

2009 ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY
June 5-7, 2009
Renaissance Waverly Hotel
Atlanta, GA

Friday, June 5, 2009

FIRST PLENARY SESSION.....2:30 – 5:30 PM
Grand Ballroom

A. Call to Order

The Bishop called the Assembly to order at 2:34 pm.

1. Assembly Objectives

The Bishop outlined the objectives of the Assembly.

The Bishop introduced the 2009 Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Lippard, St. Andrew, Franklin, TN.

The Bishop provided housekeeping information for the Assembly. He recognized Ms. Jan Levensgood, Parish Nurse at Living Grace Lutheran Church, Tucker, GA, who will be available throughout the Assembly for first aid needs.

2. Declaration of Bounds

The Bishop outlined the definition of bounds. He also dispensed information regarding election and ballot procedures.

B. Opening Prayer

The Bishop called on Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Lippard, to deliver the opening prayer. Rev. Lippard also informed the Assembly of the death of The Rev. Dr. James Donald Elam on June 4, 2009.

C. Report of the Credentials Committee

The Bishop called on Linda Larson, Associate in Ministry, Chair of the Credentials Committee, who reported that there were 400 Voting Members present.

	Pre-Registered	In Attendance
Clergy Under Call	129	113
Clergy On Leave from Call	3	5
Clergy Retired	24	21
Diaconal Ministers Under Call	2	2
Diaconal Ministers On Leave from Call	0	0
Diaconal Ministers Retired	0	0
Associates in Ministry Under Call	6	6
Associates in Ministry On Leave from Call	0	0
Associates in Ministry Retired	0	0
Deaconesses Under Call	1	1
Licensed Lay Ministers	2	3
Lay Voting Members	255	235
Lay Members of Synod Council	15	13
Ecumenical Pastors	3	1
Total Voting Members	440	400

Bishop Gordy declared a quorum present.

It was MOVED, SECONDED and

VOTED SA09.05.01 **to approve adoption of the Credentials Committee Report.**

D. Adoption of the Agenda [Tab A]

It was MOVED, SECONDED and

VOTED SA09.05.02 **that the Agenda for the five Plenary Sessions and three Workshop Sessions be adopted as the Orders of the Day.**

E. Adoption of the Rules of Organization and Procedure [Tab I, EXHIBIT 01]

It was MOVED, SECONDED and

VOTED SA.09.05.03 **that the Rules of Organization and Procedure, Recommended by the Synod Council, January and June 2009 be adopted.**

1. Introduction of Parliamentarian
The Bishop introduced Ms. Essie Rowser.
2. Discussion of Roberts Rules of Order [Tab I, EXHIBIT 02]
The Bishop gave an overview of Roberts Rules of Order.

F. Report of the Nominating Committee [Tab D]

The Bishop referred the Assembly to Tab D and recognized Mr. Henry Harris, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Harris outlined the nominating process and reported the nominations of the Synod Council and the Nominating Committee.

For the position of Synod Secretary, with a four year term to 2013, the Synod Council nominated:

The Rev. Randy Jones

The Rev. Terri Stagner-Collier

The following person was nominated from the floor for the position of Synod Secretary:

The Rev. Dale Sillick

There being no more nominees from the floor, the Bishop declared the nominations closed.

For the position of youth member of the Synod Council, with a two year term to 2011, the Nominating Committee nominated:

Preston Scott Jutte

Udy Obot

There being no nominations from the floor, the Bishop declared the nominations closed.

For the clergy position on the Consultation Committee, with a six year term to 2015, the Nominating Committee nominated:

The Rev. Katherine Pasch

The Rev. Don Vollenweider

There being no nominations from the floor, the Bishop declared the nominations closed.

For the lay positions on the Consultation Committee, with a six year term to 2015, the Nominating Committee nominated:

Melissa Fuller

Paul Rowe

There being no nominations from the floor, the Bishop declared the nominations closed.

For the clergy positions on the Discipline Committee, with a six year term to 2015, the Nominating Committee nominated:

The Rev. Robert Harrel

The Rev. Amaretta Onstad

There being no nominations from the floor, the Bishop declared the nominations closed.

For the lay positions on the Discipline Committee, with a six year term to 2015, the Nominating Committee nominated:

Glenda Rowe

Beverly Brown Shaw

Gary Taber

There being no nominations from the floor, the Bishop declared the nominations closed.

G. Reports of the Officers and Staff [Tab B]

The Bishop gave his report.

H. Bible Study

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Dr. Terence Fretheim, Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, who led the Assembly in Bible study.

I. Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee [Tab G]

The Bishop introduced the Chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, the Rev. Randy Jones, who provided a report. In order to be impartial, a lottery was enacted for ordering discussion of resolutions. Resolution 07 was selected to come before the Assembly first.

J. Introductions

The Bishop made the following introductions:

1. Special Guests
 - The Rev. Dr. Terence Fretheim – Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary; Assembly Bible Study Leader
 - The Rev. Dr. Gemechis D. Buba – Director of African National Ministries in the ELCA; Assembly Keynote Speaker
 - The Rev. Donald McCoid – ELCA Churchwide Representative

-Dr. Everett Flanigan – ELCA Director for African American/Black Outreach and Leadership;
-The Rev. Dr. David E. Fredrickson – Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary; Assembly Workshop Leader

K. Keynote Presentation

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Dr. Gemechis D. Buba, who delivered the keynote address.

L. Ministry Moments: Your Chance to Tell the Story

The Bishop called on the Rev. Darrell Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop and Stewardship Specialist, who encouraged the Assembly to use the new Synod website to share stories of ministries happening throughout the Synod.

M. Recognitions

1. *Rostered Persons Ordination Anniversaries (Five Year Increments)*

5th - 2004

The Rev. Dr. Ann M. Bassett - 7/25

Ms. Sandra L. Braasch, DM - 3/28

The Rev. Jason A. Peterson - 7/11

The Rev. Andrea L. Windsor-Peterson - 7/11

10th - 1999

The Rev. Rowena M. Henry - 7/1

The Rev. Randy T. Jones - 8/28

The Rev. Landa L. Larson - 2/7

The Rev. Janet S. Volk - 6/11

The Rev. Beverly R. Wallace - 4/30

15th - 1994

The Rev. Rick A. Mason - 5/14

The Rev. Sherry A. Morrison - 6/18

The Rev. Mary C. Peters - 6/26

The Rev. Steven P. Schulte 11/27

20th - 1989

The Rev. Robert C. Barger - 8/6

The Rev. Theodore H. Coleman Jr. - 1/29

The Rev. Elizabeth H. DeVan - 6/9

Ms. Mary S. Golnitz, AIM - 4/28

The Rev. Lester A. White - 6/8

RECOGNITION & CERTIFICATES

25th - 1984

The Rev. Delmer L. Chilton - 9/16
The Rev. Paul M. Ferrarone - 5/4
The Rev. David B. Hunter - 9/9
The Rev. David P. Koppel - 6/8
The Rev. Michael W. Lemke - 11/12
The Rev. Larry A. May - 5/13
The Rev. Robert C. Mitchell - 6/3
The Rev. A. Benjamin Moravitz - 5/25
The Rev. Debra Samuelson - 5/6

