU HAVE READY FOR YOU, READY FOR YOU, A PREPARATION APPROVAL, SEARCHING AND CALLING SYSTEM, A SEMINARY EDUCATION SYSTEM, A NETWORK OF MUTUAL SUPPORT AND LEARNING FOR PASTORS, AND DEACONESSES, DIACONAL MINISTERS AND ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY.

YOU AND MANY OTHERS OVER THE DECADES HAVE ALREADY PUT THE INFRASTRUCTURE IN PLACE, AND SUSTAINED IT.

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITATES GOSPEL.

IT FACILITATES LOVE.

IN MY GLOBAL STORIES, I USE THE NAMES OF REAL PEOPLE.

THIS TIME I'M NOT GOING TO USE ANYONE'S ACTUAL NAME.

RATHER, I'M GOING TO COMBINE SEVERAL STORIES, AND TO GIVE YOU A GLIMPSE OF THIS BLESSED INFRASTRUCTURE.

AND I'LL CALL THE PEOPLE IN MY STORY JOANNE, AND JOSE.

IMAGINE THAT JOSE AND JOANNE CAME FROM THIS SYNOD.

THEY WERE PART OF THE CANDIDACY PROCESS HERE.

I'VE MET I THINK ALREADY 3 OF YOUR CANDIDACY COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

THEY PROBABLY KNOW THOSE PEOPLE.

RIGHT NOW YOU'VE GOT 74, I THINK WAS THE NUMBER I HEARD, PEOPLE IN CANDIDACY WHICH SHOWS THAT MY RECORDS AREN'T QUITE UP TO DATE.

IT SAYS 71 IN MY OFFICE.

GET THOSE NAMES IN TO US, OKAY?

IMAGINE THAT JOSE GRADUATED FROM THE ELCA'S NEWBERRY COLLEGE.

JOANNE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, AND WAS ENGAGED IN OUR LUTHERAN EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRY THERE AT TYSON HOUSE.

WHILE THEY WERE BOTH STILL IN COLLEGE, THE SYNOD'S CANDIDACY PROCESS ASKED THEIR HOME CONGREGATIONS TO REGISTER THEM FOR CANDIDACY, AND TO TELL THE CANDIDACY COMMITTEE ABOUT THEM.

JOANNE AND JOSE ENROLLED AT LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SOUTHERN SEMINARY IN COLUMBIA OR ONE OF THE OTHER SEMINARIES.

JOSE RECEIVED A FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE ELCA'S FUNDS FOR LEADERS IN MISSION.

JOANNE GOT FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH HER CONGREGATION AND AN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP AT SOUTHERN SEMINARY.

SHE APPLIED FOR A HORIZON INTERNSHIP AND SPENT HER STUDENT

YEAR IN PERU.

JOSE DID HIS INTERNSHIP AT A GROWING CONGREGATION IN SUBURBAN ATLANTA, WHERE HE WAS GIVEN FOCUSED HELP IN LEARNING TO REACH OUT TO UNCHURCHED PEOPLE.

AND HE CONNECTED WITH THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL CENTER IN ATLANTA.

JOSE WANTS TO BE A MISSION DEVELOPER.

OVER 4 YEARS, CANDIDACY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND SYNOD STAFF WERE OFTEN IN TOUCH WITH JOSE AND JOANNE INFORMALLY.

THEY ALSO HAD 4 FORMAL INTERVIEWS WITH EACH OF THEM.

INITIAL, ENTRANCE, ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL.

PASTOR HARVEY HUNTLEY, AN ELCA CHURCHWIDE STAFF MEMBER WHO SERVES AS REGIONAL COORDINATOR HERE, WORKED WITH THEM AND WITH YOUR CANDIDACY COMMITTEE IN THIS ELCA CANDIDACY PROCESS.

JOANNE AND JOSE WERE APPROVED FOR CALL.

THEY WERE ASSIGNED TO SYNODS ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH AND THEIR SKILLS AND PREFERENCES.

AND THEY ARE NOW BOTH SERVING AS ELCA PASTORS, SHARING GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL THE WORLD.

LET ME SHARE HERE, BEFORE I GO ON TO INFRASTRUCTURE AGAIN, A BIT OF A CONCERN.

YOUR BISHOP NAMED FOR YOU, INTRODUCED TO YOU, THE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR CALL AND WHO ARE YET

WAITING.

WE'RE IN A TIME RIGHT NOW BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL REALITIES THAT THE CALL PROCESS FOR FIRST CALL PEOPLE HAS SLOWED DOWN SOME.

I INVITE YOU TO BE CREATIVE, USING THE INFRASTRUCTURES WE'VE GOT, IN ADDRESSING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CALL PEOPLE INTO MINISTRY.

THIS, IF WE HAVE AN OVERSUPPLY RIGHT NOW, IT IS A SHORT-TERM OVERSUPPLY.

ALL THE NUMBERS TELL US WE'RE HEADED THE OTHER DIRECTION. WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIGHLY GIFTED, STRONGLY CALLED FOLKS. INFRASTRUCTURE INVOLVED IN THIS.

CONGREGATIONS THAT SEE POTENTIAL AND NURTURE IT.

A SYNOD WITH ITS BISHOP, PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND CANDIDACY COMMITTEE.

A NATIONAL DENOMINATION THAT HELPS WITH CONSISTENT STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.

AND THAT HAS STAFF TO HELP WITH THE APPLICATION OF THOSE STANDARDS.

A SEMINARY THAT STEWARDS THE PRECIOUS FAITH OF THE CHURCH, THAT KNOWS HOW TO TEACH THAT FAITH, AND HOW TO TEACH PEOPLE TO BE STEWARDS OF IT IN CONGREGATIONS AND OTHER MINISTRIES.

INFRASTRUCTURE, AN INTERNSHIP SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES ON THE JOB SUPERVISED EXPERIENCE AND LEARNING, GLOBAL CONNECTIONS,

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS, NEW CONGREGATION AND MISSION DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS AND STAFF, CAMPUS MINISTRY SYSTEMS, LUTHERAN COLLEGES, OUTDOOR MINISTRIES.

THE LIST GOES ON.

TWO PIECES OF INFRASTRUCTURE HERE: GLOBAL REFLECTION ON THE FAITH TOGETHER, THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT.

INFRASTRUCTURES THAT YOU AND I AND OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS AND THE GENERATIONS BEFORE THAT NURTURED, SUSTAINED, AND STILL DO, AND THAT WE NEED GREATLY.

THERE ARE, WHAT MAKES THIS POSSIBLE?

COMMITTED PEOPLE.

AND GENEROUS GIVING.

AND AS SOON AS I FIND MY PLACE IN MY NOTES, I CAN GO ON.

THE GENEROUS GIVING, WE CALL THAT MISSION SUPPORT.

THE DOLLARS GIVEN BY CONGREGATIONS THAT ARE PASSED ON TO SYNOD WORK TOGETHER AND CHURCHWIDE WORK TOGETHER.

WE, IN 2009, THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD HELPED SUSTAIN THIS INFRASTRUCTURE, MANY ASPECTS OF IT, AND MUCH MORE WITH ENGAGED PRAYERFUL PEOPLE, WITH VISION AND HARD WORK, YOU GAVE AS MEMBERS OF THIS SYNOD MORE THAN \$50 MILLION TO YOUR CONGREGATIONS, \$50 MILLION.

YOU PASSED ON ENOUGH THAT \$1,270,000 COULD BE USED FOR MISSIONS WE DO TOGETHER AS A CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION, AND A

SIMILAR AMOUNT USED HERE IN THE SYNOD AND WITH YOUR MORE LOCAL PARTNERS, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CONGREGATIONS.

MISSION SUPPORT DOLLARS DECLINED IN 2009 OVER 2008.

LIKE ALMOST EVERY OTHER PART OF THE CHURCH, YOU ARE EXPERIENCING THE PAIN OF THAT.

WE HEARD THAT THIS MORNING IN THE CONVERSATION.

OUR UNIT HAS CUT A QUARTER OF ITS STAFF, QUARTER OF ITS BUDGET IN THE PAST YEAR.

PAINFUL TIMES, UNEMPLOYMENT IS HIGH MANY PLACES.

CONGREGATIONS AND OTHER PARTNERS ARE NEVERTHELESS RESPONDING WITH GREAT EFFORTS TO KEEP ATTENTIVE TO THE MISSION.

CONTROVERSY HAS ALSO HAD ITS IMPACT.

THERE HAVE BEEN, THERE ARE SHARP DISAGREEMENTS AMONG US.

THE PART OF MY WORK, THESE PAST MONTHS, HAS BEEN TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE OF MANY DIFFERENT OPINIONS AND TO TRY TO GET ON PAPER WAYS THAT WE CAN MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER KEEPING THE MISSION CENTRAL.

THE ECONOMY, THESE DISAGREEMENTS, ARE ON OUR MIND.

BUT SO IS MISSION.

WHAT HASN'T CHANGED IS OUR STRONG SENSE THAT WE ARE PARTNERS, AND WHAT HASN'T CHANGED IS THAT WE HAVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE WITH WHICH TO ADDRESS NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND

PERSISTENT CHALLENGES.

ONE OF THE JOYS OF MY WORK IS TO SEE WHAT'S ACTUALLY HAPPENING BECAUSE OF GENEROUS ENGAGED PEOPLE ACROSS THIS CHURCH.

NOW, VERY QUICKLY WITH -- I THINK I HAVE 5 MINUTES LEFT, VERY QUICKLY, I WANT TO TOUCH 3 -- 4, I THINK 4 OTHER AREAS OF INFRASTRUCTURE: MILITARY CHAPLAINCY.

BECAUSE WE ARE AN ESTABLISHED, CREDIBLE DENOMINATION, OUR PASTORS ARE WELCOMED AS CHAPLAINS IN ALL BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY.

AGAIN, IT'S SOMETHING THAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED.

NOT ONLY ARE THEY WELCOMED, THEY ARE SOUGHT, AND ACTUALLY WE ARE NOT MEETING THE OPPORTUNITY HERE RIGHT NOW.

THIS MAY BE A CALL TO SOME OF YOU TO THINK ABOUT MILITARY CHAPLAINCY.

WE HAVE ELCA INFRASTRUCTURE THAT HELPS MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

AND THAT HELPS SUPPORT THOSE CHAPLAINS AS THEY MINISTER TO THE PEOPLE WHO HELP MAKE THIS WORLD A SAFER, BETTER PLACE.

ANOTHER INFRASTRUCTURE WE'VE ALREADY HEARD ABOUT SEVERAL TIMES, DISASTER RESPONSE.

WE HAVE A TRUSTED AND TRUSTWORTHY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BRINGING AID WHEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS.

AND AS JOHN NUÑES COMMENTED, WE'RE THERE FOR THE LONG HAUL.

THAT'S THE REPUTATION WE HAVE AS LUTHERANS.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE DOES SOME OF THIS WORK.

LWR DOES SOME OF IT.

WE DO PART OF IT DIRECTLY AS A DENOMINATION BUT WE WORK TOGETHER WITH LOCAL PARTNERS.

WHAT I'D LIKE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO IS THE TRUST THAT IS EVIDENCED WHEN PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE \$11.4 MILLION IN JUST A FEW WEEKS.

\$11.4 MILLION WORTH OF TRUST IN AN INFRASTRUCTURE THAT'S BEEN CREATED OVER THE YEARS.

THE BOOK OF FAITH INITIATIVE, ANOTHER INFRASTRUCTURE.

THIS IS NOT BEING RUN FROM AN OFFICE IN CHICAGO.

IT'S BUBBLING UP FROM THE GRASSROOTS, BUT BETWEEN AUGSBURG FORTRESS AND THE UNIT THAT I LEAD, THERE'S SOME INFRASTRUCTURE TO HELP US REROOT OURSELVES IN SCRIPTURE.

I WAS DELIGHTED AT THE TURNOUT THIS MORNING FOR THE WORKSHOP ON THE BOOK OF FAITH INITIATIVE THAT YOUR NEW ADVOCATES PUT TOGETHER.

RESOURCES, OPPORTUNITIES, SHARING IDEAS.

IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN THERE, VISIT BOOKOFFAITH.ORG, AND CHECK OUT THE POSSIBILITIES.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS, KRISTIN GLASS, THE DIRECTOR FOR YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES ON MY STAFF, WAS DOWN HERE TO MEET WITH SOME OF YOUR YOUNG ADULTS AND TO DO SOME THINKING.

THERE'S GREAT STUFF GOING ON.

I LOVE THESE NAMES: SESYALL AND SESLYO.

THAT'S THE YOUNG ADULT AND LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN YOUR AREA.

ENOUGH.

MY FRIENDS, AS EVERYDAY EVANGELISTS, AS SUSTAINERS OF INFRASTRUCTURE, AND IN MANY OTHER WAYS, YOU ARE HELPING THE WHOLE ELCA AND ALL OF ITS PARTS AND ALL OF ITS MEMBERS CONVEY GOD'S LOVE TO THE WORLD.

