

2009 ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY
Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia
THIRD PLENARY SESSION
Saturday, June 6, 2009
8:00 a.m.

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>> GOOD MORNING.

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

I WANTED YOU TO KNOW, THIS IS THE SYNOD GAVEL, BUT WITH ALL
THAT WE HAVE TO DO TODAY, I BROUGHT MY OWN GAVEL.

IF YOU WOULD PLEASE TURN TO TAB-A, PAGE A-5, IN YOUR ASSEMBLY
MATERIALS, YOU'LL KNOW WHERE WE ARE.

WE CALL ON CHAPLAIN MICHAEL LIPPARD FOR OUR OPENING PRAYER.
PASTOR LIPPARD.

>> THANK YOU, BISHOP.

GOOD MORNING, EVERYBODY.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> THE CALENDARS OF THE ELCA AND THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH DO NOT
IDENTIFY A SAINT TO COMMEMORATE ON JUNE THE 6th.

IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CALENDAR, HOWEVER, THIS IS ST. NORBERT'S

DAY.

NORBERT WAS BORN IN GERMANY IN THE YEAR 1080.

THAT'S 403 YEARS BEFORE MARTIN LUTHER.

IN HIS PERSONAL LIFE, NORBERT HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH ST. AUGUSTINE, WHO LIVED IN THE 4th AND 5th CENTURIES, AND WHOSE CONFESSIONS ARE WIDELY REGARDED AS THE WESTERN WORLD'S FIRST AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

LIKE AUGUSTINE, NORBERT LED A WORLDLY, SELF-INDULGENT AND CAREFREE LIFE AS A YOUNG ADULT.

AND LIKE LUTHER, NORBERT HAD A LIFE-CHANGING COME-TO-JESUS MOMENT WHEN HE WAS CAUGHT OUTDOORS IN A THUNDERSTORM.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, THERE SEEMS TO BE A PRETTY STRONG CORRELATION BETWEEN BAD WEATHER AND CONVERSION EXPERIENCES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT STORY OF JONAH, DOWN TO FORREST GUMP'S FRIEND AND BUSINESS PARTNER, LIEUTENANT DAN, HAVING AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION WITH GOD ON A SHRIMP BOAT DURING A HURRICANE.

WELL, ANYWAY, THE RESULT FOR NORBERT WAS THAT HE GAVE UP HIS LIFE OF LUXURY AND PLEASURE, BECAME A PRIEST, AND PREACHED AGAINST THE ABUSES OF HIS DAY.

NORBERT FOUNDED A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, BROUGHT REFORM TO EUCHARISTIC PRACTICES, AND EVENTUALLY BECAME AN ARCHBISHOP OF THE CHURCH.

A READING FROM MATTHEW.

"DO NOT STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES ON EARTH, WHERE MOTH AND RUST CONSUME AND WHERE THIEVES BREAK IN AND STEAL. BUT STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN, WHERE NEITHER MOTH NOR RUST CONSUMES AND WHERE THIEVES DO NOT BREAK IN AND STEAL.

FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE, ALSO."
THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

>> AND ALSO WITH YOU.

>> LET US PRAY.

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLIVING GOD, SOURCE OF ALL WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, GRANT YOUR GRACIOUS PRESENCE AT THIS MEETING THAT WHAT WE DO WILL BUILD UP YOUR WHOLE CHURCH.

LET YOUR HOLY SPIRIT GOVERN AND DIRECT US THAT WE MAY CONSULT TOGETHER PEACEFULLY, PLEASING YOU WITH ALL THAT WE SAY AND DO, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD, AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>> WE'RE GOING TO SKIP FORWARD JUST A LITTLE BIT, AND I SEE HIM HERE IN THE HOUSE, SO I WANT TO CALL UPON THE CHAIR OF THE SYNOD TASK FORCE ON WELCOMING AND INCLUSION, THE TASK FORCE THAT WAS ORDERED LAST YEAR BY THIS ASSEMBLY.

PASTOR LEWIS GROCE FROM TRINITY IN TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE. THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE C-24 OF YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS.

>> THANK YOU, BISHOP.

I HAD A REQUEST FROM YESTERDAY, SO IMPRESSED WERE SOME OF YOU THAT I REMEMBERED HOW TO PRONOUNCE GREEK, THAT SOMEONE WANTED ME TO COMPLETE READING THAT TEXT, NOTICING I DIDN'T GET ALL THE WAY THROUGH IT, SO I'D LIKE TO READ IT FOR YOU NOW.

OH, I'M KIDDING.

I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT.

[LAUGHTER]

THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON WELCOMING AND INCLUSION IS FOUND, AS THE BISHOP SAID, ON C-24.

SINCE YOU ARE LITERATE FOLKS, I'M NOT GOING TO READ THAT FOR YOU.

WITH APOLOGIES TO KEITH OBERMAN, HERE IS THE COUNTDOWN FOR SATURDAY, JUNE THE 6th.

NUMBER 5 ON THE COUNTDOWN IS HIGH PUBLIC THANKS TO THE FOLKS WHO SERVE ON THIS TASK FORCE.

THEY CLEARLY ARE NOT IN THIS FOR THE MONEY.

THEY SERVE ON THIS TASK FORCE BECAUSE OF A GOSPEL IMPERATIVE TO WELCOME, TO INCLUDE, AND TO EMBRACE ALL PEOPLE, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF OUR LORD CHRIST.

THEY HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY ON YOUR BEHALF, AND EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT THRILLED WITH OUR EXISTENCE, THEY DESERVE YOUR RESPECT, IF NOT YOUR GRATITUDE.

NUMBER 4 ON THE COUNTDOWN IS A HAPPY RESOLUTION.

NOT ALL OF THE RESOLUTIONS THAT COME BEFORE YOU ARE HAPPY RESOLUTIONS.

NUMBER 4 IS A HAPPY RESOLUTION, 2009-02 RESOLUTION ON SAFE SCHOOLS.

I WAS INFORMED THAT I CANNOT AT THIS POINT SPEAK TO THE RESOLUTION, SO I WON'T.

BUT I WILL TELL YOU THAT I THINK BOB GIBELING DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB WRITING IT, AND I WOULD POINT OUT IT IS HEADING YOUR WAY AND FALLS WITHIN THE GENERAL PARAMETERS OF WELCOME AND INCLUSION.

NUMBER 3 IS A SECOND HAPPY RESOLUTION.

2009-03, RESOLUTION ENDORSING STATE HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION.

AGAIN, I AM NOT SPEAKING TO THE RESOLUTION, JUST KNOW THAT YOUR DILIGENT TASK FORCE HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK, WHICH REALLY SHOULD BE READ "BOB HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK."

I TRUST YOU'LL GIVE PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION TO THESE RESOLUTIONS FOLLOWING THE INCLUSIVE AND EXPANSIVE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST.

NUMBER 2 IS ACTUALLY A REAL POINT OF INFORMATION.

PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BECOMES THE FIRST OF OUR 8 LUTHERAN SEMINARIES TO SEEK AND RECEIVE THE DESIGNATION OF "RECONCILING IN CHRIST."

I THINK THEIR STATEMENT IS PRETTY COOL, AND I WANT TO SHARE IT WITH YOU.

SINCE YOU ARE A "RECONCILING IN CHRIST" SYNOD, YOU SHARE A BOND WITH THESE PEOPLE.

THEIR STATEMENT READS, "WELCOME TO PLTS, A SEMINARY OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FAITH AND LEARNING COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD.

OUR BEAUTIFUL LOCATION, DYNAMIC FACULTY, CUTTING-EDGE CURRICULUM, CLOSELY KNIT COMMUNITY, AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION PROVIDE A UNIQUE SETTING FOR ENGAGING ISSUES OF CHRISTIAN FAITH, DISCIPLESHIP, AND COMMUNICATION OF THE GOSPEL TO A WORLD IN NEED OF GOOD NEWS.

PLTS IS AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY, AND OFFERS HOSPITALITY TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PROGRAMS OF STUDY.

ITS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST COMMIT TO PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE IN DIVERSE AND CHALLENGING CULTURAL CONTEXTS. WE EAGERLY LEARN FROM AND WELCOME ONE ANOTHER'S DIVERSITY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE, RACE, ETHNICITY, NATIONALITY, GENDER IDENTITY, RELATIONSHIP STATUS, AGE, PHYSICAL ABILITY, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS, AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION."

NUMBER 1, YOU, THE ASSEMBLED FAITHFUL, HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP FOR THE RECONCILING LUTHERANS PROGRAM AT OUR PFWI TABLE IN THE DISPLAY AREA.

THE RECONCILING LUTHERANS COVENANT STATES, IN PART, "AS MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, WE ARE CALLED TO BE MINISTERS OF RECONCILIATION BOTH IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE WORLD. THROUGH OUR BAPTISM, WE'RE RECONCILED TO GOD THROUGH THE GRACE OF CHRIST.

AS CHILDREN OF GOD, CHRIST CALLS US TO LIVES OF RECONCILIATION, WHOLENESS, INTEGRITY, AND AUTHENTICITY.

WE ARE CHALLENGED BY THE GOSPEL TO BE AGENTS OF HEALING AND LOVE WITHIN OUR CHURCH AND OUR SOCIETY."

SO STOP BY AND SIGN UP TODAY, IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY.

OR AS WE SAY IN TENNESSEE, "VOTE EARLY AND VOTE OFTEN."

THAT'S IT FOR COUNTDOWN ON THE 364th DAY SINCE THE PREVIOUS SYNOD ASSEMBLY DECLARED A NEED FOR A TASK FORCE ON WELCOME AND INCLUSION.

FOR ALL THOSE WHOSE CARES HAVE BEEN OUR CONCERN, THE WORK GOES ON, THE CAUSE ENDURES, THE HOPE STILL LIVES, AND THE DREAM SHALL NEVER DIE.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR GROCE.

WE NOW HAVE THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, MS. LINDA LARSON IS MAKING HER WAY TO THE DAIS HERE.

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

CLERGY UNDER CALL, 133.

CLERGY ON LEAVE FROM CALL, 5.

CLERGY RETIRED, 24.

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, 272.

LAY MEMBERS OF SYNOD COUNCIL, 13.

ECUMENICAL PASTORS, 3.

TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING, 463.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WE STILL HAVE A QUORUM, EVEN AT THIS HOUR.

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE, A LOT OF VOTING MEMBERS, AT THIS ASSEMBLY.

WE WENT BACK AND CHECKED SOME LAST NIGHT.

I THINK OUTSIDE OF THOSE YEARS WHEN WE ELECT BISHOPS, WE HAVE A RECORD NUMBER OF PASTORS HERE, ANYWAY.

WE ALSO HAVE A RECORD NUMBER OF DISPLAYS OUT IN THE GARDEN ATRIUM.

THERE ARE 35 DIFFERENT AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE DISPLAYS OUT THERE.

SO IF YOU'VE FOUND YOURSELF CONFUSED, THAT'S THE REASON.

THERE'S A LOT TO BE CONFUSED OVER.

I HOPE YOU'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THOSE AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR CHURCH.

WE TURN NOW TO THE FIRST BALLOT FOR THIS ASSEMBLY.

AND I CALL UPON PASTOR JOHN ROSSING, CHAIR OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, FOR AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ELECTIONS PROCEDURES.

[CHEERS]

PASTOR ROSSING.

THAT WAS YOUR FAN CLUB, PASTOR ROSSING.

>> WELL, THANK YOU.

GOOD MORNING.

ON THE FIRST BALLOT TODAY, YOU WILL BE VOTING FOR SYNOD SECRETARY, FOR A YOUTH MEMBER OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, AND FOR MEMBERS OF BOTH THE CONSULTATION AND DISCIPLINE COMMITTEES. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR THE NOMINEES IS CONTAINED IN TAB D IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS.

NOTE ALSO THAT PAGE D-11 WAS DISTRIBUTED TO YOUR PLACES AT THE TABLES THIS MORNING, CONTAINING BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR THE ADDITIONAL NOMINEE FOR SYNOD SECRETARY.

THE BALLOTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED MOMENTARILY.