30th - 1979

The Rev. Noel R. Anderson - 4/29
The Rev. Kirk P. Bridgers - 5/20
The Rev. Gary C. Christensen - 6/10
The Rev. Darryl L. Kiehl - 5/19
The Rev. Robert D. Kysar - 7/29
The Rev. Larry V. Moore - 5/27
The Rev. J. Michael McCormack - 7/15
The Rev. John-David Simpson - 8/25
The Rev. James E. Thalacker - 6/10

35th - 1974

The Rev. Robert L. Bear - 7/30
The Rev. Dennis R. Fakes - 7/7
The Rev. Thomas L. Quickel Jr. - 6/23
The Rev. Earl R. Schafer - 6/30
The Rev. Leslie F. Weber Jr. - 9/22
The Rev. Theodore I. Zimmerman - 11/29

40th - 1969

The Rev. J. Howard Mettee - 6/15
The Rev. Joseph N. Nilsen - 10/26
The Rev. Eric C. Pearson - 7/13
The Rev. James M. Peper - 9/21
The Rev. Donald D. Rieder - 6/1
The Rev. Larry W. Warren - 6/8

45th - 1964

The Rev. Edward A. Beckstrom - 5/27
The Rev. Bryn A. Carlson - 7/26
The Rev. John H. Eckhardt - 6/14
The Rev. William F. Funk III - 6/21

The Rev. Frederick C. Ohsiek II - 4/26
The Rev. Michael Shahan - 5/26
The Rev. A. Jackson Zipperer Jr - 5/31

50th - 1959

The Rev. J. Donald Elam - 6/21
awarded posthumously
The Rev. J. Richard Gantt - 6/7
The Rev. Paul F. Reyelts - 5/31
The Rev. David R. Richie - 8/16
The Rev. Charles P. Sigel - 1/1
The Rev. Sanford L. Spangler Jr. - 6/21
The Rev. William J. Thurber - 6/21

55th - 1954

The Rev. Theodore K. Bundenthal - 1/1
The Rev. Leland M. Caulder - 5/30
The Rev. Eugene L. Epting Jr. - 6/6
The Rev. Paul R. Haffly - 5/26
The Rev. Ronald M. Hals - 9/26
The Rev. Lawrence E. Holst - 6/6
The Rev. Harry J. Lorenz Jr. - 6/20
The Rev. Harold C. Skillrud - 6/20

60th - 1949

The Rev. Howard W. Palm - 6/12
The Rev. Billy F. Rutrough - 2/14
awarded posthumously

65th - 1944

The Rev. Rufus B. Cuthbertson - 7/16
The Rev. Frank O. Klein - 6/4

2. *Retiring Rostered Persons Since Last Assembly*

The Rev. Noel R. Anderson
The Rev. James A. Clark
The Rev. Theodore H. Coleman
The Rev. David L. Hart
The Rev. Landa L. Larson
The Rev. Paul R. Mills
The Rev. Eleanor J. Russey
The Rev. Gerald S. Troutman
The Rev. Haco W. vonHacke
The Rev. John M. Weber
The Rev. Gerald Weeks

3. *Rostered Persons New to Our Synod including Full Communion Partners Serving Our Synod*
 The Rev. Patricia A. Axel
 The Rev. Robert C. Barger
 The Rev. Ronald S. Bonner, UCC Transition Pastor, Atonement, Atlanta, GA
 The Rev. Mark D. Borseth
 The Rev. Allen C. Breedlove
 The Rev. Leon T. Dudycha
 The Rev. Joel A. Emerson
 The Rev. William E. Flippin, Jr.
 The Rev. Deborah K. Halter
 The Rev. Nathan D. Hilkert
 The Rev. Frank O. Klein
 The Rev. Barbara A. Koch
 The Rev. Robert J. Maier
 The Rev. Kerry Maurer
 The Rev. Marvin L. Morgan, UCC Transition Pastor, St. Paul, Decatur, GA
 The Rev. Gary L. Naylor
 The Rev. Sandra S. Niiler
 The Rev. Frederick C. Ohsiek II
 The Rev. James R. Thomas
 The Rev. David L. Thoreson
 The Rev. Janet S. Volk
 The Rev. Jennifer P. Weetman
 The Rev. Jack A. Wilder
4. *Newly Assigned Seminary Graduates*
 John (and Julie) Barichivich – LTSS
 Pauline (and John) Pezzino – LTSS
 Harry (and Barbara) Tedrow – LTSS
5. *Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Rincon, GA – 275th Anniversary*
 The Bishop recognized the 275th anniversary of Jerusalem Lutheran Church. He asked those members in attendance to stand as well as those in attendance who are descended from the Salzburgers who founded the church. A video celebrating the history of the congregation was shown to the Assembly.
6. *Recognition of Outgoing Mission Director, The Rev. Dr. Gary Christensen*
 The Bishop called on the Rev. Dr. Ann Bassett, the Rev. David Smedley, the Rev. Matt Henning, and the Rev. Andrea Windsor-Peterson who thanked and recognized Rev. Christensen for his faithful work as Mission

Director of the Southeastern Synod. They announced the formation of 'Gary's Fund' for mission congregations in honor of Rev. Christensen.

N. Announcements

The Bishop called on Mr. Wes Crenshaw, Synod Vice President, who gave announcements.

O. Closing Prayer

The Bishop called on Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Lippard, who led the Assembly in prayer.

P. Recess

The Bishop declared at 5:46 pm that the Assembly is in recess until 7:00 pm.

**SECOND PLENARY SESSION.....7:00 – 9:00 PM
Grand Ballroom**

A. Call to Order

The Bishop called the Second Plenary Session of the Southeastern Synod Assembly to order at 7:06 pm.

B. Opening Prayer

The Bishop called on Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Lippard, to lead the Assembly in prayer.

C. Presentation from Lutheridge/Lutherock Ministries

The Bishop introduced Ms. Libby Bedenbaugh and Mr. Keith Johnson who provided an update on the state of the current capital campaign to fund Lutheranch and articulated projected financial needs above the anticipated results of the current campaign.

It was then

VOTED SA.09.05.04

that the 2009 Synod Assembly approve a major capital funds appeal by Lutheridge/Lutherock Ministries, beginning in June 2010 and continuing for three years.

D. Report of the Credentials Committee

The Bishop called on Linda Larson, Associate in Ministry, Chair of the Credentials Committee, who reported that there were 448 Voting Members present.

	Pre-Registered	In Attendance
Clergy Under Call	129	128
Clergy On Leave from Call	3	5
Clergy Retired	24	23
Diaconal Ministers Under Call	2	2
Diaconal Ministers On Leave from Call	0	0
Diaconal Ministers Retired	0	0
Associates in Ministry Under Call	6	7
Associates in Ministry On Leave from Call	0	0
Associates in Ministry Retired	0	0
Deaconesses Under Call	1	1
Licensed Lay Ministers	2	3
Lay Voting Members	255	264
Lay Members of Synod Council	15	13
Ecumenical Pastors	3	2
Total Voting Members	440	448

The Bishop declared a quorum present.