LET'S SAY THAT PROMISE VERSE TOGETHER AGAIN.

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, SO THAT WHOEVER BELIEFS IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."

LET'S THANK GOD EVERY DAY FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF CONVEYING THAT LOVE TO THE WORLD, AND OF DOING IT TOGETHER.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> WE ALSO HAVE CHICKENS FOR YOU, STAN.

[LAUGHTER]

WE HAVE DONATED A FLOCK OF CHICKENS IN YOUR HONOR.

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HOW WE FEEL ABOUT THE CHURCHWIDE VOCATION AND EDUCATION UNIT.

AND WE HOPE TO BE DOING BETTER THAN CHICKEN FEED, BUT WE WANTED TO GIVE YOU THIS AS A REMINDER OF YOUR BEING HERE WITH US AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH AGAIN.

BLESSINGS TO YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

NEXT ON YOUR AGENDA, PLEASE SEE ITEM F, THE REPORT OF THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE.

THERE'S NO ADDITIONAL REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE REPORT AT THIS TIME.

AND SO WE'LL MOVE DIRECTLY TO ITEM G, PRESENTATION AND REPORT BY MEMBERS OF SESLYO, SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD YOUTH ORGANIZATION.

SESLYO, HERE THEY COME.

[APPLAUSE]

>> ON THE PODIUM HERE, IT SAYS, "PLEASE REMOVE YOUR NAMETAG." BUT THIS ISN'T MY NAMETAG.

IF YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW ME, I'M ASHLYN NEAS, THE CHAIR OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION BOARD --

>> DO YOU HAVE MY CREDENTIALS?

>> I HAVE YOURS.

[LAUGHTER]

>> ANYBODY NEED CREDENTIALS?

>> I COULDN'T RESIST.

OKAY, SO -- WE HAVE A POWERPOINT.

WE SHOULD.

THEY HAVE IT.

OKAY.

LIKE I SAID, I'M ASHLYN NEAS, THE CHAIR OF SESLYO.

>> ELIZABETH HAWKINS.

I'M THE UPCOMING CHAIR OF SESLYO.

>> WE JUST HAVE A COUPLE OF THINGS WE'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT TODAY.

THE FIRST THING I'M GOING TO SHARE WITH YOU GUYS IS A REPORT ON OUR ASSEMBLY WHICH WE HAD IN JANUARY.

>> FEBRUARY.

>> FEBRUARY, SORRY, WHICH WE HAD IN FEBRUARY.

IT WAS HELD IN WHITE, GEORGIA, AT THE CHEROKEE RETREAT CENTER.

AND YOU GUYS HAVE PROBABLY SEEN US WALKING AROUND TODAY.

ALL THE SESLYO MEMBERS ARE HERE, AND THEY'RE VOLUNTEERING, AND WE'VE ALL GOT ON THESE NICE T-SHIRTS.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE SHIRTS SAY, "I AM GLORIOUS," AND ON THE BACK, WE HAVE THE SONG THAT SAYS: I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE.

AND THAT WAS OUR THEME FOR THIS WEEKEND.

IF YOU GUYS KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SESLYO, OR ABOUT OUR ASSEMBLY, YOU GUYS KNOW THAT IT IS FOR YOUTH AND IT'S PLANNED BY THE YOUTH, SO UP TO A YEAR IN ADVANCE WE GET TOGETHER WITH THE BOARD AND WITH OUR WONDERFUL ADULT ADVISERS AND WE PLAN THIS ASSEMBLY.

THIS YEAR THIS IS THE THEME WE CAME UP WITH, AND IT WAS ALL ABOUT CREATION AND PRAISING GOD AND HOW WE'RE ALL UNIQUE, EACH ONE OF US, AND HOW THAT'S WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL IN GOD'S EYES.

ONE OF THE THINGS WE DID WAS MAKE THESE UNIQUE CREATIONS, SO EVERY ONE OF THE MEMBERS YOU SEE UP HERE TODAY IS MAKING THEIR OWN CREATION WITH THEIR T-SHIRT.

AND THE PEOPLE UP HERE, THESE ARE MEMBERS OF THE OLD BOARD AND THE NEW BOARD, WHICH WAS JUST RECENTLY ELECTED, SO I'D LIKE FOR YOU GUYS TO GIVE THEM A BIG HAND FOR COMING HERE AND VOLUNTEERING THIS WEEKEND.

[APPLAUSE]

ANOTHER THING I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU GUYS THAT HAPPENED AT OUR ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR, WHICH I CAN TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT.

THERE'S A COUPLE OF PEOPLE, A COUPLE OF BOARD MEMBERS WHO COULD TELL YOU MORE ABOUT IT, AND HOPEFULLY WE'LL GET TO HEAR MORE ABOUT IT AS THE WEEKEND CONTINUES.

BUT IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S CALLED THE HARMONY INITIATIVE.

IT STARTED AT OUR ASSEMBLY WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT RESOLUTIONS AND WE WERE TALKING ABOUT WHAT KIND OF SUBJECTS, WHAT KIND OF ISSUES WOULD WE LIKE TO WRITE A RESOLUTION ABOUT.

SO A COMMITTEE WAS FORMED AT THE ASSEMBLY OF OLD BOARD

MEMBERS AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND JUST ATTENDANCE AT THE ASSEMBLY LAST YEAR, OR THIS YEAR, EXCUSE ME.

AND WE DECIDED THAT THIS IS WHAT WE WERE PASSIONATE ABOUT.

AND SO WE'VE WRITTEN A RESOLUTION.

HOPEFULLY YOU GUYS CAN HEAR MORE ABOUT IT.

I'M NOT EXACTLY THE EXPERT ON IT BECAUSE THIS NEW BOARD, AND THIS COMMITTEE THAT HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF IT HAS DONE SUCH A WONDERFUL JOB OF JUST TAKING HOLD AND GIVING THEIR ALL, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT OFFICIALLY EVEN INSTALLED YET.

THEY'VE ALREADY STARTED DOING GREAT THINGS.

SO MAKE SURE YOU ASK THEM ABOUT THAT, AND WE'LL TRY TO GIVE YOU SOME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THAT AS THE WEEKEND GOES ON.

>> VERY BRIEFLY, I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN A FEW OF THE EVENTS WE'VE GOT GOING ON IN THE SYNOD.

AND THE FIRST ONE IS THE 2010 BISHOP SCHOOL AT SOUTHERN SEMINARY IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA.

IT'S JUNE 20 THROUGH 26, AND WE HAVE 6 PARTICIPANTS REPRESENTING THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

AND ONE OF THEM IS ASHLYN NEAS.

4 FROM TENNESSEE, 4 FROM GEORGIA, AND ONE FROM ALABAMA.

AND "AFFIRM."

"AFFIRM" IS THE BIG THING.

IT IS JUNE 20 THROUGH 25, AND WE CALL IT A CAMP, BUT IT'S REALLY

LIKE A LEADERSHIP TRAINING THING, BECAUSE WE DON'T GO OUTSIDE.

[LAUGHTER]

WELL, WE DO.

WE WALK OUTSIDE, BUT WE DON'T, LIKE, CLIMB MOUNTAINS.

IT'S \$400, AND REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN FOR 8th THROUGH 12th

GRADERS, AND THEN FOR COLLEGE FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES.

AND YOU CAN REGISTER ONLINE AT THE SESYOUTH.ORG WEBSITE.

OUR STATE EVENTS, WE HAVE 3 STATE EVENTS.

WE HAVE ALL-TENNESSEE, WHICH IS NOVEMBER 20 AND 21.

AND THAT'S FOR -- ALL OF THESE EVENTS ARE FOR 6 THROUGH 12th

GRADERS.

THE ALL-GEORGIA GATHERING IS MARCH 11 THROUGH 13 OF 2011.

AND ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI COMBINED JULY 30 THROUGH AUGUST

1 THIS UPCOMING SUMMER.

SO I THINK THAT'S ALL I HAVE.

AND IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP FOR RACHEL'S WONDERFUL YOUTH

MINISTRY eNEWSLETTER, YOU SHOULD DO THAT.

OR YOU CAN COME PICK UP A COPY AT THE YOUTH MINISTRY TABLE

OUTSIDE.

SO THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT.

>> YEAH.

I'M GOING TO TALK MORE SINCE I'M UP HERE.

OKAY, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO DO, AND AS OUTGOING CHAIR

THIS YEAR, I'M GOING TO JUST SORT OF TAKE THIS MINUTE -- SORRY, I

DON'T WANT TO WASTE ANY MORE OF Y'ALL'S TIME, BUT THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT HERE TODAY AND PEOPLE IN OTHER PLACES WHO DEFINITELY HAVE INFLUENCE IN OUR LIFE, AND IT'S BECAUSE OF THEM THAT I'M UP HERE TODAY.

I WANT TO TAKE A MINUTE TO THANK SOME OF THESE PEOPLE,
NUMBER ONE, SUSAN AND ROBERT WILHOIT.

IF IT WASN'T FOR SUSAN, I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN ABOUT SESLYO OR ALL-TENNESSEE.

IF IT WASN'T FOR ROBERT, I NEVER WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THERE.

AND HE DROVE ME AND LISTENED TO THE MUSIC WE LISTENED TO AND DIDN'T GET REALLY ANGRY AND JUST STOP THE CAR.

SO THANKS, GUYS.

YOU GUYS SHOULD STAND UP OR WAVE YOUR HANDS OR SOMETHING.

THEY'RE BACK THERE.

[APPLAUSE]

THE SECOND GROUP OF PEOPLE ARE WHAT I LIKE TO CALL BEHIND YOUR BACKS, YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW THIS, I LIKE TO CALL MY CONFERENCE DUDES.

YOU GUYS ARE THE WONDERFUL GUYS FROM MY CONFERENCE.

PASTOR TOM QUIGGLE, PASTOR RICK OHSIEK.

PASTOR JIM NIPPER.

MICHAEL JANNETT, PASTOR ED WOLFE AND BOLIEK.

BUT ALL YOU GREAT DUDES WHO HAVE BEEN SO WONDERFUL.

AND WHEN I FIRST CAME INTO THE FIRST CONFERENCE MEETING BACK

WHEN IT WAS CONFERENCE 1 AND I WAS JUST A REPRESENTATIVE AND SCARED TO BE IN A ROOM FULL OF ADULTS, YOU GUYS WERE ALWAYS GREAT AND MADE ME FEEL SUPER WELCOME, AND YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREAT TO ME, SO I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT.

LAST BUT NOT, LEAST ALL THE WONDERFUL SESLYO ADVISERS.

RACHEL AND CAT AND JOHN AND CRYSTAL AND PASTOR JEANETTE OVER THERE, AND SUSAN, BACK THERE.

AND PASTOR ED MYERS, WHO'S NO LONGER AN ADVISER, BUT HE WAS, YOU GUYS ARE GREAT, AND YOU'VE ENCOURAGED NOT ONLY ME BUT THIS WHOLE GROUP OF KIDS TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS AND I HOPE YOU GUYS KEEP DOING THAT.

THANKS, GUYS.

[APPLAUSE]

>> LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE DUDES.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU, SESLYO.

THERE'S QUITE A GROUP OF YOUTH WORKERS IN UPPER EAST TENNESSEE, AND THEY'VE BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE FOR MANY YEARS, AND THANKS TO YOU, ASHLYN NEAS, FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SERVICE THIS PAST YEAR.

GOOD WORK, THANKS.

IT HAS BEEN OUR HONOR THIS WEEKEND TO HOST BISHOP TERRY KEE AND ALSO SALLY KEE.

THEY'VE BEEN VISITING THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD FOR THE PAST

WEEK, AND WE THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL MISSION TASK FORCES SPECIALLY PASTOR NOEL ANDERSON WHO HELPED PUT THIS VISIT TOGETHER.

THE RIGHT REVEREND TERRY B.H. KEE, BISHOP OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE WAS BORN IN 1958 OF TAOIST/BUDDHIST FAMILY.

HE EMBRACED CHRISTIANITY IN 1974.

HE STUDIED AND GRADUATED FROM SINGAPORE BIBLE COLLEGE IN 1982, SERVED AS A PASTOR TO SEVERAL CONGREGATIONS FROM 1982 UNTIL 1996.

HE SERVED IN THAILAND, HEADING THE LUTHERAN MISSIONS IN THAILAND, TAUGHT IN LUTHER'S SEMINARY OF THAILAND, SERVED AS PASTOR TO SEVERAL CONGREGATIONS THERE UNTIL HIS RETURN TO SINGAPORE IN 2006.

HE'S BEEN BISHOP OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE SINCE MARCH OF 2009.

HE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH, CHINESE, AND THAI.

AND SOON TO BE FLUENT IN SOUTHERN AMERICAN.

[LAUGHTER]

HE HAS A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING FROM THE CHINA LUTHERAN SEMINARY IN TAIWAN.