AGAIN THIS YEAR, BALLOTS WILL BE COUNTED BY AN ELECTRONIC

SCANNER, SO YOU MUST USE A NUMBER-2 PENCIL TO MARK YOUR BALLOTS.

THE SCANNER DOES NOT READ INK.

EXTRA PENCILS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE TABLES.

PLEASE SHARE THEM IF THERE ARE NOT QUITE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE AT YOUR TABLE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE SHOULD BE ABOUT ENOUGH AT EACH TABLE.

WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT, YOU WILL SEE THAT THERE'S A NUMBER NEXT TO THE NAME OF EACH CANDIDATE.

YOU WILL VOTE BY FILLING IN THE NUMBERED SPACE ALONG THE LEFT MARGIN OF THE BALLOT THAT MATCHES THE POSITION NUMBER OF THE PERSONS YOU WISH TO VOTE FOR.

THAT SEEMS CLEAR ENOUGH, BUT LAST YEAR, EVEN UP UNTIL THE FINAL BALLOT OF THE ASSEMBLY, THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO WERE MARKING THE NUMBER STRAIGHT ACROSS FROM THE CANDIDATE THEY WANTED TO VOTE FOR, OR TRYING TO PUT THE NUMBERS IN SOME OTHER ORDER.

SO THERE IS A NUMBER NEXT TO THE NAME OF EACH CANDIDATE ON THE BALLOT, AND YOU VOTE BY FILLING IN THE LITTLE SQUARE FOR -- THAT CORRESPONDS TO THE NUMBER NEXT TO THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE THAT YOU WANT TO VOTE FOR.

AFTER YOU'VE COMPLETED VOTING, PLEASE DO NOT FOLD YOUR BALLOT.

HOLD IT UP SO THAT IT CAN BE COLLECTED BY A MEMBER OF THE

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE OR ONE OF THE PLENARY VOLUNTEERS,
SOMEONE WITH ONE OF THESE GREEN BADGES ON, AND THEY WILL
COME AROUND AND COLLECT YOUR BALLOTS.

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR.

ARE THERE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BALLOTING PROCESS?

LET ME REMIND YOU THAT IF YOU ARE A VOTING MEMBER, TO GIVE
YOUR COMPLETED BALLOT ONLY TO SOMEONE WITH A GREEN BUTTON
OR BADGE, THAT SAYS "PLENARY VOLUNTEER" OR "ELECTION
COMMITTEE MEMBER."

THOSE PERSONS COLLECTING BALLOTS ARE REMINDED TO TAKE
BALLOTS ONLY FROM PEOPLE WITH A GREEN NAMETAG.

IF YOU STILL HAVEN'T PICKED UP YOUR GREEN NAMETAG, THIS WOULD
BE A REALLY GOOD TIME TO GO TO THE REGISTRATION DESK AND GET
IT.

YOU'LL STILL HAVE TIME TO VOTE.

ARE WE READY TO DISTRIBUTE THE BALLOTS?

OH, YES, WE ARE.

I JUST COULDN'T FIND YOU.

PLEASE, LET'S DISTRIBUTE THE BALLOTS AT THIS TIME.

TAKE AS LONG AS YOU NEED.

IF YOU ARE A VOTING MEMBER AND DO NOT HAVE A BALLOT, PLEASE
RAISE YOUR HAND.

THERE'S A SECTION OVER HERE THAT NEEDS BALLOTS, SO HERE TO
THE RIGHT, IF -- TO MY RIGHT, THAT'S THE WORD.

TWO SECTIONS HERE WHERE BALLOTS ARE NEEDED.

ANYONE ELSE?

IF YOU NEED A BALLOT, PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND AND THEY'LL MAKE THEIR WAY TO YOU.

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED VOTING, IF YOU'LL HOLD YOUR BALLOT UP.

PLEASE REMEMBER NOT TO FOLD IT.

ONE OF THE ELECTION WORKERS WILL PICK YOUR BALLOT UP.

SO PLEASE HOLD IT UP, AND MAKE SURE THAT YOUR BALLOT IS COLLECTED.

PLEASE HOLD YOUR BALLOT UP.

HAS EVERYONE HAD YOUR BALLOT COLLECTED?

IF YOU WILL HOLD IT UP, THEY'LL COME GET IT.

ARE THERE PEOPLE STILL VOTING?

DO WE NEED MORE TIME?

WE WILL TAKE ALL THE TIME THAT YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT NEED.

ARE THERE PEOPLE STILL VOTING?

HOLD YOUR BALLOT UP WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED, AND THE ELECTION WORKERS WILL PICK THOSE BALLOTS UP.

HAS EVERYONE VOTED?

IS THERE ANYONE WHO STILL NEEDS MORE TIME BEFORE WE CLOSE THE POLLS HERE?

ANYONE STILL NEED TIME?

THE POLLS ARE CLOSED.

WE'RE GOING TO GO BACK AND DO SOME MORE INTRODUCTIONS HERE,

FOLKS THAT WERE NOT INTRODUCED YESTERDAY WHEN WE POSTPONED THAT.

I WANT TO BEGIN BY INTRODUCING TO YOU PEOPLE THAT SOME OF YOU KNOW REALLY WELL, AND THOSE ARE THE FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF OUR SYNOD STAFF, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER THIS YEAR.

RACHEL ALLEY, OUR DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES.

[APPLAUSE]

YES.

I HOPE YOU NOTICED -- THANK YOU, RACHEL.

I HOPE YOU NOTICED HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE VOTING MEMBERS OF THIS ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR.

THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.

MS. JEANETTE BURGESS, WHO IS OUR ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON FOR LEADERSHIP.

[APPLAUSE]

AND WORKS WITH THE WORSHIP TEAM, TOO, AND SINGS.

PASTOR DELMER CHILTON, ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP.

[APPLAUSE]

WE THINK IN A COUPLE OF MORE YEARS, WE'LL HAVE HIM COMING OUT OF HIS SHELL A LITTLE BIT.

PASTOR NANCY CHRISTENSEN, ALSO ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP.

[APPLAUSE]

SHE'S SO WELL LIKED THAT WE THOUGHT WE COULD LET HER BE THE TIMEKEEPER, BECAUSE PEOPLE DON'T LIKE THE TIMEKEEPER.

THIS WILL BALANCE THINGS OUT A LITTLE BIT FOR HER, DR. SANDRA GUSTAVSON, WHO IS OUT COUNTING BALLOTS.

[APPLAUSE]

WE ARE IMMENSELY BLESSED TO HAVE HER WORKING WITH US. YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE AROUND TO KNOW HOW SHE MAKES THINGS HAPPEN THAT NEED TO HAPPEN THAT WOULD SWAMP MOST ORGANIZATIONS.

MS. MOBLEY HOPE.

IS MOBLEY HERE?

IN THE BACK.

[APPLAUSE]

OUR COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

SHE'S THE PERSON -- STAND UP AGAIN, MOBLEY.

PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE.

THERE SHE IS BACK THERE.

MOBLEY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEW SYNOD WEB PAGE, AND SHE IS REALLY --

[APPLAUSE]

THERE YOU GO.

YOUR PICTURE MAY BE UP THERE SOON.

HOLLY LIERSCH IS OUR OFFICE MANAGER IN THE OFFICE, AND SHE MAY BE IN THE OFFICE.

[APPLAUSE]

YEAH, SHE'S TAKING CARE OF REGISTRATION.

PASTOR DARREL PETERSON, ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP AND
STEWARDSHIP SPECIALIST.

[APPLAUSE]

AND EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BORN IN MINNESOTA, HE'S OUR RESIDENT
EXPERT ON THE ATLANTA BRAVES.

>> WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?

>> WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?

HE DOESN'T KNOW.

FORGET THAT.

>> THEY LOST 4-0.

>> THEY LOST 4-0, SAYS THE REAL RESIDENT EXPERT ON THE ATLANTA
BRAVES.

ELAINE SCHWARTZ, STANDING RIGHT DOWN HERE.

WE GET A REALLY GOOD CLOSEUP OF ELAINE.

[APPLAUSE]

ELAINE IS MY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, WHO'S THE PERSON WHO TELLS
ME WHERE TO GO ON A REGULAR BASIS.

[LAUGHTER]

AND SHE IS ALSO OUR MEETING AND EVENT COORDINATOR WHO
OVERSAW PUTTING TOGETHER THIS SHINDIG WE'RE PARTICIPATING IN,
SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH, ELAINE.

[APPLAUSE]

AND FINALLY, PASTOR BEVERLY WALLACE, WHO'S THE ASSISTANT TO

THE BISHOP, AND SHE WORKS WITH CANDIDACY AND LEADERSHIP.

[APPLAUSE]

WE MENTIONED EARLIER THERE ARE THREE PASTORS SERVING IN THE SYNOD.

ACTUALLY, THERE ARE MORE THAN THREE, BUT THERE ARE THREE HERE WHO ARE ECUMENICAL PASTORS.

AND I WAS THINKING, I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHICH THREE ARE HERE, SO I THINK I'LL TRY TO INTRODUCE ALL OF THESE FOLKS.

PASTOR WILLIAM McDONALD, IS HE IN THE HOUSE?

THERE HE IS.

PASTOR McDONALD IS ORDAINED IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND IS THE PASTOR AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN VONORE, TENNESSEE.

HAVE YOU DONE THE WORKSHOP YET, OR IS THAT TODAY?

YESTERDAY.

HOW DID THAT GO?

GOOD.

ALSO, THE REVEREND MARVIN MORGAN.

THERE HE IS, SERVING ST. PAUL IN DECATUR.

[APPLAUSE]

AND PASTOR MORGAN, I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, IS THE MODERATOR OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FOR THEIR MEETING THAT'S COMING UP THIS YEAR IN GRAND RAPIDS JUNE THE 24th.

SO WE'LL PRAY FOR THEIR GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THAT'S LIKE OUR CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY.

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

PASTOR RONALD BONNER, IS HE HERE?

I THINK MAYBE NOT.

HE'S FROM ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT IN ATLANTA SERVING AN INTERIM THERE.

AND ALSO, I WANT TO INTRODUCE THE REVEREND FRED MILLIGAN.

I KNOW HE WAS HERE.

I SAW HIM IN THE BAR LAST NIGHT.

[LAUGHTER]

YOU KNOW, I'VE TRIED TWICE TO INTRODUCE HIM NOW.

THIS IS IT.

FRED IS THE REGION 9 STEWARDSHIP SPECIALIST, AND HAS DONE A REALLY GOOD JOB THERE.

OH, GOOD, OKAY.

AND PASTOR GAIL PORTER NELSON, THAT'S RIGHT, YES.

I THINK SHE'S HERE IN THE ASSEMBLY, IF NOT IN THE HOUSE.

SHE IS SERVING -- SHE'S ALSO A PRESBYTERIAN SERVING PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

WE ARE REALLY BLESSED BY THESE FOLKS SERVING OUR SYNOD IN THIS WAY.

[APPLAUSE]

IN ADDITION TO THOSE FOLKS, PASTOR ED WOLFE CONTINUES TO SERVE AS OUR COORDINATOR FOR TRANSITION MINISTRIES, AND WE'VE

GOT A LOT OF THOSE, PEOPLE.

WE DON'T PAY HIM FOR THAT, BUT WE TRY TO BE NICE TO HIM, SO

PLEASE BE NICE TO ED WHEN YOU SEE ED.

HE'S WAY OVER HERE.

STAND UP, ED.

STAND UP AGAIN, ED.

YOU NEED TO GET YOUR SHINING FACE ON THE SCREEN.

AND YOU HAVE ALREADY MET A COUPLE OF TIMES AND WILL MEET
AGAIN PASTOR RANDY JONES, WHO IS THE ECUMENICAL OFFICER FOR
OUR SYNOD.

HE TALKS TO PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS.

PLEASE STAND UP AGAIN, RANDY.

[APPLAUSE]

HE ALSO SERVES AS THE REVIEWER OF CONSTITUTIONS FROM
CONGREGATIONS.

AND HOW MANY DID YOU DO THIS TIME, 7 IN THIS LAST 6 MONTHS?

JUST IMAGINE THAT.

REVIEWING 7 CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS IN 6 MONTHS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR DOING THAT.

