

2009 ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY
Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia
FIFTH PLENARY SESSION
Sunday, June 7, 2009
10:30 a.m.

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>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS, AND

GOOD MORNING.

WELL, ACCORDING TO ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, I'M SUPPOSED TO
CALL THIS SESSION TO ORDER AND RAP THE GAVEL ONE TIME.

I LEFT THE GAVEL IN THE SYNOD OFFICE, SO -- USE MY HEAD.

THANK YOU, HENRY.

[LAUGHTER]

THANK YOU, CAPTAIN HARRIS.

I'LL REMEMBER THAT.

I CALL THIS FINAL SESSION OF THE 22nd ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
ASSEMBLY TO ORDER.

PLEASE TURN TO TAB-A, PAGE A-7, IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS, AND
MAYBE ONE OF THE STAFF WILL BRING THE GAVEL SO WE CAN
ACTUALLY CLOSE AND GO HOME LATER TODAY.

WE ASK CHAPLAIN MICHAEL LIPPARD FOR OUR OPENING PRAYER FOR
THIS SESSION.

>> AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE ELCA IS THE ONLY CHURCH BODY THAT SETS
ASIDE A DAY TO COMMEMORATE THE LIFE AND WITNESS OF THE

NAMESAKE OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHIEF NOAH SEATTLE, WHO DIED ON JUNE 7th, 1866. CHIEF SEATTLE WAS BAPTIZED INTO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND WAS AN ELOQUENT ORATOR WHO SPOKE IN BEHALF OF PEACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

HE EARNED THE RESPECT OF BOTH NATIVE AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN AMERICANS.

A READING FROM PSALM 24.

"THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S AND ALL THAT IS IN IT.

THE WORLD AND THOSE WHO LIVE IN IT.

FOR GOD FOUNDED IT UPON THE SEAS AND ESTABLISHED IT UPON THE RIVERS.

WHO SHALL ASCEND THE HILL OF THE LORD?

THOSE WHO HAVE CLEAN HANDS AND PURE HEARTS, WHO DO NOT LIFT UP THEIR SOULS TO WHAT IS FALSE, AND DO NOT SWEAR DECEITFULLY."

IN THE PRAYERS, I'M GOING TO INCORPORATE A THE FEW PETITIONS THAT WERE RECENTLY DEPOSITED IN THE PRAYER BOX.

THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

>> AND ALSO WITH YOU.

>> LET US PRAY.

WE PRAISE GOD FOR THE MANY BLESSINGS THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED THAT WE DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE.

WE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE LOST FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND OTHER LOVED ONES THROUGH DEATH DURING THE PAST YEAR.

WE PRAY FOR ALL THE YOUNG ADULTS, AND CHILDREN AGES 9 THROUGH 18 WHO LIVE IN FOSTER HOMES, AND WHO MAY NEVER BE ADOPTED.

WE PRAY THAT THERE MAY BE NO UNWANTED PREGNANCIES, AND AGAIN, WE THINK OF YOUTH WHO AWAIT ADOPTION.

WE PRAY FOR ALL NEGLECTED AND ABUSED ANIMALS, THOSE IN KILL SHELTERS, AND THE MANY STRAY ANIMALS THAT WE PASS ON THE STREETS EVERY DAY.

WE PRAY FOR SAFE TRAVEL, AS WE TRAVEL HOME AND GO ON VACATIONS DURING THE SUMMER.

PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO IN YOUR SELF-EMPTYING LOVE GATHERED UP AND RECONCILED ALL CREATION TO THE FATHER. THE GALAXIES OF THE HEAVENS PROCLAIM YOUR GLORY AND EARTH'S CREATURES REJOICE IN THE BOUNTY, VARIETY AND GOODNESS OF THE GIFTS OF LIFE.

GRANT THAT WE MAY CHERISH THE EARTH'S LAND, AIR, AND WATER, LIVING AT PEACE WITH ALL PEOPLE, AND IN HARMONY WITH THIS GOOD CREATION.

FOR YOU LIVE AND REIGN WITH THE FATHER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER, AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR LIPPARD.

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

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

CLERGY UNDER CALL, 135.

CLERGY ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 5.

CLERGY RETIRED, 25.

DIACONAL MINISTERS UNDER CALL, 2.

DIACONAL MINISTERS ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 0.

DIACONAL MINISTERS RETIRED, 0.

ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY UNDER CALL, 7.

ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 0.

ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY RETIRED, 0.

DEACONESSES UNDER CALL, 1.

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS, 3.

LAY VOTING MEMBERS, 285.

LAY MEMBERS OF SYNOD COUNCIL, 13.

ECUMENICAL PASTORS, 4.

TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS: 480.

TOTAL VISITORS, 126, FOR A TOTAL IN ATTENDANCE, 606.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THAT'S THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

WOULD SOMEONE MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT?

WE HAVE A MOTION.

WOULD SOMEONE SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> ALL OF THOSE IN FAVOR OF ADOPTING THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, PLEASE INDICATE SO BY SAYING AYE.

>> AYE.

>> THOSE OPPOSED, NO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR WORK.

[APPLAUSE]

I WANT TO REMIND YOU AT THIS TIME THAT THERE ARE STILL TWO RESOLUTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE THAT WE'LL NEED TO MOVE ON, PLUS ONE OTHER RESOLUTION FROM THAT COMMITTEE, A RESOLUTION -- SORT OF A TRADITIONAL RESOLUTION OF THANKS AT THE END OF THE ASSEMBLY. WE NEED TO CONSIDER THESE, AND IF IT'S THE WILL OF THE ASSEMBLY, WE'LL DO THAT RIGHT AFTER ITEM G ON THIS MORNING'S AGENDA. THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO REMIND YOU THAT IN ALL ASSEMBLIES,

THE ASSEMBLY CONTROLS THE AGENDA AND THE MOVEMENT IN THE ASSEMBLY, NOT THE CHAIR.

WE HAVE ORDERS THAT WE AGREE TO BEFORE WE BEGIN OUR CONVERSATIONS TOGETHER, AND WE TRY TO FOLLOW THOSE ORDERS. IF THE CHAIR MAKES A MISTAKE, IT'S UP TO YOU TO POINT THAT OUT. IF YOU THINK THE CHAIR MADE A MISTAKE AND THE CHAIR DOESN'T THINK THE CHAIR MADE A MISTAKE, YOU GET TO VOTE ON WHETHER THE CHAIR MADE A MISTAKE OR NOT.

THERE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SOME CONFUSION ABOUT THAT YESTERDAY REGARDING THE MOTION THAT WAS MADE TO CHANGE THE ORDER IN WHICH WE LOOKED AT THE TWO MOTIONS REGARDING THE SEXUALITY STATEMENT.

SO JUST TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS WHAT HAPPENED, THE FIRST TIME THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE CHAIR ASKED THE ASSEMBLY INFORMALLY IF IT WOULD BE OKAY TO TAKE THEM IN THE ORDER IN WHICH HE DREW THEM OUT OF THE CUP.

EVERYBODY SEEMED TO BE OKAY WITH THAT.

BUT WHEN SOMEONE AT THE NEXT SESSION MADE THE MOTION TO REVERSE THE ORDER AND THE ASSEMBLY VOTED IN FAVOR OF THAT MOTION, IT WAS NOT UP TO THE CHAIR TO VETO THE MOTION OF THE ASSEMBLY.

I HAVE TRIED TO BE EQUITABLE AND FAIR IN THIS, AND IF I HAVE FAILED TO DO THAT, I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.

BUT IT WAS NOT FROM LACK OF INTENTION, AND I THINK THE WILL OF THIS ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN FOLLOWED IN ALL OF OUR MOVEMENTS UP TO THIS POINT, AND I KNOW THAT IT WILL BE FOR THE REST OF THE TIME TOGETHER.

I WANT TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO ITEM E AND TO TELL YOU THAT THROUGH THEIR NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF PROFESSIONAL GIFT

PLANNING STAFF, THE ELCA FOUNDATION ASSISTS MEMBERS OF THE ELCA IN THEIR CALL TO LIVE AS FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS STEWARDS. THEY ALSO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONS, AGENCIES, AND INSTITUTIONS THROUGH FINANCIAL EDUCATION, RESOURCES, SUPPORT, AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

WE WELCOME REGIONAL GIFT PLANNER -- WE'VE NEVER HAD ONE IN OUR SYNOD BEFORE, BUT WE DO HAVE THE SERVICES NOW PART-TIME ANYWAY, OF THREE REGIONAL GIFT PLANNERS, ONE OF WHOM IS PASTOR MARK SCOTT.

HE WAS MY INTERN SUPERVISOR SO, ANY FAILINGS YOU SEE IN ME, YOU CAN JUST POINT IN HIS DIRECTION.

PASTOR SCOTT?

[APPLAUSE]

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> ON BEHALF OF THE ELCA FOUNDATION, I WOULD FIRST OF ALL WANT TO THANK THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE FOUNDATION.

YOU MAY NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS, BECAUSE IT'S RELATIVELY NEW IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD, BUT THE FOUNDATION EXISTS, AS BISHOP GORDY NOTED, TO SUPPORT WHAT IS OFTEN CALLED THE THIRD LEG OF THE STEWARDSHIP STOOL, THAT IS, PLANNED GIFTS.

WE ARE PART OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR THE ELCA, SO WHEN I GET MY COMPUTER PRINTOUTS ON GIFTS, I NOTE THAT THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF GIFTS THAT ACCRUE TO THE ELCA THROUGH THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD THAT INDIVIDUALS MAKE DIRECTLY TO THE ELCA, RATHER THAN ONLY THROUGH THEIR CONGREGATIONS.

LAST YEAR, FOR INSTANCE, INDIVIDUALS IN THE ELCA GAVE \$28 MILLION

TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF WORLD HUNGER.

IN FACT, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES IN THE ELCA RAISED \$72 MILLION LAST YEAR.

THE ELCA FOUNDATION ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT \$30 MILLION IN TERMS OF LONG-TERM GIFTS.

THIS IS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT, CONSIDERING THE ECONOMIC REALITIES WE WERE FACED WITH LAST YEAR.

AS A RESULT OF LAST YEAR'S SYNOD ASSEMBLY, A LEAD DEVELOPED WHICH RESULTED IN MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLARS GOING TO CHURCH CAUSES.

THIS IS THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY THAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

NOW, IF ANY OF YOU THINK ABOUT, WANT TO THINK ABOUT, GIVING MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLARS, I'M AROUND THE REST OF THE DAY, AND I'LL BE HAPPY TO TALK WITH YOU.

>> WOULD YOU STAY TILL TOMORROW?

>> ACTUALLY, I'LL STAY TILL HELL FREEZES OVER FOR THAT.

[APPLAUSE]

BUT AS I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE TASK OF ADDRESSING THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD, WHEN THE SALZBURGER COMMUNITY WAS NOTED AS HAVING 275 YEARS OF MINISTRY ON THE TERRITORY OF THE SYNOD, I THOUGHT OF MY OWN HISTORY.

I WAS BORN IN THIS SYNOD IN 1949, BEFORE IT ACTUALLY ORGANIZED AS A SYNOD.

I GREW UP IN THIS SYNOD.

I SERVED IN THREE OF THE SYNOD CONGREGATIONS.

AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I WAS THINKING ABOUT IN TERMS OF THAT HISTORY IS ALL THE YEARS THAT I HAVE BEEN IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD AND ASSOCIATED WITH IT IN ONE WAY OR

ANOTHER, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT I HAVE KNOWN.
THIS YEAR, AS I COME BACK TO THE SYNOD AFTER SEVERAL YEARS'
ABSENCE, I DON'T SEE MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT I KNEW AROUND.
NOW, TO BE SURE, SOME OF THEM WENT BACK TO THEIR
CONGREGATIONS.

THEY NO LONGER REPRESENT THE CONGREGATION FOR SYNOD
ASSEMBLY, BUT MANY ARE PART OF WHAT WE CALL THE COMMUNION OF
SAINTS.

IN FACT, THAT I WAS THINKING ABOUT THIS ISSUE, I GREW A LITTLE
WISTFUL AND SAD, BUT I ALSO REALIZED THAT THESE PEOPLE WHOM I
KNEW REPRESENT FOR ME A KIND OF PERSONAL LEGACY OF MINISTRY.
AND THAT 275 YEARS THAT WE CELEBRATE AS HISTORY FOR THE
SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ALSO REPRESENTS A LEGACY, AND IT IS THAT
LEGACY THAT WE TRY TO HELP PEOPLE ACHIEVE IN THE ELCA
FOUNDATION.

THE LEGACY OF YOUR ASSETS IS REALLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
LEGACIES THAT YOU HAVE.

AND IF YOU WANT THOSE ASSETS TO SERVE A CAUSE GREATER THAN
YOURSELF, THEN THAT'S WHAT THE ELCA FOUNDATION IS REALLY
ADDRESSING.

SO WE GIVE THANKS TO THOSE OF YOU, FOR INSTANCE, WHO HAVE LEFT
THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

BUT THE THREE GIFT PLANNERS ALSO STAND READY TO HELP
CONGREGATIONS, HELP PEOPLE, DECIDE TO HELP THE CHURCH IN THEIR
WILL AND ESTATE PLANS.

THAT'S ONE OF THE MAIN THINGS THE FOUNDATION DOES.

WE ALSO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR WHAT ARE CALLED
GIFT INSTRUMENTS.

THERE'S SOME PEOPLE WHO SAY: I'D LIKE TO GIVE MONEY TO A

CHURCH CAUSE.

I'D LIKE TO GIVE A LOT OF MONEY TO A CHURCH CAUSE, BUT I NEED IT TO LIVE ON.

THE GIFT INSTRUMENTS PROVIDE THINGS LIKE ANNUITIES, WHICH ALLOW PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE INCOME DURING THEIR LIFE TIMES, AND THEN AT THEIR DEATHS, THE REMAINDER GOES ON TO THE CHURCH CAUSE.

THERE ARE A WHOLE RANGE OF INSTRUMENTS WHICH PROVIDE THE REALLY BORING PARTS OF OUR PRESENTATIONS, BUT THEY'RE NONETHELESS IMPORTANT, BECAUSE WHAT PEOPLE COME TO UNDERSTAND THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF THE FOUNDATION IS THAT IT IS NOT THE SIZE OF YOUR ASSETS THAT IS IMPORTANT.

IT IS THAT WHICH IS IN YOUR HEART.

AND IF YOU HAVE A GIVING HEART, THEN THE FOUNDATION AND THE CHURCH ARE THERE FOR YOU.

GIVING IS PERHAPS THE GREATEST AND MOST TANGIBLE OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS, BECAUSE IT IS THROUGH GIVING THAT WE ACTIVELY SHARE WHAT WE HAVE WITH OTHERS.

NOW, YOU PERHAPS HAVE NOTICED THE SIGN FOR THE ELCA FOUNDATION THAT IS OUTSIDE IN THE LOBBY.

IT CONTAINS A HAND HOLDING A SEEDLING.

"SUSTAIN AND GROW MINISTRY," IT SAYS.

THAT MOTTO IS REALLY WHAT THE FOUNDATION DOES.

WE SUSTAIN, AND WE GROW MINISTRY.

AND THE GIFT PLANNERS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOUR CONGREGATION IN ORDER THAT THAT MINISTRY CAN BE SUSTAINED AND GROWN, AND IN ORDER THAT THE LEGACY THAT WE HAVE THIS YEAR CAN EXTEND TO FUTURE YEARS.

THE LEGACY OF YOUR LIFE, IN OTHER WORDS, CAN GO ON AND ON.

NOW, THAT PHRASE REMINDED ME THAT A LITTLE OVER 10 YEARS AGO,

THE MOVIE "THE TITANIC" CAME OUT.