IN ADDITION TO HIS DUTIES AS BISHOP, TERRY KEE SERVES AS CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE, THE LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICE -- CARE SERVICES,

LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES IN SINGAPORE AND OF LUTHERAN WORLD MISSIONS AS WELL AS SERVING AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF SINGAPORE, AND VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF TRINITY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, WHICH I BELIEVE IS AN ECUMENICAL THEOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, ANGLICAN PRESBYTERIAN, METHODIST AND LUTHERAN, I BELIEVE, SO IT SHOULDN'T BE TRINITY.

IT SHOULD BE QUADRINITY COLLEGE.

HIS WIFE OF 4 YEARS, SALLY KEE, TRAVELED WITH HIM HERE.

AND SERVES THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION AS THE REGIONAL EXPRESSION COORDINATOR FOR ASIA.

SHE'S BEEN DOING THAT SINCE 2000.

BISHOP TERRY KEE.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU FOR THE INTRODUCTION, BISHOP GORDY AND DELEGATES, AND VISITORS TO THIS ASSEMBLY.

IT IS INDEED MY PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO BE HERE TODAY.

AND I WANT TO SAY A BIG THANK YOU, A BIG THANK YOU, TO THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

BUT BEFORE I DO THAT, HOW MANY OF US HERE HAVE BEEN TO SINGAPORE?

CAN I HAVE A SHOW OF HANDS?

NOT THAT MANY.

WELL, IN SINGAPORE IT IS 4:00 A.M. NOW.

AND WE ARE SO SMALL, AND I BELIEVE I HAVE HEARD IT MENTIONED THAT WE'RE THE SIZE OF SPALDING COUNTY, SPALDING COUNTY, WITH THE POPULATION OF THE WHOLE OF ATLANTA.

WE ARE LESS THAN 300 SQUARE MILES, AND WE HAVE A POPULATION OF SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 5 MILLION NOW.

AND VERY OFTEN WE ARE KNOWN AS THE LITTLE RED DOT, BECAUSE IN MOST OF THE WORLD MAP, YOU DON'T SEE THE LAND OF SINGAPORE.

YOU ONLY SEE THE WORLD SINGAPORE AND THE RED DOT.

[LAUGHTER]

BUT IN THIS MAP IT IS A LITTLE BLACK DOT, ALL RIGHT?

AND WE IN THE SMALL ISLAND, WE HAVE 7 LOCATIONS, AND EACH LOCATION HAS ABOUT 2 TO 3 CONGREGATIONS.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE A CHINESE, WE HAVE AN ENGLISH, AND PERHAPS A HOKKIEN OR TAMIL CONGREGATION.

AND THEY ARE SCATTERED ALL AROUND THE ISLANDS, AND FOR THAT REASON FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS WE HAVE NOT HAD ANOTHER CONGREGATION IN SINGAPORE.

BUT BECAUSE IT'S SO EXPENSIVE TO PLANT A CHURCH IN SINGAPORE, WE DECIDED TO PLANT A CHURCH IN THAILAND, CAMBODIA, AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

AND BY THE GRACE OF GOD, WE WERE ABLE TO DO THAT, WHICH I'LL SHARE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT.

I WANTED TO SAY A VERY STRONG THANK YOU, REALLY, TO, AND THIS IS OUR PASTORS, OUR PASTORS IN SINGAPORE, AND WE DO ORDAIN

WOMEN.

WE HAVE A COUPLE OVER THERE, BUT WE'RE NOT GETTING ENOUGH AT THE MOMENT.

AND IF IT HAS NOT BEEN FOR YOU, WE WOULD NOT HAVE EXISTED.

IT WAS THE MISSIONARIES FROM THE ULCA WHICH WAS PART OF THE LCA, WHICH LATER BECAME THE ELCA THAT CAME TO SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA AND PLANTED OUR CHURCHES THERE.

SO BECAUSE YOU CAME, WE EXIST.

AND NOW WE ARE ABLE TO TAKE UP THE BATON AND MOVE ON INTO THE WORLD AND WE HOPE THAT JUST BECAUSE WE TOOK THE BATON AND MOVE INTO THE WORLD, YOU DON'T STOP DOING THAT, ALL RIGHT.

NOW, OUR MINISTRIES HERE IN SINGAPORE, I WOULD SAY THAT IN THE AREA OF MISSION AND EVANGELISM, WE LOOK AT IT THAT OUR MINISTRY TO THE NATIONS, OUR MINISTRY TO THE NATIONS AT OUR DOORSTEP, AND ALSO TO THOSE IN NEED WITHIN OUR OWN NATION.

AND SO HERE THE MINISTRY TO THE NATIONS HERE, WE WERE INVOLVED IN THE LUTHERAN MISSIONS IN THAILAND AND THERE WE WERE INVOLVED IN EVANGELISM, TRAINING AND CHURCH PLANTING.

THROUGH THE YEARS, WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE SERVED AS MISSIONARIES, WE HAVE THE REVEREND RICKSON LEONG, OUR FIRST MISSIONARY.

MYSELF AND MY WIFE, WE WERE THE SECOND.

WE CAME BACK IN 2006.

MS. ANG BEE YAN, AND THEN AT THE MOMENT WE HAVE ROSANNA

HUTAGALUNG, A SINGAPOREAN OF ASIAN DESCENT THAT IS THERE IN THAILAND.

TEACHING MINISTRY IN CHINA, THOSE WHO WERE AT THE MISSION BY THE GRACE OF GOD, BECAUSE WE HAVE A NUMBER OF PASTORS WHO CAN MINISTER IN CHINESE WELL, AND SO WE TOOK TURNS AND EVERY YEAR, TWICE A YEAR, WE HAVE 2 PASTORS THAT WILL BE ON ROTATION THAT WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE TEACHING OVER THERE.

AND MYSELF, I TAUGHT THERE TWO YEARS AGO, AND IT WAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE, AND TO SEE THESE PEOPLE IN CHINA VERY HUNGRY FOR THE WORD.

MONGOLIA, I'VE MENTIONED THIS MORNING HOW WE OPENED THE DOOR AND ARE INVOLVED IN MONGOLIA SINCE 2004.

AND LAST YEAR, WE SENT OUR FIRST MISSIONARY FAMILY TO MONGOLIA.

IT IS THE REVEREND JIMMY KHOO AND HIS FAMILY.

NOW, THIS IS NOT WHERE THEY STAY PERMANENTLY.

ALL RIGHT?

THEY WERE AT A CHURCH CAMP.

BUT THEY ARE STAYING IN AN APARTMENT, BUT THEY'RE RIGHT THERE SERVING, LEARNING THE LANGUAGE AND ALSO HELPING THE REVEREND THAT WAS ORDAINED BY BISHOP JOHN TAN, MY PREDECESSOR IN MONGOLIA.

SO WE CLAIM OWNERSHIP THAT HE IS A LUTHERAN PASTOR, THE REVEREND IN MONGOLIA BECAUSE HE WAS RELATED TO OUR CHURCH

WHEN HE WAS IN TRAINING, AND HE WAS OUR BISHOP THAT ORDAINED HIM.

YOU THINK IN MONGOLIA, YOU WORK QUITE CLOSELY WITH THE LUTHERAN MISSION.

CAMBODIA AS THE RESULT OF OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE MI KONG MISSION FORUM, THAT'S THE GATHERING OF MEMBER CHURCHES AND AGENCIES UNDER THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION THAT HAD AN INTEREST IN DOING MISSION IN THE MI KONG AREA AND ALL OF THE PARTICIPATION WE WERE CHALLENGED TO CONSIDER CAMBODIA AS A MISSION FIELD.

AND SO SINCE 2004, OUR PASTORS AND OUR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN VISITING THERE AND DOING SHORT-TERM MINISTRY, AND LAST YEAR, WE BUILT A CENTER, AND THIS CENTER IS BOTH A SOCIAL CENTER CUM CHURCH.

THERE ARE TWO WORSHIP SERVICES THERE NOW, ONE BY THE YOUTH AND ONE FOR ADULTS, AND WE HAVE A MEDICAL MISSION THERE, AND WE HAVE A -- THIS IS THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

THE FEEDING PROGRAM, BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, IN THE AREA, THERE WERE MANY WHO ARE POOR, SO WE STARTED WITH THIS PROGRAM OF FEEDING HUNGRY CHILDREN.

BUT IT ENDS UP WE HAVE TO FEED SOME HUNGRY ADULTS, TOO.

BECAUSE AS THEY BRING THEIR KIDS, WHERE YOU SAW THEM, WE SEE THEM THERE LOOKING HUNGRILY AT THE FOOD, WE CANNOT DON'T GIVE THEM ANY FOOD.

BY THE GRACE OF THE LORD, THE ELCA NOW HAS TALKED ABOUT SPONSORING THIS PROGRAM.

I THINK IT IS -- THEY SAID WE SHOULD GET AN ANSWER VERY SOON. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT SPONSORING THIS PROGRAM, AND THEN IF THAT IS THE CASE, WE WILL EXPAND OUR WORK, AND THEN PROVIDE THE FEEDING PROGRAM TO THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING WITH HIV IN THE COMMUNITY NEARBY THAT IS VERY MUCH NEGLECTED.

WE HOPE WE CAN DO THAT.

BUT THE SUPPORT THAT IS GIVEN TO THIS PROGRAM WILL RELEASE US TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT.

SO WE VISIT AND DISTRIBUTE FOOD TO THE POOR AND THE SICK.

IF YOU LOOK AT THE MAN THERE, THAT IS HIS HOME.

WE HAVE SPOKEN TO SOME SIMILAR PEOPLE IN THAILAND, AND WE ASK THEM, AND THEY'RE AFRAID THAT THIEVES WILL COME BECAUSE THERE'S NO DOOR AT ALL, IF YOU NOTICE IN THE HOME.

AND THEY CAN HOPE THERE'S NOTHING TO TAKE.

THAT'S A REALITY.

HERE'S A PICTURE OF THE DENTAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

AT THE MOMENT, WE RELY ON THE VARIOUS DOCTORS THAT WILL TAKE TURNS ON ROTATION TO VISIT THERE AND TO PROVIDE THAT.

WE HAVE A MEDICAL DOCTOR WHO TOOK A ONE YEAR SABBATICAL FROM HIS PRACTICE, AND IS HELPING US WITH THAT NOW.

AND WE ARE EXPLORING WHAT WE WILL DO AFTER THAT.

WE HAVE GOSPEL MEETINGS AND WILL THERE YOU SAW WE HAVE

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS, WE HAVE YOUTH MEETINGS AND ADULT MEETINGS QUITE FREQUENTLY.

AND THE LADY BELOW, NG, IS A MEMBER OF QUEENSTOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION WHO IS SERVING THERE NOW, AND DANIEL ORN AND FAMILY, HE IS NATIVE, AND HE IS NOW UNDER OUR EMPLOYMENT HELPING US.

ALL RIGHT.

AND SO WE HAVE OUR MINISTRY TO THE NATIONS AT OUR DOORSTEP. AND AS YOU KNOW, SINGAPORE HAS MANY PEOPLE WITHIN OUR BORDERS.

IN FACT, A REPORT CAME OUT RECENTLY, THEY IDENTIFIED ABOUT 90 NATIONALITIES IN SINGAPORE.

NOT NATIONALITIES, SORRY, ETHNIC GROUPS.

90 ETHNIC GROUPS.

IT COULD BE SEVERAL WITHIN THE SOUTHERN COUNTRY, BUT 90 ETHNIC GROUPS IN SINGAPORE.

SO WE HAVE THE INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR PARTNER, SO WE SAW THAT GUY, YOU CAN SEE THE HEAD, ACTUALLY HE'S JUST GIVING OUT SOME MATERIALS TO SOME SEAMEN ON THE SHIP.

WE HAVE REVEREND CHRISTIAN SMITH, A GERMAN THAT'S UNDER THE PAYROLL OF BAVARIA MISSION.

AND WE WORK TOGETHER TO BRING THE GOSPEL AND CARE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS.

AND ONE OF THE BIG PROBLEMS THAT THEY HAVE NOW, PERHAPS I CAN MENTION, WAS THAT BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ALSO THE PIRACY AT SOMALIA AREA, MANY OF THOSE SHIPS FELT THAT IT IS NOT WORTHWHILE TO TAKE THE RISK IF THEY DON'T HAVE A FULL LOAD.

AND SO WE HAVE A LOT OF THEM ENCOURAGED AROUND THE AREA, AND IT IS LIKE A PRISON TO THEM.

BECAUSE THEIR EMPLOYER IS AFRAID THAT IF THE PASSPORT IS IN THEIR HAND WHEN THEY GO ON LAND, THEY WILL DISAPPEAR.

SO WITHOUT PASSPORT THEY CANNOT COME ON LAND, AND THEY ARE SOMETIMES WAITING FOR WEEKS OR MONTHS IN THAT SHIP TILL THEY CAN TRAVEL.

AND SO THIS IS ONE OF THE MINISTRIES WHEREBY WE GO ON BOARD, WE GIVE THEM SINGAPORE PHONE CARD, SO THAT THEY CAN GET CONTACT.