E. Introductions

The Bishop introduced the following individuals:

- Ms. Louise Iconis, President, Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA
- Mr. Heber Rast, representing Lutheran Men in Mission
- Ms. Ashlyn Neas, Incoming Chair, Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization
- Atlanta University Campus Ministry: the Rev. Torrey Johnson, Interim Campus Pastor
- Lutheran Campus Ministry at Georgia Tech: the Rev. Megan Jones, Campus Pastor
- Tyson House at the University of Tennessee: the Rev. Michelle Warriner Bolt, Campus Pastor
- Lutheran Ministries of Alabama: Mr. Mel Brackman, CEO
- Lutheran Services of Georgia: the Rev. Gary Danielsen, Executive Director
- Lutheran Services in Tennessee: Ms Kathy Thoreson, Executive Director

- Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi: Mr. Mike Huseh, Executive Director
- All Things New Ministry: Mr. Hal Shope and Dr. Marianne Zotti, Directors
- Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC: the Rev. Dr. Marcus Miller, President
- Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta: the Rev. Larry Clark, Executive Director
- Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia (ELCMA): Ms. Dory Campbell
- Newberry College, Newberry, SC: Dr. Mitchell Zais, President
- Lutheridge+Lutherock Ministries, Inc.: Mr. Keith Johnson, Director
- Day 1 (formerly The Protestant Hour): Mr. Peter Wallace
- GA Christian Council (Macon): the Rev. Leland Collins, Executive Director
- Alliance of Lutheran Ministries of the Southeast: the Rev. David Hardy
- ELCA Region 9 Office: the Rev. Dr. Harvey Huntley, Jr., Coordinator
- Mr. Wesley Crenshaw, Synod Vice President, Holy Spirit, Savannah, GA
- Mr. John Lucht, Synod Treasurer, Trinity, Lilburn, GA
- The Rev. Dr. Paul Baumgartner, Good Shepherd, Woodstock, GA, who agreed to serve as interim Synod Secretary until the election of a new secretary but was called out of town earlier this week for a family emergency
- Ms. Michelle Angalet, Associate in Ministry, Good Shepherd, Woodstock, GA, Appointed by the Synod Council as Acting Synod Secretary for the Assembly.

F. Lifelong Learning at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

The Bishop introduced Mrs. Sandra Holland, Associate in Ministry and Assistant Director for Ministry in Region 9, who brought greetings from the Region 9 office and spoke about a new learning opportunity for developing church leaders.

G. Move into a Quasi-Committee of the Whole [Tab I, EXHIBIT 17]

1. Report of the Task Force for the Study of the Dates and Durations of Synod Assemblies [Tab I, EXHIBIT 17]
2. The Bishop called on Mr. Wes Crenshaw who presented the Synod Council's resolution to the Assembly.

It was

VOTED SA09.05.05

that the Assembly go into a quasi-committee of the whole for a period of up to 20 minutes to discuss the Synod Council's proposed recommendation about the dates and durations of synod assemblies. The discussion will begin with

a presentation of the study requested by the 2008 Synod Assembly on this topic, followed by discussion of the whole assembly. No motions will be in order. During this time in discussion by the whole assembly, each speaker will have up to one minute to speak.

2. The Bishop called on the Rev. Terri Stagner-Collier to present the report of the Task Force for the Study of the Dates and Durations of Synod Assemblies.
3. At the end of discussion, the Bishop called the quasi-committee of the whole back into plenary session.

H. Move into a Committee of the Whole [Tab I, EXHIBIT 17]

1. Report of the Task Force on Synod Restructuring [Tab F; Tab I; EXHIBITS 05 & 06]
2. The Bishop called on Mr. Wes Crenshaw who presented the Synod Council's resolution to the Assembly.

It was

VOTED SA09.05.06

that the Assembly go into a committee of the whole for a period of up to 60 minutes or until 8:55 pm, whichever comes first, to discuss the recommended changes to synod bylaws and continuing resolutions. The discussion will begin with a presentation of the proposed changes, followed by discussion of the whole assembly. No motions will be in order. During the time in discussion by the whole assembly, each speaker will have up to one minute to speak.

2. The Bishop relinquished the Chair to Synod Vice-President, Wes Crenshaw. Mr. Crenshaw called on the Rev. Randy Jones to present the report of the Task Force on Synod Restructuring.
3. At the end of discussion, Mr. Crenshaw called the committee of the

whole back into plenary session and relinquished the Chair to Bishop Gordy.

I. Announcements

The Bishop called on Mr. Wes Crenshaw, Synod Vice President, who gave announcements.

J. Closing Prayer

The Bishop called on Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Lippard, who led the Assembly in prayer.

K. Recess

The Bishop declared at 8:57 pm that the Assembly was in recess until the following morning at 8:00 am.

A Fellowship Reception for all Attendees in the Garden Court followed the Second Plenary Session.

Saturday, June 6, 2009

**THIRD PLENARY SESSION.....8:00 – 10:15 AM
Grand Ballroom**

A. Call to Order

The Bishop called the Third Plenary Session of the Southeastern Synod Assembly to order at 8:02 am.

B. Opening Prayer

The Bishop called on Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Lippard, to deliver the opening prayer.

C. Report of the Task Force on Welcoming and Inclusion [Tab C, 24]

The Bishop called on the Rev. Lewis Groce, Chair of the Synod Task Force on Welcoming and Inclusion, who presented the Report of the Task Force on Welcoming and Inclusion.

D. Report of the Credentials Committee

The Bishop called on Linda Larson, Associate in Ministry, Chair of the Credentials Committee, who reported that there were 463 Voting Members present.

	Pre-Registered	In Attendance
Clergy Under Call	129	133
Clergy On Leave from Call	3	5
Clergy Retired	24	24
Diaconal Ministers Under Call	2	2
Diaconal Ministers On Leave from Call	0	0
Diaconal Ministers Retired	0	0
Associates in Ministry Under Call	6	7
Associates in Ministry On Leave from Call	0	0
Associates in Ministry Retired	0	0
Deaconesses Under Call	1	1
Licensed Lay Ministers	2	3
Lay Voting Members	255	272
Lay Members of Synod Council	15	13
Ecumenical Pastors	3	3
Total Voting Members	440	463

The Bishop declared a quorum present.

E. Introduction of Election Procedures

The Bishop called on the Rev. John Rossing, Chair of the Elections Committee, who provided instructions on election procedures to the Assembly.

F. Election Procedures

The Bishop opened the floor to questions about election procedures. There being no questions, the Bishop declared the polls open, ballots were distributed and the Assembly voted on Ballot #1.