AND ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE DARLEEN KRAUTWURST, WHO RAN THE
PLACE FOR A LONG TIME, HAS RETIRED, BUT STILL COMES BACK TO
HELP OUT REGULARLY.

DARLEEN IS IN THE BACK THERE.

THANK YOU, DARLEEN.

[APPLAUSE]

WE HAVE CONFERENCE DEANS THAT WERE MENTIONED YESTERDAY THAT SERVE AS AN EXTENSION OF THE BISHOP'S OFFICE IN THE CONFERENCES.

THEY PROVIDE PASTORAL CARE FOR OUR ROSTERED LEADERS.

THEY ALSO TRY TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION AMONG CONGREGATIONS IN THE CONFERENCE, AND BETWEEN THE SYNOD OFFICE AND THE CONGREGATIONS IN THE CONFERENCE.

THEIR SERVICE IS IMMEASURABLY IMPORTANT, AND AGAIN, THEY DO THIS WITHOUT ANY COMPENSATION.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THEM, AND ALSO FOR THE CONGREGATIONS THAT THEY SERVE WHO ALLOW THEM THE TIME TO DO THIS EXTRA WORK.

PASTOR JOSEPH COPEK RESIGNED THIS YEAR AS THE DEAN OF CONFERENCE 5, OR CONFERENCE 10, RATHER, AND WE'RE REALLY GRATEFUL FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE.

I THINK I MENTIONED THIS LAST YEAR, BUT THE TIMING WAS RIGHT AROUND SYNOD ASSEMBLY TIME, PASTOR BILL WHITE ALSO SERVED CONFERENCE 5, AND HAS RESIGNED.

AND WE NOW HAVE PASTOR BARBARA ENGELBRECHT, WHOM I BELIEVE WAS INSTALLED LAST YEAR AT OUR ASSEMBLY, AND PASTOR WAYNE COBB, WHO IS THE NEW DEAN OF THE EBENEZER CONFERENCE DOWN ON THE COAST.

THE OTHER CONFERENCE DEANS, IF YOU'D JUST STAND UP WHEN I

CALL YOUR NAME.

PASTOR RICK OHSIEK FROM THE HOLSTEN HERITAGE CONFERENCE,
THE NUMBER 1 CONFERENCE, BUT MAYBE NOT FOR LONG.

PASTOR JERRY WEEKS FROM SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE.

PASTOR RICK ROBERTS WHO IS FROM MIDDLE TENNESSEE.

PASTOR SCOTT PETERSON FROM THE TENNESSEE VALLEY, WHICH IS IN
ALABAMA, JUST TO KEEP EVERYBODY ON THEIR TOES.

HE'S THE TALLEST DEAN.

PASTOR BARBARA ENGELBRECHT, THE SHORTEST DEAN, FROM WEST
TENNESSEE.

[LAUGHTER]

PASTOR TOM CLARK, FROM NORTH MISSISSIPPI, ALTHOUGH IF YOU
LOOK AT THE MAP, HE'S FROM JACKSON, AND THAT'S PRETTY FAR
SOUTH IN MISSISSIPPI.

PASTOR BARBARA HUNTER FROM THE GULF COAST CONFERENCE.

PASTOR RANDY JONES, HE GETS TO STAND UP AGAIN, FROM THE
GREATER ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

PASTOR BILL DIAMOND FROM THE NEW HOPE CONFERENCE, WHICH IS A
GREAT BIG AREA OF SOUTH GEORGIA.

PASTOR WAYNE COBB FROM THE EBENEZER CONFERENCE WAY BACK
IN THE BACK THERE.

STAND BACK UP, WAYNE, YOU SHY MAN, YOU.

OKAY.

PASTOR JASON TALSNESS FROM THE LEAVEN CONFERENCE, THE

BIGGEST CONFERENCE, 26 CONGREGATIONS.

HE MAY BE HAVING A BABY AT THIS MOMENT.

HE'S EXPECTING ONE ANY TIME.

[OFF MICROPHONE]

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IT TAKES TWO TO DO THAT, LET ME TELL YOU.

PASTOR KATHERINE PASCH, WHO IS THE DEAN OF THE SOUTHERN
CROSS CONFERENCE.

THERE SHE IS.

AND PASTOR PASCH WAS SELECTED BY THE FACULTY AT LUTHERAN
THEOLOGICAL SOUTHERN SEMINARY AS THE RIENERTZ SCHOLAR THIS
YEAR, SO CONGRATULATIONS TO HER.

[APPLAUSE]

SHE WILL BE GOING TO SOUTHERN SEMINARY, WHERE SHE WILL
PREACH AND TEACH AND STUDY, AND MOST OF ALL, BE A MENTOR FOR
PEOPLE WHO ARE STUDYING TO BE PASTORS.

PASTOR FRED KRAUTWURST, WHO I THINK IS NOT -- HE IS HERE.

FRED, GOOD.

GOOD TO SEE FRED.

[APPLAUSE]

YEAH, I HAVE A NOTE THAT SAYS YOU'LL BE HERE TODAY.

THANKS.

AND PASTOR DAVID KEENER, WHO'S IN THE HOLY LAND, WHO'S THE
PASTOR OF THE PEACH CONFERENCE, WHICH IS OVER IN THE AUGUSTA

AREA.

THANKS AGAIN TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

[APPLAUSE]

I SAID EARLIER THAT ELAINE SCHWARTZ IS SORT OF THE RINGMASTER OF PUTTING THIS ASSEMBLY TOGETHER, BUT SHE HAS A COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK WITH HER DILIGENTLY PUTTING IT TOGETHER.

SO I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE, AND IF THEY WOULD JUST STAND WHEN I READ YOUR NAME.

JAN LEVENGOOD, WHO YOU WERE INTRODUCED TO AS THE NURSE, AS WELL.

SHE'S PROBABLY OUT NURSING.

SHE'S IN THE BACK, OKAY.

LINDA FEW, WHO'S SITTING BACK DOING THE TECHNICAL STUFF BACK HERE.

KLEAH JAQUES, WHO'S BACK HERE WAVING HER HAND.

PASTOR MICHELLE KUHLMAN, WHO KEEPS DOING THIS WHEN WE ASK HER.

THANK YOU.

MR. CHRIS SCHWANEBECK, WHO IS ALSO IN THE BACK.

YOU SEE THESE GUYS ARE TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS BACK THERE.

AND MS. DONNA HOGLUND, WHO IS ALSO WAVING IN THE BACK IN THE SAME PLACE.

THANK YOU FOR GETTING THIS TOGETHER.

THE CAMERAMAN THANKS YOU FOR THAT, TOO.

[APPLAUSE]

THIS IS A REALLY DEDICATED GROUP OF FOLKS.

SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN DOING THIS FOR A LONG TIME, AND REALLY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING, SO IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP, JUST LOOK FOR SOMEBODY WITH ONE OF THOSE BRIGHT REDDISH-ORANGE STICKERS, AND THEY'LL HELP YOU.

WE ALSO WANT TO ASK THE MEMBERS OF THE SYNOD WORSHIP TEAM TO STAND.

THESE FOLKS PUT TOGETHER OUR 3 WORSHIP SERVICES AND HELPED PROVIDE FOR THE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP, SO PLEASE STAND UP, WORSHIP TEAM, IF YOU WOULD.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THE WORSHIP TEAM, SOMEBODY TOLD ME LAST NIGHT THIS WAS THE BEST SYNOD WORSHIP THEY HAD EVER BEEN TO, AND THEY'D BEEN IN THREE SYNODS, SO JUST WAIT.

MORE IS TO COME.

FINALLY ON THE LIST OF THANKS, THOSE WHO AGREED TO SERVE ON THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES.

THOSE COMMITTEES ARE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL, MINUTES, ELECTIONS, CREDENTIALS, AND NOMINATIONS, AND IF YOU WOULD PLEASE STAND SO WE CAN THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK, ANY OF THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES.

[APPLAUSE]

I WANT TO CALL ON PASTOR NANCY CHRISTENSEN AND MATT HENNING TO LET US KNOW ABOUT A COUPLE OF EVENTS THAT ARE COMING UP IN THE SYNOD.

YOU CAN CHECK OUT THESE AND OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS AT WWW.ELCA-SES.ORG, AND MATT WILL TELL YOU ABOUT CATCHTHESPIRITLUTHERAN.ORG IN A MINUTE.

>> I KNOW THAT MATT HENNING IS GOING TO GO LONG, SO I'M GOING TO GO VERY SHORT.

[LAUGHTER]

I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE EVENT FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

IF YOU'LL TURN TO TAB-I, EXHIBIT 13, WE ARE NOW CALLING THIS EVENT THE "SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD LEADERSHIP CONVOCATION."

AND WE WANT YOU TO SAVE THE DATES OF OCTOBER THE 13th THROUGH THE 15th.

WE WILL BE GATHERING AGAIN AT LUTHERIDGE CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER IN ARDEN, NORTH CAROLINA.

AND WE'RE STILL FINALIZING THE DETAILS ON OUR KEYNOTER.

WE'RE VERY EXCITED, AND WE WILL LET YOU KNOW VERY, VERY, VERY SOON.

SO MORE INFORMATION IS TO COME, BUT PLEASE DO SAVE THE DATES, OCTOBER 13th THROUGH 15th.

THANKS.

>> CAN I TALK?

>> GO RIGHT AHEAD.

>> OKAY.

RACHEL ALLEY, IF YOU COULD PLEASE STAND UP.

RACHEL, WHERE ARE YOU?

STAND UP, OKAY.

I'VE GOT TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU.

I DID NOT GET PERMISSION TO TALK ABOUT THE "GROW IN GRACE" EVENT THAT'S BEING HELD AT ROCK OF AGES LUTHERAN CHURCH OCTOBER 23rd AND 24th, SO I DID NOT GET PERMISSION TO TALK ABOUT "GROW IN GRACE," OCTOBER 23rd AND 24th AT ROCK OF AGES.

AND YOU CAN REGISTER WITH RACHEL ALLEY.

SO I'M SORRY I DIDN'T GET PERMISSION TO TALK ABOUT THIS EVENT.

OH, IT'S A YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY EVENT, AND IT WILL BE THE PREMIERE YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY EVENT, AGAIN, I DIDN'T GET PERMISSION, SORRY.

OKAY.

DR. BUBA TALKED ABOUT HAVING A PIECE OF PAPER GO INTO A FILE AT THE BISHOPS OFFICE.

I JUST WANTED TO TELL HIM, IT CAN GET WORSE.

YOU COULD HAVE A FILE GO INTO A BOX AT THE BISHOP'S OFFICE.

AND THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ME --

>> YES, YOU CAN.

>> -- IN MY LIFE.

BUT CATCHTHESPIRITLUTHERAN.ORG, YOU CAN REGISTER, AND YOU CAN LOOK AT OUR PROFILE FOR OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER.

"REVERSING THE ARROW," WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IS THIS A PROGRAM?

IT'S NOT A PROGRAM.

IT'S A WAY OF LOOKING AT YOUR CONGREGATION.

DO YOU SEE YOUR CONGREGATION AS SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO KEEP ALIVE?

OR DO YOU SEE YOUR CONGREGATION AS A GIFT FOR THE COMMUNITY AROUND IT?

DO YOU SEE YOUR CONGREGATION AS THE LIVING BODY OF CHRIST, REAL AND PRESENT IN THE WORLD?

OR DO YOU SEE YOUR CONGREGATION JUST AS A BALANCE SHEET?

HOW DO YOU REALLY SEE YOUR CONGREGATION IN THE WORLD?

THAT'S WHAT "REVERSING THE ARROW" IS ALL ABOUT.

DAVE STARK WILL TAKE US ON A JOURNEY TO LOOK AT OUR CONGREGATIONS, LOOK AT THE GIFTS AND STRENGTHS THAT OUR CONGREGATIONS HAVE, AND HOW WE CAN USE THOSE GIFTS IN THE COMMUNITY AROUND US TO CHANGE LIVES.

WHAT WOULD THIS LOOK LIKE?

THREE YEARS AGO AT COMMUNITY OF GRACE, DAVE STARK AND I WERE STANDING OUT IN A YARD WITH NO GRASS, BECAUSE WE COULDN'T AFFORD GRASS SEED.