AND THEN SOMETIMES WE MAIL TO THEIR HOME AND THEN THEY SEND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THEIR CHILDREN TO US AND THEN WE COME ON BOARD AND WE GIVE TO THEM.

AND THEY APPRECIATE LITTLE THINGS LIKE THAT AS THEY MISS THEIR HOME.

THE THAI GOODNEWS CENTER IS THE OUTREACH THAT WE PURCHASED A FACILITY AT THE CENTER THAT IS KNOWN IN SINGAPORE AS LITTLE THAILAND, BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE ALL THE THAI PEOPLE CONGREGATE WHEN THEY'RE OFF WORK.

AND THERE WE STARTED ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR THEIR ENGLISH LESSONS, COMPUTER LESSONS, WORSHIP SERVICES AND SOME OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES DURING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FOR THEM.

WE HAVE A CONGREGATION THAT'S VERY INVOLVED IN REACHING TO THE NURSING STUDENTS FROM MAINLAND CHINA, AND NOW WE'RE PLANNING TO REACH THE NURSING STUDENTS FROM MYANMAR AS WELL.

IN SINGAPORE, EVERY YEAR WE HAVE ABOUT 120 TO 200 NEW STUDENTS, NURSING STUDENTS, FROM MAINLAND CHINA STARTING AT THE SINGAPORE POLYTECHNICS.

AND THEY ARE FOUR YEARS IN EDUCATION AND FOUR YEARS ON CONTRACT WITH THE HOSPITAL IN SINGAPORE.

IN OTHER WORDS THEY'LL BE IN SINGAPORE FOR 8 YEARS.

AND IF THEY DECIDED TO REMAIN AFTER 8 YEARS, IT IS CHURCH GROWTH.

IF THEY WANT TO GO BACK, IT IS MISSION.

[APPLAUSE]

AND 8 YEARS ARE GOOD ENOUGH TIME FOR US TO REALLY EDUCATE THEM, AND HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THE FAITH AND GROW AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST.

OUR EDUCATION MINISTRY, VERY QUICKLY, WE HAVE GOT THE TWO SEMINARIES, TRINITY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND THE SINGAPORE BIBLE COLLEGE, AND WE ARE INVOLVED IN BOTH OF THESE TWO, AND I'M ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF BOTH OF THESE COLLEGES.

EDUCATION OF OUR PASTORS, AT THE MOMENT, OUR PASTORS ARE EDUCATED IN CHINA LUTHERAN SEMINARY, IN TAIWAN, HONG KONG, THE LUTHER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN HONG KONG.

LUTHER COLLEGE IN ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA AND WE HAVE OTHER SHORT TRAINING SEMINARS THAT WERE ORGANIZED FOR EXAMPLE IN LUTHER LAND ITSELF, IN GERMANY, AND THE OTHER ONE IS A CHAPLAIN THAT LOOKS AT THEM, THEY HAVE SOME COURSES IN SPIRITUALITY.

WE HAVE FREE KINDERGARTENS AND FREE CHILDCARE, AND WE HAD A LAY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR OUR PEOPLE.

SOCIAL OUTREACH.

WE HAD ESTABLISHED THE LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES THAT WORK WITH SCHOOLS IN PARTICULAR WITH THEIR YOUNG PEOPLE AT-RISK, AND WE HAVE ALSO SET UP NOW A CENTER AND WE ARE GOING TO REGISTER IT AS THE CENTER OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES.

THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE INVOLVED IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

TO FACILITATE A CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE OFFENDER AND THE VICTIM, AND ALSO TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THEIR SITUATION, NAMELY, AND MAINLY, AMONG THE YOUNG OFFENDERS.

AND WE JUST RECENTLY OPENED A NEW CENTER, AND WE HAD JUST ESTABLISHED A NEW COUNSELING CENTER, BECAUSE AS WE WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, WE REALIZE THAT BEHIND EVERY TROUBLED

YOUNG PERSON IS A TROUBLED FAMILY, OR A FAMILY IN NEED.

SO WE ARE NOW EXPANDING TO DO FAMILY COUNSELING, AS WELL.

WE HAD ST. LUKE'S ELDERCARE.

IT IS JUST A STONE'S THROW AWAY FROM YISHUN CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

THIS IS THE STAFF AND OUR PROGRAM.

EVERY MORNING THEY WILL BRING THESE ELDERS TO OUR CENTER

AND THEY'LL BRING THEM BACK IN THE EVENING, AND SO THE

CHILDREN CAN, OR GRANDCHILDREN, CAN WORK.

AND THERE WE HAVE QUALIFIED THERAPISTS TO GUIDE THEM, AND WE

PROVIDE THEM WITH DIVERSIONAL THERAPY AND SPIRITUAL

EXHORTATION, AND THIS IS OPEN TO PEOPLE OF ALL RACES AND

RELIGIONS.

ALL RIGHT.

AND WE HAVE SOME SHARING SPIRITUAL EXHORTATION FROM THE

BIBLE WITH THEIR PERMISSION.

WE HAVE A BREAKFAST CLUB LOCATED AT THIS PLACE CALLED BEDOK,

AND WE HAVE A GROUP OF WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS WHO WILL COME

EVERY MORNING FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY COOKING A HOT MEAL

FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED IN THAT AREA.

AND THESE ARE MEMBERS OF OUR BREAKFAST CLUB, SO WE HAVE

ABOUT 50 OF THEM.

AND BY THE GRACE OF GOD, THIS CAPTURED THE ATTENTION OF THE

COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND THEY CAME TO US AND THEY OFFERED TO

BE PART OF THIS, AND THEY PROVIDED US WITH A DOLLAR TO A

DOLLAR TO OUR BUDGET FOR THE FOOD.

SO THAT REDUCED OUR BUDGET TREMENDOUSLY, AND WE CAN FEED MORE PEOPLE.

SO THESE ARE OUR MISSION PARTNERS.

ALL RIGHT.

AND BY THE GRACE OF THE LORD, WITH GOD'S BLESSING, WE DO NOT NEED THEIR DOLLARS FOR OUR OWN MINISTRY.

BUT MANY OF THEM HAVE GIVEN US FINANCIALLY TO BE INVOLVED IN THE MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD, AS I HAVE MENTIONED.

IN CAMBODIA, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CENTER WE BUILT, ABOUT 1/3 OF THE MONEY CAME FROM BAVARIA FOR THAT CENTER.

AND THEN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA GAVE SOMETHING TO US, OUR MINISTRY TO THE THAI PEOPLE IN SINGAPORE.

AND IN FINLAND, THE FINNISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MISSION PROVIDED A MISSIONARY TO WORK WITH OUR STAFF IN OUR CENTER FOR THE THAI PEOPLE IN SINGAPORE.

AND SO TOGETHER, WE WERE ABLE TO REACH OUT.

AND IN FACT, SOME OF THESE, THEY ALSO SEND THEIR PEOPLE TO JOIN US IN OUR SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS TO MONGOLIA, TO CAMBODIA, AND IT WAS FUN, WITH ABOUT HALF THE TEAM AUSTRALIAN AND HALF THE TEAM SINGAPORE.

AND WE WORK TOGETHER, AND AS A RESULT, THEY GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER MUCH BETTER.

AND WE WANT TO THANK GOD FOR ALL OF THIS.

AND WITH SOME TIME LEFT, I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW SOME QUICK SLIDES THAT SHOW SOME OF OUR MISSION WORK WITH TEAMS FROM VARIOUS PLACES, TOGETHER WITH A SONG.

THE SONG AT THE MISSION BREAKFAST YOU'VE HEARD IT, BUT THE PICTURES WERE DIFFERENT.

THOSE WHO KNOW IT, WE'D LIKE YOU TO SING WITH US.

IS THE SOUND ON FOR THAT?

OKAY.

[SLIDE SHOW PLAYING]

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU.

THIS MORNING, THERE WERE SOME WHO COMPLAINED THAT I DIDN'T GIVE MY WIFE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK.

ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT MY FAULT.

IT WAS AT THE REQUEST.

BUT SHE'S READY TO SAY SOMETHING NOW.

AND AS SHE GETS READY TO COME UP, I'D LIKE TO AT THIS TIME PRESENT A LITTLE GIFT TO THE SYNOD.

HERE WE HAVE THE SKYLINE OF SINGAPORE.

AND HERE THE WORDS "COMPANION IN GOD'S MISSION."

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

>> HI, I'M SALLY.

AND ACTUALLY, WHILE I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO HAVE MY HUSBAND AS

THE SPOKESMAN FOR MY FAMILY, BUT I FELT THAT THE SPIRIT -- THESE FEW DAYS HERE, MY HEART HAS BEEN SO STIRRED UP THAT I FELT THAT I REALLY NEED TO SAY SOMETHING.

I'M ALWAYS A NERVOUS WRECK BEFORE ANY CROWD, BUT GOD HAS GIVEN ME THE SPIRIT OF COURAGE TO SPEAK OUT.

FROM THE SHARING JUST NOW, YOU HAVE SEEN AND YOU HAVE HEARD THE GOOD WORK THAT YOU HAVE DONE IN BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS TO OUR NATION.

IN FACT, YOU ARE DOING SUCH A GREAT JOB, INCLUDING MANY COUNTRIES IN THE WEST.

IN ASIA, THAT FOR A LONG TIME, MANY PEOPLE IN ASIA HAD ACTUALLY THOUGHT THAT CHRISTIANITY IS A WESTERN RELIGION.

AND THIS IS MY FIRST TRIP TO AMERICA, AND I CAME WITH GREAT EXPECTANCY, BECAUSE IN MY HEART I KNOW, OUR CHURCH IN SINGAPORE EXISTS BECAUSE OF YOU, BECAUSE OF THE MISSIONARIES THAT YOU SEND TO OUR LAND.

AND IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU THAT MANY IN ASIA COME TO KNOW CHRIST.

HOWEVER, WHEN WE WERE HERE FOR ABOUT A WEEK AND DURING THOSE FEW DAYS, WE HEARD SEVERAL SHARING FROM SOME OF YOU, AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT MY HEART WAS SORT OF AFFECTED, BECAUSE I REALIZED THAT FROM THE SHARING THAT, THE PASSION AND THE VIGOR THAT YOU HAD IN SHARING, THE GOOD NEWS IS NO LONGER WITH MANY OF YOU.

I HAVE HEARD THAT GOING TO MISSION -- GIVING TO MISSION IS NOW CONSIDERED PAYING TAX, A FORM OF PAYING TAX.

AND ALSO IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THERE WAS ALSO A POEM WRITTEN BY A 15-YEAR-OLD YOUNG STUDENT FROM OHIO THAT SAYS THAT IN HIS SCHOOL NOW, EVEN BOWING DOWN HIS HEAD TO PRAY IS NOW AGAINST THE RULES, AND THAT MENTIONING THE NAME OF CHRIST CAN BE AN OFFENSE TO MANY HERE IN AMERICA WHO SAYS THAT IT IS IN GOD IN WHOM WE TRUST.

SO MY HEART WAS VERY MUCH STIRRED UP BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE SUCH GREAT WORK IN ASIA AND IN MY COUNTRY, SINGAPORE.

AND BUT TODAY, THE SPIRIT HAS ASKED ME TO COME FORWARD AND TO TELL YOU AND TO MAKE AN APPEAL TO YOU, LIKE THE SONG WE HAVE SUNG THIS AFTERNOON DURING THE COMMUNION THAT SAYS: NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER GIVE UP.

AND MAY I SAY, NEVER GIVE UP IN GOING TO ORDINATION.

THIS IS YOUR TEAM.

AND BECAUSE IN ASIA, WE NEED YOU, AND YOU HAVE DONE SUCH GREAT WORK.

WE HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN -- WE ARE BLESSED BECAUSE OF YOU.

WE KNOW GOD, WE KNOW CHRIST BECAUSE OF YOU.

ASIA HAS 60% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, AND IT IS THE STRONGHOLD OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR RELIGIONS.

ISLAM, BUDDHISM, HINDUISM.

MOST OF THEM BELIEVE IN HELL, BUT THEY DO NOT KNOW OF THE WAY TO GET OUT OF IT, BECAUSE MANY HAS NOT HEARD THE GOSPEL.

MANY HAS NOT HEARD THE GOSPEL IN ASIA.

THEY'RE DOING ALL THAT THEY CAN TO GAIN MERITS, TO ACQUIRE SALVATION, TO DO ALL THE GOOD WORKS THEY POSSIBLY CAN IN ORDER TO GET OUT OF HELL.

BUT AS A CHRISTIAN, I KNOW ALL THAT THEY'RE DOING ARE IN VAIN.

I KNOW WITHOUT CHRIST, THEY WILL ALL PERISH WITH THEIR GOOD WORKS.

HAVING BEEN A MISSIONARY TO THAILAND FOR 10 YEARS, AND AS THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR ASIA, I HAVE TRAVELED TO MANY ASIAN COUNTRIES.

MANY ARE LIVING IN FEAR, MANY ARE LIVING IN BONDAGE, BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW CHRIST, AND I KNOW AND YOU KNOW THAT IT IS ONLY CHRIST THAT CAN FREE THEM.