G. Introductions

The Bishop introduced and thanked the following:

1. *The Synod Staff*
 - Ms. Rachel Alley- Director for Youth Ministries
 - Ms. Jeanette Burgess, Associate in Ministry - Administrative Liaison for Leadership

- The Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton, Assistant to the Bishop
- The Rev. Nancy Christensen, Assistant to the Bishop
- Dr. Sandra Gustavson, Fiscal Advisor and Synod Council liaison
- Ms. Mobley Hope - Communications Coordinator/Administrative Assistant
- Ms. Holly Liersch - Office Manager
- The Rev. Darrel Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop and Stewardship Specialist
- Ms. Elaine Schwartz - Executive Assistant to the Bishop/Meeting & Event Coordinator
- The Rev. Dr. Beverly Wallace, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy and Leadership

2. *Ecumenical Partners*

The Rev. William McDonald, United Methodist Church

The Rev. Marvin Morgan, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Ronald Bonner, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Gail Porter-Nelson, Presbyterian Church, USA

3. The Rev. Fred Milligan, Region 9 Stewardship Specialist

4. The Rev. Ed Wolfe who serves as Coordinator of Transition for the Synod

5. The Rev. Randy Jones who serves as Ecumenical Officer and reviewer of constitutions for congregations for the Synod

6. Ms. Darleen Krautwurst who continues to volunteer regularly in the Synod office

7. *Conference Deans*

Conference 1, the Holston Heritage Conference, the Rev. Rick Ohsiek

Conference 2, Southeast Tennessee, the Rev. Jerry Weeks

Conference 3, Middle Tennessee, the Rev. Rick Roberts

Conference 4, Tennessee Valley, the Rev. Scott E. Peterson

Conference 5, West Tennessee, the Rev. Barbara Englebrecht

Conference 6, North Mississippi, the Rev. Tom Clark

Conference 7, the Gulf Coast Conference, the Rev. Barbara J. Hunter

Conference 8, Greater Alabama, the Rev. Randy T. Jones

Conference 9, New Hope Conference, the Rev. William F. Diamond

Conference 10, Ebenezer Conference, the Rev. Wayne Cobb

Conference 11, Leaven Conference, the Rev. Jason Talsness

Conference 12, Southern Cross Conference, the Rev. Katherine Pasch

Conference 13, Foothills Conference, the Rev. Fred Krautwurst

Conference 14, Peach Conference, the Rev. David Keener

8. The Rev. Bill White and the Rev. Joseph Copek, who have resigned as deans of Conferences 5 and 10, respectively.

9. *The Synod Assembly Committee*

Ms. Jan Levensgood
Ms. Linda Few
Ms. Kleah Jaques
The Rev. Michelle Kuhlman
Mr. Chris Schwanebeck
Ms. Donna Hogle

10. Synod Assembly Volunteers
11. Synod Assembly Worship Team
12. All who served on Assembly Committees

H. Upcoming Events

1. The Rev. Nancy Christensen announced that the Southeastern Synod Leadership Convocation will be held October 13-15, 2009 at Lutheridge [Tab I, EXHIBIT 13].
2. The Rev. Matt Henning announced that Catch the Spirit will be held February 5&6, 2010 at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta, GA. Keynote Speaker will be David Stark, Executive Director, Changing Church.

I. Bible Study

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Dr. Terence Fretheim who led the Assembly in Bible study.

J. Discussion and Vote on Synod Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions [Tab F; Tab I; EXHIBITS 05 & 06]

1. The Bishop read the first resolution brought by the Synod Council: Resolved, that the bylaw amendments recommended by the Synod Council be approved *en bloc*.

The Bishop stated that one request was received to remove a portion of the en bloc bylaw amendments: 12.01.11g, and 12.01.11i, (12.01.11h). The floor was opened for discussion.

It was MOVED and SECONDED to amend the resolution with the following amendments and corrections:

1. In 12.01.11g,
Strike the word “Alabama” and insert the words “Alabama, from Montgomery northward”.
2. In 12.01.11i,

Strike the words “Memphis and Mississippi” and insert the phrase “Jackson, MS, Dothan and Mobile, AL, and congregations southward”.

3. In 12.01.11h,

Add to the phrase “Middle Tennessee” “Memphis and Tupelo”.

Following debate, it was MOVED, SECONDED and

VOTED SA09.06.07 to end discussion.

The Bishop read the amendment and it was thereby

VOTED SA09.06.08 to approve the amendment.

The Bishop then opened the floor for discussion of the resolution as amended.

An error in 12.01.11f was brought to the attention of the Assembly. It was the sense of the Assembly that it should be corrected to read “...to Bristol, TN” instead of “to Johnson City, TN.”

It was MOVED, SECONDED and

VOTED SA09.06.09 to end discussion.

It was then

VOTED SA09.06.10 that the bylaw amendments recommended by the Synod Council be approved *en bloc* with the following amendments:

1. In 12.01.11g,

Strike the word “Alabama” and insert the words “Alabama, from Montgomery northward”.

2. In 12.01.11i,

Strike the words “Memphis and Mississippi” and insert the phrase “Jackson, MS, Dothan and Mobile, AL, and congregations southward”.

3. In 12.01.11h,

Add to the phrase “Middle Tennessee” “Memphis and Tupelo”.

2. The Bishop read the second resolution brought by the Synod Council. The floor was opened for discussion. There being no discussion, it was

VOTED SA09.06.11

that the continuing resolution amendments recommended by the Synod Council be approved *en bloc*.

K. Nominations for At-Large Members of Synod Council

The Bishop called on Mr. Wes Crenshaw to read the nominees for At-Large members of Synod Council. The following were nominated by the Synod Council:

Ms. Sharon Bost

Ms. Meredith Hendricks

There being no nominations from the floor, the Bishop declared the nominations closed.

L. Discussion and Vote on the Resolutions and Memorials Brought by the Synod Council to the Synod Assembly

1. ELCA Memorial to Promote and Advance Suicide Prevention Action [Tab G, 2009-01]

The Bishop called on Mike Krekling, member of the Synod Council, to read Resolution 09-01.

ELCA Memorial to Promote and Advance Suicide
Prevention Action

WHEREAS, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States and claimed over 32,000 lives in 2005 (more deaths than homicide and HIV combined) and is the 8th leading cause of death for men of all ages, the second leading cause of death for people ages 25-34, the third leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds, and claims the lives of *over 350 ELCA members annually*; and

WHEREAS, suicide carries a burden of stigma throughout our society that seriously impedes the recovery efforts of those directly affected by suicide and the intervention efforts of those who seek to help suicidal persons; and

WHEREAS, those who have lost a loved one to suicide, survivors of suicide, represent a population at least 20 times the number of suicides, and, who due to stigma are a group largely without help and recovery resources or support, but are also a group, if identified, with terrific potential to be a foundation of strength and energy to prevent additional suicides; and

WHEREAS, those who have made a life threatening act to end their lives represent a group estimated to range from 20 to 100 times larger than those who die by suicide, and who comprise a group estimated to be six times more likely than others to complete suicide in the future, but are largely unknown, and who need the understanding, care and support of faith communities, and

WHEREAS, the ELCA *Message on Suicide Prevention*, approved by the Church Council on 11/14/99, provides a basis for ELCA suicide prevention action in these words “Our efforts to prevent suicide grow out of our obligation to protect and promote life, our hope in God amid suffering and adversity, and our love for our troubled neighbor.”; and

WHEREAS, numerous new suicide prevention resources have become available since 1999, including inexpensive, web-based suicide prevention educational and training materials, federal funding for college and university prevention programs, evidence-based prevention programs, a national “hotline”, a national suicide prevention resource center, an ELCA *Suicide Prevention Endowment Fund*, and broad interest of national faith communities in collaborating to fight suicide; and

WHEREAS, suicide happens in local congregations and communities where people live, work and play, it is also clear that prominent and repeated support from the top leadership of this church is essential for

the church to move from policy statement to action to prevent suicide, and since no existing church mechanism addresses suicide prevention; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the SE Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to commit itself, within the availability of funding and staff resources, to take the following actions:

1. authorize creation of a volunteer Suicide Prevention Ministry Task Force for a trial period of two years (with continuance beyond that left to the discretion of the Church in Society unit), with a charge to:

a. be supervised by the Church in Society Unit

b. examine the prevalence of suicide and its impact on the church, its members, institutions and rostered persons, along with ways in which such impact may be reduced

c. collaborate with other organizations on suicide prevention

d. invite ELCA survivors of suicide, and those who have been suicidal to serve on the Task Force, and

2. encourage the communication voices of the Church to promote the church's suicide prevention work and its *Suicide Prevention Endowment Fund*, and

3. encourage all rostered personnel to take a web-based survey on knowledge of suicide prevention, and

4. direct the church's national advocacy office to advocate for expanded federal suicide prevention research, and

5. require the Task Force to provide the executive director of the Church in Society Unit, a report on the work of the Task Force, and its recommendations.