AND WE WERE TALKING ABOUT WHAT WAS AROUND US IN THE

COMMUNITY.

OUR COMMUNITY WAS A WORKING-CLASS COMMUNITY, LOTS OF FOLKS WITH TWO JOBS, BARELY MAKING IT.

AS THE ECONOMY WAS TURNING SOUTH, THERE WERE GREAT NEEDS.

IN SNELLVILLE, THERE WAS A COOPERATIVE MINISTRY THAT WAS BARELY GETTING BY, AND THEY BECAME HOMELESS, AND SO ONE NIGHT, OUR VISION BOARD MET, AND THEY MADE A DECISION THAT CHANGED THE DIRECTION OF OUR CONGREGATION.

THEY SAID: WE'RE GOING TO HOST THE CO-OP.

WE DON'T KNOW HOW WE'RE GOING TO DO IT, WE DON'T KNOW HOW WE'RE GOING TO PAY FOR IT, BUT GOD DID GIVE US LAND, AND WE CAN USE THE LAND.

SO WE PUT TWO DOUBLE-WIDE TRAILERS ON OUR PROPERTY, AND THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY THAT AT THE TIME HAD ROUGHLY AN \$80,000 BUDGET WAS HELPING MAYBE 400 PEOPLE A MONTH, HAS NOW GROWN INTO A MINISTRY THAT HELPS 1,400 PEOPLE WITH FOOD, UTILITY ASSISTANCE, AND JOB NETWORKING EVERY MONTH, EVERY MONTH.

THAT'S WHAT "REVERSING THE ARROW" IS ALL ABOUT.

IT'S ABOUT CHANGING THE DIRECTION OF YOUR CONGREGATION FROM INWARD TO OUTWARD.

AND OUR DREAM IS THAT AT THIS "CATCH THE SPIRIT" EVENT, YOUR LEADERS WILL BE CALLED, EQUIPPED, AND THEN SENT BACK INTO THE CONGREGATIONS TO CHANGE THE WORLD THROUGH THE POWER AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST.

THAT'S WHAT "REVERSING THE ARROW" IS ALL ABOUT.

ANOTHER CONGREGATION, IT'S A SMALL CHURCH, IT'S IN DOWNTOWN ATLANTA -- MIDTOWN ATLANTA ON PEACHTREE STREET.

YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD OF IT, IT'S THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER.

A CHURCH ACROSS THE STREET MOVES AWAY BECAUSE THEY WANT TO GO TO BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS.

REDEEMER STAYS, AND THEY KEEP THEIR SOUP KITCHEN OPEN.

AND EVERY DAY, OVER 300 PEOPLE ARE FED, AND IT MATTERS THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST IS THERE ON PEACHTREE STREET.

YOU SEE, THAT'S REVERSING THE ARROW.

THEY'RE NOT THERE FOR THEM.

THEY'RE THERE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

SO WE INVITE YOU TO COME TO PEACHTREE STREET TO REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, AND TO LEARN HOW YOU HAVE THE GIFTS IN PLACE ALREADY.

SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US, AND IT'S FOR OUR WELFARE AND NOT OUR HARM.

IT'S TO GIVE US A FUTURE WITH HOPE.

AND JEREMIAH ALSO SAYS TO US IN THAT 29th CHAPTER, IF WE COME AND PRAY TO GOD, GOD WILL HEAR US.

STAND ON THIS TEXT.

LIVE THIS TEXT.

REVERSE THE ARROW.

JOIN US FEBRUARY 5th AND 6th.

REGISTER AT CATCHTHESPIRITLUTHERAN.ORG.

IN FACT, IF YOU HAVE YOUR LAPTOPS, GO TO
CATCHTHESPIRITLUTHERAN.ORG RIGHT NOW AND REGISTER.

>> NO!

>> WHY NOT?

>> THAT'S ANOTHER PAGE IN YOUR FILE.

WELL, IT'S JUST A PAGE.

SO GO TO CATCHTHESPIRITLUTHERAN.ORG AND REGISTER, AND COME
TO THE EVENT.

YOU CAN PAY FOR YOUR REGISTRATION, IF YOU WRITE A CHECK TO THE
SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD, AND SEE ME AT THE TABLE.

AGAIN, THANK YOU, BISHOP, FOR THIS UNSUPERVISED TIME.

[LAUGHTER]

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU, MATT.

MATT REALLY NEEDS TO START WORRYING WHEN WE HAVE TO RENT A
FORKLIFT TO MOVE HIS FILE AROUND IN THE SYNOD OFFICE.

JUST A JOKE.

THANKS FOR THE GOOD WORK.

AND WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL LOOK AT
CATCHTHESPIRITLUTHERAN.ORG, BUT NOT DURING PLENARY.

I'M NOW REALLY HAPPY TO TELL YOU THAT WE'RE MOVING INTO OUR
SECOND TIME OF BIBLE STUDY WITH DR. TERENCE FRETHEIM FROM

LUTHER SEMINARY, WHO'S BEEN TALKING WITH US ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE PROPHETS.

I THINK IT MIGHT TIE IN A LITTLE BIT WITH WHAT PASTOR HENNING WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT.

[APPLAUSE]

>> IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK WITH YOU.

AND IT WAS INDEED A FINE INTRODUCTION, PASTOR HENNING, TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY TODAY.

I WANT TO SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO BISHOP GORDY AND TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION GIVEN TO THESE CORE ISSUES REGARDING THE PROPHETS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

I WISH YOU EACH GODSPEED AS YOU MOVE FORWARD WITH YOUR MINISTRIES IN THIS SEND.

I THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE PLACE A FEW PROPHETIC TEXTS BEFORE US INITIALLY.

FROM AMOS 7 AND 8, HEAR THIS: YOU THAT TRAMPLE ON THE NEEDY AND BRING TO RUIN THE POOR OF THE LAND.

OR FROM MICAH, CHAPTER 3: SHOULD YOU NOT KNOW JUSTICE, YOU WHO HATE THE GOOD AND LOVE THE EVIL, WHO TEAR THE SKIN OFF MY PEOPLE AND THE FLESH OFF THEIR BONES, WHO EAT THE FLESH OF MY PEOPLE, FLAY THEIR SKIN OFF THEM, BREAK THEIR BONES IN PIECES AND CHOP THEM UP LIKE MEAT IN A KETTLE, LIKE FLESH IN A CAULDRON.

FROM JEREMIAH 5: FOR SCOUNDRELS ARE FOUND AMONG MY PEOPLE.

THEY TAKE OVER THE GOODS OF OTHERS.

LIKE FOWLERS THEY SET A TRAP, THEY CATCH HUMAN BEINGS, THEY KNOW NO LIMITS AND DEEDS OF WICKEDNESS.

THEY DO NOT JUDGE WITH JUSTICE THE CAUSE OF THE ORPHAN TO MAKE IT PROSPER, AND THEY DO NOT DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE NEEDY.

SHALL I NOT PUNISH THEM FOR THESE THINGS, SAYS THE LORD?

RECALL AGAIN THAT THE PROPHETS ARE NOT INNOVATORS WITH REGARD TO THESE MATTERS.

THEY'RE DEEPLY DEPENDENT UPON THE TRADITION, GOING BACK TO THE LAWS OF MOSES WITH REGARD TO THE CENTERING AND ISSUES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE.

LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO WORK BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS, USING FIRST DEUTERONOMY 24, AND THEN MOVING TO ISAIAH 3.

DEUTERONOMY 24, BEGINNING WITH VERSE 19: WHEN YOU REAP YOUR HARVEST IN YOUR FIELD AND FORGET A SHEAF IN THE FIELD, YOU SHALL NOT GO BACK TO GET IT.

IT SHALL BE LEFT FOR THE ALIEN, THE ORPHAN, AND THE WIDOW SO THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD MAY BLESS YOU IN ALL YOUR UNDERTAKINGS.

AND WHEN YOU BEAT YOUR OLIVE TREES, DO NOT STRIP WHAT IS LEFT.

IT SHALL BE FOR THE ALIEN, THE ORPHAN, AND THE WIDOW.

AND WHEN YOU GATHER THE GRAPES OF YOUR VINEYARD, DO NOT

GLEAN WHAT IS LEFT.

IT SHALL BE FOR THE ALIEN, THE ORPHAN, AND THE WIDOW.

REMEMBER THAT YOU WERE A SLAVE IN THE LAND OF EGYPT.

THEREFORE, I'M COMMANDING YOU TO DO THIS.

AND THEN TO MOVE TO ISAIAH 3: THE LORD RISES TO ARGUE HIS CASE.

HE STANDS TO JUDGE THE PEOPLES.

THE LORD ENTERS INTO JUDGMENT WITH THE ELDERS AND PRINCES OF HIS PEOPLE.

IT IS YOU WHO HAVE DEVOURED THE VINEYARD.

YOU'VE TAKEN EVERY LAST GRAPE FOR YOURSELF!

THE SPOIL OF THE POOR IS IN YOUR HOUSES.

YOUR PANTRIES ARE FULL.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY CRUSHING MY PEOPLE, BY GRINDING THE FACE OF THE POOR, SAYS THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS?

SKIPPING DOWN TO VERSE 18: ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THIS LIST?

AND THAT DAY THE LORD WILL TAKE AWAY THE FINERY OF THE ANKLETS, THE HEADBANDS AND THE CRESCENTS, THE PENDANTS, THE BRACELETS, AND THE SCARVES, THE HEADDRESSES, THE ARMLETS, THE SASHES, THE PERFUME BOXES, AND THE AMULETS, THE SIGNET RINGS AND NOSE RINGS, THE FESTAL ROBES, THE MANTLES, THE CLOAKS AND THE HANDBAGS, THE GARMENTS OF GAUZE, THE LINEN GARMENTS, THE TURBANS, AND THE VEILS.

THAT LOOK SOMEWHAT LIKE YOUR CLOSET?

HOW MANY PAIRS OF SHOES DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR CLOSET?

I'LL GIVE YOU JUST A MOMENT TO COUNT.

[LAUGHTER]

TAKE A LOOK AT THE KEY THEOLOGICAL CONCERNS THAT PERMEATE THESE PROPHETIC STATEMENTS.

ONE IS THE CREATIONAL CONCERNS THAT GOD HAS FOR THE LIFE AND THE HEALTH AND THE WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE, NOT ONLY FOR INDIVIDUALS, BUT FOR THE LARGER COMMUNITY.

AGAIN, THOSE CREATIONAL CONCERNS.

LISTEN TO DEUTERONOMY 5: DO AS THE LORD YOUR GOD COMMANDED YOU SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE, SO THAT IT MAY GO WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG IN THE LAND WHICH THE LORD YOUR GOD GIVES YOU.

AND SO IT IS THAT MATTERS OF FOOD AND CLOTHING, SHELTER, AND HEALTH, PRE-OCCUPY THESE MATERIALS IN BOTH THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.

THE TEXTS REGARDING THE LESS FORTUNATE HAVE THE FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE OF DEFINING A VOCATION, A PARTICULARIZING OF WHAT THE LOVE OF NEIGHBOR ENTAILS.

A SECOND IS THAT JUSTICE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ALSO HAS REFERENCE TO WHO GOD IS, AND WHAT GOD HAS DONE.

JUSTICE IS WHAT GOD PARTICULARLY DID ON BEHALF OF THE ISRAELITES WHEN THEY WERE IN SLAVERY IN EGYPT.

AND DEUTERONOMY 10, 17 FOLLOWING, PUTS IT WELL.

FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GOD OF GOD AND LORD OF LORDS, THE

GREAT GOD, MIGHTY AND AWESOME, WHO IS NOT PARTIAL AND TAKES NO BRIBE, WHO EXECUTES JUSTICE FOR THE ORPHAN AND THE WIDOW, AND WHO LOVES THE STRANGERS, PROVIDING THEM FOOD AND CLOTHING.

THEN THE MOVE COMES.