SO I'M STANDING HERE BEFORE YOU WITH THE COURAGE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN ME TO APPEAL TO YOU, SISTERS AND BROTHERS.

I PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL REKINDLE YOUR PASSION, AND MAY HE PUT THE FIRE INTO YOUR HEART ONCE AGAIN BRING THE GOOD NEWS TO MANY WHO ARE PERISHING BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW CHRIST, THEY'VE NOT HEARD THE GOSPEL.

I KNOW THERE ARE STILL MANY OF YOU WHO ARE STILL BURNING FOR MISSION, AND I PRAY THAT THIS WILL CONTINUE, BECAUSE THE WORLD NEEDS GOD, THE WORLD NEEDS CHRIST, AND IT IS NOT WHETHER IT'S

A JOB FOR THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE OR THAT GROUP, BUT TOGETHER, I BELIEVE WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

LIKE THE MOVIE THAT WAS BEING SHOWN EARLIER ON: HERE I AM, LORD, SEND ME.

I BELIEVE TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND I STAND BEFORE YOU AND APPEAL TO YOU: NEVER GIVE UP.

NEVER GIVE UP.

NEVER GIVE UP INTO GOING TO ALL THE WORLD, BECAUSE THE WORLD NEEDS CHRIST.

AND TOGETHER I BELIEVE WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

AND I PRAY EVEN AS YOU'RE BLESSED, LET US CONTINUE TO JOIN HANDS AND BE A BLESSING TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD ABOUT CHRIST SO THAT THEY TOO MAY COME TO KNOW OF THE SAVING GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THANK YOU THAT BECAUSE OF YOU, WE HAVE COME TO KNOW CHRIST. WE HAVE SALVATION IN THE LORD.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, AND THANK YOU FOR HAVING US HERE THIS TIME.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU BOTH FOR BEING WITH US, FOR REMINDING US AGAIN OF THE MISSION THAT WE HAVE, FOR REMINDING US AGAIN TO LOOK OUTSIDE OURSELVES, FOR REMINDING US AGAIN THAT WE HAVE

TRUSTED WITH THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION.

I THINK WE NEEDED TO HEAR THAT ABOUT NOW.

AND WE DON'T HAVE A FLOCK OF CHICKENS TO GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO NEEDS IT IN THE WORLD.

FOR YOU, WE HAVE TWO, FOR BOTH OF YOU, AND A CHICKEN TO REMIND YOU OF THAT.

THESE DON'T GO TO YOU, BUT THEY GO TO PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO CAN USE THEM TO START A FLOCK OF CHICKENS.

AND I DON'T KNOW, THEY MIGHT NAME THEM TERRY AND SALLY.

[LAUGHTER]

GOD BLESS YOU.

THANK YOU AGAIN.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'M REALLY VERY TOUCHED AND VERY MOVED.

AND I WANT TO SAY ONE THING IS THAT THOSE WHO NEED JESUS CHRIST IS NOT JUST PEOPLE OUT THERE.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT GOING TO ALL THE WORLD AND IF YOU LOOK THE MOST PART OF THE WORLD, THAT INCLUDES USA, THAT INCLUDES GEORGIA, TENNESSEE, THAT INCLUDES YOUR HOME.

THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN WILTING LIKE ME, I HAVE A NOTE

HERE THAT THEY HAVE ADJUSTED THE AIR AND IT JUST TAKES A WHILE.
BOY, DOES IT.

YOU WILL RECALL THIS MORNING THAT WE MADE A SLIGHT
ADJUSTMENT TO THE AGENDA, AND WE WILL NOW CONSIDER THE 2011
COMPENSATION GUIDELINES.

I INVITE PASTOR GORDON REINERTSEN TO COME TO THE PODIUM AT
THIS TIME.

AS HE COMES UP, LET ME READ THE RESOLUTION FROM THE SYNOD
COUNCIL THAT'S ON PAGE A-6 IN YOUR MATERIALS.

IT COMES FROM SYNOD COUNCIL, SO THERE'S NO NEED FOR A
SECOND.

RESOLVED, THAT THE 2011 COMPENSATION GUIDELINES BE ADOPTED.
THE PROPOSED COMPENSATION GUIDELINES ARE AT TAB-I, EXHIBIT 3.
PASTOR REINERTSEN.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

I'M GORDON REINERTSEN, PASTOR OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH HERE IN
ATLANTA.

NO, WE'RE UP IN CHATTANOOGA, AREN'T WE?

I'VE SAID THAT TOO MANY TIMES.

ANYWAY, IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO CHAIR THE COMPENSATION
GUIDELINES COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

AND I WOULD JUST LIKE TO BEGIN BY THANKING THE VARIOUS
MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM WHO HAVE DONE AND CONTINUE TO DO AN
OUTSTANDING JOB.

I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE COMPENSATION GUIDELINES TEAM ENDEAVORS TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE ROSTERED PEOPLE OF OUR SYNOD.

AND WITH THAT SAID, I WOULD LIKE TO JUST SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE DOCUMENT.

THIS DOCUMENT IS A LIVING DOCUMENT.

IT CONTINUES TO CHANGE YEAR-BY-YEAR, AND WE TRY TO IMPROVE ON IT AND TO UPDATE IT AND TO CORRECT ANY PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT OCCUR WITHIN THE DOCUMENT.

AND SO FOR THIS -- FOR THE YEAR 2011, THESE ARE THE CHANGES THAT YOU SHOULD NOTE, AND NOT IN ANY PARTICULAR ORDER HERE.

THE FIRST IS THAT WE USED TO HAVE A MULTIPLIER.

WHEN THE SYNOD RECOMMENDS THAT CONGREGATIONS CONSIDER GIVING A SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSET BECAUSE ALL CLERGY ARE LISTED AS SELF-EMPLOYED BY THE IRS, SO IN ORDER TO HELP THAT, WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RECOMMENDING THAT CONGREGATIONS CONSIDER AN OFFSET OF ABOUT 50% OF THAT.

BUT IN ORDER TO DO THAT, WE'VE ALWAYS REALIZED THAT THIS OFFSET COMES IN AS SALARY, AS TAXABLE INCOME.

AND SO WE DISCOVERED IN ANOTHER DOCUMENT FROM ANOTHER SYNOD THAT THERE WAS A MULTIPLIER, AND WE'VE USED THAT FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

BUT NOW WE HAVE DISCOVERED, SADLY ENOUGH, THAT THAT MULTIPLIER IS INACCURATE.

IT'S JUST PLAIN WRONG.

AND SO WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE SICA RATE IS 15.3%, SO 7.65% WOULD BE HALF, BUT IF YOU WERE GOING TO TRY TO ELIMINATE THE TAX BITE THAT WILL COME BY THAT ADDITION, ACCOUNTANTS THAT I HAVE SPOKEN TO AND OTHERS ON OUR TEAM ARE OR COMMITTEE HAVE SPOKEN TO, HAVE SAID THAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER MOVING THAT UP 11, 13%.

WHAT WE RECOMMEND IN THE DOCUMENT IS THAT YOU CHECK WITH YOUR OWN ACCOUNTANTS AS TO WHAT TO DO.

BUT WE JUST CALL THAT TO YOUR ATTENTION.

THE SECOND ITEM OF NOTE, I BELIEVE, IS THAT WE CLEANED UP OR MADE SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE PARENTAL LEAVE PART OF THE DOCUMENT.

SO I JUST CALL THAT TO YOUR ATTENTION.

THE OTHER THING IS THAT CONTINUING EDUCATION HAS BEEN INCREASED TO \$1,000 A YEAR.

THOSE OF YOU WHO KNOW THAT WHEN YOU GO TO TAKE A CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE, THE COST OF THOSE IS USUALLY QUITE HIGH.

EVEN \$1,000 WON'T COVER AN INSTITUTE COURSE WHICH IS KIND OF THE STANDARD OF CONTINUING EDUCATION SO WE HAVE INCREASED THAT LINE ITEM.

AS FAR AS THE TABLES, TABLE A AND TABLE B ON PAGES, I BELIEVE 13 AND 15, WHERE WE NORMALLY GIVE SALARY RANGES THAT ARE

RECOMMENDED, AS YOU RECALL --

>> MR. REINERTSEN.

EXCUSE ME JUST A MINUTE.

WE HAVE A POINT OF ORDER AT MICROPHONE 4.

YES?

>> I'M FRED GOULD WITH CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH IN DALTON, AND AS I LOOK AT THE DOCUMENT UNDER CONTINUING EDUCATION, DID YOU NOT JUST SAY \$1,000?

>> YES.

>> DOES NOT THE DOCUMENT SAY \$750?

I'M SORRY, THAT'S A TYPO.

THAT SHOULD BE UP TO \$1,000.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> SO YOU COULD MAKE THAT CORRECTION, THE REPORT SHOULD HAVE SAID \$1,000.

SO THE REPORT THAT'S ON THE FLOOR WHICH COMES FROM THE COMMITTEE SHOULD SAY \$1,000.

THANK YOU.

>> IF YOU RECALL, LAST YEAR -- YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT THIS DOCUMENT OR ANY CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT TAKE A YEAR TO PUT TOGETHER AND BRING TO THIS BODY.

AND SO IT'S NOTHING THAT WE CAN SUDDENLY CHANGE ONE WEEK TO THE NEXT.

AND SO WITH THE REALIZATION THAT THESE ARE SOME TOUGH

ECONOMIC TIMES, AND HAVE BEEN SOME TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES, WE HAVE LEFT THE NUMBERS IN THOSE RANGES, THE SAME AS THEY WERE LAST YEAR.

YOU WILL NOTE THAT MANY THIS DOCUMENT, WE RECOMMEND -- IN THIS DOCUMENT WE RECOMMEND A 2% COST OF LIVING INCREASE TO THE NUMBERS FOR 2011.

THAT'S FOR NEXT YEAR.

BUT WE HAVE NOT DONE THAT TO THE NUMBERS.

IF A CONGREGATION WILL ENTERTAIN THAT, THEY WILL HAVE TO DO -- INCREASE THE NUMBERS BY 2% THEMSELVES.

THEN SOME PEOPLE HAVE ASKED ABOUT HOUSING EQUITY ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN PARSONAGES, AND WE HAVE DISCOVERED BY CHECKING AROUND IN OTHER SYNODS THAT 3 TO 6% OF DEFINED COMPENSATION IS WHAT IS BEING SUGGESTED AS A HOUSING EQUITY ALLOWANCE NUMBER.

AND THEN WE DID A BIG REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE.

WE HAVE MANY CONGREGATIONS THAT DO NOT HAVE ANY PERSONNEL POLICIES IN EFFECT IN THEIR CONGREGATIONS, SO WE WANT TO CALL THIS TO YOUR ATTENTION, AND ALSO TO THE FACT THAT THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD WEBSITE HAS A MODEL PERSONNEL POLICY FOR CONGREGATIONS THAT YOU CAN CHECK OUT.

BISHOP, THOSE ARE THE ADDITIONS TO THE DOCUMENT.

>> JUST A COUPLE OF THINGS ABOUT THE REPORT BEFORE WE OPEN

IT FOR DISCUSSION.

PAGE 5 SAYS \$750, BUT PAGE 8 HAS THE CORRECT AMOUNT, IT'S \$1,000 FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION.

SO PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOU MAKE THAT CHANGE, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT'S ON THE FLOOR.

SECOND LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION, PASTOR REINERTSEN MENTIONED THAT THERE IS AVAILABLE A SUGGESTED PERSONNEL POLICY FOR CONGREGATIONS, AND THAT WAS JUST AN UPDATE OF THAT WAS JUST APPROVED BY SYNOD COUNCIL THIS WEEK, SO SOON THERE WILL BE AN UPDATED SUGGESTED PERSONNEL POLICY.

>> YEAH, IT SHOULD BE ALSO NOTED THAT ON THE WORKSHEETS, THE 750 IS THERE, ALSO, AND THAT NEEDS TO BE ROLLED TO 1,000.

>> THANKS.

SO WE ACCEPT THOSE AS CORRECTIONS, AND THAT WHAT IS NOW ON THE FLOOR IS THE DOCUMENT FROM THIS TASK FORCE ON ROSTERED LEADER COMPENSATION AS CORRECTED.

IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION, OR QUESTIONS?

SEEING NO ONE GOING TO A MICROPHONE, I SUPPOSE WE'RE READY TO GO.

IF YOU'RE IN FAVOR OF APPROVING THE COMPENSATION GUIDELINES AS PRESENTED, WOULD YOU INDICATE THAT BY RAISING YOUR GREEN CARD, PLEASE?

RAISE YOUR GREEN CARDS.

WE'RE A LITTLE SLOW ON THE RAISING NOW.

THANK YOU.

YOU MAY PUT THOSE DOWN.

IF YOU ARE NOT IN FAVOR, PLEASE RAISE YOUR RED CARD.

THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, PASTOR.

>> THANK YOU.