The chair opened the floor to debate.

It was MOVED that the resolution be amended by adding item #6 as follows: "Direct the appropriate ELCA Churchwide unit to study the five to ten occupations internationally most prone to suicide."

It was SECONDED.

A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to replace the word "study" with "identify".

A second friendly amendment was offered and accepted to replace the word "identify" with the words "identify and study."

It was

VOTED SA09.06.12

that the resolution be amended by adding item #6 as follows: "Direct the appropriate ELCA Churchwide unit to identify and study the five to ten occupations internationally most prone to suicide. "

The chair then opened the floor for discussion of the resolution as amended. There being no discussion, it was thereby

VOTED SA09.06.13

to adopt Resolution 09-01 as amended.

**ELCA MEMORIAL TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE
SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION**

WHEREAS, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States and claimed over 32,000 lives in 2005 (more deaths than homicide and HIV combined) and is the 8th leading cause of death for men of all ages, the second leading cause of death for people ages 25-34, the third leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds,

and claims the lives of over 350 ELCA members annually; and

WHEREAS, suicide carries a burden of stigma throughout our society that seriously impedes the recovery efforts of those directly affected by suicide and the intervention efforts of those who seek to help suicidal persons; and

WHEREAS, those who have lost a loved one to suicide, survivors of suicide, represent a population at least 20 times the number of suicides, and, who due to stigma are a group largely without help and recovery resources or support, but are also a group, if identified, with terrific potential to be a foundation of strength and energy to prevent additional suicides; and

WHEREAS, those who have made a life threatening act to end their lives represent a group estimated to range from 20 to 100 times larger than those who die by suicide, and who comprise a group estimated to be six times more likely than others to complete suicide in the future, but are largely unknown, and who need the understanding, care and support of faith communities, and

WHEREAS, the ELCA *Message on Suicide Prevention*, approved by the Church Council on 11/14/99, provides a basis for ELCA suicide prevention action in these words “Our efforts to prevent suicide grow out of our obligation to protect and promote life, our hope in God amid suffering and adversity, and our love for our troubled neighbor.”; and

WHEREAS, numerous new suicide prevention resources have become available since 1999, including inexpensive, web-based suicide prevention educational and training materials, federal funding for college and university

prevention programs, evidence-based prevention programs, a national “hotline”, a national suicide prevention resource center, an ELCA *Suicide Prevention Endowment Fund*, and broad interest of national faith communities in collaborating to fight suicide; and

WHEREAS, suicide happens in local congregations and communities where people live, work and play, it is also clear that prominent and repeated support from the top leadership of this church is essential for the church to move from policy statement to action to prevent suicide, and since no existing church mechanism addresses suicide prevention; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the SE Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to commit itself, within the availability of funding and staff resources, to take the following actions:

1. authorize creation of a volunteer Suicide Prevention Ministry Task Force for a trial period of two years (with continuance beyond that left to the discretion of the Church in Society unit), with a charge to:
 - a. be supervised by the Church in Society Unit
 - b. examine the prevalence of suicide and its impact on the church, its members, institutions and rostered persons, along with ways in which such impact may be reduced
 - c. collaborate with other organizations on suicide prevention
 - d. invite ELCA survivors of suicide, and those who have been

suicidal to serve on the Task Force,
and

2. encourage the communication voices of the Church to promote the church's suicide prevention work and its *Suicide Prevention Endowment Fund*, and

3. encourage all rostered personnel to take a web-based survey on knowledge of suicide prevention, and

4. direct the church's national advocacy office to advocate for expanded federal suicide prevention research, and

5. require the Task Force to provide the executive director of the Church in Society Unit, a report on the work of the Task Force, and its recommendations.

6. Direct the appropriate ELCA Churchwide unit to identify and study the five to ten occupations internationally most prone to suicide.

2. The Bishop introduced Jerry and Elsie Weyrauch who gave thanks for support of suicide prevention initiatives supported by the Synod.

M. Adjourn to Conference Caucuses

The Assembly was adjourned to conference caucuses at 10:15 am.

Worship

11:15 am – 12:30 pm

Grand Ballroom

Lunch Break

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Workshop Session Two
1:30 – 2:15 pm

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION.....2:30 – 6:00 PM
Grand Ballroom

A. Call to Order

The Bishop called the Fourth Plenary Session of the Southeastern Synod Assembly to order at 2:32 pm.

The Bishop recognized Karen Sumner and Jerry Johnson with the Mission Investment Fund and the Rev. Mark Scott, Regional Gift Planner with the ELCA Foundation.

B. Opening Prayer

The Bishop called on Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Lippard, to deliver the opening prayer.

C. Report of the Credentials Committee

The Bishop called on Linda Larson, Associate in Ministry, Chair of the Credentials Committee, who reported that there were 476 Voting Members present.

	Pre-Registered	In Attendance
Clergy Under Call	129	133
Clergy On Leave from Call	3	5
Clergy Retired	24	25
Diaconal Ministers Under Call	2	2
Diaconal Ministers On Leave from Call	0	0
Diaconal Ministers Retired	0	0
Associates in Ministry Under Call	6	7
Associates in Ministry On Leave from Call	0	0
Associates in Ministry Retired	0	0
Deaconesses Under Call	1	1
Licensed Lay Ministers	2	3
Lay Voting Members	255	283
Lay Members of Synod Council	15	13
Ecumenical Pastors	3	4

Melissa Fuller	315
Paul Rowe	264

The Bishop declared that Melissa Fuller and Paul Rowe were elected for six-year terms on the Consultation Committee.

The results of the ballot for clergy members of the Discipline Committee were as follows:

Total ballots	417
Invalid ballots	7
Needed for Election	209

The Rev. Amaretta Onstad	301
The Rev. Robert Harrel	284

The Bishop declared that the Rev. Robert Harrel and the Rev. Amaretta Onstad were elected for six-year terms on the Discipline Committee.

The results of the ballot for lay members of the Discipline Committee were as follows:

Total ballots	416
Invalid ballots	6
Needed for Election	209

Beverly Brown Shaw	243
Gary Taber	227
Glenda Rowe	140

The Bishop declared that Beverly Brown Shaw and Gary Taber were elected for six-year terms on the Discipline Committee.