AND I REMEMBER THE PHRASES IN THAT SONG VERY WELL, BECAUSE WE HEARD THE SONG ALL THE TIME WHEN THE MOVIE CAME OUT.

"ONCE MORE, YOU OPEN THE DOOR."

AND IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT IN SOME WAYS, THAT'S THE WAY OUR LEGACY GIFTS REALLY ARE.

THEY OPEN A DOOR TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MINISTRY.

LAST YEAR, THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ALSO COMMITTED ITS SAVINGS TO THE FOUNDATION TO MANAGE, WHICH IS ALSO ONE OF THE THINGS THAT THE FOUNDATION DOES, AS WELL.

WE MANAGE ASSETS, AS WELL AS HELP CONGREGATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS DEVELOP ASSETS.

SOUTHEASTERN BECAME ONE OF 35 SYNODS THAT IS ACTIVELY PUTTING ITS MONEY WITH THE FOUNDATION TO MANAGE, SO WE ARE ALSO VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THAT.

THE FINAL LINE TO THE HYMN -- EXCUSE ME, TO THE SONG -- IN "THE TITANIC," IS ABOUT LOVE GOING ON AND ON.

I DON'T KNOW IF CELINE DION WAS THINKING ABOUT PLANNED GIVING WHEN SHE WAS SINGING THAT SONG, BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE ABOUT.

THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF THE SYNOD, THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH, AND THROUGH OUR OWN INDIVIDUAL MINISTRIES, IS HELPING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WHICH IS OURS TO GO ON AND ON THROUGH OUR ACTIONS AND THROUGH WHAT WE TEACH OTHERS AND THROUGH THE LEGACY THAT WE SHARE.

SO OUR PRAYER FOR YOU IS THAT THAT LEGACY WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND EXPAND.

OUR PRAYER FOR THE FOUNDATION IS THAT YOU WILL ALLOW US INTO YOUR CONGREGATIONS TO HELP THAT LEGACY TO GROW.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, PASTOR SCOTT, FOR THAT IMPORTANT INFORMATION, AND FOR ALSO GIVING US A LITTLE MORE INFORMATION INTO HOW THE MIND OF MARK SCOTT WORKS.

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR A POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE FOR JUST A MINUTE, IF YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION.

WE HAVE WITH US AS A VOTING MEMBER DR. JAMES McCOY, WHO IS A PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AT MOREHOUSE-GRADY, AND HE HAS A SHORT BUT REALLY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE TO MANY OF US IN THIS ASSEMBLY.

>> THANK YOU, BISHOP.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

>> AND ALSO WITH YOU.

>> IT IS MY BLESSING THAT HAS BEEN BESTOWED UPON ME TO BE A PHYSICIAN, AND AS SUCH, I'VE BEEN BLESSED WITH LOTS OF KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION.

AND WE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE LOTS OF INFORMATION, AND EVEN THOUGH WE SAY OUR WORLD IS TUMULTUOUS, I THINK IT IS STILL A BLESSED TIME.

SO I COME TO YOU TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO A COLONOSCOPY.

LET ME SEE THE HANDS OF YOU WHO ARE 50.

RAISE YOUR HANDS OVER 50.

KEEP YOUR HANDS UP IF YOU HAVE HAD YOUR COLONOSCOPY.

IF YOU HAVE.

WONDERFUL.

THAT IS WONDERFUL.

AND THE REASON WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT, BECAUSE WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT COLON CANCER IS THAT IT IS A CANCER THAT YOU DON'T HAVE

TO DIE FROM.

IF YOU FIND IT EARLY, YOU CAN BE CURED FROM IT.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, IF YOU TAKE OUT THE POLYPS, YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO GET IT.

WHAT I HAVE HERE, IF YOU'LL JUST FOCUS ON THIS LITTLE IMAGE HERE, THIS IS A LITTLE CAPER THAT IS LESS THAN HALF A CENTIMETER, AND WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT COLON CANCER IS IT STARTS, MOST OF THE TIME, IN OVER 90% OF THE TIME, IN A SMALL LITTLE TUMOR LIKE THIS. AND THIS LITTLE TUMOR, IF REMOVED, IS STILL BENIGN.

HOWEVER, IF IT GROWS TO THIS SIZE, WHICH IS ABOUT THREE TIMES LARGER THAN THAT, ABOUT 15% OF THOSE WILL HAVE CANCER IN THEM. SO IF YOU HAVE YOUR COLONOSCOPY AT THIS POINT, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR COLON CANCER TAKEN OUT.

BUT IF YOU WAIT, ON THE OTHER HAND, TO THE SIZE OF THIS TUMOR, YOU WILL HAVE THE COLON CANCER, AND 10% OF THOSE WILL HAVE SPREAD.

SO WHAT I SAY TO YOU TODAY IS: COLON CANCER CAN BE CURED. IT EVEN CAN BE PREVENTED.

BUT GET YOUR COLONOSCOPY TODAY, OR TOMORROW.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU, DR. McCOY.

WHEN I TURNED 50 JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO -- WELL, OKAY, 9 YEARS AGO -- I HAD THAT DONE AND THEY DISCOVERED THAT I WAS AT THAT NEXT-TO-THE-LAST STAGE, AND THE DOCTOR SAID: IT SAVED YOUR LIFE.

SO I'VE BEEN AN EVANGELIST FOR THAT, AND MANY OF US IN THIS ROOM ARE AT THAT AGE.

SO IF YOU'VE NOT DONE THAT, PLEASE DO IT.

PROJECT CONNECT IS A WEB OF CONNECTIONS AMONG MANY OF THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THIS CHURCH IN THE EAST.

THREE SEMINARIES, COLLEGES, CAMPS, CAMPUS MINISTRIES, PASTORS, LAY LEADERS, CONGREGATIONS, SOCIAL MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS, VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS, LIKE LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPSE, SOON TO BE AMONG US AND LUTHERAN STUDENT MOVEMENT, AND PARTICULARLY YOUNG ADULTS.

IT WORKS TOWARD A SINGLE REMARKABLY IMPORTANT GOAL: TO INVOLVE YOUNG ADULTS IN PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS, RETREATS, AND DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW GOD MIGHT BE CALLING THEM TO BUILD A LIFE.

PASTOR ERIC MURRAY, THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD DIRECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES, JOINS US ON THE PODIUM NOW, I THINK. THERE HE COMES.

TO GIVE US SOME INFORMATION AND TO BRING US A BRIEF DVD REGARDING PROJECT CONNECT.

AND HE'S RUNNING.

HE'S COMING QUICKLY.

PASTOR MURRAY.

>> GOOD MORNING.

SO IF YOU READ THE BISHOP'S REPORT, YOU KNOW THE FACTS.

THERE IS CURRENTLY A SHORTAGE OF PASTORS AND OTHER ROSTERED LEADERS IN OUR CHURCH.

YOU ALSO KNOW THAT OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, THAT SHORTAGE WILL ONLY DEEPEN.

BUT HERE'S ANOTHER FACT: THERE ARE -- I THOUGHT RACHEL WAS POINTING AT ME.

NO.

THERE ARE MANY YOUNG ADULTS IN OUR CHURCH, GIFTED YOUNG

ADULTS, WHO ARE RIGHT THIS VERY MOMENT DISCERNING WHETHER OR NOT GOD MIGHT BE CALLING THEM TO PUBLIC MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH. AND THEY ARE INVOLVED IN THE MANY MINISTRY EXPRESSIONS THAT BISHOP GORDY JUST SPOKE OF.

SO IF WE CAN CONNECT THOSE YOUNG ADULTS AND KEEP THEM CONNECTED, AND CONNECT THOSE VARIOUS MINISTRY EXPRESSIONS, AND HELP THEM IN THAT DISCERNMENT, THAT'S THE TALL TASK THAT PROJECT CONNECT IS ABOUT AT THIS TIME.

SO IF YOU WOULD RUN THE VIDEO, PLEASE.

[VIDEO]

>> CALLING LEADERS FOR A CHANGING WORLD.

HOW ARE THEY TO CALL ON ONE IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED?

[END OF VIDEO]

IF YOU HAVE YOUNG ADULTS WHO YOU BELIEVE MAY HAVE A CALLING TO PUBLIC MINISTRY IN OUR CHURCH AND HAVE THOSE GIFTS, PLEASE GO TO ELCACONNECT.COM, AND WITH THE PERMISSION OF THAT YOUNG ADULT SHARE THEIR INFORMATION WITH PROJECT CONNECT.

OR CONTACT DIRECTLY ONE OF OUR CURRENT SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD DISCERNMENT ADVOCATES: PASTORS SETH BRIDGER OR BOB MITCHELL.

BUT PLEASE, KEEP THEM CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH FOR THE SAKE OF OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR MURRAY.

WHILE I WAS INTRODUCING PASTOR MURRAY, I NOTICED A STRANGE LOOK ON HIS FACE.

THAT'S BECAUSE I INTRODUCED HIM AS THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD DIRECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES, WHICH OF COURSE IS RACHEL ALLEY

SITTING IN THE BACK.

THAT'S BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT SAID ON THE PAPER HERE.

THAT'S BECAUSE RACHEL WAS ORIGINALLY GOING TO DO THAT, AND THEN PASTOR MURRAY DID IT.

BUT THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I HOPE YOU'LL PAY ATTENTION TO THAT.

I GET TO REPRESENT THE REGION 9 ABUNDANCE IN THE ASSIGNMENT PROCESS, AND IT'S SAD ACROSS THIS CHURCH THAT WE TYPICALLY HAVE 1/3 THE NUMBER OF FIRST-CALL PASTORS THAT WE HAVE PLACES FOR THEM IN THE CHURCH.

ITEM G.

WE TURN TO THE 2009-2010 MINISTRY FUNDING PLAN, ALSO KNOWN OCCASIONALLY AS "THE BUDGET."

IF YOU'LL TURN TO TAB-E IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS, AND I WILL CALL ON OUR SYNOD TREASURER MR. JOHN LUCHT TO PRESENT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED MINISTRY FUNDING PLAN.

JOHN?

>> THANK YOU, BISHOP GORDY.

GOOD MORNING ON THIS BEAUTIFUL MORNING.

FIRST OF ALL, RECOGNIZING THE ECONOMY, YOU'LL SEE IN YOUR EXHIBIT E, THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS SPENT A LOT OF TIME THIS YEAR, AND I'D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE MEMBERS OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, IF YOU'D PLEASE STAND IF YOU'RE HERE IN THE ROOM.

I'VE SEEN SEVERAL OF YOU HERE.

ALSO, SANDRA GUSTAVSON.

FRED WEINHOLD IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, AND ESPECIALLY HE AND SANDRA GUSTAVSON HAVE PUT A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT INTO WHERE WE ARE TODAY, SO LET'S GIVE THEM A BIG HAND.

[APPLAUSE]

THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE SPENT A LOT OF TIME. AS YOU'LL SEE IN YOUR MATERIALS, THAT BASICALLY THEY RECOMMENDED NO INCREASE, ZERO INCREASE, IN THE UNDESIGNATED CONGREGATION MISSION SUPPORT BEYOND 2009'S APPROVED BUDGET AMOUNT IN THE LEVEL-1 BUDGET, WHICH YOU'LL SEE THAT OUR SPENDING PLAN, AND THAT'S THE KEY, THIS IS A "SPENDING PLAN," AND WE CAN ONLY SPEND WHAT WE GET.

SO BASICALLY, WE'VE MAINTAINED THE SAME 3,089 ON THE MISSION SUPPORT.

IT'S BASED ON THE LEVEL 1 AMOUNT, NO SALARY INCREASES FOR THE STAFF.

YOU'LL NOTICE THAT.

ALSO, I WANT TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO ONE SPECIFIC LINE ITEM BEFORE THE DISCUSSION.

THERE'S A NEW DESIGNATED GIVING FOR LUTHERANCH.

YOU PROBABLY SEE THAT FOR 2010.

THIS IS ACTUALLY THE FIRST-YEAR CONGREGATIONS ARE ASKED TO GIVE NOT ONLY UNDESIGNATED MISSION SUPPORT, BUT ALSO SPECIAL DESIGNATED AMOUNTS TO LUTHERANCH.

AND THAT AMOUNT IS \$65,000 IN THE LEVEL-1 BUDGET.

THAT TRANSLATES INTO \$382 PER CONGREGATION.

NOW, PASTOR SCOTT WAS TALKING ABOUT THE MILLION DOLLAR GIVER SOMEWHERE, AND ALL I'M ASKING FOR IS EITHER -- WELL, \$382 FOR THAT CONGREGATION THEY WORK FOR.

BUT BASICALLY, THAT'S A VERY SMALL AMOUNT, I THINK, TO BE ASKED, BUT IT IS A SPECIAL AMOUNT IN THE BUDGET, IN THE SPENDING PLAN.

ALSO, ONE OTHER POINT I WANTED TO MAKE IS THAT THE PROPOSED FUNDING FOR THE COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES YOU'LL SEE IN

THERE, THERE'S A PRETTY EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE TIME THAT WAS SPENT BY THE TASK FORCES IN TERMS OF ALLOCATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES, AND FOR 2010 THAT'S ACTUALLY GOING TO BE 1/2 OF THE 2009 SPENDING PLAN AMOUNT.

AND THOSE ALLOCATIONS YOU'LL SEE IN A LOT OF PLACES IN THE SPENDING PLAN KIND OF ONE NUMBER TO BE ALLOCATED LATER, AND THAT'S BASED ON THE FACT THAT WE WERE ANTICIPATING THE RESTRUCTURING THAT TOOK PLACE.

AND SO THE ACTUAL ALLOCATION WILL BE DONE AT A LATER POINT. WE'RE AT A CRITICAL TIME, AS EVERYBODY HAS HEARD THE ECONOMY TALKED ABOUT HERE, NOT JUST THIS WEEKEND, BUT OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

AND IT'S VERY -- CONGREGATIONAL PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL. EVEN CONGREGATIONS THAT HAVEN'T GIVEN ANY AT THIS TIME, IF THEY GIVE SOME, IT WILL MATTER AND IT WILL ADD UP.

WE HAVE A SAYING IN OUR OFFICE THAT THE SUM OF THE PARTS IS GREATER THAN THE WHOLE, AND I BELIEVE THAT.

EVERY ONE OF YOU IN THIS ROOM I THINK DOES, TOO.

THERE'S FLEXIBILITY IN THIS SPENDING PLAN, THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, FOR THE COUNCIL TO BE ABLE TO REACT TO THE SHORTFALLS, AND BELIEVE ME, THEY WILL REACT AND QUICKLY.

THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS EVEN PUT A PROPOSAL FORTH AND SAID: YOU TELL US WHEN TO HELP AND WHEN TO REACT, AND WE WILL HELP OUT.

AND COUNCIL ALSO HAD SPOKEN ABOUT THIS THE OTHER NIGHT.

SO WE'RE IN A POSITION AND HAVE VOLUNTEERS.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE HAD ONE PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL ON COUNCIL OFFERED TO GIVE UP THE MONEY FROM HIS PARTICULAR COMMITTEE OR TASK FORCE AMOUNT TOTALLY BACK TO THE SYNOD

AND SAID: WE CAN DO IT WITHOUT THE SYNOD.

SO AGAIN, THAT PROACTIVE NATURE BY PEOPLE COMING TO US IS VERY IMPORTANT.

I SEE THAT EVERY DAY IN MY JOB WHERE I CONSULT WITH CEOs OF COMPANIES FEELING THESE PAINS, AS YOU ARE.

IF WE DON'T REACT QUICKLY AND IF WE NEED TO DO THIS, IT COULD BE PAINFUL AND IT WILL AFFECT THE GROWTH, A GROWTH OF MANY OF THE PROGRAMS YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS WEEKEND.