YOU'VE SEEN WHAT GOD HAS DONE, VERSE 19: YOU ALSO SHALL LOVE THE STRANGER, FOR YOU WERE STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT. GOD LIBERATED THEM, AND IT'S THAT ACTION OF GOD ON THEIR BEHALF THAT GROUNDS AND SHAPES THEIR RELATIONSHIPS TO MARGINALIZED PEOPLE, WHEREVER THEY ARE.

THIS GOD WITH WHOM THEY HAVE TO DO IS COMPASSIONATE, JUST, GRACIOUS.

GOD DIDN'T REMAIN ALOOF FROM THE SUFFERING OF HIS OWN PEOPLE, BUT ENTERED INTO THE PLIGHT OF THEIR LIVES, AND AS GOD HAD ACTED ON THEIR BEHALF, SO ALSO WERE THE PEOPLE TO ACT.

THAT LINE OF ARGUMENT IS PRESENT AGAIN AND AGAIN IN THESE TEXTS.

JUST A COUPLE OF MORE REFERENCES TO THE LAW IN THIS CONNECTION.

EXODUS 22: YOU SHALL NOT WRONG OR OPPRESS ALIEN FOR YOU WERE ALIENS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT.

LEVITICUS 19, WE ALL KNOW SO WELL THAT TEXT: YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.

BUT THE LECTIONARY TEXT DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH IN LEVITICUS 19,

WHERE WE GET TO VERSE 34: YOU SHALL LOVE THE ALIEN AS YOURSELF, FOR YOU WERE ALIENS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT.

OR LEVITICUS 25: IF ANY OF YOUR KIN FALL IN TO DIFFICULTY AND BECOME DEPENDENT ON YOU, YOU SHALL SUPPORT THEM.

I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD WHO BROUGHT YOU OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT.

THESE ACTIONS OF GOD ON BEHALF OF THE MARGINALIZED AND NEEDY IN THE LAND OF EGYPT ARE UNDERSTOOD IN THE TEXT TO BE A MATTER OF GOD'S FULFILLMENT OF A PRIOR PROMISE.

EXODUS 6: I AM THE LORD, AND I WILL FREE, I WILL FREE, PROMISE, FREE YOU FROM THE BURDENS OF THE EGYPTIANS AND DELIVER YOU FROM SLAVERY TO THEM.

I WILL REDEEM YOU.

THERE'S AN EXPLICIT LINK MADE HERE BETWEEN THE PROMISES OF GOD AND SOCIAL JUSTICE EXERCISED BY GOD ON BEHALF OF THOSE TO WHOM THE PROMISE IS GIVEN.

GOD'S DELIVERANCE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD FROM ABUSE AND OPPRESSION IN EGYPT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE FULFILLMENT OF THAT PROMISE.

AND THIS ACTION OF GOD IS CALLED "SALVATION" IN EXODUS 15:2, AND THAT SHOULD EXPAND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT SALVATION IS ALL ABOUT.

IN A GIVEN CONTEXT, SALVATION MAY INCLUDE A SOCIOPOLITICAL DIMENSION.

WHAT MIGHT IT MEAN THEOLOGICALLY THAT THE LANGUAGE OF SALVATION IS USED, IS ASSOCIATED WITH, GOD'S PRACTICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE?

MIGHT THE ONGOING PRACTICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO -- ON OUR PART, HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH SALVATION FOR PEOPLE?

GOD'S CONCERN ABOUT MATTERS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE WAS BELIEVED TO BE SO STRONG AND SO PERVASIVE THAT IT'S BUILT INTO THE HEART OF WHAT GOD PROMISES, AND GOD WILL BE FAITHFUL TO PROMISES MADE.

SO HELPING THE LESS FORTUNATE CAN NEVER BE SIMPLY A SOCIAL OR A POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

IT'S A RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY IN WHICH GOD HAS CHOSEN TO BECOME INVOLVED.

AND WE MIGHT HELP -- THIS LINK MIGHT HELP US SEE THAT JUSTICE IS NEVER AN END IN ITSELF.

JUSTICE IS IN THE SERVICE OF SALVATION IN A FULL-BODIED SENSE, FOR EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY.

LET THE WORDS OF ABRAHAM HESCHEL IN HIS BOOK, "THE PROPHETS" -- IT WAS PUBLISHED NOW NEARING 50 YEARS AGO.

I STILL USE IT AS A TEXT IN MY PROPHETS CLASS.

AND THIS FROM A SECTION ON THE ANGER OF GOD.

REMARKABLE STATEMENT, THE BEST STATEMENT I KNOW OF WITH REGARD TO THE ANGER OF GOD.

"THE PROPHET'S ANGRY WORDS CRY.

ALL PROPHECY IS ONE GREAT EXCLAMATION.

GOD IS NOT INDIFFERENT TO EVIL.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MEANINGS OF THE ANGER OF GOD, THE END OF INDIFFERENCE.

THE MESSAGE OF WRATH IS FRIGHTFUL INDEED, BUT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DRIVEN TO THE BRINK OF DESPAIR BY WHAT MALICE AND RUTHLESSNESS CAN DO, COMFORT WILL BE FOUND IN THE THOUGHT THAT EVIL IS NEVER THE CLIMAX OF HISTORY.

THROUGH A GENERATION AFFLICTED BY THE FURY OF CRUEL PEOPLE, NO CONDEMNATION IS TOO HARROWING.

OUR SENSE OF INJUSTICE IS A POOR ANALOGY TO GOD'S SENSE OF INJUSTICE."

AND THIS CONCLUDING SECTION OF THIS PARAGRAPH JUST -- IT RINGS DEEP WITHIN ME.

"THE EXPLOITATION OF THE POOR IS TO US A MISDEMEANOR.

TO GOD, IT'S A DISASTER.

OUR REACTION IS DISAPPROVAL.

GOD'S REACTION IS SOMETHING THAT NO LANGUAGE CAN CONVEY.

IS IT A SIGN OF CRUELTY THAT GOD'S ANGER IS AROUSED WHEN THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR ARE VIOLATED, AND WHEN WIDOWS AND ORPHANS ARE ABUSED?

SO HESCHEL, OF WHAT RIGHTS HERE DOES HE SPEAK?

IT'S A RIGHT RELATED TO FUNDAMENTAL EVERYDAY HUMAN NEEDS.

THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND HOUSING, FAIR WAGES, BRIBERY-FREE TRIALS, PROPER WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, CARE IN MATTERS OF HEALTH, AND HIT PERHAPS A LITTLE CLOSER TO HOME, THE RIGHT TO BE PROTECTED FROM THE INSATIABLE APPETITES OF THE AFFLUENT WHO GOBBLE UP EVERYTHING IN SIGHT FOR THEMSELVES, AND STORE IT IN THEIR PANTRIES AND IN THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS.

NOW, WHEN WE LOOK AT THESE TEXTS, WE NEED TO DRAW OUT THREE UNCOMFORTABLE, I THINK YOU MIGHT FIND THEM EVEN OFFENSIVE, DIMENSIONS OF THIS REFLECTION.

FIRST, GOD TOOK SIDES.

SECOND, A CRITIQUE OF AFFLUENCE.

AND, THIRD, THE INDICTMENT OF THE PRACTICE OF WORSHIP.

FIRST, GOD TOOK SIDES.

WE DON'T REALIZE THIS CLEARLY AS WE SHOULD, THAT IN FREEING THE ISRAELITES FROM AN EGYPTIAN ABUSE, GOD TOOK SIDES.

GOD TOOK THE SIDE OF THE EXPLOITED ISRAELITES, AND ACTED SHARPLY AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN OPPRESSORS.

THAT'S AN OFFENSIVE WORD TO MANY PEOPLE, BUT THERE IT IS, AT THE HEART OF THE OLD TESTAMENT MESSAGE: GOD TAKES SIDES.

NOW, LET ME TRY TO CLARIFY THAT POINT AT A COUPLE LEVELS.

CERTAINLY, GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE, AND CERTAINLY, GOD IS CONCERNED FOR THE LIFE AND HEALTH OF EVERY PERSON.

THAT SEEMS TO ME TO BE CLEAR.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT'S IMPORTANT TO SAY THAT GOD IS MORE

CONCERNED ABOUT SOME PEOPLE THAN OTHERS.

WHY?

BECAUSE THEY NEED MORE HELP.

THEY NEED MORE ATTENTION IF THEY'RE TO BE BROUGHT UP TO THE LEVEL OF WELL-BEING THAT GOD WANTS FOR ALL PEOPLE.

IN THIS SENSE, I THINK THE LANGUAGE IS DIFFICULT.

THESE PEOPLE GET FROM GOD A KIND OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT. THINK FOR A MINUTE.

IF YOU AS A PARENT WERE TO RUSH YOUR SICK OR INJURED CHILD TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM AT THE HOSPITAL, WOULDN'T YOU BE RIGHTFULLY TICKED IF THE NURSES AND DOCTORS PAID JUST AS MUCH ATTENTION TO YOU AS TO YOUR CHILD?

THE STRONG AND THE AFFLUENT, PROBABLY MOST OF US HERE, DO NOT NEED THE SAME LEVEL OF HELP AS DO MANY OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND IN OUR OWN BACK YARD.

I'M BOTHERED BY MYSELF, AS WELL, HERE, THAT WE SO OFTEN BEGRUDGE GOD'S GENEROSITY AT THIS POINT.

WE WHO HAVE REAPED THE BOUNTIES OF GOD'S GOODNESS IN SO MANY WAYS COMPLAIN THAT GOD CHOOSES TO TEND IN A SPECIAL WAY TO THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THAN WE ARE.

REMEMBER THAT QUESTION THAT ENDS JESUS' PARABLE OF THE LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD WHEN THOSE WHO HAD WORKED ALL DAY STARTED COMPLAINING ABOUT RECEIVING THE SAME SALARIES AS THOSE WHO WERE HIRED AT THE END OF THE DAY?

JESUS SAYS: AM I NOT ALLOWED TO DO WHAT I CHOOSE WITH WHAT BELONGS TO ME?

WHY DO YOU BEGRUDGE MY GENEROSITY?

A SECOND CONCERN HERE IS THE CRITIQUE OF AFFLUENCE.

WHILE WEALTH, AS SUCH, IS APPARENTLY NOT CONDEMNED IN THE LAW OR THE PROPHETS, THE WEALTHY OFTEN ARE, BECAUSE WEALTH IS SO EASILY, INDEED IS ALMOST ALWAYS, GAINED ON THE BACKS OF THE POOR, AND MISUSED ONCE IT HAS BEEN PROCURED.

LISTEN TO MICAH 6:12.

WITHOUT QUALIFICATION, IT'S SO HARD TO HEAR.

"YOUR WEALTHY ARE FULL OF VIOLENCE."

WEALTH IS SO DANGEROUS FOR OUR RELIGIOUS HEALTH, AND WE ARE SELDOM IF EVER AS GENEROUS AS WE THINK WE ARE.

LUTHER, MARTIN LUTHER, HAS SOME INTERESTING THINGS TO SAY ABOUT WEALTH FROM HIS TRACTATE ON TRADE AND USURY.

YOU COULD ALSO SEE HIS LARGE CATECHISM ON THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT HERE.

"FOREIGN TRADE BRINGS FROM CALCUTTA AND INDIA AND SUCH PLACES WARES LIKE COSTLY SILKS, ARTICLES OF GOLD AND SPICES, WHICH MINISTER ONLY TO OSTENTATION, BUT SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE, AND WHICH DRAIN AWAY THE MONEY FROM LAND AND PEOPLE.

THIS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED IF WE HAD PROPER GOVERNMENT AND PRINCES," END OF QUOTE FROM LUTHER.

OR AGAIN, LUTHER, "IT IS NOT FITTING THAT ONE MAN SHOULD LIVE IN IDLENESS ON ANOTHER'S LABOR, OR TO BE RICH AND LIVE COMFORTABLY AT THE COST OF ANOTHER'S DISCOMFORT, ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT PERVERTED CUSTOM," UNQUOTE.

AND IF THIS COULD BE SAID ABOUT LUTHER'S TIME, WELL, I THINK IT COULD BE SAID ABOUT OURS.

A THIRD AND PERHAPS MOST UNCOMFORTABLE FOR ME IS THE RELATIONSHIP THAT THE PROPHETS DRAW BETWEEN SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE PRACTICE OF WORSHIP CLOSE TO HOME HERE.