The results of the ballot for youth member of the Synod Council were as follows:

Total ballots	391
Invalid ballots	4
Needed for election	196

Preston Jutte	256
Udy Obot	131

The Bishop declared that Preston Jutte was elected for a two-year term as the youth member of the Synod Council.

The Bishop declared the polls opened, ballots were distributed and the Assembly voted on Ballot #2.

E. Report of the Churchwide Representative

The Bishop introduced ELCA Churchwide Representative, the Rev. Donald McCoid, who brought greetings from the churchwide offices. Rev. McCoid introduced a DVD presentation featuring greetings and comments from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson.

F. Report of Reference & Counsel Committee

The Bishop stated that there was no further report from the Reference and Counsel Committee.

G. Presentation of 2010 Compensation Guidelines [Tab I, EXHIBIT 04]

The Bishop called on the Rev. Gordon Reinertsen, Chair of the Compensation Guidelines Team, to present a report. Rev. Reinertsen referred to the proposed Guidelines. The Bishop presented the resolution to adopt the 2010 Compensation Guidelines. The floor was opened for discussion. Following discussion, it was

VOTED SA09.06.14

that the 2010 Compensation Guidelines be adopted.

H. Presentation of Lutheran Men in Mission

The Bishop called on Mr. Heber Rast to speak on behalf of Lutheran Men in Mission.

I. Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Bishop Gordy announced that the Lutheran Volunteer Corps Board of Directors had just announced that it plans to open a chapter in Atlanta, GA. More information is available from Mr. Bob Gibeling at the LSG office in Atlanta.

J. Move into a Quasi-Committee of the Whole

The Bishop called attention to Tab I, EXHIBITS 17, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 regarding a Quasi-Committee of the Whole to discuss:

1. The proposed recommended Social Statement: Human Sexuality Gift and Trust;
2. The Recommendation on Ministry Policies that has been transmitted by the ELCA Church Council to the Churchwide Assembly

The Bishop called on Mr. Wes Crenshaw who presented the Synod Council's resolution to the Assembly. It was

VOTED SA09.06.15

that the Assembly go into a quasi-committee of the whole for a period of up to 90 minutes to discuss (a) the proposed recommended social statement: Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust and the proposed implementing resolutions and (b) the ministry policies recommendation and its four resolutions that have been transmitted by the ELCA Church Council to the Churchwide Assembly. The discussion will begin with up to 30 minutes of discussion on the topic of the proposed social statement and its implementing resolutions, followed by up to 60 minutes of discussion about the ministry policies recommendations. No motions will be in order. During the time in discussion by the whole assembly, each speaker will have up to 2 minutes to speak.

The Bishop called on Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Lippard, to lead the Assembly in prayer.

At the end of discussion, the Bishop called the quasi-committee of the whole back into plenary session.

K. Discussion and Vote on Resolutions and Memorials Brought by the Synod Council to the Synod Assembly

1. The Bishop called on Ms. Mary Kay Moore, member of Synod Council, to present the second Council resolution [TAB E]. The floor was opened for discussion. There being no discussion, it was

VOTED SA09.06.16

that all Southeastern Synod Congregations be encouraged to contribute at least 10% of their offerings to the Southeastern Synod as undesignated mission support.

**A MEMORIAL CONCERNING HUMAN
SEXUALITY FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
TO THE 2009 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies in Sexuality has earnestly studied and struggled with these matters for eight years, and their work models and invites mutually respectful dialogue about sexuality throughout this church; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Social Statement powerfully proclaims this church's teachings on trust, love, and service to the neighbor as the proper foundation of sexuality, while honestly recognizing that there is no consensus regarding same-gender relationships or the rostered ministry of people in them; and

WHEREAS, the Recommendation on Ministry Policies allows a way to maintain a uniform standard and process for candidacy and call throughout this church while respecting the bound consciences of all; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council, at its March 2009 meeting, voted by an overwhelming margin to recommend to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality, its implementing resolutions, and a Recommendation on Ministry Policies; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly:

- 1. To adopt the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and its implementing resolutions, as recommended by the ELCA Church Council.**

2. To adopt the four parts of the proposed Recommendation on Ministry Policies, as recommended by the ELCA Church Council.

3. To adopt the following additional implementing resolution of the Social Statement on Human Sexuality: “To direct appropriate churchwide units to develop, in consultation with those most affected, resources for congregations or faith-communities and ministers that choose to do so to support same-gender relationships by holding them publicly accountable in the exchange of promises of lifelong love and fidelity.”

4. To adopt the following: “Resolved, that the Vocation and Education unit be encouraged to develop, and the Church Council be encouraged to approve, procedures for the reception from another Lutheran church-body and for the expedited reinstatement to the roster or to candidacy of those whose rostering was precluded by previous policies on same-gender relationships.”

The Bishop stated that because Resolution 09-04 was adopted, Resolution 09-07 “Resolution Rejecting Recommendations on Ministry Policy and Affirming Current ELCA Policy” became moot and would therefore not be brought before the Assembly for consideration.

The Rev. Randy Jones introduced Resolution 09-02 “Resolution for Safe Schools.” Reference and Counsel recommended adoption. It was **SECONDED**.

It was agreed by the Assembly that an error in the resolution be corrected by striking the words “congressmen and women” in the second Resolved and replacing with “state representatives and senators.”

After discussion, the previous question was **MOVED, SECONDED** and

VOTED SA09.06.22

to end debate.

It was then

VOTED SA09.06.23

to adopt Resolution 09-02 as amended.

RESOLUTION ON SAFE SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Gospel of Matthew records the words of Jesus, saying, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God" and "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven;" and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services the problem of bullying in the schools directly affects the health and future lives of both the victims and the perpetrators; and

WHEREAS, National Education Association research has found that 40% of students who exhibited bullying behavior while in school have had three or more arrests by age 30, often perpetuating family violence; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 Georgia Student Health Survey found that 17% of elementary students and 27% of high school students do not feel their school is a safe space; and

WHEREAS, a young Cobb County, Georgia boy was murdered a few years ago by a fellow student simply because he felt the young boy was gay; and

WHEREAS, some of our own Southeastern Synod members have been the victims of bullying in schools, especially our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered members; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Synod Welcoming Task Force is authorized to advocate for justice oriented legislation; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Synod meeting in assembly endorses efforts to pass legislation in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi that gives teachers, parents and students the authority to write anti-bullying policies that help local schools identify the problem at its early stages and take actions to stop such behavior before it escalates; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Synod Council be directed to write letters to the appropriate state representatives and senators endorsing and encouraging the passage of such legislation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Synod Council be directed to send out a news release on this resolution and make requests for personal letters from congregations and individual Lutherans to members of the Legislatures of the four states of the Southeastern Synod, until such legislation becomes law.

The Bishop suggested extending the Plenary Session. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** from the floor and

VOTED SA09.06.24 to extend the plenary session to 6:30 pm.

M. Report of the Elections Committee

The Bishop called on the Rev. John Rossing, Chair of the Elections Committee, who gave the following report.

The results of the runoff ballot for Synod Secretary were as follows:

Total ballots	414
Invalid ballots	2
Needed for election	208

The Rev. Terri Stagner-Collier	223
--------------------------------	-----

The Rev. Randy Jones	189
----------------------	-----

The Bishop declared that the Rev. Terri Stagner-Collier was elected to a four-year term as Synod Secretary.