JUST WANT TO SAY ONE MORE THING.

WE HAVE A SAYING IN MY DEPARTMENT AT THE OFFICE, AND THAT IS THAT ANYBODY CAN DO THE EASY ONES.

I DON'T THINK RIGHT NOW THIS IS ONE OF THE EASY ONES.

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN ALL STAND UP TO THE CHALLENGE.

>> WOULD YOU STAY HERE, JOHN, IN CASE THERE ARE QUESTIONS.

WE HAVE A RESOLUTION BEFORE YOU THAT THE 2010-2011 MINISTRY FUNDING PLAN BE ADOPTED.

THIS COMES FROM SYNOD COUNCIL, AND NEEDS NO SECOND.

IS THERE DISCUSSION?

IF THERE IS, PLEASE GO TO A MICROPHONE.

YOU MAY GO THERE FOR QUESTIONS, AND FRED WEINHOLD IS HERE, AND HE COULD COME UP IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

MICROPHONE 2.

NO.

OH, YES, TURN THE LIGHTS UP.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ANYONE?

MICROPHONE 1.

>> LAURA SENEKER-JONES FROM ASCENSION CHATTANOOGA.

I SIMPLY NEED SOME CLARIFICATION.

ON PAGE E-10, WE HAVE TRANSFORMATION WHICH GOES UP, AND THEN YOUTH MINISTRIES, GLOBAL MINISTRIES, STEWARDSHIP, EVANGELISM, PRE-RETIREMENT, SENIOR MINISTRY AND LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION HAVE NO NUMBERS.

ARE THERE THOSE INCLUDED SOMEWHERE ELSE?

ARE THEY GETTING ANY MONEY, OR ARE THEY NOT?

>> GOOD QUESTION.

THEY'RE NOT SPECIFICALLY ALLOCATED ANYTHING IN THE LEVEL-1 SPENDING PLAN.

IN THE LEVEL-1 PLAN, THE REASON ALL OF THOSE ARE LISTED IS BECAUSE IN THE LEVEL-1 PLAN YOU'LL SEE A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$43,416 AND I THINK THE ALLOCATION OF THAT WILL BE DETERMINED BASED ON THE NEW RESTRUCTURING, BUT IN THE PAST, YOU'LL SEE THERE HAS NOT BEEN FUNDING IN THE PAST FEW YEARS FOR THOSE SPECIFIC ITEMS.

BISHOP, DID YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE?

>> YEAH, YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE CURRENT -- THE YEAR 2009-10 THE BUDGET WHICH WE ADOPTED LAST YEAR.

IF YOU LOOK ON THE RIGHTHAND COLUMN, 2010-11, THIS IS THE PROPOSED BUDGET, AND THE PROPOSAL IS FOR THAT ENTIRE AMOUNT TO BE DIVIDED ONCE WE FIND OUT WHAT THE NEW SYNOD COMMITTEE TASK FORCE STRUCTURE IS.

SO THE SYNOD COUNCIL WOULD MAKE THOSE ALLOCATIONS ONCE WE KNOW WHAT THE STRUCTURE IS.

>> YOU HAD SAID ONE OF THE TASK FORCES GAVE THEIR MONEY BACK SAYING THEY DIDN'T NEED IT ANY LONGER.

DOES THAT NEED TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS?

>> IT WAS A PART OF THE CONVERSATION WITH THE COUNCIL, AND IT

WASN'T A TASK FORCE.

IT WAS ONE OF OUR AGENCIES WHO SAID: THIS YEAR WE COULD GET BY IF YOU'RE REALLY -- WE WOULD NEED TO HAVE THAT CONVERSATION FURTHER, I THINK.

>> RIGHT.

>> MY QUESTION WOULD BE: CAN WE CHANGE A LINE ITEM, OR VOTE ON A LINE ITEM?

>> CHANGES CAN BE MADE.

WE NEED TO KEEP THIS WITHIN THE ANTICIPATED INCOME.

SO IF YOU WANT TO ADD MONEY TO SOMETHING, IT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN AWAY FROM SOMETHING ELSE, UNLESS YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION.

[LAUGHTER]

>> MAY I SAY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT?

>> PARDON ME?

>> MAY I SAY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT CHANGE-WISE?

>> SURE.

>> I'M WONDERING, SINCE WE HAVE AGREED TO SEND A MEMORIAL TO CHURCHWIDE TO ACCEPT THE HUMAN SEXUALITY STUDY, DOES THE WELCOMING AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE NEED TO CONTINUE THEIR ALLOCATION OF \$2,000?

>> THAT ALLOCATION IS FOR THE BUDGET THAT WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR.

THERE ARE ALSO ALLOCATIONS TO BE DETERMINED IN THE BUDGET THAT WE'RE VOTING ON NOW.

>> OKAY, THANK YOU.

>> OKAY.

MICROPHONE 2.

>> PASTOR MICHAEL HUNTLEY, HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH,

RUACH CONFERENCE.

>> GOOD, GOOD.

YOU GOT THE GUTTURAL THERE.

>> YOU KIND OF MENTIONED THIS IN PASSING, BUT I WANT TO ASK YOU:
YOU SAID THAT THE STAFF IS NOT TAKING ANY INCREASES THIS YEAR, IS
THAT CORRECT?

>> THAT'S CORRECT.

>> HOW MANY YEARS HAS THAT BEEN GOING ON?

IS THIS THE FIRST YEAR?

>> I THINK I COULD GIVE YOU A BIT OF HISTORY ON THAT.

I THINK IT WAS 4 YEARS AGO, STAFF WERE ASKED TO TAKE SALARY
DECREASES.

AND OVER -- 3 OR 4.

AND THEN OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS, I THINK THEY WERE BROUGHT BACK
UP TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY WERE WHEN THEY TOOK THOSE
DECREASES.

THERE HAVE BEEN STAFF INCREASES FOR THE LAST 2 YEARS.

IS THAT RIGHT?

OR IS IT JUST THE LAST YEAR?

WE GOT A RAISE LAST YEAR.

>> SO LAST YEAR, THERE WAS A RAISE.

THE YEAR BEFORE THAT, THERE WAS NOT?

>> THERE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN.

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT.

I WASN'T HERE THEN.

>> I KNOW YOU'RE KIND OF LOOKING FORWARD, BUT I'M TEMPTED TO
MAKE AN AMENDMENT THAT WE SHOULD GIVE THOSE, BUT IF WE DO IT
NEXT YEAR -- THE STAFF SHOULDN'T HAVE TO MAKE THE SACRIFICE TO
BALANCE THE BUDGET.

IT SHOULD BE THE CONGREGATIONS MAKING THE SACRIFICE.

I'M GOING TO MAKE THE AMENDMENT, MOVE FOR AN AMENDMENT FOR A 3% COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR STAFF.

>> NOW, I BELIEVE THAT OUR RULES REQUIRE THAT IF YOU INCREASE THE BUDGET, YOU HAVE TO TELL US WHERE THAT WILL COME FROM.

>> I'M NOT FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH THE BUDGET TO SAY WHERE IT WOULD, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU.

>> ONE OF THE -- MAY I MAKE A SUGGESTION?

WOULD THAT BE OKAY WITH THE ASSEMBLY?

WE KNOW, AS JOHN LUCHT SAID JUST A MINUTE AGO, THAT THE COUNCIL IS EMPOWERED TO MAKE MID-COURSE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE BUDGET.

IF THEY RESPOND AND THERE'S MORE MONEY, I'M SURE THEY WOULD LOOK AT THAT BEFORE THEY LOOK AT OTHER THINGS, BUT IF THE MONEY IS NOT THERE, THE MONEY IS NOT THERE.

>> I WITHDRAW MY MOTION, BUT I HOPE THAT THEY WILL DO THAT.

>> SO DO I.

[LAUGHTER]

THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 4.

>> PASTOR BETH BURKHOLZ, HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN, CONFERENCE 2, TO BE NAMED LATER.

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE A COMMENT ON THE PIE GRAPH.

NEW MISSION DEVELOPMENT IS ALLOTTED \$174,215.

YOU RECEIVED A BOOKLET THAT LOOKS LIKE THIS.

PLEASE DON'T THROW IT AWAY, IF YOU GOT IT, OR RECYCLE IT OR WHATEVER.

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

IT COSTS APPROXIMATELY HALF A MILLION DOLLARS TO START A MISSION.

WE HAVE \$174,000 ALLOCATED.

WE HAVE 29 MISSION STARTS OR REDEVELOPMENTS IN THIS SYNOD.

PLEASE LOOK AT THIS.

IF YOUR CHURCH CAN AFFORD ANYTHING TO GIVE TO A MISSION PARTNER, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THESE CHURCHES, CONTACT ME, ONE OF THE PEOPLE ON THE COMMITTEE.

WE NEED TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER ON NEW MISSION STARTS, MANY OF WHICH ARE IN AN INCREASING NUMBER IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER.

THIS IS WHAT WE NEED TO DO TO SUPPORT THIS BUDGET, AND ALSO TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR.

MICROPHONE 2.

>> CHAPLAIN KREY, PORT OF SAVANNAH.

TWO QUESTIONS: I THINK WHEN WE VOTED ON THE GUIDELINES FOR PASTORAL AND ROSTERED LEADERS COMPENSATIONS YESTERDAY, WE VOTED A 3% COST OF LIVING INCREASE.

I'M WONDERING WHY THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE SYNOD STAFF.

MY SECOND COMMENT IS THAT A LATE-BREAKING THING FOR OUR SYNOD IS THE GLOBAL MISSION EVENT THAT'S HAPPENING ON OUR TERRITORY IN JULY OF THIS YEAR.

AND I'M WONDERING IF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE GOT ANY COMMUNICATION FROM THE ELCA GLOBAL MISSION UNIT ABOUT FUNDING FOR THAT.

>> I THINK THE ANSWER TO THE SECOND QUESTION IS: NO.

AND THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION IS: I BELIEVE THAT THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO BUILD THAT

INCREASE IN AND IS AWARE OF THE COMPENSATION GUIDELINES, AND THAT A NUMBER OF OUR STAFF ARE ROSTERED PERSONS, BUT AGAIN, THE MATTER IS WHETHER THERE IS THE MONEY TO DO IT, AND IT DOESN'T LOOK, AT THIS POINT, AS IF THERE'S GOING TO BE.

MICROPHONE 2.

>> I'M BOB GIBELING, A MEMBER OF THE WELCOMING TASK FORCE, AND I JUST WANTED TO CLARIFY A COMMENT ABOUT THE BUDGET AND THE ONGOING NATURE OF THAT TASK FORCE.

IT WAS AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST TWO MORE YEARS, AND THE RESOLUTION THAT THIS ASSEMBLY PASSED ON SAFE SCHOOLS, AS WELL AS A PREVIOUS RESOLUTION ON LEGISLATION RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION, ARE ONGOING EFFORTS OF THE WELCOMING TASK FORCE IN ADVOCACY, IN ADDITION TO OUR OWN INTERNAL WORK ON HELPING CONGREGATIONS WITHIN THE SYNOD BECOME MORE WELCOMING.

>> YES.

AND JUST TO BE CLEAR, IF YOU'LL NOTICE THAT THERE ARE TWO COLUMNS THERE.

ONE IS THE 2009-10 BUDGET, AND IN THAT BUDGET THERE IS MONEY IN THE TASK FORCE AS ORDERED BY THE ASSEMBLY, AND THAT WILL BE PART OF THE CONSIDERATION WHEN THE RESTRUCTURING TAKES PLACE.

WE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO TRY TO THE DIVIDE UP MONEY FOR COMMITTEES THAT MIGHT NOT BE HERE.

SOME OF THEM MIGHT NOT BE HERE.

WE MIGHT HAVE NEW TASK FORCE COMMITTEES AND SO FORTH.

MICROPHONE 1.

>> MIKE FRANKLIN, HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, CONFERENCE 8 AT THIS POINT IN TIME, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

AND I HAD ONE MORE QUICK QUESTION, AND THEN PERHAPS AN AMENDMENT WE CAN DO RELATIVE TO SYNOD STAFF SALARY. AND THAT IS: IS THERE ANY REASON WHY WE CANNOT MAKE AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSAL IN LEVEL-2 WITHOUT FINDING MONEY ELSEWHERE?

>> I THINK NOT, ACTUALLY.

>> THEN I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE THEN THAT WE DO INCREASE IN SECTION F THE APPROPRIATE SYNOD STAFF SALARY POSITIONS WITH A 3% INCREASE IN THE LEVEL-2 BUDGET.

>> FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MIGHT BE -- IF YOU'LL PERMIT ME, BEFORE I ALLOW YOU TO SPEAK ON THAT, WE HAVE A LEVEL-1 BUDGET, WHICH IS THE BALANCED BUDGET, THAT'S BALANCED ACCORDING TO WHAT WE ANTICIPATE RECEIPTS TO BE.

WE HAVE A LEVEL-2 BUDGET WHICH IS A BUDGET THAT REFLECTS MORE WHAT THE UNITS AND COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS IN THE SYNOD WOULD LIKE TO DO, IF THE MONEY IS THERE.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEAK MORE TO THAT, JOHN?

>> SANDRA, DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON THAT FROM PRIOR EXPERIENCE AND HISTORY?

MY INCLINATION IS TO SAY THAT I DON'T KNOW THAT WE CAN DO THAT, WHAT YOU'RE ASKING.

>> WE'LL FIND OUT.

>> BUT WE CAN TAKE IT INTO CONSIDERATION.

>> WE'RE WORKING ON IT.

SANDRA?

>> SANDRA GUSTAVSON, SYNOD FISCAL ADVISER

WE HAVE DONE THAT A COUPLE OF TIMES IN THE PAST.

FROM A MECHANICAL STANDPOINT, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IS THAT IT WOULD BE ALLOCATED AS BONUSES WHEN WE CLOSE THE FISCAL YEAR,

IF THE MONEY IS AVAILABLE AT THAT POINT.

IT COULD NOT BE PAID OUT ON AN ONGOING BASIS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

THE OTHER THING YOU SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, IS THAT IF ANYTHING IS ADDED TO LEVEL 2 FOR SYNOD MINISTRIES, THEN YOU BASICALLY HAVE TO DIVIDE THAT BY .45, AND THAT WOULD BE THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF MISSION SUPPORT TO BE ADDED TO THE LEVEL-2 AMOUNT, BECAUSE WE TAKE 50% OF ALL MISSION SUPPORT AND SEND IT TO ELCA CHURCHWIDE MINISTRIES.

WE TAKE 5%, ADD IT TO THE PLANTING FUND, AND THEN 45% IS AVAILABLE FOR WHATEVER IS IN THE SYNOD MINISTRY PORTION.

>> SO I HEAR -- SANDRA, BEFORE YOU LEAVE -- I HEAR THAT IT CAN BE DONE, BUT YOU'RE JUST SAYING THESE ARE THINGS TO CONSIDER, IF IT IS DONE.

>> IT CAN BE DONE.

WHATEVER AMOUNT IS ADDED WILL INCREASE WHAT WE NEED TO ADD TO MISSION SUPPORT ON THE TOP INCOME LINE BY MORE THAN WHAT IS ADDED IN THE SPENDING LINE.

AND WHEN IT IS PAID OUT, IT WILL BE PAID OUT AT THE END OF THE YEAR, NOT ON AN ONGOING BASIS.

>> THANK YOU.

I THINK EVERYBODY HERE KNOWS THIS, BUT I'M AMAZED AT HOW MANY TIMES PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THIS IN CONGREGATIONS.