AMOS 5, A TEXT THAT IS A LECTIONARY TEXT, SO WE GET TO HEAR IT AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS.

GOD SPEAKING: "I HATE" -- WHAT'S IT MEAN FOR GOD TO HATE?

"I HATE, I DESPISE YOUR FESTIVALS, AND I TAKE NO DELIGHT IN YOUR SOLEMN ASSEMBLIES.

EVEN THOUGH YOU OFFER ME YOUR BURNT OFFERINGS AND GRAIN OFFERINGS I WILL NOT ACCEPT THEM.

AND THE OFFERINGS OF WELL BEING OF YOUR FATTED ANIMALS, I WILL NOT LOOK UPON.

TAKE AWAY FROM ME THE NOISE OF YOUR SONGS.

I WILL NOT LISTEN TO THE MELODY OF YOUR HARPS, BUT LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN LIKE WATERS, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE AN EVER FLOWING STREAM."

"I HATE, I TAKE NO DELIGHT IN YOUR SOLEMN ASSEMBLIES. "

FOR GOD TO HATE SOMETHING IS FOR GOD TO FOCUS THE DIVINE

ENERGIES AGAINST SOMETHING.

AND ANOTHER TRANSLATION OF "DESPISE" COULD BE, THERE IT IS: I CONSIDER YOUR WORSHIP SERVICES TRASH.

IN THE MORE LITERAL SENSE OF "TAKE NO DELIGHT" IS: I WILL NOT SMELL THEM.

OR IN OUR IDIOM, I WILL HOLD MY NOSE AT ALL YOUR WORSHIP SERVICES.

AND GOD SAYS THAT GOD WILL NO LONGER LOOK UPON THESE SACRIFICES.

IT MEANS THAT GOD WILL NOT ONLY HOLD HIS NOSE, GOD WILL ALSO HOLD THE -- CLOSE THE DIVINE EYES, TAKE AWAY FROM ME THE NOISE OF YOUR WHAT, THE SINGING OF YOUR HYMNS?

THE FINEST OF YOUR PIPE ORGAN MUSIC?

EVEN THE BEST CHOIRS SINGING BACH.

I WILL NOT LISTEN.

GOD'S GOT GOD'S HANDS OVER HIS EARS, TOO.

THE PROPHETS MANAGE TO INDICT EVERY FORM OF WORSHIP IMAGINABLE.

WE COULD TURN TO ISAIAH 1 AND WE COULD FIND THERE THE PROPHET INDICTING THE PEOPLE, AND SAYING THAT THEIR PRAYERS WILL NOT BE LISTENED TO BY GOD, MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT, ET CETERA.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT ISRAEL'S WORSHIP IN THE AMOS TEXTS WE READ IS NOT BEING CONDEMNED BECAUSE IT IS IDOLATROUS.

AT OTHER TIMES AND PLACES, IT CERTAINLY WOULD BE.

NOR IS IT CONDEMNED BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WERE BEING INSINCERE. THE PROBLEM WAS THE DISJUNCTION BETWEEN THEIR WORSHIP AND THE TREATMENT OF THE LESS FORTUNATE.

IF THERE IS NO SOCIAL JUSTICE, THE PROPHET SAYS, THERE IS NO ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP TO GOD.

GOD WILL NOT -- THIS IS HARD TO HEAR, I KNOW -- GOD WILL NOT TOLERATE COMFORTABLE WORSHIP AND SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISOLATION.

GOD WILL NOT TOLERATE A FULL CHURCH AND A VACUUM OF JUSTICE. IF THESE TEXTS SAY YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF THE LESS FORTUNATE, GOD DOES NOT WANT YOUR PRAISES AND YOUR PRAYERS.

THERE IS NO FORM OF WORSHIP, HOWEVER DEVOUT OR SOLEMN OR RIGHTLY OBSERVED OR FULL OF PRAISE, THAT IS VULNERABLE TO THE JUDGMENT OF GOD.

SO THAT WORSHIP THEN WILL BE EVALUATED AT LEAST AS MUCH BY WHAT HAPPENS OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY AS BY WHAT HAPPENS WITHIN THE SANCTUARY.

AND IF WORSHIP FOSTERS SOME KIND OF DISUNITY OF FAITH AND RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD THE NEEDY NEIGHBOR, IT DESERVES THE PROPHETIC CRITIQUE.

WE TURN FINALLY TO JESUS AND SOME CONCLUDING COMMENTS.

JESUS' OWN MINISTRY WAS SHAPED BY THESE TEXTS FROM THE LAWS AND THE PROPHETS.

WE TEND TO CONNECT JESUS ONLY WITH THE PROMISES OF THE OLD

TESTAMENT.

THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH OF WHOM THE PROPHETS SPOKE.

THAT IS TRUE, THE PROMISES ARE CRUCIAL AND CENTRAL FOR US.

BUT WE NEED ALSO TO REMEMBER THAT JESUS' MINISTRY WAS

DECISIVELY SHAPED BY HIS READING OF THESE TEXTS REGARDING THE

LESS FORTUNATE.

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, IN PARTICULAR, HAS JESUS SHAPING HIS ENTIRE

MINISTRY IN THESE TERMS, CHAPTER 4, VERSES 18 AND 19, WHICH

QUOTES ISAIAH 61 AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF JESUS' MINISTRY.

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME

TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR.

HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND

RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO LET THE OPPRESSED GO FREE,

TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR.

THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR TO WHICH JESUS REFERS WAS THE

JUBILEE YEARS, A TWICE A CENTURY 12-MONTH PERIOD OF TIME WHEN

THE INEQUALITIES THAT HAD BUILT UP IN THE COMMUNITY OVER THE

PREVIOUS 50 YEARS COULD BE RECTIFIED.

MORE SPECIFICALLY, ONE COULD SAY, IT WAS A TIME WHEN EVERYONE

WAS RELEASED FROM ALL FAMILY DEBT, OR PERSONAL ENSLAVEMENT

AND RESTORED TO THE FAMILY FARM.

THESE FAMILY VALUES THAT JESUS ARTICULATES ARE EXPRESSED IN

SOCIOECONOMIC TERMS.

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FOR EVERY FAMILY, THE PERSONAL AND

SOCIAL DIGNITY THAT GOES WITH IT.

JESUS' CONCERN ABOUT SOCIOECONOMIC REALITIES CAN ALSO BE SEEN IN HIS CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE.

AND, OF COURSE, JESUS DURING HIS MINISTRY WAS CONSTANTLY REACHING OUT TO THE LESS FORTUNATE AND THE MARGINALIZED IN SOCIETY, THE POOR, THE OUTCAST LEPERS, WOMEN, PROSTITUTES, THE DEMON POSSESSED, TAX COLLECTORS.

NAME THE OUTCAST, JESUS TOUCHED THEIR LIVES.

JESUS' MINISTRY ANNOUNCES THAT MINISTRY MUST NOT SIMPLY BE DEFINED IN SPIRITUAL TERMS.

FOR JESUS, SALVATION MUST BE UNDERSTOOD IN A FULL-BODIED SENSE.

WE SOMETIMES MAKE GOD'S SALVATION INTO TOO SMALL A WORD.

IN THE WORDS OF PATRICK MILLER FORMERLY OF PRINCETON SEMINARY, THIS IS A QUOTE THAT'S DEEP WITHIN ME.

JESUS LIVED AND DIED NOT SIMPLY TO SAVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS, BUT ALSO TO HEAL YOUR HURT.

JESUS CHRIST LIVED AND DIED TO SAVE EVERYTHING THAT IS YOU.

WHEN WE EXTEND THE BLESSINGS THAT WE'VE RECEIVED TO THE LESS FORTUNATE, WE ARE IN SOME FUNDAMENTAL SENSE EXTENDING GOD'S SALVATION TO THEM.

TO CONCLUDE: PROPHETS UNDERSTOOD THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL SOCIETY WAS DEEPLY DEPENDENT ON HOW THE PEOPLE TENDED TO THE CARE OF THE DISADVANTAGED.

AND A QUESTION FOR US IS RAISED: WHERE ARE WE IN THE RIVER OF LIFE?

THE IMAGE THAT WE USED YESTERDAY, IS IT POSSIBLE THAT WE ARE IN THE QUIET WATER ABOVE THE FALLS?

ARE WE ALREADY BEING SUCKED INTO THE PULL OF THE FALLS, AND A TERRIFYING TRIP OVER THE BRINK?

IS IT ALREADY TOO LATE?

I THINK WE NEED TO WORK ON BEHALF OF THE LESS FORTUNATE AS IF IT WERE NOT TOO LATE.

I THINK WHILE NO DATE SOON IS LIKELY TO TRIGGER THE END OF THE WORLD, WE DO NEED TO ASK IN VIEW OF THESE TEXTS: MIGHT THE PROPHETS BE SPEAKING OF THE END OF OUR WORLD?

SO THE WORD OF THE PROPHETS IS THIS: REPENT.

AND LET THAT REPENTANCE MANIFEST ITSELF IN GIVING A CERTAIN SHAPE TO OUR LIVES, A CONCERTED, INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE LESS FORTUNATE AMONG US.

AND MAY GOD STRENGTHEN YOU FOR THAT TASK, AND PLEASE DO REMEMBER THE CHILDREN.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, DR. FRETHEIM, FOR BRINGING OUR ATTENTION TO GOD'S MERCY AND GOD'S JUSTICE, AND OUR NEED TO REPENT AND BE MINDFUL, THOSE OF US WHO LIVE IN THIS AFFLUENT SOCIETY, THAT OUR RESPONSIBILITY REMAINS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.

I HOPE YOU'LL REMEMBER THAT DR. FRETHEIM IS PRESENTING A WORKSHOP CALLED "GUIDELINES FOR INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE." THAT WILL BE AT 1:30 THIS AFTERNOON IN THE FULTON ROOM. YOU CAN FIND A LIST OF ALL THE WORKSHOPS AT THAT TIME ON PAGE A-9 IN YOUR MATERIALS.

I UNDERSTAND WE HAD A HAPPY PROBLEM YESTERDAY THAT SEVERAL OF THE WORKSHOPS WERE OVERFLOWING.

I WAS THINKING MAYBE THIS WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO TELL YOU TO GET THERE EARLY AND GET A GOOD SEAT.

AND THEN BE LIKE JESUS, AND OFFER YOUR GOOD SEAT TO SOMEONE WHO COMES LATE.

[LAUGHTER]

WE ARE ABOUT TO MOVE TO OUR FIRST DISCUSSION AND VOTE.

WE'RE GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT THE SYNOD CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS.

ACTUALLY, WE'RE NOT VOTING ON CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION, ONLY IN THE BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS.

BEFORE WE MOVE TO THAT VOTE, I WAS GOING TO ASK THE CHAPLAIN TO LEAD US IN PRAYER, BUT I THINK THE CHAPLAIN STEPPED OUTSIDE JUST A MINUTE AGO.

SO IF YOU WILL ALLOW IT, I WILL DO THAT.

THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

>> AND ALSO WITH YOU.

>> LET US PRAY.

GUIDE OUR DELIBERATIONS, LORD, AND OPEN OUR HEARTS AND OUR MINDS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR SPIRIT, AS WE CONSIDER THOSE THINGS THAT WE NEED TO DO IN ORDER TO HAVE THE PEOPLE OF THIS SYNOD SERVE YOU AND BE BEARERS OF THE GOOD NEWS IN OUR PLACE.

THROUGH CHRIST, OUR LORD, AMEN.

>> AMEN.

>> WE TURN TO THE DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS.

YOU CAN SEE THIS ON PAGE A-5 OF THE AGENDA.

THERE ARE TWO RESOLUTIONS THERE.

YOU WILL NOTE, WE'LL TAKE THEM IN ORDER.

THE SYNOD COUNCIL HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY PASS THIS RESOLUTION THAT THE BYLAW AMENDMENTS

RECOMMENDED BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL BE APPROVED EN BLOC.

THIS IS A RECOMMENDATION THAT COMES FROM THE SYNOD COUNCIL, AND THEREFORE, NO SECOND IS REQUIRED.