The results of the ballot for the two At-Large members of Synod Council were as follows:

Total ballots	414
Invalid ballots	2
Needed for election	208

Ms. Sharon Bost	380
Ms. Meredith Hendricks	375

The Bishop declared that Ms. Sharon Bost and Ms. Meredith Hendricks were elected to two-year terms as At-Large members of Synod Council.

N. Discussion and Vote on Resolutions and Memorials Brought by the Committee on Reference and Counsel to the Synod Assembly [Tab G]

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Randy Jones, Chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee.

The Rev. Randy Jones introduced Resolution 09-03 “Resolution Endorsing State Hate Crimes Legislation.” Reference and Counsel recommended adoption.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING STATE HATE CRIMES
LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the voice of Christians calling for justice in our society is a witness to Christ’s love for the outcast among us; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has taken public stands endorsing hate crimes legislation which includes race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability; and

WHEREAS, our ELCA ecumenical partners have taken similar stands, including the Presbyterian Church (USA), Episcopal Church, and the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Southeastern Synod Welcoming Task Force is authorized to advocate for justice oriented legislation and has determined that the state of Tennessee has passed a hate crime law; and

WHEREAS, Alabama and Mississippi have passed hate crimes laws that do not include protection for sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the same Welcoming Task Force has determined that there are only 5 states that have no Hate Crimes Law, one of which is Georgia; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Synod Council be directed to commend the state of Tennessee for its passage of its Hate Crimes Laws and call on it for vigorous enforcement of such laws; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Synod Council be directed to write letters to the appropriate congressmen and women of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi advocating for the passage of Hate Crimes Legislation in those states which includes race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability; and send out a news release about this resolution; and make a request for personal letters from congregations and individual Lutherans to be sent to members of the Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi Legislatures, until such legislation becomes law.

It was SECONDED and opened for discussion.

It was agreed by the Assembly to correct the language as in Resolution 09-02 by striking the words “congressmen and women” in the second Resolved and replacing with the words “state representatives and senators.”

It was MOVED to amend the resolution by adding the words “physical and mental” before the word “disability” in the second Resolved. It was SECONDED. It was

VOTED SA09.06.25

that the resolution be amended by adding the words “physical and mental” before the word “disability” in the second Resolved.

After discussion, the Assembly voted and Resolution 09-03 was defeated.

The Rev. Randy Jones introduced Resolution 09-05 "A Resolution Calling for the Celebrating of Appalachian Heritage Month." Reference and Counsel recommended adoption. It was SECONDED and opened for discussion. After discussion it was

VOTED SA09.06.26

to adopt Resolution 09-05.

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE
CELEBRATING OF APPALACHIAN HERITAGE
MONTH**

WHEREAS, fifty-seven (57) congregations and three (3) ministries being planted on the territory of the ELCA-Southeastern Synod are located in the Region of Appalachia; and

WHEREAS, the culture of the Region of Appalachia presents us with both gifts and opportunities and with struggles and challenges; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA-Southeastern Synod has been a leader in ministry in Appalachia through the Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia (ELCMA), our Bishop and Staff, the Holston Heritage Conference and our congregations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the ELCA-Southeastern Synod will celebrate Appalachian Heritage Month each year during the month of October; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council consider re-activating the Appalachian Ministry Task Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a newly re-activated Appalachian Ministry Task Force, assisted by ELCMA, provide a theme and resources to celebrate Appalachian Heritage Month.

- O. Presentation of Lutheran Disaster Response**
The Bishop introduced Ms. Sandra Braasch, Diaconal Minister, and the Rev. Dr. P. Morgan Gordy, to provide information about the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan adopted by the Synod Council.
- P. Announcements**
The Bishop called on Mr. Wes Crenshaw for announcements.
- Q. Closing Prayer**
The Bishop called on Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Lippard, to lead the Assembly in prayer.
- R. Recess**
The Bishop called the Assembly into recess at 6:30 pm until 10:30 am the following day.

Worship
8:00 – 9:15 am
Sunday, June 7
Grand Ballroom

Workshop Session Three
9:30 – 10:15 am
Sunday, June 7

Sunday, June 7, 2009

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION.....10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Grand Ballroom

- A. Call to Order**
The Bishop called the Fifth Plenary Session of the Southeastern Synod Assembly to order at 10:32 am.
- B. Opening Prayer**
The Bishop called on Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Lippard, to deliver the opening prayer.

C. Final Report of the Credentials Committee

The Bishop called on Linda Larson, Associate in Ministry, Chair of the Credentials Committee, who reported that there were 480 Voting Members present.

	Pre-Registered	In Attendance
Clergy Under Call	129	135
Clergy On Leave from Call	3	5
Clergy Retired	24	25
Diaconal Ministers Under Call	2	2
Diaconal Ministers On Leave from Call	0	0
Diaconal Ministers Retired	0	0
Associates in Ministry Under Call	6	7
Associates in Ministry On Leave from Call	0	0
Associates in Ministry Retired	0	0
Deaconesses Under Call	1	1
Licensed Lay Ministers	2	3
Lay Voting Members	255	285
Lay Members of Synod Council	15	13
Ecumenical Pastors	3	4
Total Voting Members	440	480
Final Report		
Total Visitors	126	
Total in Attendance	606	

It was MOVED, SECONDED and

VOTED SA09.07.27 to accept the report of the Credentials Committee.

D. Presentation of the ELCA Foundation

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Mark Scott, Regional Gift Planner with the ELCA Foundation.

E. Remarks from Dr. James McCoy

The Bishop exercised personal privilege and introduced Dr. James McCoy, Professor of Medicine at Morehouse/Grady. Dr. McCoy called on all at the Assembly to be attentive to the need for colonoscopies as a screening tool for colon cancer.

F. Presentation from Project Connect

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Eric Murray to speak about Project Connect. A DVD presentation was provided about Project Connect.

G. Discussion and Vote on the 2010-2011 Ministry Funding Plan (Budget) [Tab E]

The Bishop referred the Assembly to the 2010-11 Ministry Funding Plan and called on Mr. John Lucht, Synod Treasurer, to speak to the proposed Ministry Funding Plan. Mr. Lucht presented the plan.

The Bishop presented the resolution to adopt the 2010-11 Ministry Funding Plan and the floor was opened to discussion.

It was MOVED to amend the Ministry Funding Plan by increasing the total staff salary line by 3% in the Level II budget. It was SECONDED.

There was discussion regarding the motion. The Assembly voted and the amendment failed. It was then

VOTED SA09.07.28 that the 2010-2011 Ministry Funding Plan be adopted.

H. Discussion and Vote on Resolutions and Memorials Brought by the Committee on Reference and Counsel to the Synod Assembly [Tab G]

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Randy Jones, Chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee.

The Rev. Randy Jones introduced Resolution 09-06 "A Resolution to Memorialize Churchwide Assembly to Require a Super Majority Vote for Policy Changes Pertaining to Ordination Practices." Reference and Counsel recommended consideration. The Rev. Jones stated that the term "super majority" in the title of the resolution is incorrect and should be replaced with "2/3."