WHEN WE RECEIVE A DOLLAR IN UNDESIGNATED MISSION SUPPORT IN THE SYNOD, WE SEND HALF OF THAT TO CHURCHWIDE MINISTRIES FOR MINISTRY OF THIS CHURCH IN THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD. AND THEN 5 CENTS OF IT GOES TO A FUND THAT SUPPORTS OUR MISSION STARTS.

SO WE LIVE ON 45 CENTS OF EVERY UNDESIGNATED DOLLAR THAT WE

GET.

SO WHAT SANDRA IS SAYING THAT WHATEVER AMOUNT WE ADD THERE WILL BE 45% OF THE AMOUNT OF INCOME WE'LL NEED TO REACH THAT. SO YOUR MOTION?

>> THEN I WOULD -- THOSE PROVISOS ARE LIVABLE, SO I WOULD THEN LIKE TO MOVE THAT WE ADD TO THE SYNOD STAFF SALARY POSITIONS -- I SEE THAT AS BEING SALARIES AND HOUSING, AND THAT WOULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE BUDGET AS FAR AS PENSIONS AND SO ON AND SO FORTH ARE CONCERNED -- BE RAISED TO A LEVEL TO REFLECT A 3% INCREASE IN THOSE LEVELS, IN THE LEVEL-2 BUDGET FOR THE YEARS 2010 AND '11.

>> TO INCREASE THE LEVEL-2 BUDGET BY AN AMOUNT THAT'S 3% OF THE TOTAL SALARY BUDGET, I BELIEVE IS WHAT THAT WAS, AND I WON'T DO THE MATH RIGHT OFF THE BAT THERE.

IS THERE A SECOND?

I HEAR A SECOND.

IS THERE DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDMENT?

I THINK I SEE SOMEONE GOING TO A MICROPHONE.

>> PASTOR GINNY KREKLING, CELEBRATION OF GRACE, NEW CONFERENCE 5.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK AGAINST THIS AMENDMENT.

NOT THAT I DON'T THINK YOU AND THE REST OF THE STAFF SHOULD HAVE THAT MONEY.

I OBVIOUSLY DO.

BUT I THINK THAT WE HAVE ELECTED A COUNCIL TO HANDLE THESE TYPES OF DECISIONS WHEN, ESPECIALLY IN TIMES LIKE THIS, WHEN MONEY IS TIGHT, SO THAT WE CAN BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THAT MONEY.

AND WHEN WE TRY TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE, IF WE

MIGHT GET, I THINK IT'S MUCH MORE IMPORTANT FOR US ALL TO BE FOCUSING ON THE LEVEL OF GIVING THAT'S COMING FROM THE CONGREGATIONS, SO THAT THE STRUCTURES THAT ARE ALREADY IN PLACE CAN DO THE JOB WE'VE ASKED THEM TO DO.

SO I'M SPEAKING AGAINST THE AMENDMENT.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MICROPHONE 4.

NO, WE HAVE A POINT OF ORDER?

MICROPHONE 2.

>> I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT IS.

I WOULD LIKE TO AMEND.

>> YOU WOULD LIKE TO AMEND THE AMENDMENT?

>> YEAH.

IT'S BEEN TOO EASY THIS MORNING.

>> IN THAT CASE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO DO THAT, BUT YOU NEED TO WAIT YOUR TURN.

SO WE GO BACK TO MICROPHONE 4, AND THEN WE'LL BE BACK.

>> PASTOR ANN BASSETT, PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SPRING HILL, TENNESSEE, CONFERENCE 8.

I THINK IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF WE COULD INCREASE THE SALARIES BY 3%, AND IT IS CERTAINLY A FEEL-GOOD AMENDMENT.

WE WOULD ALL LOVE TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT.

AND IT'S REAL EASY WHEN THE VOTE COMES TO SAY AYE OR TO RAISE YOUR GREEN CARD.

HOWEVER, WE NEED TO BE PREPARED TO DO SO WITH OUR POCKETBOOKS, SO IF YOU VOTE "YES" FOR THIS, YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED TO WRITE A CHECK TO SUPPORT IT.

>> THANK YOU.

AND WHO WAS NEXT?

WE'RE BACK TO YOU, PASTOR.

>> PASTOR CRAIG BOYER ON LEAVE FROM CALL, A MEMBER OF HOLY TRINITY AT DAPHNE, ON SYNOD COUNCIL, AND IN RUACH CONFERENCE.

>> I THINK THAT'S EVEN BETTER THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE.

>> MY AMENDMENT WOULD BE TO NOT USE A PERCENT, BUT TO USE A FLAT DOLLAR AMOUNT INCREASE.

AND THE REASON IS THAT A PERCENT INCREASE FAVORS THOSE WHO HAVE THE LARGER SALARIES.

>> I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT I THINK THAT THAT'S NOT PERTINENT, BECAUSE -- WE WILL HAVE TO PUT AN AMOUNT, WHATEVER 3%.

BUT THIS BUDGET ITEM WOULD SAY 3% ADDITION FOR EVERYONE.

HOW THAT'S DIVIDED OUT IS CURRENTLY DONE WITH

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE AND SO FORTH.

SO IN OTHER WORDS, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT EVERYBODY GETS A 3% ACROSS THE BOARD.

THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN THIS PAST YEAR.

THERE WERE DIFFERENCES.

SO IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I'D LIKE TO TAKE THAT UNDER

CONSIDERATION, IF THIS PASSES, BUT I THINK THAT WE'RE ONLY VOTING ON THE TOTAL SALARY AMOUNT.

>> NO PROBLEM.

I'LL PROBABLY BRING THAT UP AT SYNOD COUNCIL.

>> YES, I'M SURE YOU WILL.

THANK YOU, TOO.

[LAUGHTER]

MICROPHONE NUMBER 4.

>> DAVE SMEDLEY, PASTOR AT HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ELLIJAY, GEORGIA, MEMBER OF SYNOD COUNCIL, CONFERENCE 5.

WE DON'T HAVE A NAME YET.

PASTOR CHILTON IS OUR STAFF PERSON THAT RELATES TO US SO WE WERE THINKING OF CONFERENCE CHITLIN.

[LAUGHTER]

I SPEAK AGAINST THE AMENDMENT.

I THINK THE REALITY, HAVING SPENT TIME THIS PAST THURSDAY ON SYNOD COUNCIL, IS THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE PRESSED HARD TO EVEN COME CLOSE TO HAVING THE INCOME TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE BUDGET THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE.

AND I WOULD LOVE IT IF WE COULD HAVE THAT CONVERSATION NOW WHILE WE'RE ALL HERE AND BE REALISTIC.

MONEY IS FALLING OFF IN TERMS OF INCOME THAT'S COMING INTO THE SYNOD, AND FRANKLY, IT MIGHT BE A BIT OF A PIPE DREAM TO EXPECT THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO HAVE THAT 3% INCREASE FOR STAFF.

>> THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 2.

>> MARY PETERS, MESSIAH LUTHERAN, DECATUR, TRINITY CONFERENCE.

I SPEAK IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT.

IN CONGREGATIONS, PASTORS HAVE MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEES THAT ADVOCATE FOR THEM, THAT SUPPORT THEM.

VERY OFTEN, BISHOP STAFF AND BISHOP HAS NO ONE THAT WILL REALLY SAY: WE SUPPORT YOU.

PERHAPS THIS LEVEL-2 WILL NOT BE REACHED, BUT AT LEAST AS SUPPORT, WE NEED TO SAY WE SURE HOPE SO.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ARE THERE OTHERS WHO WISH TO SPEAK TO THIS AMENDMENT?

DO WE HAVE A DOLLAR AMOUNT, SANDRA GUSTAVSON?

BECAUSE IT IS A BUDGET, AND WE DO NEED A DOLLAR AMOUNT HERE.

>> I CAN PROVIDE THE INCREMENTS TO THE VARIOUS LINES.

>> OKAY.

>> IF YOU LOOK FIRST, LOOK FIRST ON PAGE E-8, MISSION SUPPORT CONTRIBUTIONS, PROPOSED FOR 2010-11.

THE LEVEL-2 AMOUNT WOULD BE INCREASED BY \$39,233.

STILL ON THAT SAME PAGE, AT THE BOTTOM, WHERE IT TALKS ABOUT USES OF FUNDS, WE'RE STILL IN THE LEVEL-2 AMOUNT, ELCA MISSION SUPPORT WOULD BE INCREASED BY \$19,616.

JUST BELOW THAT, THE PLANTING NEW CONGREGATIONS FUND WOULD BE INCREASED BY \$1,962.

AND THEN OVER ON PAGE E-11, THE SALARIES AND HOUSING LINE, THE LEVEL-2 AMOUNT WOULD BE \$17,655.

>> THANK YOU, DR. GUSTAVSON.

WE WOULD ACTUALLY BE VOTING TO AMEND THOSE PARTS OF THE BUDGET BY THOSE NUMBERS TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT THE MOTION SUGGESTED.

YES, MICROPHONE 4.

>> SHARON BOST, MEMBER OF SYNOD COUNCIL.

WE SPENT A LOT OF TIME ON THURSDAY TALKING ABOUT THE BUDGET, AND HOW WE PROBABLY WILL NOT EVEN MEET LEVEL 1, BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMY.

AND IT'S DEPRESSING, AND TO EVEN RAISE ANYTHING EVEN AS MUCH AS I WANT ALL OF YOU GUYS TO GET A 3% OR MORE RAISE, IT'S NOT GOOD. THERE'S A LOT OF CONGREGATIONS THAT DON'T GIVE ANYTHING AT ALL TO THE SYNOD, AND IF EVERYONE WOULD GIVE EVEN HALF OF THEIR PORTION, WE WOULD HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY.

SO I SPEAK AGAINST.

>> THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 3.

>> PASTOR MATT HENNING, COMMUNITY OF GRACE, GRAYSON, GEORGIA, MEMBER OF SYNOD COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE TEAM, THE MAGI CONFERENCE.

PASTOR SILLIK REALLY LIKED THAT NAME.

HE WAS EXCITED WHEN WE TOLD HIM WHAT OUR NAME WAS, SO IT WAS HIS FAVORITE.

I'M SPEAKING AGAINST THE AMENDMENT.

IT'S A NICE THOUGHT, AND WE WANT TO INCREASE, AND THE SYNOD COUNCIL ARE THE ADVOCATES FOR THE STAFF.

WE WANT TO KEEP THE STAFF AND WE WANT TO KEEP ALL THE STAFF. AND SO WE NEED TO REACH THE LEVEL-1 BUDGET, BECAUSE THE MAIN EXPENDITURE IN THE BUDGET IS STAFF, AND WE CANNOT AFFORD INCREASES AT THIS TIME, AND IT'S JUST NOT REALISTIC TO PUT ANOTHER BURDEN ON THE LEVEL 2.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 1.

>> PASTOR LEWIS GROCE, TRINITY CHURCH.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT OUR CONFERENCE NUMBER, LETTER, NAME, IS. THE FIRST THING IS, THERE ARE VERY FEW THINGS I'VE FOUND IN THIS LIFE THAT MIKE AND I AGREE ON, AND AMENDMENT IS ONE OF THEM, SO I'D LIKE TO VALIDATE THAT.

THE OTHER THING IS, I HAD THIS CONVERSATION WITH YOUR PREDECESSOR.

I UNDERSTAND THERE ARE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS, BUT I THINK IT SENDS A VERY INTERESTING MESSAGE TO CONGREGATIONS TO SAY, IN DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES, LET US BALANCE A BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF OUR STAFF.

AND I THINK WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE JOB THAT OUR STAFF IS

DOING AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT COSTS MORE TO LIVE, AND I THINK WE NEED THIS AMENDMENT.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

OTHER DEBATE ON THE AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE LINE ITEMS THAT WERE MENTIONED EARLIER, A TOTAL OF 3% OF THE TOTAL SALARY AND HOUSING LINE, CURRENT SALARY AND HOUSING LINE.

I DON'T SEE ANYONE GOING TO A MICROPHONE, SO I THINK WE'RE READY TO VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT.

IF YOU ARE IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT OF INCREASING THE TOTAL SALARY AND HOUSING LINE BY WHAT WILL AMOUNT TO 3%, IN THE LEVEL-2 BUDGET, INDICATE SO BY SAYING AYE.

>> AYE.

>> IF YOU'RE OPPOSED, SAY NO.

>> NO.

>> THE MOTION FAILS, AND WE ARE NOW --

>> DIVISION.

>> OKAY, WE'RE CALLING FOR A DIVISION.

GREEN CARDS, PLEASE, IF YOU FAVOR THE MOTION.

PLEASE INDICATE BY RAISING YOUR GREEN CARD, AND HOLDING IT HIGH WHILE WE LOOK AROUND TO SEE HOW GREEN THE ROOM IS.

YOU MAY NOW PUT THOSE DOWN.

IF YOU OPPOSE THE MOTION, PLEASE RAISE YOUR RED CARDS.

I THINK IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THAT THE RED -- YES, WE THINK IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THAT THE MOTION HAS FAILED.

YOU NOW HAVE THE BUDGET BEFORE YOU AGAIN, AM I RIGHT?

THE BUDGET IS BEFORE YOU.

IS THERE DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET?

I THINK WE MUST BE READY TO VOTE ON THE BUDGET.

THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS TO APPROVE THE 2010-2011 MINISTRY FUNDING PLAN AS PRESENTED.

ALL OF THOSE IN FAVOR, PLEASE SAY AYE.

>> AYE.

>> ALL OF THOSE OPPOSED, SAY NO.

WELL, GOOD JOB, BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE!

[APPLAUSE]

SOUNDED PRETTY UNANIMOUS TO ME.

WE NOW WANT TO CONSIDER THE FINAL RESOLUTIONS FOUND ON TAB G.

AND I CALL UPON PASTOR RANDY JONES, IF HE CAN STILL WALK UP TO THE DAIS AFTER ALL THE TIMES HE'S DONE THAT THIS WEEKEND, CHAIR OF OUR REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE.

WE WILL BE DISCUSSING AND VOTING ON THE FINAL RESOLUTIONS 2009-06 AND 2009-08.

>> AND ONE THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT, 09.

>> I MENTIONED THAT EARLIER, BUT THAT WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED.

>> NO, IT'S NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED.

THEY'LL SEE WHY WHEN WE GET THERE.

06 IS A RESOLUTION TO MEMORIALIZE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY TO REQUIRE WHAT IS KNOWN AS A SUPERMAJORITY VOTE FOR POLICIES PERTAINING TO ORDINATION PRACTICES.

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.

QUOTE, 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 2/3 VOTE BY THE ASSEMBLY FOR ADOPTION, CLOSE QUOTE.
REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS CONSIDERATION.

>> ONE NOTE HERE, AS A FRIENDLY CORRECTION, WHILE THE MOTION IS
CORRECT, THE TITLE THAT WE'VE GIVEN THE MOTION IS NOT.

IT SHOULD SAY, "TO REQUIRE A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE."

ACCORDING TO ROBERT'S RULES, A SUPERMAJORITY AND 2/3 MAJORITY
ARE NOT THE SAME THING, SO IT IS A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE FOR POLICY
CHANGES.

THE RESOLVED IS CORRECT.

IT COMES TO YOU FROM THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE,
AND IT NEEDS TO BE MOVED.

IT IS MOVED.

IS IT SECONDED?

>> SECONDED.

>> IT IS SECONDED, AND IT IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSION.

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THE RESOLUTION 2009-06,
PLEASE GO TO THE MICROPHONE.

I'M LOOKING -- I THINK EITHER PEOPLE ARE GOING FOR COFFEE OR TO
THE MICROPHONE.

IT'S THE MICROPHONE.

MICROPHONE 4.

>> I NEED COFFEE.