BEFORE WE DISCUSS IT, HOWEVER, I NEED TO POINT OUT A COUPLE OF THINGS THAT TRANSPIRED SINCE OUR TIME TOGETHER LAST NIGHT.

WHEN WE ADOPTED THE RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE FOR THIS ASSEMBLY, WE AGREED TO CONSIDER THE BYLAW AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS AS A WHOLE, EN BLOC.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THAT, WE SAID THAT ANY REQUESTS TO CONSIDER A PARTICULAR PART OF THOSE PROPOSED EN BLOC

CHANGES SEPARATELY NEEDED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE TEMPORARY SYNOD OFFICES IN THE HOTEL BY 7:00 THIS MORNING.

THERE WAS ONE SUCH REQUEST, AND THAT REQUEST WAS TO REVIEW SEPARATELY SECTION 12.01.11.

IF YOU'LL TURN TO TAB F AND LOOK AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 32 YOU SHOULD FIND SECTION 12.01.11.

WE KNOW THAT THERE IS ONE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTION 12.01.11 AND THE WAY THE EN BLOC WORKS ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF ORDER IS THAT WE WILL TAKE THAT SEPARATE REQUEST, WE WILL DISCUSS THAT, WE WILL VOTE ON THAT REQUEST, AND THEN IF IT FAILS, WE WILL THEN VOTE ON THE EN BLOC BYLAWS.

IF IT PASSES, THAT WILL BECOME PART OF THE EN BLOC BYLAWS AS AMENDED BY THE ASSEMBLY.

DOES THAT MAKE SENSE TO EVERYONE?

GOOD.

SO THE CHAIR THEN RECOGNIZES PASTOR TERRI STAGNER-COLLIER TO PROPOSE HER AMENDMENT.

>> THANK YOU, BISHOP GORDY, PASTOR TERRI STAGNER-COLLIER, OCEAN SPRINGS.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT, THAT IN 12.01.11.G, STRIKE THE WORD "ALABAMA" -- WELL, ACTUALLY, YOU DON'T NEED TO STRIKE THE WORD "ALABAMA."

ADD THE PHRASE, "FROM MONTGOMERY NORTHWARD," TO THE WORD "ALABAMA."

AND TO 12.01.11, STRIKE THE WORDS "MEMPHIS AND MISSISSIPPI," AND
INSERT THE PHRASE, "JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, DOTHAN AND MOBILE,
ALABAMA, AND CONGREGATIONS SOUTHWARD."

AND ON 12.01.11.H, ADD TO THE PHRASE "MIDDLE TENNESSEE,"
"MEMPHIS AND TUPELO."

WOULD YOU LIKE ANY EXPLANATION OF THAT?

>> IN JUST A MOMENT.

IS THAT IT?

IS THAT ALL?

>> THAT'S IT.

>> DO WE HAVE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> WE HAVE A SECOND.

NOW, IF YOU'D BE KIND ENOUGH TO HAND THAT IN WRITING, I'LL TRY TO
MAKE SURE WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE VOTING ON HERE.

THEN I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO SPEAK TO IT, IF YOU WOULD STAY AT THE
MICROPHONE.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT IS AT SECTION 12.01.11.G TO STRIKE -- WE
DON'T STRIKE THE WORD.

DECIDED WE DON'T NEED TO STRIKE "ALABAMA."

SOME OF YOU WILL BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.

[LAUGHTER]

AT 12.01.11.G TO INSERT THE PHRASE, "ALABAMA, FROM MONTGOMERY
NORTHWARD."

AND THEN IN 12.01.11.I, TO STRIKE THE WORDS "MEMPHIS AND MISSISSIPPI," AND TO INSERT THE PHRASE, "JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, DOTHAN AND MOBILE, ALABAMA, AND CONGREGATIONS SOUTHWARD." THAT'S THE SECOND PART.

THERE ARE THREE.

TO ADD TO THE PHRASE -- AT 12.01.11.H, TO ADD TO THE PHRASE, "MIDDLE TENNESSEE, "MEMPHIS AND TUPELO."

EVERYONE HAVE THAT?

AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO THE AMENDMENT.

REMINDER FIRST THAT ACCORDING TO OUR RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE, EACH SPEAKER IS ALLOWED UP TO 3 MINUTES.

>> BASICALLY, THIS IS ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE THINGS EAST-WEST RATHER THAN NORTH-SOUTH AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONNECTIONS, AND THE OTHER CONSIDERATION, I'VE TRIED TO -- I APOLOGIZE TO THE ASSEMBLY FOR SCURRYING AROUND, BUT TRIED TO TOUCH BASE WITH MANY OF THESE CONGREGATIONS, AND MEMPHIS PREFERS TO BE WITH MIDDLE TENNESSEE, IS THE CONSENSUS THAT I'M GETTING FROM THE MEMPHIS CONGREGATIONS. AND SO IT DOES CHANGE THE NUMBER OF HOW MANY CONGREGATIONS ARE IN EACH CONFERENCE.

IT BRINGS CONFERENCE 9, WHICH IS JACKSON, DOTHAN SOUTH TO 16, MIDDLE TENNESSEE JUMPS UP TO 22, WHICH IS CONFERENCE 8, MIDDLE TENNESSEE, MEMPHIS, TUPELO.

AND CONFERENCE 7, WOULD HAVE 14, WHICH WOULD BE

ALABAMA, MONTGOMERY AND NORTHWARD.

WHEN I MAPQUESTED THE PROPOSED GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS, INSTEAD OF A 6.5-HOUR DRIVE CORNER TO CORNER IN THE PROPOSED MISSISSIPPI-MEMPHIS CONFERENCE, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A 6.5-HOUR DRIVE FOR THE NEW LOWER-HALF CONFERENCE, IT WOULD BE A 4.5-HOUR DRIVE, SO TRYING TO MAKE IT REALISTIC FOR A CONFERENCE TO DRIVE HALFWAY, MEET DURING THE DAY, AND DRIVE HALFWAY BACK.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> WE MENTIONED LAST NIGHT IN THE QUASI-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, MANY OF THE PROPOSED BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS THAT WE LOOK AT TODAY ARE CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER, AND THIS AMENDMENT IS, IN FACT, ONE OF THOSE. AND SO I WANTED TO ASK PAUL ARNE, OUR SYNOD ATTORNEY WHO WORKED ON THIS, IF THAT'S THE CASE HERE, AND TO WHAT EXTENT.

>> THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS: YES, A LITTLE.

AND THE ANSWER TO WHAT EXTENT, I DON'T KNOW.

AND LET ME SEE IF I CAN EXPLAIN THAT JUST A LITTLE BIT.

WHEN I CAME IN THIS MORNING AT A LITTLE BEFORE 7:00 TO LOOK AT THE AMENDMENT, THE AMENDMENT RELATED TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONFERENCE 7 AND 9, BUT NOT CONFERENCE 8.

SO THE ANALYSIS THAT WAS DONE BOTH LAST NIGHT, ANTICIPATING THIS MORNING, AS WELL AS THE ANALYSIS THAT WAS DONE THIS

MORNING, DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CONFERENCE 8, SO THE ANSWER IS, I DON'T KNOW.

HOWEVER, I CAN GIVE YOU SOME PARAMETERS AROUND THAT.

THE SECTION THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED WOULD BE SECTION -- THIS WOULD BE A PROPOSED CONTINUING RESOLUTION, WHICH IS 10.07.12.

SO IF YOU'LL TURN TO THAT FOR A SECOND, 10.07.12 IS INTENDED TO BE A DESCRIPTION OF HOW ONE GOES FROM 14 CONFERENCES TO 9 CONFERENCES AS IT RESPECTS THE ELECTION OF SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS.

WHENEVER YOU LOOK AT, WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO DO IS TO MAKE SURE WE WERE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE AS BEST WE COULD SOME CONTINUITY BETWEEN WHO IS CURRENTLY ON THE SYNOD COUNCIL TO A SITUATION OF MOVING US TOWARDS HAVING NEW ELECTIONS.

AND WE HAD SET THIS UP IN A WAY THAT -- ORIGINALLY, THAT WE BELIEVED THAT PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE'S EXPECTATIONS FOR REELECTION ON THE COUNCIL, THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS AVAILABLE IF THEY WERE REELECTED.

THE CHANGES, THE PROPOSED CHANGES, LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING TO SECTION -- TO CONFERENCES 7 AND 9 ACTUALLY MOVED EXISTING SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM 7 TO 9, AND FROM 9 TO 7.

AND WHAT THAT DID WAS THAT HAD THE EFFECT OF CHANGING THE POSSIBILITY OF ONE CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBER BEING ELECTED TO HAVING THAT COUNCIL MEMBER NOT AVAILABLE FOR REELECTION, BUT ANOTHER ONE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR REELECTION.

THE CHANGES TO 8, I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS COMING.

SO I JUST HAVE NO IDEA.

>> BUT IT'S NOT -- I MEAN, IT'S NOT AN UNDOABLE SITUATION.

>> WELL, WHAT THE EFFECT WOULD BE IS, FIRST OF ALL, IN 2009 TO 2010, THE SYNOD COUNCIL WOULD NOT CHANGE.

THERE ARE NOT ELECTIONS FOR SYNOD COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CONFERENCES IN 2009.

SO EVERYBODY WHO WAS A COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CONFERENCES WILL REMAIN UNTIL 2010.

WHAT IT MEANS IS THAT IN CONFERENCES 7, 8, AND 9, WHOEVER IS ON COUNCIL FROM THOSE CONFERENCES WILL REMAIN ON FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

AND THEN IN 2012, CONFERENCE 7 WILL ELECT A CLERGY FOR TWO YEARS.

CONFERENCE 8 WILL ELECT A LAY FOR TWO YEARS.

CONFERENCE 9 WILL ELECT A CLERGY FOR TWO YEARS.

I DON'T KNOW WHO THOSE PEOPLE ARE, AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR REELECTION, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S THE BEST I COULD DO WITHOUT NAMES AND SOME STUDY.

>> SO I THINK THE ISSUE IS THAT THERE ARE PERSONS WHO CURRENTLY, IF WE DID NOT ADOPT THE CHANGES, WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANOTHER TERM WHO MIGHT NOT BE IF THIS IS DONE.

SO THAT'S JUST A POINT OF CLARITY, AND WE'LL MOVE TO MICROPHONE 3 NOW.

>> YES, GOOD MORNING.

THANK YOU, BISHOP.

A QUESTION.

I'M LINDY FREITAG FROM ST. LUKE IN ATLANTA.

WOULD IT BE HELPFUL TO THE PROCEEDINGS IF THE BODY TABLES THIS PARTICULAR MOTION TO A LATER PERIOD OF TIME IN THE PROCEEDINGS FOR THE ATTORNEY AND THE OTHERS TO BE ABLE TO FIGURE THESE DETAILS OUT?

>> I'M NOT SURE OF THE ANSWER TO THAT.

WE HAVE AN AWFULLY FULL AGENDA ON THE ONE HAND.

I'LL GIVE YOU AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION: I THINK THAT IF THIS AMENDMENT IS APPROVED, THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN IS SOMEBODY WHO CURRENTLY THINKS THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO SERVE ANOTHER TERM WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO, BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE CLERGY.

SO HOW STRONGLY THE HOUSE FEELS ABOUT THAT WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO TABLE THIS.

YOU'RE WELCOME TO MAKE THAT MOTION, AND WE CAN TRY IT.

>> NO, IT WAS ACTUALLY AN HONEST QUESTION, NOT A SUGGESTION.

THANK YOU.

>> OKAY, THANK YOU.

>> JUST TO LET EVERYBODY KNOW, THIS IS -- THE TRANSITION IS THE MOST COMPLICATED PART OF THESE CHANGES.

IT TOOK ABOUT 3/4 OF A DAY TO WORK THROUGH THIS TO MAKE IT

WORK, AND SO THE ABILITY TO ACTUALLY WORK THROUGH THIS STUFF AND MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE LAY CHANGING TO CLERGY, CHANGING BACK TO LAY EVERY FOUR YEARS, EVERYONE BEING ABLE TO BE REELECTED FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS OF 2 YEARS EACH, AND THEN MAKING SURE YOU HAVE AN EQUAL BALANCE BETWEEN CLERGY AND LAY GOING ON AT ALL TIMES MAKES THIS A REAL -- AND THEN DOING IT OVER MULTIPLE YEARS ACTUALLY MAKES IT VERY COMPLEX.