>> I'M AWARE THAT WE ARE RUNNING A BIT LATE.

AND WE ARE NOW MOVING TO TAB G IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS,

WHERE WE WILL TAKE UP OUR RESOLUTIONS AND MEMORIALS.

WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG THIS WILL TAKE.

IF THIS MEANS WE'RE GOING TO GO BEYOND THE TIME THAT WE HAVE SCHEDULED FOR THIS SESSION, I WILL ASK FOR YOUR PERMISSION TO CONTINUE A LITTLE LONGER THIS EVENING.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GRANT THAT, AND IF YOU DON'T, WE'LL CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION IN THE MORNING.

CONSIDERING RESOLUTIONS DURING THIS ASSEMBLY FROM THE SYNOD COUNCIL OR ALL OF THESE COME FROM THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE NOTE THAT IN THE ASSEMBLY RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE TAB I, EXHIBIT 1, THERE'S A PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING RESOLUTIONS PRIOR TO THE ASSEMBLY.

I AM REALLY HAPPY TO SAY ALL THE RESOLUTIONS THIS YEAR CAME IN BEFORE THE APRIL 15 DEADLINE GIVING THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE PLENTY OF TIME TO LOOK THEM OVER.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO DO THAT AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

[LAUGHTER]

I'M SURE THAT'S FIRST ON YOUR MIND TONIGHT.

WE ONLY RECEIVED 2 RESOLUTIONS THIS YEAR.

OUR PROCEDURE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS: THE CHAIR WILL ANNOUNCE WHICH RESOLUTION WILL BE CONSIDERED.

THE "RESOLVED" CLAUSE OR CLAUSES WILL BE READ BY A MEMBER OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

IF IT'S A COUNCIL RESOLUTION -- I DON'T THINK THERE ARE ANY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS -- THE CHAIR OF THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE WILL READ THESE CLAUSES OR THIS CLAUSE.

FOR ALL OF OUR RESOLUTIONS WHICH COME FROM THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE, IT'S REQUIRED TO HAVE A SECOND FROM AN ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER IN ORDER FOR THOSE RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED.

ACCORDING TO ASSEMBLY RULES AND PROCEDURES, SPEECHES ARE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER PERSON.

PASTOR NANCY CHRISTENSEN HERE WILL BE TIMEKEEPER.

AT 30 SECONDS REMAINING, SHE'LL HOLD UP A YELLOW CARD, WHICH WILL INDICATE YOU HAVE 30 SECONDS REMAINING.

WHEN TIME IS UP, SHE WILL HOLD UP A RED CARD, WHICH MEANS YOU HAVE NO SECONDS REMAINING.

MOST IMPORTANT -- IF SHE DOES THAT TOO OFTEN, YOU SHOULD QUIT.

MOST IMPORTANT, IN ORDER FOR DEBATE TO PROCEED SMOOTHLY,

REMEMBER TO ALWAYS ADDRESS THE CHAIR FROM THE FLOOR, AND ALWAYS BE RECOGNIZED BEFORE ADDRESSING THE CHAIR, UNLESS IT'S A SECOND WHICH YOU MAY DO FROM WHERE YOU'RE SITTING. IF YOU NEED SOMETHING CLEARED UP AND YOU NEED SOMEBODY OTHER THAN ME TO ANSWER IT, WHICH IS HIGHLY LIKELY, LET ME APPOINT THE PERSON TO MAKE THE REFERRAL.

VOTING MEMBERS, AS YOU APPROACH THE MICROPHONE, YOU BRING A GREEN CARD IF YOU WANT TO SPEAK FOR THE MOTION OR THE AMENDMENT.

YOU BRING A RED CARD TO SPEAK AGAINST, A YELLOW CARD FOR A POINT OF ORDER, OR AS THE VOTING MEMBER JUST DID RECENTLY AT MICROPHONE 4, FOR A POINT OF INFORMATION.

CLEARLY IDENTIFY YOURSELF, YOUR CONGREGATION AND YOUR CONFERENCE.

WE'VE FOUND OUT THAT SOME PEOPLE AREN'T SURE WHAT CONFERENCE THEY'RE A MEMBER OF, SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK THAT ON YOUR WAY TO THE MICROPHONE, BECAUSE WE SURE CAN'T HELP YOU WITH THAT.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO MOVE A RESOLUTION OR AN AMENDMENT, PLEASE DO SO BEFORE SPEAKING TO THE ASSEMBLY.

BE SURE TO MOVE YOUR AMENDMENT AND THEN SPEAK TO IT.

DON'T GIVE A SPEECH AND THEN MAKE, THEREFORE, AN AMENDMENT.

WE'LL ENDEAVOR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO ALTERNATE BETWEEN RED AND GREEN CARDS.

OUR SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT, WES CRENSHAW, IF HE'S STILL AWAKE, WILL ASSIST ME IN THAT TASK, AND IF YOU WANT TO END DEBATE, PLEASE BRING A RED CARD AND WAIT IN LINE AT THE MICROPHONE. THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO ALL THAT AGAIN, BUT IT WILL MAKE OUR TIME GO SMOOTHER HERE.

AND WE PRAY FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR DELIBERATIONS, AND ARE ASSURED THAT WE HAVE IT.

OUR PATIENTLY WAITING REFERENCE AND COUNSEL CHAIR, PASTOR RANDY JONES FROM MESSIAH IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.

>> THE DIASPORA CONFERENCE.

WE ARE IN THE DISPERSION.

WE HAVE TWO RESOLUTIONS TO CONSIDER TODAY, 01 AND 02.

THEY WILL BE TAKEN IN THE ORDER THAT THEY ARE NUMBERED.

>> MICROPHONE 2.

>> JIM AUTRY, FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, THE DIASPORA CONFERENCE, CONFERENCE 7.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A MOTION THAT WE CHANGE THE ORDER OF OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION NUMBER 2, 02-2010 PRIOR TO RESOLUTION 1.

>> IS THAT A CHANGE OF RULES?

THAT'S IN ORDER.

IN ORDER TO DO THAT, WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS MAKE A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES, SINCE THIS ORDER WAS SUBMITTED IN THE RULES, AND IF YOU GET A SECOND AND WE GET 2/3 OF PEOPLE WHO

WISH TO DO THAT, THEN WE'LL DO THAT.

>> THEN I SO MOVE.

>> WE HAVE A MOTION AND SECOND TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND TO SWAP THE ORDER OF THE RESOLUTIONS THAT WE WILL BE CONSIDERING.

THAT'S NOT DEBATABLE, AND IT TAKES A 2/3 VOTE TO PASS.

SO IF YOU'RE IN FAVOR OF SUSPENDING THE RULES AND REVERSING THE ORDER OF THESE TWO RESOLUTIONS, WOULD YOU INDICATE THAT BY RAISING YOUR GREEN CARD.

YOU MAY PUT THOSE DOWN.

IF YOU ARE OPPOSED TO SUSPENDING THE RULES AND ARE REVERSING THE ORDER, RAISE YOUR RED CARD.

I THINK THAT'S PRETTY CLEARLY A 2/3 VOTE, SO WE'LL TAKE RESOLUTION 2 FIRST.

PASTOR.

>> VERY GOOD.

FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO THANK SESLYO FOR DOING THIS.

IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO SEE OUR YOUTH INVOLVED IN THE GOVERNANCE OF OUR CHURCH.

AND WHEN I SAW YOU ALL STANDING UP HERE, I SAID TO THE PERSON SITTING NEXT TO ME, "THAT IS A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT."

SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK, AND FOR BEING INVOLVED.

[APPLAUSE]

YOU ARE MOST DEFINITELY GLORIOUS.

THE FIRST RESOLUTION WE'RE CONSIDERING IS THIS RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN INITIATIVE ON HARMONY.

I WILL READ THE RESOLVEDS.

RESOLVED, THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE 2010 SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY GO OUT AND PROMOTE UNITY WITHIN THE CHURCH AND THEIR CONGREGATIONS.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE SYNOD COUNCIL SEND THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION, SESLYO, HARMONY LETTER TO EACH AND EVERY CONGREGATION OF THIS SYNOD BY WAY OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENTS, PASTORS, AND YOUTH DIRECTORS.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THESE LETTERS BE ENCOURAGED TO BE POSTED IN A PUBLIC PLACE.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS ADOPTION.

>> YOU HEAR THE MOTION BEFORE YOU.

IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> DISCUSSION?

IF SOMEONE FROM SESLYO WHO'S A VOTING MEMBER OR SOMEONE ELSE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO THE MOTION, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO THAT FIRST.

>> I HAVE THE HARMONY LETTER.

EVERYBODY HAS THE HARMONY LETTER IN THEIR PACKET IN THE BACK PART, I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHERE.

>> MICROPHONE 2.

>> PRESTON JUTTE.

I'M THE SYNOD COUNCIL YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE.

I'M IN CONFERENCE 8, AND I GO TO ST. ANDREWS IN FRANKLIN, AND I

CO-WROTE THIS RESOLUTION AND HELPED FINALIZE THE LETTER.

AND BASICALLY, THIS IS JUST, WITH ALL THE DIFFERENT CHANGES

THAT HAVE GONE ON, THERE'S BEEN LOTS OF DEBATE, TO SAY THE

LEAST, AND DISAGREEMENTS, AND THIS IS JUST PROMOTING UNITY TO

STAY TOGETHER AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST AS THE ELCA.

THERE'S NO FURTHER ACTION OTHER THAN SENDING A LETTER AND

BEING PEACEFUL.

THAT'S ALL THAT WE ASK.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

PLEASE, NO DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE DEBATE, PLEASE.

MICROPHONE 4.

>> SHERRY PITTMAN, ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, CONFERENCE 1.

THERE'S A LINE FROM A SONG RUNNING THROUGH MY HEAD WHEN I

WAS THINKING THIS, AND IT'S FROM THE SOUNDTRACK TO "HOOT," IF

YOU'VE SEEN THAT MOVIE.

AND IT SAYS: SOMETIMES GROWN MEN GET TO LEARN FROM A CHILD.

AND I HOPE THAT THESE YOUTH WON'T BE OFFENDED THAT I CALLED

THEM A CHILD TODAY, BUT I THINK THAT THIS LETTER AND THIS

RESOLUTION BY THE YOUTH SHOWS SO MUCH MORE MATURITY AND SUCH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE THAT I FELT IT DIDN'T NEED TO GO BY WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM AN ADULT OR HOPEFULLY FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF ADULTS, SO I WANT TO THANK THE YOUTH FOR ADDRESSING THAT AND WORDING IT SO WELL ABOUT HARMONY, BECAUSE THAT'S TRULY WHAT WE NEED, AND TRULY WHAT IS GOING TO MAKE US GO FORWARD TO DO GOD'S WORK.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

ANY OTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION BEFORE US?

DO WE NEED TO READ THE MOTION AGAIN BEFORE WE VOTE?

NO.

ALL OF THOSE THEN WHO ARE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION 02-2010 AS DISTRIBUTED, PLEASE INDICATE BY RAISING YOUR GREEN CARD.

THANK YOU.

THOSE WHO ARE OPPOSED, RAISE YOUR RED CARD.

ALL RIGHT, ALMOST UNANIMOUS.

THE MOTION PASSES.

NOW YOU CAN APPLAUD, IF YOU WANT.

[APPLAUSE]

PASTOR JONES.

>> RESOLUTION 01-2010.

THIS RESOLUTION COMES TO US FROM HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN

CHURCH IN KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE.

I WILL READ THE RESOLVED.

RESOLVED, THAT THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY
MEMORIALIZE THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY OF THE ELCA AS
FOLLOWS:

TO RESCIND THE DECISIONS OF THE 2009 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY IN
ADOPTING THE SOCIAL STATEMENT "HUMAN SEXUALITY: GIFT AND
TRUST" AND THE FOUR RESOLUTIONS ON MINISTRY POLICIES
(CA09.05.23 - 24 - 26 AND 27) AS VIOLATIONS OF THE CONFESSION OF
FAITH, CHAPTER 2 OF THE ELCA CONSTITUTION, AND THEREFORE,
INVALID AND UNBINDING UPON INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATIONS'
TEACHING, MINISTRY AND COMMUNAL LIFE.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL MAKES NO RECOMMENDATION, AND SO IT
WILL REQUIRE A FIRST AND A SECOND.

>> WOULD SOMEONE CARE TO MOVE THE RESOLUTION?

AND THEN WE'LL NEED A SECOND.

POINT OF ORDER OR POINT OF INFORMATION AT THE FIRST
MICROPHONE.

>> POINT OF ORDER, JUSTIN ASK, GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH, WOODSTOCK, GEORGIA, CONFERENCE 5.

I OBJECT TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION.

>> HE OBJECTS THE CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION.

DO WE NEED TO VOTE ON THAT?

I THINK WE NEED TO HAVE A SECOND TO THAT.

>> SECOND.

>> WE HAVE A VOTE AND SECOND NOT TO CONSIDER THIS
RESOLUTION.