I'M ED WOLFE, I'M MISSION PASTOR, CROSS OF GRACE, JONESBOROUGH,
CONFERENCE NUMBER 6.

WE'RE STILL NUMBER ONE, AND CLUSTER NUMBER ONE.

I AM IN FAVOR OF THIS MOTION.

BY EXPERIENCE, MY FIRST CALL WAS IN A CONGREGATION WHERE THE
SANCTUARY WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND, EXCEPT FOR THE WALLS.

IT WAS REBUILT, AND THE BUILDING COMMITTEE DID A MAJOR SHIFT IN

EVERYTHING IN THE SANCTUARY.

WHEN IT CAME BEFORE THE CONGREGATION, THE CONGREGATION VOTED "YES" BY A ONE-VOTE MAJORITY.

AND EVERYONE AGREED ON THE BUILDING COMMITTEE, ON THE COUNCIL, THAT THAT WAS TOO CLOSE OF A VOTE FOR SUCH A SIGNIFICANT DECISION.

I THINK THIS, WHAT WE'RE VOTING ON, HAS MORE TO DO THAN JUST A BUILDING.

I HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS WHO ARE MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN ME, AND THEY SHARE WITH ME THEIR CONCERN THAT THEY HEARD THAT THIS IS ONLY GOING TO TAKE A 50% VOTE, AND THEY ARE SAYING: THIS IS MANIPULATION, A LACK OF TRUST IN THE NATIONAL CHURCH, AND I'D LIKE TO CONCLUDE THAT IN 1973, I WENT TO THE MISSOURI SYNOD CONVENTION, IN WHICH SOME SIGNIFICANT VOTES WERE PASSED BECAUSE OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.

AND THAT CONVENTION IS NOW KNOWN AS THE CONVENTION THAT THEOLOGY WAS DECIDED BY ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.

I HOPE THIS NATIONAL CONVENTION, OR ASSEMBLY, DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME IDENTIFICATION.

>> THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 1.

>> HI, PASTOR MEGAN JONES --

>> I'M SORRY.

YEAH.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HOLD JUST ONE SECOND?

>> ABSOLUTELY.

>> IF SOMEBODY COULD MOVE MICROPHONE 3 BACK WHERE IT IS, OR MICROPHONE 1 UP.

I CAN'T SEE MICROPHONE 3 IF SOMEBODY IS STANDING AT MICROPHONE

1.

I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

I'M JUST SAYING I COULDN'T SEE THE MICROPHONE.

I KNOW IT'S HERE UP HERE.

THANK YOU, THAT'S MUCH BETTER.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

NOW, I THINK IT WAS MICROPHONE 3.

I APOLOGIZE TO MICROPHONE 1.

>> BOB GIBELING, REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ATLANTA, AND THE NEW TRINITY CONFERENCE.

I'VE BEEN AN OBSERVER AT EVERY CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY SINCE 1993, AND IT'S BEEN MY OBSERVATION, WHICH IS CONFIRMED IN DISCUSSIONS, THAT THE SIMPLE MAJORITY RULE FOR POLICY DECISIONS IS THE STANDARD TRADITION AND PRACTICE OF THE ELCA, AND IT WAS ONLY AT THE LAST CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY WHERE A SPECIAL RULE WAS ADOPTED WHICH REQUIRED THE 2/3 MAJORITY, AND SO THIS GOING BACK TO THE SIMPLE MAJORITY IS A CONTINUATION OF WHAT HAS BEEN THE TRADITION AND PRACTICE OF THE ELCA, AND, IN FACT, OF PREDECESSOR CHURCHES WHICH WRESTLED WITH HUGE QUESTIONS, SUCH AS RACIAL INTEGRATION AND THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN. SO THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF OUR TRADITION, AND SO I OPPOSE THIS RESOLUTION.

>> THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 2.

>> PASTOR TERRI STAGNER-COLLIER, CHRISTUS VICTOR, OCEAN SPRINGS.

I APPRECIATE THE PREVIOUS SPEAKER'S TALK ABOUT THE HISTORY.

HOWEVER, I THINK THE MOST RECENT HISTORY IN PEOPLE'S MINDS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PEW IS THIS DISCUSSION AND DEBATE FROM 2007,

AND THE DECISION AT THAT TIME WAS THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE A 2/3 MAJORITY TO MAKE THE DECISION.

I BELIEVE TO CHANGE THE STANDARD MIDSTREAM WOULD ONLY INCREASE THE SENSE OF DISTRUST OR ALIENATION HELD BY MORE CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS WITHIN OUR DENOMINATION, AND I FIRMLY -- IT FEELS LIKE IT'S -- WE HAVE TO MONKEY WITH THE RULES NOW IN ORDER TO GET THIS THROUGH, AND I AM VERY CONCERNED FOR WHAT THAT WOULD DO TO OUR DENOMINATION AND THE FOLKS IN THE PEWS.
>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MICROPHONE 1.

>> GOOD MORNING, PASTOR MEGAN JONES, LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT GEORGIA TECH, IN CONFERENCE TRINITY.
THE EXPLICIT INTENT OF THE WORK BY THE TASK FORCE WAS TO ALLOW FOR STRUCTURED FLEXIBILITY.

IT'S CLEAR AND PERSISTING THAT WE DISAGREE IN THE CHURCH, AND THAT'S WHAT THE TASK FORCE IS ACKNOWLEDGING AFTER 8 YEARS OF HARD WORK.

SO IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE THAT WE SHOULD FORCE CONSENSUS. IN FACT, THE STATEMENT SAYS, WE CANNOT HAVE CONSENSUS. WE WILL NOT HAVE CONSENSUS, AND THAT'S NOT AN INTENDED GOAL. WE WILL LIVE IN UNITY EVEN AS WE DISAGREE SO TO ALLOW FOR A 2/3 MAJORITY WOULD, IN FACT, MEAN THAT A MINORITY WOULD MAKE A POLICY DECISION.

>> THANK YOU.

I THINK I MIGHT HAVE GONE OUT OF ORDER THERE.

I BEG YOUR INDULGENCE, BUT WE'LL GO TO 4 GREEN AND 2 RED.

>> PASTOR SCOTT PETERSON, MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, MADISON, ALABAMA, NOW CONFERENCE NUMBER 7.

I'VE WRITTEN DOWN MY COMMENTS TO TRY TO BE CONCISE.

FIRST, CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED SO PERSISTENTLY AND PATIENTLY ON THIS ISSUE TO GET TO THE DAY WHEN YOU HAVE PREVAILED.

I HOPE THOSE OF US WHO HAVE RESISTED THIS CHANGE WILL BE AS GRACIOUS IN DEFEAT AS YOU HAVE BEEN OVER THE YEARS.

TWO YEARS AGO AT THE ASSEMBLY, WHEN OUR EXCELLENT BISHOP WAS ELECTED, I LISTENED TO TWO IMPASSIONED ELOQUENT PLEAS TO THE ASSEMBLY.

BOTH SAID THAT THIS ISSUE WAS HURTING OUR WITNESS TO THE WORLD, WAS A PLAGUE DRAGGING DOWN THE ELCA, AND WE NEEDED TO ACT DECISIVELY TO PUT THIS ISSUE TO REST.

IT STRUCK ME THAT EACH WAS RIGHT, THOUGH THEY WERE ARGUING FOR EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE ACTION.

ONE FOR CHANGE, ONE FOR KEEPING THE CURRENT STANDARDS. PERHAPS THE DAY IS APPROACHING WHEN BOTH WILL HAVE THEIR HOPE FULFILLED.

20 YEARS AGO AT MY FIRST SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY, THIS ISSUE WAS NOT VERY PROMINENT.

THIS YEAR AT THE ASSEMBLY, 5 OF THE 8 RESOLUTIONS WE CONSIDER ARE RELATED TO THIS ISSUE.

IT HAS BECOME OUR ISSUE, AS THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD AND THE ELCA.

THE ISSUE THAT APPARENTLY DEFINES US AS A CHURCH.

WE'RE NOW ON COURSE TO FOLLOW THE TRAIL OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH HAVE BLAZED BEFORE US.

I HOPE THAT TRAIL DOES NOT LEAD US INTO COURTROOMS HAGGLING OVER PROPERTY.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MICROPHONE 2.

>> CONNIE MUNSON, ST. JOHN'S TRINITY CONFERENCE.
AT THIS ASSEMBLY, DR. FRETHEIM LIT A FIRE UNDER US.
HE CHALLENGED US TO FEED, SHELTER, CLOTHE PEOPLE IN NEED.
AND IF YOU'RE AWAKE, YOU KNOW THAT THE NEED IS GREAT, AND IT'S EVERYWHERE.

DR. BUBA ALSO CHALLENGED US TO LOOK AT MISSIONAL HOSPITALITY,
AND THE CENTRALITY OF JESUS IN THIS GREAT BANQUET FEAST THAT WE SHARE.

THIS IS THE WORK OF THE CHURCH.

THESE ARE THE ISSUES THAT WE NEED TO BE WORKING ON, BUT WE CAN'T BE WORKING ON THOSE AS LONG AS WE ARE STRUGGLING WITH THIS ISSUE.

THE PROPOSAL ALLOWS US A WAY FORWARD, THAT ALLOWS FOR THE BOUND CONSCIENCES OF PEOPLE ON EACH SIDE OF THIS ISSUE.

IT'S TRUE, I HAVE SOME SYMPATHY FOR PEOPLE WHO SAY THAT THIS ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE DECIDED BY A 51% MAJORITY.

BUT IF WE SUPPORT THIS MEMORIAL, THEN IN ESSENCE, WE'RE ASKING A MINORITY OF 34% TO DECIDE THE POLICY OF THE CHURCH, AND I DON'T THINK THAT THAT'S RIGHT.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 1.

>> LAURA SENEKER-JONES, ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH,
CHATTANOOGA.

REFERRING TO PAST VOTING POLICIES AS TRADITION IS TO ME SIMPLY A BUSINESS DECISION.

BELIEVING IN SIN BOLDLY AND BELIEVE MORE BOLDLY, IT IS A TRADITION.
THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ISSUE.

I WOULD ALSO SAY THAT THERE MAY BE OTHER ISSUES THAT WE

SHOULD CONSIDER AT SOME POINT OF MAKING IT A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE, AS WELL.

AND I'M IN SUPPORT OF THIS AMENDMENT, BECAUSE IT IS SO CLOSE THAT I REALLY FEEL LIKE THE MAJORITY AT THIS TIME AND PLACE NEED TO BE THE 2/3 AGREEMENT TO OR NOT TO.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MICROPHONE 3.

>> SCOTT MALLIS, PRINCE OF PEACE, ALPHARETTA.

IN THE FALL OF 2007, I APPROACHED MY PARTNER OF 10 YEARS THIS OCTOBER 13th ABOUT GOING INTO THE SEMINARY.

AND HE LOOKED AT ME, AND HE SAID IMMEDIATELY, "I WILL SUPPORT YOU IN WHATEVER YOU DO, BUT WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO JOIN SOMETHING THAT DOES NOT SUPPORT YOU?"

SINCE THAT TIME, I'VE ALWAYS -- I'VE BEEN A LUTHERAN EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG.

I ATTEND CHURCH REGULARLY.

I'M IN THE CHURCH CHOIR.

THIS WEEKEND, OUR PASTOR ACTUALLY ASKED ME TO START BAKING THE BREAD THAT HE BLESSES EVERY SUNDAY.

I'M ON CHURCH COUNCIL.

I'M ON THE SYNOD BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE, BUT YET I CAN'T HOLD THAT FINAL POSITION.

AND I THINK THIS RESOLUTION IS STRICTLY AIMED AT STOPPING A PROPOSAL THAT WAS ACCEPTED YESTERDAY, AND I WOULD URGE THOSE THAT ARE ON THE FENCE TO PLEASE VOTE AGAINST THIS.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MICROPHONE 4.

>> CHUCK SEDGEWICK, TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, HIXSON, TENNESSEE.

IN MY OPINION, THIS IS A WATERSHED ISSUE AND REQUIRES A 2/3 MAJORITY.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MICROPHONE 3.

>> BILL LEVISAY, ST. JOHN'S ATLANTA, TRINITY CONFERENCE.

LAST NIGHT, WE HEARD FROM THE CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT BEING AT THE CROSSROADS OF FEAR AND HOPE.

WHAT'S POWERFUL TO ME, AND AS I THINK ABOUT OUR WALK OF FAITH, IS THAT WE DON'T STAY THERE, BUT ALWAYS, THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS, LOOK TO HOPE.

AND AS I SAID YESTERDAY, THE STRUCTURED FLEXIBILITY OF THE PROPOSAL TO ME IS ONE OF GREAT HOPE, THAT GIVES US GREAT FLEXIBILITY, AND WE SHOULD NOT BE FEARFUL OF IT AT ALL.

CERTAINLY THERE'S CHALLENGES, BUT THE WALK OF FAITH IS A WALK OF HOPE.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MICROPHONE 3.

>> JOANNE COLLINS, LORD OF LIFE, ALPHARETTA, CONFERENCE 5.

WE ARE AT A CROSSROADS OF FEAR AND HOPE, AND MANY OF OUR CONGREGATIONS WILL BE FEARFUL OF THE DECISIONS THAT ARE MADE, AND I STRONGLY FEEL THAT THE 2/3 VOTE WOULD HELP LAY TO REST SOME OF THOSE FEARS, AND IF WE TRULY TRUST THAT NOW IS THE TIME WHEN GOD WILL PROVIDE THOSE VOTES, OR IF IT'S NOT THE TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR YOUTH, MAYBE IT WILL BE THEIR TIME, IF IT'S NOT IN OURS.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MICROPHONE 4.

>> SHARON BOST, HOLY TRINITY, MARIETTA, MEMBER OF SYNOD

COUNCIL.

I THINK WE NEED TO BE CLEAR THAT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IS THE POLICY STATEMENT, NOT THE SOCIAL STATEMENT.

THE POLICY STATEMENTS ARE LIKE VISIONS AND EXPECTATIONS THAT WERE PASSED BY CHURCHWIDE COUNCILS, AS A MAJORITY.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ON POLICIES ARE ONLY A SIMPLE MAJORITY.

THE THINGS THAT REQUIRE SUPERMAJORITIES IN OUR CONSTITUTION ARE: SOCIAL STATEMENTS, WHICH WILL REQUIRE THAT 2/3.

THAT'S ALREADY THERE.

ECUMENICAL AGREEMENT SUCH AS WITH THE METHODIST CHURCH AND AMENDMENTS TO THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS.

SO THE POLICY IS NOT SET IN STONE, EITHER.

IT'S THE BISHOPS' MEETINGS.

THE BISHOPS AND THE CHURCH COUNCIL ARE THE ONES WHO SET POLICY.

THE CHURCH ITSELF AS A GENERAL RULE AS THE ASSEMBLY DOES NOT SET POLICY.

WE'RE REQUIRING A STANDARD, AND I UNDERSTAND ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS SAID: WE DON'T WANT TO PASS SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITH ONE VOTE, BUT YET 1/3 OF THE PEOPLE ARE CONTROLLING POSSIBLY THE DECISIONS THAT WE'RE MAKING HERE.

WE'RE GOING TO POSSIBLY ALIENATE HALF OF THE CHURCH EITHER WAY.

IN EITHER DIRECTION THAT THIS GOES, WHETHER IT PASSES OR NOT, THERE'S GOING TO BE PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT SATISFIED.

AND I DON'T THINK THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT WILL EVER BE A CONSENSUS ON, SO WE AS LUTHERANS TRY TO AGREE TO DISAGREE, AND EACH PERSON HAS TO DO IN THEIR OWN HEART WHAT THEY AGREE, I MEAN,

WHAT THEY FEEL IS THE ISSUES.