A Resolution to Memorialize Churchwide Assembly to
Require a Super Majority Vote for Policy Changes
Pertaining to Ordination Practices

WHEREAS, the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted "to direct the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and to make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly

on changes to any church policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church”; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional and Legal Committee of the ELCA Church Council recommended that “any motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church’s current policy and practice for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption”; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council voted 19-10 to delete this provision and is recommending rules of procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which would require only a simple majority vote to change ELCA standards to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships; and

WHEREAS, a two-thirds majority vote is usually required for major decisions including the adoption of an ELCA social statement and for amendments to the ELCA constitution and bylaws; and

WHEREAS, a decision to change church teaching and policy to allow pastors and other rostered leaders to be in same-sex sexual relationships holds the potential to be very divisive in ELCA synods and congregations and to cause both membership and financial losses for synods and congregations; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is seeking ways to make decisions on a consensus basis rather than by close votes; and

WHEREAS, a super majority vote - such as a two-thirds majority - would require an overwhelming majority of Churchwide Assembly voting members to make such a significant change to church teaching and practice;

WHEREAS, the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will adopt its rules for the assembly and could set a two-thirds majority for adoption of any changes to standards for pastors and other rostered leaders; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to add the following provision to the rules of procedure for the assembly: "Any motion to come before this Churchwide Assembly regarding changes in this church's current policy and practice for the rostering of ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, and deaconesses shall require a two-thirds vote by the assembly for adoption."

It was SECONDED and opened to discussion. After discussion, it was MOVED, SECONDED and

VOTED SA09.07.29 to end debate.

The Assembly voted and Resolution 09-06 was defeated.

The Bishop suggested extending the Plenary Session. It was MOVED and SECONDED from the floor and

VOTED SA09.07.30 to extend the plenary session to 12:30 pm.

The Rev. Randy Jones introduced Resolution 09-08 "Resolution for Education on Suicide Prevention in the Southeastern Synod." Reference and Counsel recommended consideration. It was SECONDED and opened to discussion. It was then

VOTED SA09.07.31 to adopt Resolution 09-08.

**RESOLUTION FOR EDUCATION ON SUICIDE
PREVENTION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD**

WHEREAS, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States and claimed over 32,000 lives in 2005 (more deaths than homicide and HIV combined) and is the 8th leading cause of

death for men of all ages, the second leading cause of death for people ages 25-34, the third leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds, and claims the lives of *over 350 ELCA members annually*; and

WHEREAS, suicide carries a burden of stigma throughout our society that seriously impedes the recovery efforts of those directly affected by suicide and the intervention efforts of those who seek to help suicidal persons; and

WHEREAS, those who have lost a loved one to suicide, survivors of suicide, represent a population at least 20 times the number of suicides, and, who due to stigma are a group largely without help and recovery resources or support, but are also a group, if identified, with terrific potential to be a foundation of strength and energy to prevent additional suicides; and

WHEREAS, those who have made a life threatening act to end their lives represent a group estimated to range from 20 to 100 times larger than those who die by suicide, and who comprise a group estimated to be six times more likely than others to complete suicide in the future, but are largely unknown, and who need the understanding, care and support of faith communities, and

WHEREAS, the *ELCA Message on Suicide Prevention*, approved by the Church Council on 11/14/99, provides a basis for ELCA suicide prevention action in these words “Our efforts to prevent suicide grow out of our obligation to protect and promote life, our hope in God amid suffering and adversity, and our love for our troubled neighbor.”; and

WHEREAS, numerous new suicide prevention resources have become available since 1999,

including inexpensive, web-based suicide prevention educational and training materials, federal funding for college and university prevention programs, evidence-based prevention programs, a national “hotline”, a national suicide prevention resource center, an ELCA *Suicide Prevention Endowment Fund*, and broad interest of national faith communities in collaborating to fight suicide; and

WHEREAS, suicide happens in local congregations and communities where people live, work and play, it is also clear that prominent and repeated support from the top leadership of this church is essential for the church to move from policy statement to action to prevent suicide, and since no existing church mechanism addresses suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA-Southeastern Synod has a history of being compassionate, showing concern and providing care for the many diverse needs of people both in and outside its boundaries; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA-Southeastern Synod commit itself, within the availability of funding and staff resources, to take the following actions:

1. The ELCA -Southeastern Synod Council will encourage all Synod congregations to promote suicide education and suicide prevention efforts; and

2. Links will be placed on the synod’s homepage (website) offering resource connections, such as the American foundation for Suicide Prevention, Mental Health of America, and the American Academy of Pediatrics; and

3. The next ELCA-Southeastern Synod Assembly will offer a workshop providing information and promoting education on the signs and symptoms of suicide, and suicide prevention, in order to prepare the attendees to share with their congregations; and

4. The synod council will encourage congregations, and conferences to conduct educational programs for learning signs and symptoms leading to suicide, suicide prevention, and providing ministry to those impacted by the suicide of a friend or loved one.

The Bishop called on the Rev. Randy Jones, Chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, to bring a final resolution. Rev. Jones thanked the committee for its work and presented a final resolution from the Reference and Counsel Committee "A Resolution of Thanks at the 2009 Synod Assembly." Reference and Counsel recommended adoption. It was SECONDED and

VOTED SA09.07.32

to adopt Resolution 09-09.

**A RESOLUTION OF THANKS AT THE 2009
SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS, the Bishop, his assistants, the officers and staff of the Southeastern Synod have given many hours and traveled many miles throughout the territory of our synod to offer counsel, support and care; and

WHEREAS, through their witness, they continue to encourage all of us to do God's Work with our hands; and

WHEREAS, the tireless effort of the various assembly committees, volunteers, and servant leaders enable the work of this synod to move forward; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 voting members and visitors of the Synod Assembly offer up our heartfelt thanks and prayerful support to the Bishop, his assistants, the officers, staff and volunteers, not only for their joyful and faithful labors, but especially for their persistent and loving encouragement to all of us in the Southeastern Synod in so many ways. Special thanks are given to the Synod Assembly Committee, Chaplain Michael Lippard, Rev. Dr. Gemechis Desta Buba, Rev. Dr. Terence Fretheim, Rev. Donald McCoid, and all who led worship this weekend.

I. Report of SESLYO

The Bishop recognized members of SESLYO. Ms. Ashlyn Neas, incoming Chair of SESLYO, gave her report. Mr. Louis Tillman, outgoing Chair of SESLYO, gave his thanks and greetings. Ms. Elizabeth Hawkins reviewed youth events throughout the Synod. Ms. Rachel Alley recognized Mr. Louis Tillman for his receipt of the Thrivent Service Award for the Southeast for 2009.

J. Presentation by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

The Bishop called on Mary Peterson who provided a report from Thrivent.

K. Installation of SESLYO Officers

The Bishop led the order for the installation of the SESLYO Officers for 2009-2010.

L. Announcements

The Bishop called on Mr. Wes Crenshaw for announcements. He stated that the 2010 Synod Assembly will be held in Chattanooga, TN June 4-6, 2010.

M. Closing of an Assembly [Tab J, Page J-2]

Bishop Gordy adjourned the Twenty-second Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – Southeastern Synod at 12:41 pm.

Synod Council and Deans' Meeting and Luncheon

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Ascot Room