THAT REQUIRES WITH A 2/3 VOTE.

COULD YOU GIVE US JUST A SECOND TO MAKE A LITTLE CONFERENCE
HERE?

WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES AT THIS MOMENT.

WE WERE JUST DOUBLE-CHECKING THIS DOES NOT NEED A SECOND, IS
NOT DEBATABLE, AND IT DOES REQUIRE A 2/3 VOTE.

SO THIS IS BEFORE YOU NOW TO -- A MOTION NOT TO CONSIDER THIS
MOTION 01-2010.

IF YOU ARE IN FAVOR OF NOT CONSIDERING IT, IN OTHER WORDS, YOU
DO NOT WISH TO DISCUSS THIS, PLEASE RAISE YOUR GREEN CARD.

THANK YOU.

YOU MAY PUT THOSE DOWN.

IF YOU ARE OPPOSED TO THE MOTION NOT TO CONSIDER AND YOU
WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS, PLEASE RAISE YOUR RED CARD.

I THINK WE'RE GOING TO NEED A COUNT, BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE
CERTAIN ABOUT THIS.

SO I WANT TO ASK YOU AGAIN IF WE CAN GET OUR POLL WORKERS
HERE, OUR ELECTION VOLUNTEERS, AND I'LL ASK YOU TO RAISE YOUR
RED CARDS AGAIN.

BY RAISING THE RED CARD, YOU'RE SAYING YOU DO NOT WISH TO
DISCUSS THIS RESOLUTION AT ALL.

SORRY.

GREEN CARD, I'M SORRY.

GREEN, RED, YOU KNOW.

OKAY, NOW WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO, HOWEVER -- LISTEN

CAREFULLY -- IS WHEN YOU RAISE YOUR GREEN CARD MEANING YOU

DO NOT WISH TO DISCUSS THIS AT ALL, KEEP YOUR GREEN CARD UP

UNTIL THE PERSON WHO'S COUNTING IT TELLS YOU TO PUT IT DOWN.

OTHERWISE, IT MIGHT NOT BE COUNTED, OKAY?

SO THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT WISH TO CONSIDER RESOLUTION

01-2010, PLEASE RAISE HIGH YOUR GREEN CARDS, AND KEEP THEM UP

FOR A WHILE.

WE'LL HAVE TO COUNT THE CARDS AND THEN TALLY THE VOTE SO THIS

WILL TAKE JUST A FEW MINUTES.

HAVE THE GREEN CARDS ALL BEEN COUNTED?

IS THAT A "YES" FROM SOMEBODY IN AUTHORITY?

YES.

IF YOU WISH TO CONSIDER RESOLUTION 01-2010, IF YOU WOULD LIKE

TO CONSIDER IT, PLEASE HOLD YOUR RED CARD UP, AND HOLD THAT

UNTIL THE PERSONS WHO ARE COUNTING TELL YOU TO PUT THE RED

CARD DOWN.

SO PLEASE HOLD YOUR RED CARDS UP.

HOLD THEM WHERE THEY CAN BE SEEN UNTIL THE POLL WORKER

TELLS YOU TO PUT THEM DOWN.

MICROPHONE 1.

>> HI, I'M PAUL DOSTER FROM FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

BEING UNFAMILIAR WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS, THE OBJECTION THAT WAS RAISED WAS RAISED BEFORE WE HAD A CHANCE TO RESPOND TO YOUR REQUEST TO MAKE A MOTION AND IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR REQUEST TO HEAR FROM THE FLOOR WHETHER OR NOT WE WANTED TO MAKE THAT MOTION.

>> I THINK THAT THE OBJECTION TO CONSIDERATION, IF THE HOUSE WISHES TO CONSIDER THE MOTION, THEN THE HOUSE WILL VOTE AGAINST OBJECTING TO CONSIDER THE MOTION, AND WE WILL CONSIDER THE MOTION IN THAT CASE.

>> OKAY, I JUST WONDERED.

BECAUSE YOUR WORDS WERE KIND OF HANGING IN THE AIR LIKE IN A BALLOON.

>> THEY WERE.

>> AND NOBODY HAD A CHANCE TO SAY: I MAKE THAT MOTION AND I SECOND THAT MOTION.

>> BUT THERE WAS AN OBJECTION TO CONSIDER IT, AND I THINK YOU CAN DO THAT BEFORE THE MOTION IS MADE.

YES.

>> CAN YOU?

>> YES.

BUT THANKS FOR THE QUESTION.

>> OKAY, THANK YOU.

>> ALL RIGHT.

WE HAVE THE RESULTS.

220 PEOPLE VOTED NOT TO CONSIDER.

126 VOTED TO CONSIDER.

IT WOULD REQUIRE 232 TO BE 2/3 AND NOT CONSIDER, SO WE WILL
CONSIDER THE MOTION.

NO APPLAUDING.

WE ACTUALLY DON'T HAVE A MOTION.

WE CAN'T CONSIDER IT UNTIL IT'S MOVED.

>> I WOULD LIKE TO MOVE THAT WE CONSIDER THE RESOLUTION.

>> SO YOU'RE MOVING THE RESOLUTION.

>> I'M MOVING THE RESOLUTION.

>> 01-2010.

IT HAS BEEN MOVED.

IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> IT'S BEEN MOVED AND SECONDED AND IT IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION.

WOULD SOMEONE FROM TRINITY LIKE TO SPEAK TO THIS, OR WOULD
SOMEONE ELSE LIKE TO SPEAK TO THIS BEFORE -- MICROPHONE 2.

THANK YOU.

>> JEANETTE HERET, HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, KINGSPORT,
TENNESSEE, CONFERENCE, 6.

THIS IS TOUGH.

OUR PASTOR WAS TO BE HERE TODAY TO SPEAK TO THIS, BUT HE HAD

A GOOD EXCUSE.

MID-WEEK HE HAD A FEVER OF 101 AND COULD NOT EVEN TALK TO US ON THURSDAY WITHOUT COUGHING.

SO HERE I AM, LORD, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HOLY TRINITY.

WE COME BEFORE YOU TODAY WITH A HEAVY HEART.

DISAGREEMENTS ARE NEVER PLEASANT, AND DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN A FAMILY ARE DOUBLY SO.

AND THE ELCA IS A FAMILY.

AND YET UNPLEASANT AS TODAY'S TASK IS, HOLY TRINITY FEELS COMPELLED TO EXPRESS OUR PROFOUND DISAGREEMENT WITH THE 2009 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY AND THE 4 RESOLUTIONS ON MINISTRY POLICIES.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON LAST YEAR'S SOCIAL STATEMENT AND THE 4 RESOLUTIONS THAT FLOWED FROM IT, ONE THING IS UNARGUABLY TRUE: LAST YEAR'S PROCLAMATION REPRESENTS A DRASTIC AND DRAMATIC DEPARTURE FROM BOTH THE PREVIOUS POLICIES OF THE ELCA AND ITS PREDECESSOR BODIES, AND OVER 1950 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN TRADITION.

IN FACT, THE STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY IS FUNDAMENTALLY AT ODDS WITH THE CONFESSION OF FAITH PROCLAIMED IN THE ELCA'S CONSTITUTION.

TO EMBRACE ONE IS TO REJECT THE OTHER.

THAT SAID, WE DON'T BELIEVE THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH THIS ISSUE ARE BAD PEOPLE.

QUITE THE CONTRARY.

WE BELIEVE THEY'RE MOTIVATED BY IDEALS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMPASSION.

WE DO, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT ON THIS ISSUE, THEY ARE CONFUSING THE ETHICS OF AUTONOMY WITH THE COMMUNAL MORALITY TO BE FOUND IN CHRISTIANITY.

ANY ENDORSEMENT OF SAME-GENDER SEXUAL EXPRESSION EVEN WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP VIOLATES THE PLAIN SENSE OF SCRIPTURES, SUCH AS IN THE FIRST CHAPTER OF ROMANS, VERSES 26 AND 27, AND CORINTHIANS 1, CHAPTER 6, VERSE 9.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

AND PLEASE EXPRESS TO PASTOR COUNTS THE WISH OF THIS ASSEMBLY THAT HE BE RETURNED TO HEALTH QUICKLY.

THANK YOU.

I'M SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SITTING DOWN, EXCUSE ME.

>> I WANT TO READ JUST ONE SCRIPTURE.

THIS COMES FROM 1 CORINTHIANS, VERSE 9.

DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THE WICKED WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED.

NEITHER THE SEXUALLY IMMORAL OR IDOLATERS OR ADULTERERS NOR HOMOSEXUAL OFFENDERS.

>> TIME, PLEASE.

EXCUSE ME, I THINK I INTERRUPTED PART OF HER TIME WHEN I INTERRUPTED HER, SO GIVE -- COULD YOU JUST FINISH THAT STATEMENT.

>> AS A CONGREGATION, WE REPUDIATE THE 2009 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY'S SOCIAL STATEMENT.

WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO OVERTURNING IT, AND WE INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN WITH US.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

AND FORGIVE MY INTERRUPTION AGAIN.

ARE THERE OTHER SPEAKERS TO THIS?

MICROPHONE 2.

>> KATHY CRIMI, HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, CONFERENCE 8.

I'D LIKE TO SPEAK AGAINST THIS MOTION.

I HAD THE HONOR OF ATTENDING OUR CHURCHWIDE COUNCIL IN APRIL.

THERE IS TREMENDOUS RECONCILIATION GOING ON ACROSS OUR NATION IN THIS CHURCH.

AND THIS GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS ALL KINDS OF --

AND LEARN HOW TO RECONCILE OUR DIFFERENCES AND LIVE

TOGETHER IN SPITE OF OUR DIFFERENCES.

AND I JUST FEEL LIKE IF WE ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION, WE ARE GOING BACK TO BUILDING WALLS BETWEEN EACH OTHER, AND NOT LEARNING TO LIVE AS CHILDREN OF GOD TOGETHER.

>> THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 4.

>> LYDIA VILLANUEVA, CONFERENCE 3.

THE DECISION IN MINNEAPOLIS WAS A BOMB IN MY CHURCH.

MY CONGREGATION REPUDIATED THE DECISION.

IT'S TAKEN A YEAR OF BRINGING BACK HARMONY AND HEALING TO
NOW GO BACKWARDS.

IN FACT, BECAUSE OF THE DECISION, MY CONGREGATION OPENED UP
TO [INAUDIBLE] PEOPLE THEY'RE GAY.

A MAN IN MY CHURCH WHO MARRIED 10 YEARS AGO KNOWING THAT HE
WAS GAY AND NOW HE'S GETTING DIVORCED, NEVER CAME TO
CHURCH, WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT THIS, HE DECIDED TO COME TO
CHURCH BECAUSE THE CHURCH OPENED THE DOORS FOR PEOPLE
LIKE HIM.

MY CONGREGATION STILL REPUDIATED THE DECISION.

WE'RE PART OF THIS CHURCH.

I LOVE THIS CHURCH.

AND MY FAMILY, WHEN THEY MESS UP, I DON'T LEAVE MY FAMILY, SO
WHEN THIS FAMILY MESS UP, I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE THIS FAMILY
EITHER.

AND I CALL TO WHAT THEY JUST ASKED, LET'S MOVE FOR HARMONY,
LET'S MOVE FORWARD.

WE'RE FOR HEALING.

LET'S NOT GO BACKWARDS.

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR.

MICROPHONE 4.

>> MY NAME IS SHARON BOST.

I GO TO HOLY TRINITY MARIETTA IN GEORGIA.

I'M ON SYNOD COUNCIL.

I SPEAK AGAINST THIS RESOLUTION, BECAUSE WE WILL NEVER AS A CHURCH AGREE ON THIS ISSUE.

THIS CHURCH DOES NOT ENDORSE HOMOSEXUALITY.

BUT THIS CHURCH ENDORSES LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE AND FORGIVENESS.

THE CHURCH HAS AGREED TO DISAGREE THROUGH THIS STATEMENT AND THE RESOLUTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

AND I WOULD PLEAD FOR YOU TO VOTE TO VOTE DOWN THIS AMENDMENT, I MEAN, THIS RESOLUTION.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 2.

>> I'M [INAUDIBLE].

I'M A RETIRED PASTOR, AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I NEED A RED CARD OR A GREEN CARD TO MOVE THE PREVIOUS QUESTION.

I'M IN 6.

>> YOU'RE MOVING THE QUESTION?

DID I UNDERSTAND THAT RIGHT?

>> I WANT TO MOVE THE PREVIOUS QUESTION.

>> THERE'S A SECOND.

TAKES 2/3.

THIS WILL CUT OFF DEBATE.

MEANS WE'LL MOVE DIRECTLY TO VOTING ON THE RESOLUTION THAT BEFORE US.

ALL OF THOSE WHO ARE IN FAVOR OF ENDING DEBATE, PLEASE RAISE YOUR GREEN CARD.

YOU MAY PUT THOSE DOWN.

THOSE OPPOSED, RAISE YOUR RED CARD.