MY SON IS GAY.

HE WANTED TO BE A PASTOR HIS WHOLE LIFE.

AT SOME POINT, HE DECIDED TO GO TO SEMINARY.

AND HE SAID: OKAY, WELL, I CAN BE CELIBATE.

BUT THE MORE HE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE MORE HE WANTED WHAT ALL OF US HERE HAVE: A FAMILY, A SIGNIFICANT OTHER, SOMEONE WHO WE LOVE AND TRUST AND COME HOME TO EVERY DAY.

AND I AM SO SAD FOR HIM THAT HE CANNOT DO THAT, BECAUSE HE IS A RULE-BASED PERSON, AND IF THE CHURCH TELLS HIM HE CAN'T DO IT, HE WON'T.

BUT WHAT A LOSS THAT WE HAVE.

THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE THAT WE'RE LOSING, YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BE PASTORS IF THESE GUIDELINES ARE STILL FOLLOWED.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

I HOPE THAT THE ASSEMBLY WON'T TAKE THIS AS ARGUMENTATIVE, BECAUSE I'M NOT SPEAKING ON EITHER SIDE OF THIS.

I JUST DID WANT TO MAKE ONE SLIGHT CORRECTION: IN THIS CHURCH, BISHOPS DON'T MAKE ANY POLICIES ABOUT ANYTHING.

THE COUNCIL, HOWEVER, DOES.

THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 2.

GREEN, YES.

>> ELISE MILLER, WARNER ROBINS, FAITH LUTHERAN, AND IT'S DISTRICT 1.

UP UNTIL NOW, I FEEL THAT THE ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN REALLY, REALLY OPEN.

LOTS OF INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROCESSED BY PEOPLE, AND I THINK IT'S BEEN A REALLY, REALLY POSITIVE EXCHANGE.

BUT NOW I'M BEGINNING TO HEAR FROM PEOPLE WHO FEEL THAT THERE'S A CHANCE THEY'RE GOING TO BE TRAMPED ON, THAT THEY WON'T GET AN EVEN HAND.

DO THEY UNDERSTAND THAT IF THIS PASSES ON A 2/3 VOTE, THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IS THAT MUCH LARGER IN THE POSITION OF FAIRNESS? THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MICROPHONE 2, RED.

>> PASTOR JILL HENNING, TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, LILBURN, GEORGIA, MAGI CONFERENCE.

POLICIES IN THIS CHURCH, OUR CURRENT POLICY WAS MADE BY THE CHURCH COUNCIL, THE ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL.

EVERY OTHER POLICY THAT WE'VE EVER HAD THAT'S COME BEFORE A CHURCH -- CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

WHEN THE ELCA VOTED TO ORDAIN WOMEN, THE VOTE WAS 538 TO 431.

I AM THANKFUL THAT IT ONLY TOOK A MAJORITY.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

I WANT TO REMIND THE HOUSE NOW BEFORE WE PROCEED THAT IT IS 11:55.

WE'RE SCHEDULED TO BE FINISHED IN 5 MINUTES.

WE HAVE WORK YET TO DO.

WE CAN CONTINUE UNTIL NOON, AND THEN QUIT, OR WE COULD HAVE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE ORDERS OF THE DAY FOR A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME, TO FINISH OUR WORK.

WE HAVE A YELLOW CARD AT MICROPHONE 1.

>> CRYSTAL OXNER FROM LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

IN MARIETTA, GEORGIA.

I MOVE TO CALL THE QUESTION ON THIS.

>> THANK YOU, BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT WITH A YELLOW CARD.

I'M SORRY.

SORRY, CRYSTAL.

RED CARD, AND YOU HAVE TO STAND IN LINE TO MOVE THE QUESTION.

>> WE DID THAT YESTERDAY WITH THE YELLOW.

>> I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T CATCH IT.

IF SOMEONE IS STANDING IN LINE -- WHO WAS NEXT?

>> 4.

>> MY NAME IS TOM HEWLETT.

I'M WITH HOLY CROSS IN ATHENS.

THAT'S THE MAGI CONFERENCE, AND I CALL THE QUESTION.

>> THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> ALL IN FAVOR OF STOPPING THE DEBATE AND VOTING, PLEASE INDICATE SO BY SAYING AYE.

>> AYE.

>> OPPOSED, NO.

YOU'RE ALL STILL AWAKE.

SO THE QUESTION BEFORE US IS THE RESOLUTION TO MEMORIALIZE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY TO REQUIRE A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE FOR POLICY CHANGES PERTAINING TO ORDINATION PRACTICES.

ALL OF THOSE WHO FAVOR THIS RESOLUTION, PLEASE INDICATE IT BY HOLDING UP YOUR GREEN CARD, PLEASE.

IF YOU FAVOR THE RESOLUTION, PLEASE HOLD YOUR GREEN CARD.

THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE RESOLUTION, PLEASE HOLD YOUR RED CARD.

I BELIEVE THAT THE -- IT'S AWFULLY CLOSE, ISN'T IT?

I THINK WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COUNT, WHICH IS GOING TO PUT US PAST 1:00, AND WE STILL HAVE A COUPLE OF -- 12:00, AND WE STILL HAVE A COUPLE OF OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER.

WOULD ANYBODY BE INTERESTED IN TAKING A YELLOW CARD AND MOVING TO EXTEND THE ORDERS OF THE DAY.

>> MIKE FRANKLIN, HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, CONFERENCE 8.

AND I WOULD MOVE TO EXTEND THE PLENARY, THE ASSEMBLY, FOR AN EXTRA -- DO YOU WANT 15 OR 30?

>> 30.

>> -- FOR AN ADDITIONAL 30 MINUTES.

>> TO EXTEND THE ORDERS OF THE DAY TO 30 MINUTES.

IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?

ALL OF THOSE WHO FAVOR EXTENDING THE ORDERS OF THE DAY UNTIL 12:30, PLEASE SAY AYE.

>> AYE.

>> THOSE OPPOSED, SAY NO.

>> NO.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THE AYES HAVE IT, AND WE WILL NOW GO BACK TO CONTINUE VOTING ON RESOLUTION 2009-06.

WE NEED TO COUNT THIS, SO IF YOU FAVOR THE RESOLUTION TO MEMORIALIZE THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY TO REQUIRE A 2/3 VOTE ON POLICY CHANGES PERTAINING TO ORDINATION PRACTICES, PLEASE INDICATE THAT BY RAISING AND HOLDING UP YOUR GREEN CARD UNTIL ONE OF THE POLL WORKERS ASKS YOU TO PUT THE CARD DOWN.

HAVE WE COUNTED ALL THE GREEN CARDS?

I THINK WE HAVE.

IF YOU OPPOSE THE MOTION, PLEASE HOLD YOUR RED CARD UP UNTIL ONE OF THE POLL WORKERS ASKS YOU TO PUT IT DOWN.

ANNETTE HARRIS IS DANCING FOR US WHILE WE ARE COUNTING THE VOTES.

WHILE WE'RE WAITING ON THAT TABULATION, YOU MIGHT WANT TO GO AHEAD AND TURN TO RESOLUTION 2009-08.

2009-08.

YOU WILL RECALL WE PASSED A RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ON THE ISSUE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION.

THIS IS A MOTION TO THIS SYNOD, NOT TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY.

IT'S ON THE SAME TOPIC, BUT IT'S A DIFFERENT MOTION, 2009-08.

>> IT IS A RESOLUTION, NOT A MEMORIAL.

>> YES, IT'S A RESOLUTION.

IT'S NOT A MEMORIAL.

THANK YOU.

>> I'D LIKE TO SPEAK A MOMENT TO THIS RESOLUTION.

>> IF YOU COULD WAIT JUST A MINUTE, UNTIL WE HAVE IT MOVED.

I THINK WE WANT TO WAIT ON THE VOTING.

IT SHOULD JUST TAKE A SECOND.

AND WE HAVE THE RESULTS COMING.

PASTOR ROSSING IS BRINGING THEM NOW.

THESE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE COUNTED BALLOTS ON RESOLUTION ABOUT THE 2/3 MAJORITY.

YES, 150.

NO, 174.

SO THE MOTION FAILS.

WE'RE NOW AT 2009-08, AND WE CALL UPON PASTOR RANDY JONES TO

READ THE RESOLUTION.

>> 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 HOME PAGE, 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.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS CONSIDERATION.

>> THIS HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR CONSIDERATION BY REFERENCE AND COUNSEL.

IS THERE A MOTION TO ACCEPT -- TO DISCUSS THIS RESOLUTION?

>> SO MOVED.

>> IT'S MOVED.

IS IT SECONDED?

>> SECOND.

>> IT IS SECONDED AND IT IS NOW BEFORE YOU.

I BELIEVE THAT MS. SENEKER-JONES WANTED TO SPEAK TO THAT.
BEFORE YOU DO THAT, HOWEVER, I NEGLECTED TO ASK THIS EARLIER:
COULD YOU TELL US WHERE THIS MOTION COMES FROM?

[TECHNICAL TROUBLE - COMPUTER RESTART]

>> -- RECOGNIZED LINKS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

I WOULD NOTE THAT YOU MAY BE SURPRISED THAT THE ACADEMY OF
PEDIATRICS IS ON THIS.

THEY ARE NOW RECOMMENDING THAT FAMILY PHYSICIANS START
SCREENING CHILDREN AT AGE 9 FOR DEPRESSION, AND THAT BETWEEN
15 AND 30, 75% OF SUICIDES COULD BE PREVENTED, WITH SHORT-TERM
COUNSELING OR SHORT-TERM COUNSELING AND MEDICATION.

SO IF YOU LOOK AROUND IN A STORE AND YOU SEE 10 KIDS, 7 OF THEM
COULD BE DEAD TOMORROW, AND IT WOULDN'T EVEN BE NECESSARY.
I REALLY HOPE WE CAN GO WITH THIS RESOLUTION, AND THEN FURTHER
EXPAND IT NEXT YEAR.

>> THANK YOU.

OTHER DISCUSSION?

MICROPHONE 4.

>> A. JONES, ST. PAUL'S IN TENNESSEE.

2.5 YEARS AGO, I EXPERIENCED A TRAGEDY.

MY FATHER HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE, AND IT SHOOK ME TO MY VERY
CORE.

I AM IN TOTAL FAVOR OF ANY EDUCATION THAT WE CAN POSSIBLY
LEARN ABOUT SUICIDE, AND I ONLY HAVE A HANDFUL OF THINGS TO
REMEMBER HIM BY.

I HAVE THE MEMORIES.

I HAVE HIS LAST NAME, AND I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE, TOO.

IF YOU CAN GET A SHOT OF THIS, I GOT THAT FOR HIM.

THAT'S HOW I KEEP HIM CLOSE.

AND IT'S HARD TO KEEP FAITH IN A TIME LIKE THAT.

AND THAT WAS A TIME THAT I REALLY TURNED TO GOD.

AND WITH YOU TELLING ME, BISHOP, ABOUT PROJECT CONNECT --

WHERE IS PASTOR MURRAY?

GAME ON.

I'M IN!

[APPLAUSE]

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU BEFORE THE DAY'S OVER.

SO THANK YOU, AND ANYTHING THAT WE CAN DO TO LEARN MORE

ABOUT THIS IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> ANYTHING.

THANK YOU.

>> I'M SUPPOSED TO SAY: NO DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE ASSEMBLY.

THANK YOU.

BUT I'LL COUNT THAT AS THE SPIRIT'S MOVEMENT.

[LAUGHTER]

MICROPHONE 4.

>> DR. EVON FLESBERG, CONFERENCE 2, TALKING PLACE PASTORAL
COUNSELING SERVICE.

I MOVE IN FAVOR OF THIS RESOLUTION.

MY UNCLE COMMITTED SUICIDE PAST 70, AFTER A SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL
REPORT.

IF WE ARE NOT PEOPLE OF FAITH WHO ARE EMBOLDENED TO STAND
WITH PEOPLE WHO SUFFER, WHO HAVE NO HOPE, THEN WE ARE
NOTHING.

AND JESUS ALWAYS STOOD WITH THOSE WHO HAD NO HOPE AND WERE
ON THE EDGE.

WE HAVE FINANCIAL CRISES.

PEOPLE THINK THEY CAN'T SURVIVE AND KILL THEMSELVES, AND THEIR FAMILIES TAKE EVERYBODY WITH THEM.

WE HAVE THE ELDERLY WHO HAVE EXTREME MEDICAL COSTS.

WE HAVE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FEEL HOPELESS AND GOD-FORSAKEN.

WE HAVE GAY, LESBIAN AND TRANSGENDERED AND BISEXUAL PEOPLE WHO FEEL GOD WOULD LOVE THEM BETTER DEAD THAN ALIVE.

THIS IS A PLACE TO STAND TOGETHER.

I VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS RESOLUTION.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

OTHER DISCUSSION OF THE MOTION BEFORE US?

I THINK -- OKAY, WE ARE READY TO VOTE.

YOU'RE PLAYING, YOU'RE MESSING WITH ME UP HERE.

YOUR TIME'S A-COMING, BUDDY.

RESOLUTION 2009-08 ON SUICIDE PREVENTION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD, WHICH DIRECTS THE SYNOD STAFF AND COUNCIL TO DO SEVERAL THINGS, IS BEFORE US.

ALL OF THOSE WHO FAVOR THE RESOLUTION, WOULD YOU PLEASE INDICATE THAT BY SAYING AYE.

>> AYE.

>> THOSE OPPOSED, SAY NO.

THE RESOLUTION CARRIES, I THINK UNANIMOUSLY.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, PASTOR JONES.

I BELIEVE YOU HAVE ONE MORE RESOLUTION FOR US.

>> I DO.

IT'S THE ANNUAL RESOLUTION OF THANKS FROM THE 2009 SYNOD ASSEMBLY.

I WANT TO READ THE WHEREASES.

>> PLEASE.

>> 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 I'M GOING TO AMEND THIS ON THE FLY.

AND WHEREAS, THE BISHOP'S BACKSIDE NOW FITS THE SEAT OF A CHEVY MALIBU.

[LAUGHTER]

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 THANKS 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 MANY WAYS.

SPECIAL THANKS ARE GIVEN TO THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE, CHAPLAIN MICHAEL LIPPARD, REVEREND DR. GEMECHIS BUBA, REVEREND DR. TERENCE FRETHEIM, REVEREND DONALD McCOID, AND ALL WHO LED WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND.

OF COURSE, REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS ADOPTION.

>> THANK YOU.

DO WE HAVE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> IT'S BEEN MOVED AND SECONDED.

IS THERE A DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION OF THANKS?

I WOULD REALLY PERSONALLY APPRECIATE IF YOU'D LEAVE THAT SECOND WHEREAS OUT.

ONE OF THE STATEMENTS YOU WISH YOU HADN'T MADE IN PUBLIC.

[LAUGHTER]

>> I COULDN'T LET IT GO, I'M SORRY.

>> ARE WE READY TO VOTE?

ALL OF THOSE IN FAVOR, PLEASE SAY AYE.

>> AYE.

>> THOSE OPPOSED, SAY NO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL.

THAT'S NOT A COMMITTEE YOU WANT TO BE ON, BUT IT IS A COMMITTEE THAT WE NEED AND THAT SERVES THE CHURCH WELL.

THIS HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING YEAR FOR THEM.

I REMIND YOU AGAIN THAT THEY STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU NEXT YEAR TO GET YOUR RESOLUTIONS IN BY THAT APRIL 15th -- IS IT 15th? SAME AS TAX DAY DEADLINE, SO THEY'LL HAVE TIME TO WORK AT THESE.

IN THEIR LEISURE, THEY HAVE OTHER JOBS AS WELL.

WE TURN TO THE REPORT FOR SESLYO.

I WANT TO WELCOME TO THE PODIUM MEMBERS OF THAT ORGANIZATION WHO HAVE BEEN WITH US THIS WEEK, AND HAVE BEEN SERVING US, WORKING FOR US, WORKING WITH US.

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THEM BECAUSE THEY MAKE UP A LARGE PART OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE BEEN HERE.

THEY'VE BEEN VERY DEDICATED.

I HOPE YOU'VE NOTICED HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY AMONG VOTING MEMBERS THIS YEAR, AS WELL.

JOIN ME IN WELCOMING SESLYO.

[APPLAUSE]

>> HELLO, EVERYBODY.

AND THANK YOU SO MUCH.

I KNOW WE'VE HAD A LOT TO DO TODAY AND THIS WEEKEND, SO I APPRECIATE EVERYBODY WHO STUCK AROUND TO LISTEN TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY.

I'LL GO AHEAD AND INTRODUCE MYSELF.

MY NAME IS ASHLYN NEAS.

I'M FROM CONFERENCE 6, USED TO BE CONFERENCE 1.

AND I AM THE INCOMING CHAIR OF THE SESLYO BOARD, WHICH IS THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION, THE SYNOD-WIDE GOVERNING BODY FOR YOUTH.

LOUIS TILLMAN AND ELIZABETH HAWKINS WILL ALSO COME UP AND SAY A LITTLE BIT TO THE ASSEMBLY TODAY.

AND I JUST HAVE A FEW THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS FIRST.

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO JUST THANK ALL OF THE PASTORS AND YOUTH LEADERS AND LAY PEOPLE HERE TODAY OR BACK AT YOUR CHURCHES WHO SUPPORT YOUTH MINISTRY IN THIS SYNOD.

WHETHER YOU DO IT DIRECTLY THROUGH SESLYO, BY VOLUNTEERING AND HELPING WITH US, BY VOLUNTEERING AT AFFIRM OR THE ALL-STATE EVENTS, THROUGH CAMPUS MINISTRY, OR JUST LOCALLY OR SYNOD-WIDE, IT'S VERY APPRECIATED.

BUT I HAVE TO PREACH TO YOU GUYS.

YOU GUYS ARE SO SUPPORTIVE OF US, THE BISHOP, THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

YOU GUYS ARE GREAT, ALLOWING US TO USE OUR VOICE, AND SO LIKE

CHILDREN TODAY, YOU GIVE US AN INCH, WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO TAKE THE WHOLE MILE.

[LAUGHTER]

WE STILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT DESPERATELY.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU GUYS CAN CONTINUE TO HELP US IN OUR MINISTRY.

ONE OF THOSE IS BY SIGNING UP FOR OUR WONDERFUL RACHEL ALLEY'S YOUTH eNEWS.

YOU CAN DO THAT THROUGH THE SYNOD WEBSITE.

THAT'S GREAT FOR KEEPING UP TO DATE ON ALL THE YOUTH EVENTS GOING ON, THINGS YOU CAN TAKE BACK TO THE YOUTH IN YOUR CONGREGATION.

ANOTHER WAY IS BY CONTRIBUTING FUNDS, SUCH AS TO THE AFFIRM SCHOLARS FUND, WHICH HELPS PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP MONEY TO CHILDREN WISHING TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL SYNOD EVENT, AFFIRM. PERHAPS THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT WAYS, THOUGH, ARE BY YOUR WORD OF MOUTH AND YOUR COOPERATION.

THE MORE YOU TELL PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT YOU HEAR HERE AND WHAT YOU HEAR FROM OTHER PEOPLE WHO TALK ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION, AND THE MORE YOU COOPERATE WITH US WHEN WE ASK YOU ALL TO HELP US DO THINGS TO HELP US SPONSOR EVENTS, HELP US FUND EVENTS, THAT ALL HELPS.

ACTUALLY, I KIND OF HAVE A BONE TO PICK.

AND I'M NOT SURE IF I SHOULD DO THIS, BUT I'M GOING TO DO IT ANYWAY.

WE HAD OUR ANNUAL ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR WHICH YOU'LL HEAR MORE ABOUT HERE IN JUST A COUPLE OF MINUTES.

ALONG WITH THE INFORMATION THAT WAS SENT TO YOUR CONGREGATIONS, WITH APPLICATIONS FOR SESLYO AND ALL THE

INFORMATION REGARDING THE ACTUAL ASSEMBLY WAS A SURVEY THAT SESLYO HAD PUT TOGETHER IN ORDER TO HELP US WITH A RESOLUTION THAT WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO PASS.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL WAS KIND ENOUGH TO HELP US, AND THEY SAID THAT WE NEEDED SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WHAT WE WERE SAYING.

AND SO WE PUT TOGETHER THIS SURVEY AND SENT IT OUT, ASKING PASTORS OF CHURCHES AND MEMBERS OF THEIR CHURCH COUNCILS TO FILL OUT THAT LITTLE 5-QUESTION SURVEY, SEND IT BACK IN.

I THINK RACHEL ALSO E-MAILED PASTORS THIS SURVEY.

AND REGRETTABLY, SINCE THAT TIME, WE HAVE ABOUT 6 OF THOSE SURVEYS.

AND THAT'S REALLY WHAT WE NEED, GUYS.

WE NEED YOUR HELP ON STUFF LIKE THAT.

SO WHEN YOU GET INFORMATION LIKE THAT OR SURVEYS AND THINGS OF THAT NATURE, DON'T JUST LET THEM SIT IN YOUR "IN: BOX OR YOUR CHURCH OFFICE.

BRING THOSE TO PEOPLE IN YOUR CONGREGATION WHO CAN FILL THAT INFORMATION OUT AND BRING THAT INFORMATION TO THE YOUTH, BECAUSE THAT'S REALLY THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR US.

I'M OFF MY SOAP BOX NOW.

THE LAST THING I WANT TO TALK ABOUT REALLY QUICK IS JUST SOMETHING THAT HAS KIND OF BEEN GOING ON RECENTLY IN OUR SYNOD, AND THESE ARE CONFERENCE EVENTS, WHICH I NOW KNOW THE CONFERENCES ARE ALL DIFFERENT AND EVERYTHING.

BUT THAT WILL JUST MAKE IT EVEN MORE NEW AND EXCITING.

SOME CONFERENCES THAT HAVE HOSTED THINGS, THE FORMER CONFERENCE 1, HAS HAD BOTH A FALL AND A SPRING JUST IN THIS MAY, A CONFERENCE JUST BRINGING ALL THE YOUTH FROM THE

CONFERENCE, ALL THE CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER, TO PROVIDE JUST A DAY OF FELLOWSHIP AND FUN.

ALSO, CONFERENCES 5 AND 10 HAVE HOSTED DIFFERENT MUSICAL GUESTS AND DIFFERENT SPEAKERS.

AND CONFERENCE 4 RECENTLY HAS HOSTED A "FINDING YOUR FIT" EVENT.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE CONFERENCE EVENTS THAT I KNOW ARE GOING ON.

I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO WHEN YOU HAVE THESE CONFERENCE MEETINGS, GET YOUR YOUTH INVOLVED, AND TRY TO SPONSOR AN EVENT LIKE THAT, BECAUSE IT BRINGS YOUR YOUTH SO MUCH CLOSER TOGETHER, AND IT REALLY HELPS THEM TO GET TO KNOW ABOUT THINGS LIKE SYNOD ASSEMBLY LIKE THE ORGANIZATION OF SESLYO.

THANK YOU GUYS SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME, AND I'M GOING TO TURN IT OVER TO ELIZABETH HAWKINS, OUR VICE CHAIR.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> LIKE ASHLYN SAID, I'M ELIZABETH HAWKINS, AND I'M FROM CONFERENCE 8.

[LAUGHTER]

AND -- I KNOW I'M FROM CONFERENCE 3, BUT NOW WE MOVED, SO I HAVE TO START SAYING 8, GREAT 8, 8.

I REALLY DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TO SAY, BECAUSE ASHLYN AND LOUIS KIND OF TOOK ALL OF IT, BUT NOT LIKE THEY TOOK IT FROM ME, LIKE, THEY SAID ALL OF IT.

ANYWAY, BUT NEXT YEAR, I'LL DO ALL MY TALKING, BUT I'M GOING TO GIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF MOST OF THE EVENTS THAT HAPPENED IN OUR SYNOD,, NOT NECESSARILY SYNOD EVENTS BUT, LIKE, THERE'S TECH, AND TECHS ARE SPORADICALLY PLACED THROUGHOUT THE

SYNOD.

THERE'S ONE IN EAST TENNESSEE AND ATLANTA AND ONE SOMEWHERE ELSE, ALABAMA.

I'M GETTING THERE.

[LAUGHTER]

AND TECH IS A MINISTRY WEEKEND, LIKE, IT'S A WEEKEND MINISTRY KIND OF THING, AND I CAN'T REALLY TELL YOU THAT MUCH ABOUT IT, BECAUSE THEN IT WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN, BUT YOU JUST KIND OF HAVE TO GO TO ONE.

AND THEN THERE'S HAPPENING, WHICH IS KIND OF THE SAME THING, BUT NOT.

[LAUGHTER]

BUT HAPPENING AND TECH ARE VERY SIMILAR IN THAT THEY'RE WEEKEND MINISTRIES, AND THEY'RE JUST LIKE A WEEKEND RETREAT THING WHERE KIDS COME AND SPEND THE ENTIRE WEEKEND, AND IT'S LIKE A FAITH FORMATION, SPIRITUALITY KIND OF THING.

AND THEN WE HAVE ALL-STATE EVENTS, WHICH THERE'S ALL-TENNESSEE, ALL-GEORGIA AND ALASSIPPI, ALL OF ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI.

ALL OF THE YOUTH FROM THAT STATE OR REGION COME TOGETHER AND HAVE A LITTLE WEEKEND EVENT THING AND HANG OUT AND PARTY.

THAT MIGHT BE ALL I -- OH, YOU WANT ME TO TALK ABOUT NATIONALS?

OH, YEAH, AND "WOW" STANDS FOR "WIN OUR WORLD."

IT'S AN URBAN MISSION CAMP IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.

AND YOUTH GROUPS COME FOR A WEEK AND THEY STAY AT THE CHURCH, AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN, AND THEY JUST LIKE GO DO MISSION ANYWHERE IN KNOXVILLE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

BUT -- AND THEN AT THE END OF OUR SUMMER, THE ELCA WILL BE HOSTING THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN YOUTH GATHERING, WHICH IS

BASICALLY, LIKE, ALL OF THE LUTHERAN YOUTH COME TOGETHER AND HANG OUT FOR A FEW DAYS AND DO STUFF.

AND IT'S KIND OF LIKE THIS, BUT WITH KIDS, AND NOT SO BUSINESS-Y.

[LAUGHTER]

BUT THEN WE HAVE THE LYO CONVENTION, WHICH IS JUST LIKE THIS BUT WITH KIDS, AND BUSINESS-Y.

AND A FEW OF US ARE GOING TO REPRESENT THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION, AND WE'RE JUST GOING TO HANG OUT THERE.

SO THAT'S ALL I HAVE, REALLY.

THAT'S HIS.

LEAVE ME ALONE.

[APPLAUSE]

>> GOOD AFTERNOON, LOUIS TILLMAN.

I'M PRESIDENT OF SESLYO FOR ABOUT ANOTHER MAYBE 6 MINUTES OR SO.

SO I'LL JUST SAY WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

FIRST OFF, AS MANY OF YOU POINTED OUT, I GOT SHOT DOWN AT THE MIC ABOUT TWO TIMES YESTERDAY, SO IT FEELS GOOD TO BE UP HERE FINALLY.

[LAUGHTER]

THANK YOU.

AS OUTGOING PRESIDENT, I WOULD LOVE TO MAKE SOME REMARKABLE AND YET PROLIFIC INSIGHTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION.

MANY OF YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE VISION STATEMENT THAT WE HAVE.

THE VISION OF SESLYO IS TO EMPOWER YOUTH TO SERVE AS LEADERS, TO ENCOURAGE GROWTH AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, AND TO PROVIDE A

VOICE FOR THE SOUTHEAST.

AS YOU SEE BY ALL THESE YOUTH, WE'VE TAKEN CARE OF THAT.

CAN WE PLEASE GET A ROUND OF APPLAUSE?

[APPLAUSE]

AND WITH THAT BEING SAID, I HAVE A FEW OF THE GLORIOUS ACTIVITIES THAT GOD HAS HELPED INSPIRE US YOUTH TO DO.

FIRST OFF, WE HAD OUR SESLYO ASSEMBLY IN 2009, JANUARY, IN TALLADEGA, ALABAMA, RIGHT BY THE MOTOR SPEEDWAY.

AND IT WAS A GOOD TURNOUT.

AS YOU SEE THE SHIRTS, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT, THIS IS A SHAMPOO BOTTLE, NOT A LIQUOR BOTTLE OR ANYTHING.

AND THAT'S WHY IT SAYS, "SIN BOLDLY," BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT MARTIN LUTHER SAID.

IF YOU'RE GONNA SIN, BETTER SIN BOLDLY.

YOU HEAR ME?

[LAUGHTER]

>> SHAMPOO?

>> YEAH, SHAMPOO.

EXTRA CONDITIONER.

ALSO, AS WAS POINTED OUT, WE HAD AFFIRM.

THE THEME LAST YEAR WAS ARISE, SHINE.

AND FOR A WEEK, THEY HAD IT, AND THE NEWEST GROUP WAS CRUCIFORMITY WHICH HELPED OUT WITH LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF AND STUFF.

IT'S JUNE 14-19 THIS YEAR.

THE THEME IS "COME AND FOLLOW ME?" AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA IN FLORENCE.

THERE'S A DIFFERENT NUMBER OF UNITS AND STUFF.

I DON'T KNOW IF REGISTRATION IS ALREADY FILLED, BUT I THINK THEY

HAVE, LIKE, 215 YOUTH WHICH IS PRETTY GOOD SINCE THE GATHERING IS GOING ON STILL.

IT'S 7th GRADE AND UP.

EACH UNIT IS TO FOCUS ON DIFFERENT SMALL GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES AND FREE TIME.

AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER ASSEMBLY.

SESLYO WILL HAVE ONE AT THE -- SOMETIME IN 2010.

AND WITH THAT BEING SAID, I'VE GOT A PRETTY, HOW DO I SAY, TEAR-JERKING AND ECSTATIC MOMENT AS I NOW CROWN OUR NEW QUEEN OF THE BOARD, BECAUSE I'M GETTING KICKED OFF MY THRONE FOR THIS YEAR.

SO MS. ASHLYN NEAS, THE NEW SESLYO PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR 2010.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU.

>> I BELIEVE WE HAVE A SLIDE SHOW WITH PICTURES FROM EVENTS FROM THIS YEAR, SO WHOEVER NEEDS GET THAT GOING.

THANK YOU.

>> WHILE THE SLIDE SHOW IS GOING, I'M GOING TO ASK MARY PETERSON TO JOIN ME UP HERE AT THE STAGE, AND ALSO LOUIS.

I AM RACHEL ALLEY.

I'M THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES.

>> THE REAL DIRECTOR.

>> THE REAL DIRECTOR, YEAH.

AND I AM JUST HONORED TO SHARE THAT LOUIS TILLMAN WON THE, OR I GUESS HE WOULD CALL IT WON, OR RECEIVED THE SERVICE THRIVENT SERVICE AWARD, YOUTH SERVICE AWARD, FOR THE SOUTHEAST THIS YEAR, IN 2009.