I BELIEVE THE GREEN CARDS CLEARLY HAVE IT.

AND SO WE ARE READY TO VOTE ON RESOLUTION 01-2010.

WOULD YOU READ THAT FOR US ONE MORE TIME, PASTOR?

>> YES.

RESOLVED THAT THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY MEMORIALIZE THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY OF THE ELCA AS FOLLOWS: TO RESCIND THE DECISION OF THE 2009 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY IN ADOPTING THE SOCIAL STATEMENT "HUMAN SEXUALITY: GIFT AND TRUST," AND THE FOUR RESOLUTIONS ON MINISTRY POLICIES (CA09.05.23 - 24 - 26 AND 27) AS VIOLATIONS OF THE CONFESSION OF FAITH, CHAPTER 2, OF THE ELCA CONSTITUTION, AND THEREFORE, INVALID AND UNBINDING UPON INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATIONS' TEACHING, MINISTRY AND COMMUNAL LIFE.

>> THANK YOU.

THAT IS THE MOTION THAT'S BEFORE YOU.

THOSE WHO ARE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION TO RESCIND -- TO
MEMORIALIZE ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY IN 2009, TO RESCIND THE
DECISIONS OF THE 2009 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY IN ADOPTING THE
SOCIAL STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY, RAISE YOUR GREEN CARDS
IF YOU'RE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

THOSE WHO ARE OPPOSED, INDICATE BY RAISING YOUR RED CARDS.
AND THE MOTION FAILS.

AND THAT'S ALL THE RESOLUTIONS THAT WE HAVE.

I REALLY EXPECTED APPLAUSE THERE.

ALL THE RESOLUTIONS THAT WE HAD.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COURTESY TO ONE ANOTHER AND
YOUR WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN CONVERSATIONS HERE, VERY
MUCH APPRECIATE THAT.

I'M GETTING OVERWHELMED WITH SMALL BITS OF PAPER UP HERE.

OH, YES, WE'RE IN SESSION THREE, AREN'T WE?

THANK YOU.

WE NOW TURN OUR ATTENTION BACK TO ELECTIONS, AND I CALL UPON
PASTOR JOEL EMERSON, CHAIR OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

ACTUALLY, BEFORE YOU, WE HAVE SOMETHING ELSE THAT COMES.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION NOW?

THERE ARE TWO AT-LARGE POSITIONS ON THE SYNOD COUNCIL THAT
HAVE TO BE FILLED AT THIS ASSEMBLY.

AND I'M GOING TO ASK OUR CURRENT SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT,

MR. WESLEY CRENSHAW, TO REPORT THE SYNOD COUNCIL'S
NOMINATIONS FOR THOSE POSITIONS.

>> TO ASSIST IN MEETING OUR INCLUSIVITY GOALS SO THAT THERE
ARE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF LAY MALES AND LAY FEMALES ON THE
SYNOD COUNCIL, BOTH OF THE AT-LARGE POSITIONS ON THE SYNOD
COUNCIL HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR MALES.

FOR THESE POSITIONS, THE SYNOD COUNCIL NOMINATES THE
FOLLOWING:

MONROE HERRING AND MICHAEL KREKLING.

>> ARE THERE NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR A LAY MALE
AT-LARGE POSITION ON SYNOD COUNCIL?

NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR.

PLEASE GO TO A MICROPHONE QUICKLY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
NOMINATE SOMEONE OR YOURSELF.

PEOPLE ARE LEAVING THE ROOM BUT NO ONE IS GOING TO A
MICROPHONE.

[LAUGHTER]

SO I'LL DECLARE THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED.

THE BALLOT FOR THE AT-LARGE MEMBERS OF SYNOD COUNCIL WILL BE
TOMORROW MORNING, AFTER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN
DISTRIBUTED TO YOU.

WE'LL NOW CONTINUE THE ELECTION PROCEDURES AND ASK THE
CHAIR OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE PASTOR JOEL EMERSON.

>> THE RESULTS OF THE RUNOFF BALLOT FOR CHURCHWIDE

ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, LAY MALE, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NUMBER OF TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 332.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 3.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 167.

GARY PEDERSON, 219 VOTES.

JOHN THOMAS, 169 VOTES.

LEE SMITH, 160 VOTES.

GERALD WEYRAUCH, 158 VOTES.

BERT BLOOD, 147 VOTES JOHN BOST, 140 VOTES.

>> GARY PEDERSON AND JOHN THOMAS HAVE BEEN ELECTED AS
CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS.

AND THE NEXT BALLOT WILL CONTAIN THE NAMES OF LEE SMITH AND
GERALD WEYRAUCH.

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

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 384.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 7.

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 193.

MORGAN GORDY, 171 VOTES.

JILL HENNING, 75 VOTES.

LINDA BOSTON, 49 VOTES.

AMARETTA ONSTAD, 40 VOTES.

GINNY KREKLING, 262 VOTES.

MARCIA SCHULTZ, 16 VOTES.

>> THERE IS NO ELECTION.

AND THE NEXT BALLOT WILL CONTAIN NAMES OF PASTOR MORGAN GORDY AND PASTOR JILL HENNING.

THE OTHER NAMES WILL APPEAR ON A FUTURE BALLOT, WHEN WE SELECT THE FINAL CLERGY VOTING MEMBERS TO THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY.

PASTOR EMERSON?

>> THE RESULTS OF THE BALLOT FOR CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, VICE PRESIDENT, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NUMBER OF TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 3766.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 0.

[APPLAUSE]

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 189.

AND WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS A CLOSE RACE, DORIS UNDERWOOD RECEIVED 376 VOTES.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THE CHAIR IS GOING WAY OUT ON A LIMB AND DECLARING DORIS UNDERWOOD ELECTED AS CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER.

PASTOR EMERSON?

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

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST, 369.

NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS, 1.

AND YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

[LAUGHTER]

NUMBER NEEDED FOR ELECTION, 185.

MARY WINFREY, 92 VOTES.

MICHELLE ANGALET, 66 VOTES.

LINDA LARSON, 65 VOTES.

MEREDITH HENDRICKS, 43 VOTES.

DEBORAH BAUMGARTNER, 40 VOTES.

EARLENE REEDER, 27 VOTES.

CAROLYN DAVIS, 21 VOTES.

ALICE SCHUNEMANN, 14 VOTES.

>> THERE IS NO ELECTION.

THE NEXT BALLOT WILL CONTAIN THE NAMES OF MARY WINFREY AND
MICHELLE ANGALET.

THANK YOU, PASTOR.

>> I'M HERE TO BE A SERVANT AND A BLESSING.

WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS BALLOT NOW, RIGHT?

ARE WE DOING THE BALLOT NOW?

>> YES.

>> YES.

>> THIS BALLOT IS THE RUNOFF BALLOT EACH ONE OF THOSE THAT I
ANNOUNCED.

LAY MALE, CLERGY FEMALE, AND LAY FEMALE ALL FOR THE
CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY.

[VOTING]

HOLD YOUR BALLOTS UP IF YOU'VE FINISHED.

DOES ANYONE NEED MORE TIME TO VOTE?

IF YOU DO, PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND.

OTHERWISE, WE'RE GOING TO CLOSE THE POLLS.

I DON'T SEE ANY HANDS.

SO WE'LL DECLARE THE POLLS CLOSED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION, YOUR COURTESY TO ONE ANOTHER
TODAY, AND ALL THE HARD WORK THAT YOU HAVE DONE.

AS A REWARD, YOU GET THE EVENING OFF.

BUT BEFORE YOU DO THAT, YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO WES CRENSHAW
MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AGAIN.

AND I WILL NOT FORGET THE CHAPLAIN THIS TIME.

>> THIS IS A NOTE FOR THE CLERGY OF THE MANY CLERGY HERE, THIS
WEEK ONLY 30 HAVE TAKEN THE SUICIDE PREVENTION SURVEY.

WE'D LIKE FOR ALL OF YOU TO DO THAT, BECAUSE THERE'S MONEY
THAT WILL GO TO A LUTHERAN ORGANIZATION IF YOU PARTICIPATE.

I HEARD A VOICE IN THE BACK THAT SAID THERE'S OVER 400 OF YOU
HERE, SO IF EACH ONE OF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO TAKE THAT
SURVEY, WE'LL HAVE A DONATION GOING TO A LUTHERAN
ORGANIZATION.

SO HOW MANY OF YOU PLAN TO GO NOW AND DO WHAT YOU SHOULD
HAVE ALREADY DONE?

[LAUGHTER]

THANK YOU.

ALSO, OUTSIDE, THERE ARE BINS.

WE'RE IN THE RECYCLING BUSINESS.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE PAPER, PLASTIC AND ALUMINUM,
THERE ARE CANS OUTSIDE, WE ASK THAT YOU ALSO PARTAKE OF THE
RECYCLING HERE.

THE TABS, BOTH BEER AND OTHERWISE.

AGAIN, THAT GOES TO ONE OF THE CHARITIES, ALSO.

THERE'S A REMINDER THAT THE ASSEMBLY CHOIR AGAIN THOSE OF
YOU WHO CAN HOLD A TUNE, FOR TOMORROW'S WORSHIP, I KNOW IT
SAYS IT WILL BE 6:00 P.M. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE EARLY, SO
WE'RE GOING TO SAY THAT THE WORSHIP SERVICE, I MEAN, THE CHOIR
WILL HAVE THE WORSHIP IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ASSEMBLY.

SINCE IT WAS GOING TO BE 6:00, UNLESS SOMEONE WOULD LIKE TO
WAIT.

NO, IT'S RIGHT IMMEDIATELY AFTER.

THERE'S A LIGHT CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST PROVIDED FOR THE
ASSEMBLY ATTENDEES FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 A.M. IN THE MORNING.

IN THE MAIN CORRIDOR, AS ALWAYS, A MORE SUBSTANTIAL BREAKFAST
FARE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

WORSHIP BEGINS TOMORROW MORNING AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE ASSEMBLY
SANCTUARY.

I'M SORRY, 8:00, SO Y'ALL ARE PAYING ATTENTION, THANK YOU.

WORSHIP BEGINS TOMORROW MORNING AT 8:15 A.M. IN THE ASSEMBLY
SANCTUARY -- 8:00, 8:00, OKAY.

WORKSHOP SESSION C IS SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW FROM 9:30 TO 10:15 A.M.

AND YOU CAN SEE THAT ON PAGE A-9 IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS FOR WORKSHOP LOCATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS.

DINNER TONIGHT IS ON YOUR OWN.

THERE IS A RESTAURANT HERE AT THE CHATTANOOGA MARRIOTT CONNECTED TO THE CONVENTION CENTER AND 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. YOU CAN ALWAYS GET A MAP OUT THERE IF YOU DID NOT HAVE ONE ALREADY.

OF COURSE, THERE'S THE ELECTRIC SHUTTLE THAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO GET AROUND DOWNTOWN CHATTANOOGA.

AND IT'S FREE.

NOW, THE OTHER THING, THERE IS A GAME TONIGHT.

THE LOCAL TEAM APPARENTLY ARE CALLED THE LOOKOUTS BASEBALL TEAM.

IT'S THE LOCAL BASEBALL TEAM, AND THE GAME STARTS AT 7:15, AND THERE WILL BE FIREWORKS.

IF SOMEONE WOULD BE SO KIND TO TELL US, WHO ARE NOT FROM CHATTANOOGA, WHERE THEY PLAY?

YOU'RE TELLING ME RIGHT DOWN THE STREET, SO THERE IS A BASEBALL PARK DOWN THE STREET?

OKAY.

>> THAT WAY ABOUT FIVE BLOCKS, YOU CAN'T MISS IT.

>> IT'S NEAR THE RIVER, OKAY.

>> RIGHT BEFORE YOU GET TO THE RIVER, THERE'S A BALLPARK.

>> OKAY, THANK YOU.

>> IT'S A TRADITION, IF NOT THE BRAVES, THE LOOKOUTS.

THANK YOU.

NOW WE CALL UPON OUR CHAPLAIN, DR. EVON FLESBERG, FOR OUR
CLOSING PRAYER.

>> PLEASE STAND.

LET US PRAY TOGETHER FOR THE PRAYER FOR CHURCH UNITY.

BOTTOM -- ON PAGE 73 OF OUR ELW.

MOST HIGH AND HOLY GOD, POUR OUT UPON US YOUR ONE AND
UNIFYING SPIRIT.

AND AWAKEN IN EVERY CONFESSION OF THE WHOLE CHURCH A HOLY
HUNGER AND THIRST FOR UNITY IN YOU, AND I'M ADDING, AND
HARMONY.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

WE ASK THAT YOU STIR UP IN US A VISION.

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD, AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>> DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING OF VALUE, BUT I THINK IT WILL BE FINE TO
LEAVE YOUR BOOKS AND PAPERS AND THAT SORT OF THING, NOT THAT
THEY'RE NOT VALUABLE.

OH, WE ARE IN RECESS UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING AT 10:30.

[END OF PLENARY THREE]

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