[APPLAUSE]

[CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

WE'VE HAD A LOT OF FUN THIS YEAR WITH LOUIS, YOU CAN TELL.
HE'S HEADED OFF TO CARTHAGE LUTHERAN COLLEGE IN WISCONSIN.
HE GRADUATED, OF COURSE, JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.
HE SERVED, OF COURSE, ON OUR BOARD THIS PAST YEAR.
AND HE WAS AWARDED THIS SCHOLARSHIP, RIGHT?
SCHOLARSHIP, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, BECAUSE OF HIS ACTIVITIES AT
CHRIST THE LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH, WHERE HE'S BEEN INVOLVED IN
WORSHIP, THE WORSHIP YOUTH PLANNING TEAM.
HE'S BEEN INVOLVED IN SERVICE PROJECTS.
HE WENT ON A MISSION TRIP.
AND THEN HE'S WITH WORKED WITH ALLA AND DONE EVENTS WITH
THEM, AS WELL AS, OF COURSE, SYNOD YOUTH EVENTS.
THIS NEXT WEEK, YOU'RE HEADED OFF TO BISHOP SCHOOL, AND THEN
THIS SUMMER HE'LL BE ESCORTING A YOUTH FROM ETHIOPIA TO THE
GATHERING AND OTHER EVENTS, SO HIS SERVICE WILL JUST CONTINUE
ON AND ON, AND WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU.
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT COMES FOR YOU IN THE FUTURE.

>> DEFINITELY.

>> AND I'M GOING TO MISS YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

AND ONE MORE THING, TOO.

A YOUTH CAN'T DO THIS BY THEMSELVES.

LOUIS AND PATRICE TILLMAN, WILL YOU GUYS STAND UP?

AND HIS GRANDMAMA, BECAUSE THEY DROVE THEM -- DROVE LOUIS
EVERYWHERE.

[APPLAUSE]

AND HAS PRODDED HIM AND HELPED HIM AND GUIDED HIM, AND NOW
HE'S A YOUNG MAN READY TO STEP INTO THE FUTURE, BECAUSE OF
YOU.

>> WE HAVE A POINT OF ORDER, MICROPHONE 2.

>> LARRY WALKER FROM TRIUMPHANT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
DOWN IN DOTHAN, ALABAMA.

AND I WANT TO SAY TO THESE YOUNG LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT I
SPENT 20 YEARS IN THE ARMY.

I RETIRED AS A SERGEANT.

I'M A RETIRED FIRST SERGEANT.

MY JOB WAS ALWAYS TO SEE THAT I TRAINED OTHERS TO REPLACE ME.
EXCUSE ME.

IT DOES ME GOOD HEART TO SEE YOU HERE.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY YOU REPLACE ME.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> BISHOP GORDY, VOTING MEMBERS, VISITORS, AND FRIENDS, ON
BEHALF OF THRIVENT, WE'RE SO PROUD OF LOUIS AND ALL THE WORK
THAT HE HAS DONE, AND HE EXEMPLIFIES ALL OF OUR LUTHERAN KIDS
THAT WORK SO HARD.

ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT I AM MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED DURING
THESE TURBULENT ECONOMIC TIMES IS: HOW IS THRIVENT?

AND I AM PROUD TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER: IT IS VERY WELL.

WE REMAIN A FORTUNE 500 COMPANY THAT DOES NOT NEED BAILOUT
MONEY.

AND YOU MAY BE THINKING --

[APPLAUSE]

OKAY, THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW, BUT, YOU KNOW, WHO REALLY OWNS
THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS?

IS IT SOME MYSTERIOUS GROUP OF LUTHERAN FINANCIERS, OR IS IT THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD?

OR MAYBE IT'S THE ELCA LUTHERAN BISHOPS THAT OWN IT.

>> THAT'S OUR SECRET.

[LAUGHTER]

>> WELL, AND I HOPE THAT YOU ALL KNOW THAT THRIVENT IS OWNED BY ITS MEMBERS: LUTHERANS WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO PLACE THEIR FINANCIAL TRUST AND BUSINESS WITH THRIVENT.

YOU, AS THE OWNERS, MAKE POSSIBLE THE THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEER PROJECTS THAT HELP TO MEET THE MANY NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

YOU KNOW THEM: THE LUNCHEES THAT ARE PROVIDED IN THE SUMMER TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE NO ONE AT HOME TO PROVIDE LUNCH.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, AND THE THRIVENT BUILDS PROJECT.

ANDY KREY'S SERVICE TO THE SEAMEN MINISTRY WHERE HE CAN OPEN UP THE BACK OF HIS TRUCK AND THERE'S THE ALTAR READY TO SERVE COMMUNION, ALL BECAUSE OF THE WORK YOU DO WITH THRIVENT CHAPTER SYSTEMS.

AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO DO THE VOLUNTEER WORK, BOTH AS LEADERS AND AS VOLUNTEERS.

USE THE RESOURCES THAT THRIVENT HAS.

WE HAVE A LOT OF FINANCIAL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, AND THERE'S A SHEET ON OUR BOOTH THAT TELLS THE THINGS THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR CONGREGATIONS.

HOW DO YOU LIVE IN STEWARDSHIP WITH YOUR FINANCES?

WE'RE THERE TO HELP YOU WITH THAT.

AND IF YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER, I INVITE YOU TO CONSIDER THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS TO PARTNER WITH YOU.

OUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELL PREPARED TO WORK WITH YOU, TO IDENTIFY FINANCIAL GOALS, AND EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO REACH THOSE GOALS.

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD HAS PROVIDED THE CAPTIONING FOR THE ASSEMBLY, AND NOW UNDER THE DIRECTION

OF GENE LEWIS, I THINK WE HAVE A VERY BRIEF MOMENTS IN MINISTRY,
THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD AT WORK.

>> YES.

WE'RE GOING TO DO THAT.

BUT WHAT I THOUGHT WE MIGHT DO, BECAUSE WE'VE RUN PAST THE
ORDERS OF THE DAY AGAIN, WITH THE INDULGENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY,
WE ALSO WANT TO INSTALL THE OFFICERS OF SESLYO, AND THEN
MAYBE WE COULD DO THAT DVD.

WOULD THAT WORK?

>> GENE LEWIS IS OUR WONDERFUL DIRECTOR.

>> THEN, OF COURSE, WE CAN DO IT.

>> THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> YOU NOTICE WE HAD CUT THE DVD THAT DIDN'T SHOW UP OUT.
BUT GENE AND OTHERS HAVE MADE A DVD, AND RATHER THAN EXTEND
THE ORDERS OF THE DAY, I THOUGHT WE'LL FINISH UP OUR BUSINESS
HERE, AND THEN ENCOURAGE YOU TO STAY AND SEE IT, BECAUSE
YOU'RE PROBABLY IN IT.

SO I'M GOING TO CALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ELECTED BY THE
SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION TO
POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP AND ASK YOU TO PLEASE COME FORWARD
AND BE INSTALLED.

WHITNEY LaFOLLETTE.

LINDSEY RUTLEDGE.

ELIZABETH HAWKINS, WHO IS VICE CHAIR.

YOU MET ELIZABETH EARLIER.

IF YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ELIZABETH, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU
SIGN UP TO BE ON THE STAFF AT AFFIRM FOR A WEEK, AND AFTER THAT
WEEK, YOU WILL.

RACHEL McCLAIN.

STEPHANIE MOORE.

CHASE SUITER.

LOUIS DEVAUGHN.

CHELSEA LEMKE.

ERIN OGLE.

HILARY NELSON.

ABBEY BARTLETT.

CONRAD HARDISON.

LEIGHA ATKINS.

AND ASHLYN NEAS, WHO IS THE CHAIR, AS YOU WERE INTRODUCED EARLIER.

WE ALSO WANT TO INTRODUCE THEIR ADULT REPRESENTATIVE, MICHAEL JANNETT, PASTOR MICHAEL JANNETT.

I REMEMBER WHEN HE WAS ONE OF THEM, INSTEAD OF ONE OF THOSE, NOT THAT LONG AGO, EITHER.

ST. PAUL WRITES, THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT GIVES THEM.

DIFFERENT WAYS OF SERVING, BUT THE SAME LORD IS SERVED.

DIFFERENT ABILITIES TO PERFORM SERVICE, BUT THE SAME GOD GIVES TO EVERYONE ABILITY FOR PARTICULAR SERVICE.

THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE IS SHOWN IN SOME WAY IN EACH PERSON, FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

YOU'VE BEEN ELECTED TO POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP AND TRUST IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION, AND IN THIS CHURCH.

YOU ARE TO SEE THAT THE WORDS AND DEEDS OF THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH REFLECT THE ONE IN WHOSE NAME WE SERVE.

YOU ARE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF SESLYO TO

SEE THAT THE WORSHIP AND WORK OF CHRIST ARE DONE IN THIS SYNOD, AND THAT GOD'S WILL IS DONE HERE AND IN THE WHOLE WORLD.

YOU ARE TO BE DILIGENT IN YOUR SPECIFIC AREA OF SERVING, SO THAT THE ONE LORD WHO EMPOWERS YOU IS GLORIFIED.

YOU ARE TO BE EXAMPLES OF FAITH ACTIVE IN LOVE, TO HELP MAINTAIN THE LIFE AND HARMONY OF THIS SYNOD AND THIS CHURCH.

ON BEHALF OF YOUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST, I ASK EACH OF YOU: ARE YOU READY TO ACCEPT AND FAITHFULLY TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICES AND POSITIONS TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ELECTED?

IF THAT'S YOUR INTENTION, PLEASE SAY: YES, BY THE HELP OF GOD.

>> YES, BY THE HELP OF GOD.

>> THE ASSEMBLY STAND, PLEASE.

PEOPLE OF GOD, I ASK YOU: WILL YOU SUPPORT THESE ELECTED LEADERS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION, AND AS THEY HAVE ELOQUENTLY ASKED FOR EARLIER, AND WILL YOU SHARE IN THE MUTUAL MINISTRY THAT JESUS HAS GIVEN TO ALL WHO ARE BAPTIZED?

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

>> YES, BY THE HELP OF GOD.

>> I NOW DECLARE YOU INSTALLED AS ELECTED LEADERS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION.

GOD BLESS YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

MAY YOU FAITHFULLY SERVE CHRIST IN ALL THAT YOU DO.

AMEN.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IF YOU ARE STILL WILLING TO INDULGE JUST A COUPLE OF MINUTES, WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THE FINAL REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS

COMMITTEE.

SO WE WILL CALL ON MR. WESLEY CRENSHAW FOR ONE LAST ROUND OF ANNOUNCEMENTS.

AND, CHAPLAIN, WE'LL BE READY FOR YOU IN A SECOND.

>> THE 2010 SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY WILL BE JUNE 4th THROUGH THE 6th, 2010, AT THE CHATTANOOGA CONVENTION CENTER IN CHATTANOOGA.

IT'S TIME TO SEE WHO WAS THE LAST PRIZE WINNER FOR THE eNEWS AND YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK DRAWING.

>> LET'S DO THIS.

IF THE PERSON IS NOT HERE, WE'RE GOING TO DRAW AGAIN, BECAUSE I'M NOT TAKING ANY MORE CHOCOLATE BACK TO THE OFFICE.

>> I DON'T KNOW IF YOU HEARD THAT, BUT MOBLEY SAID IF THE PERSON WHOSE NAME IS DRAWN IS NOT HERE, WE'LL KEEP DRAWING TO GET SOMEBODY WHO IS, BECAUSE SHE'S NOT TAKING ANY MORE CHOCOLATE BACK TO THE OFFICE.

>> IS PASTOR WOLFERT IN THE HOUSE?

YES!

CONGRATULATIONS, PASTOR.

>> SURVEYS FOR THIS WEEKEND WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL NEXT WEEK, SO ANY SURVEYS FOR THIS WE WILL SEND IT TO YOU IN AN EMAIL.

WE'RE MISSING A RED LEADERS FOLDER.

IF YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS, PLEASE HAND IT IN TO JEANETTE OR THE OFFICE.

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAMETAGS IN THE BOX IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM, PLEASE.

LUTHERIDGE/LUTHERANCH HAS SOMETHING SPECIAL TO DO.

>> SO MANY OF YOU CAME BY AND SIGNED UP FOR OUR FREE WEEKEND AT LUTHERANCH.

WE COULD NOT PULL BUT ONE.

WE INVITE YOU TO COME TO YOUR PLACE APART, CALL US AND REGISTER TO COME, BUT SAMMY HARRIS FROM OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, COME BY AND PICK UP YOUR CERTIFICATE.

IS SAMMY STILL HERE?

YES, YEA.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> REMEMBER, YOU CAN TAKE AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU CAN GET IN THERE AND MEET THE FIRE CODE.

IS THAT RIGHT?

YOU HEARD THAT FROM KEITH JOHNSON HIMSELF.

MR. VICE PRESIDENT.

>> YES, I JUST WANT TO REMIND THE MEMBERS OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL AND THE DEANS THAT WE'LL BE HAVING OUR LUNCHEON MEETING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SESSION CLOSES.

>> THANK YOU.

>> MAY I ADDRESS THE CHAIR?

THIS IS REGARDING THE YOUTH ORGANIZATION, I'M LAURA SENEKER-JONES.

"AFFIRM," WHEN MY FATHER TOOK HIS POSITION IN 1981, I DID NOT KNOW ANYONE IN THE CHATTANOOGA AREA, OTHER THAN MY COUSIN.

BISHOP TROUTMAN EXPLAINED TO MY FATHER THAT I WAS TO GO TO LIFE TO GET TO KNOW THE YOUTH OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD.

I WENT TO LIFE, I THINK AS AN ATTENDEE THREE YEARS, AND I COUNSELED ONE YEAR.

IT'S NOT CHEAP, AND IT'S ALSO NOT REALLY BEING TALKED ABOUT A WHOLE LOT TO ENCOURAGE YOUR YOUTH TO GO.

IT IS A MULTIPALLY LIFE-CHANGING EVENT, AND I KNOW OF ONE FOR

CERTAIN THAT WAS THERE WITH ME WHO IS NOW A PASTOR.

>> THANK YOU.

WOULD YOU PLEASE TURN TO TAB J, PAGE J-2.

AND I INVITE YOU TO TURN THERE, AND PASTOR MICHAEL LIPPARD, OUR
CHAPLAIN, WILL LEAD US IN CLOSING OF AN ASSEMBLY.

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES.

>> TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

>> I CHOSE YOU AND APPOINTED YOU.

>> TO BEAR FRUIT WHICH ABIDES.

>> LO, I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

>> AND ALSO WITH YOU.

>> LET US PRAY.

DIRECT US, O LORD, IN ALL OUR DOINGS WITH YOUR MOST GRACIOUS
FAVOR, AND FURTHER US WITH YOUR CONTINUAL HELP, THAT IN ALL
OUR WORKS, BEGUN, CONTINUED, AND ENDED IN YOU, WE MAY GLORIFY
YOUR HOLY NAME, AND FINALLY BY YOUR MERCY OBTAIN EVERLASTING
LIFE.

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD.

>> AMEN.

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

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

PROTECT AND GUIDE US NOW IN THIS TIME, AS WE SET OUT TO TRAVEL.

MAKE OUR WAYS SAFE AND OUR HOMECOMINGS JOYFUL AND BRING US
AT LAST TO OUR HEAVENLY HOME, WHERE YOU DWELL IN GLORY WITH
YOUR ONLY SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

GOD FOREVER.

>> AMEN.

>> I NOW DECLARE THIS 22nd ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ELCA
SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD TO BE ADJOURNED, SINE DIE, IN THE NAME OF
THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

AMEN.

>> AMEN!

[END OF ASSEMBLY]

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