AND SO I DON'T ACTUALLY THINK THAT A DELAY WILL HELP.

>> OKAY, THANK YOU.

IT TAKES MORE TIME THAN THAT, THEN.

YES, MICROPHONE 1.

>> MIKE FRANKLIN, HOLY TRINITY, NASHVILLE, MIDDLE TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.

I HAVE JUST ONE MORE QUESTION TO ADD TO THE LIST OF THINGS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

WHILE I THINK THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT, I THINK ANOTHER QUESTION IS: FROM READING THE MATERIALS, I UNDERSTAND THAT A LOT OF EFFORT WAS MADE TO EQUALIZE THE CONFERENCES IN BOTH LAITY AND CLERGY REPRESENTATION.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW ALSO: DOES THIS MAINTAIN THAT INTEGRITY?

SO AS WE LOOK AT THAT, IF WE COULD LOOK AT THAT, AS WELL, I'D APPRECIATE IT.

>> WE ABSOLUTELY, ACCORDING TO OUR CONSTITUTION, HAVE TO DO

THAT.

WE HAVE TO HAVE THE 60% LAY PERSONS AND 40% CLERGY ON THE COUNCIL, SO WHATEVER IT TAKES, WE'LL DO THAT.

>> WHAT I WAS REALLY REFERRING TO WAS THE REPRESENTATION ON COUNCIL ACTUALLY REPRESENTING SIMILAR AMOUNTS OF PEOPLE IN EACH OF THE -- FROM EACH OF THE CONFERENCES.

>> I'M SORRY, YES, THANK YOU.

I THINK THE LARGEST NUMBER HERE IS 22, AND WE HAVE OTHERS THAT ARE THAT SIZE IN THE PROPOSAL.

IS THAT CORRECT, MR. ARNE?

>> YES.

CURRENTLY, THE CONFERENCES RANGE IN SIZE, BEFORE THE AMENDMENT, CONFERENCES RANGED IN SIZE FROM 13 AT THE LOW END, AND 25 AT THE HIGH END.

>> SO IT STILL FITS WITHIN THAT.

THANK YOU, GOOD QUESTION.

MICROPHONE 2.

>> I'M MARLYN KELM, REDEEMER ATLANTA.

I SERVED ON THIS TASK FORCE, AND JUST WANTED TO MENTION A COUPLE OF THINGS THAT I HOPE WILL BE SORT OF A CLARIFICATION, BECAUSE AS PAUL JUST SAID, WE DID REALLY WRESTLE WITH THESE CONFIGURATIONS.

AND I AM A LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING A CONFERENCE WITH JUST 7 CONGREGATIONS IN IT, BECAUSE THAT WAS WHAT WE TRIED TO

AVOID.

AND WE SAT WITH A MAP, AND WE GAVE CONSIDERATION TO EVERY SINGLE CONGREGATION IN THIS SYNOD IN TERMS OF WHERE WE PUT THEM.

MISSISSIPPI WAS DIFFICULT.

THERE ARE NOT A LOT OF CONGREGATIONS THERE.

IT'S HARD TO GROUP THEM.

THAT IS THE DIFFICULTY IN THIS SYNOD.

IN EVERY STATE, THERE ARE AREAS WHERE THERE ARE NO LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

SO YOU HAVE THOSE GEOGRAPHICAL GAPS.

WE TRIED ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT CONFIGURATIONS WITH MISSISSIPPI AND ALABAMA AND WESTERN TENNESSEE, AND WE WOULD COME UP WITH ONE, "WE'D THINK, OH, YEAH, THIS LOOKS GOOD."

BUT THEN WHAT WAS LEFT OVER DIDN'T LOOK GOOD.

AND WE DID REALLY WRESTLE WITH THIS VERY PRAYERFULLY AND HARD.

SO I'M NOT -- I APPLAUD PASTOR TERRI FOR TRYING TO WORK THIS OUT, BECAUSE I UNDERSTAND THOSE COMPLICATIONS.

BUT JUST BE ASSURED THAT YOUR TASK FORCE DID REALLY WORK THROUGH THIS AND GIVE IT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MICROPHONE 1.

>> KEN LEWIS, LICENSED LAY MINISTER, CHRIST LUTHERAN, IN
SHELBYVILLE, TENNESSEE.

TWO QUICK QUESTIONS: DOES THIS PUT THE STATE CAPITALS IN BOTH
OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS?

I DON'T KNOW THE GEOGRAPHY CLEAR ENOUGH.

>> I BELIEVE -- DOES IT?

>> MONTGOMERY GOES WITH ALABAMA AND JACKSON GOES WITH THE
SOUTH COAST.

>> SHE SAYS THEY'RE IN DIFFERENT ONES.

I ACTUALLY HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AT WHERE THIS WOULD
BE GEOGRAPHICALLY, JUST READ IT.

NEXT QUESTION?

>> ANY CONSIDERATION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH IN THE
SOUTHERN PARTS AND THE NORTHERN PARTS OF THE -- AND WHETHER
THAT SKEWS THAT PARTICULARLY?

I THINK THAT'S AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

>> WE HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION AT MICROPHONE 2.

>> CARLA STICKLES FROM ST. MATTHEW'S IN COLUMBUS, GEORGIA.
A QUESTION THAT'S BEEN RAISED IN THE PRESENT NUMBER 9
CONFERENCE.

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO MAKE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS
UNTIL AFTER THE DIFFERENT CONFERENCES MEET TO DISCUSS
THINGS?

BECAUSE EVIDENTLY, THE GULF COAST HAS, AND OUR CONFERENCE ALSO HAS, THE SAME TYPE OF CONCERNS AS THE GULF COAST HAD.

>> THE ONLY PROBLEM WITH THAT IS THAT WE WILL HAVE TO VOTE ON EVERYTHING ELSE EN BLOC, AND SINCE NO ONE WITHDREW ANY OTHER PARTS OF THIS FROM THE EN BLOC, THAT WOULD BE OUT OF ORDER.

>> OKAY.

THAT'S THE CLARIFICATION WE WANTED.

THANK YOU.

>> OKAY, THANK YOU.

ANOTHER QUESTION.

I THINK THIS IS A RECORD NUMBER OF QUESTIONS IN A ROW IN A DISCUSSION.

>> LAURIE WILLIAMS, PASTOR AT TRIUMPHANT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH IN DOTHAN, ALABAMA.

AND I CAN ONLY SPEAK FOR MY CONGREGATION, BUT I KNOW THAT OUR HEART AND SOUL IS INCREASINGLY WITH DISASTER MINISTRY AND THAT SPECIFIC KIND OF FOCUS.

AND AS FAR AS BUY-IN FROM MY CONGREGATION AND BEING ACTIVE IN A CONFERENCE AND THAT SORT OF THING, I SEE THAT HAPPENING MUCH MORE READILY WITH A GULF COAST GATHERING AND GROUPING THAN WITH THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

IT ACTUALLY INVOLVES A FURTHER DISTANCE FOR US TO TRAVEL TO GO TO THE GULF COAST TO MISSISSIPPI AND THAT SORT OF THING, BUT I REALLY BELIEVE THAT WE WOULD BE MORE CONNECTED IN OUR

MINISTRY AND IN OUR COMMITMENT TO MEET TOGETHER FOR THAT PURPOSE IF WE WERE GROUPED EAST-WEST AS OPPOSED TO NORTH-SOUTH.

THANK YOU.

>> I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT AS SPEAKING FOR THE AMENDMENT.

MICROPHONE 4.

>> JIM NIPPER, OUR SAVIOR CHURCH, JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE.

CONFERENCE 1 I GUESS WILL BECOME THE CLUSTER NUMBER 1.

THAT WOULD BE GOOD.

[LAUGHTER]

27 YEARS OF MINISTRY, I'VE NEVER DONE THIS.

THAT'S KIND OF COOL.

I WANT TO MAKE ONE MORE CHANGE, IF I CAN, ON S12.01.11.F.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF EVERY CONGREGATION.

EAST TENNESSEE FROM CHATTANOOGA TO JOHNSON CITY, YOU HAVE TO GO A LITTLE FURTHER NORTH AND EAST AND IT NEEDS TO INCLUDE BRISTOL.

IT WOULD BE BRISTOL AND NOT JUST JOHNSON CITY.

>> WE'LL TAKE THAT AS A FRIENDLY SUGGESTION TO THE MATTER THAT WILL COME UP AS SOON AS WE FINISH THE AMENDMENT THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> OKAY, THANK YOU.

>> WE DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE BRISTOL OUT.

IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WISHING TO SPEAK TO THE PROPOSAL THAT WAS BROUGHT OUT OF THE EN BLOC?

OR ARE THERE OTHER QUESTIONS?

>> I'M LAURA SENEKER JONES FROM ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CHATTANOOGA.

MY QUESTION IS, OR MY REQUEST WOULD BE, THAT I DIDN'T REALIZE BEING A DELEGATE, I NEEDED TO BE GOING TO THE CONFERENCE MEETINGS AND OUR CLUSTER MEETINGS, AND THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO TAKE MY TIME TO DO THAT.

AND I FEEL LIKE THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO JUST SORT OF DISREGARD THESE MEETINGS, AND DON'T REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE CONNECTING OUR MINISTRY, AND I THINK THAT SHOULD BE SOMETHING THAT'S SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

>> THANK YOU.

ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK TO THE MATTER AT HAND, THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE BOUNDARIES IN THAT ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, AND WESTERN TENNESSEE.

MICROPHONE 2.

>> I CALL THE QUESTION.

>> THE QUESTION HAS BEEN CALLED, WHICH MEANS WE WILL VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT, WHICH -- DOES THE SECRETARY HAVE THAT WRITTEN DOWN YET?

DID I HEAR A SECOND TO THE MOTION TO STOP DEBATE?

WE NEED TO VOTE ON THE MOTION TO STOP DEBATE.

IT TAKES A 2/3 VOTE TO STOP DEBATE.

ALL THOSE IN FAVOR OF CALLING THE QUESTION, PLEASE INDICATE BY SAYING AYE.

>> AYE.

>> THOSE OPPOSED, SAY NO.

>> NAY.

>> I THINK THE AYES HAVE CARRIED IT, AND WE'RE NOW READY TO VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT WHICH I HAVE PREMATURELY ASKED FOR. I COULD READ THOSE STRIKE-OUTS AGAIN TO YOU, IF THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL, BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN READ YOU THE WHOLE AMENDMENT YET.

THIS IS AN AMENDMENT.

AT 1.01.11.G TO INSERT THE PHRASE, "ALABAMA FROM MONTGOMERY NORTHWARD."

AT 12.01.11.I TO STRIKE THE WORDS "MEMPHIS AND MISSISSIPPI, "AND INSERT THE PHRASE, "JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, DOTHAN AND MOBILE ALABAMA AND CONGREGATIONS SOUTHWARD."

AT 12.01.11.H TO ADD TO THE PHRASE, "MIDDLE TENNESSEE, MEMPHIS, AND TUPELO."

EVERYONE CLEAR ON THAT?

ARE WE READY TO VOTE?

WE'RE VOTING ON THIS AMENDMENT.

IF IT PASSES, IT WILL THEN BE INCLUDED IN THE EN BLOC, WHICH WE'LL

BE CONSIDERING NEXT.

IF IT FAILS, WE'LL VOTE ON THE EN BLOC AS IT EXISTS CURRENTLY.

ALL THOSE IN WHO ARE IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT TO CHANGE THE SUGGESTED BOUNDARIES, PLEASE INDICATE BY SAYING AYE.

>> AYE.

>> ALL THOSE OPPOSED, SAY NO.

>> NO.

>> I THINK THE AYES CARRY IT.

AND THEREFORE, WE WILL NOW -- YOU'RE TWO PAGES AHEAD OF ME.

THE MOTION TO AMEND SECTION 12.01.11 CARRIES, AND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR THEN IS TO ADOPT THE BYLAWS AS A WHOLE -- SORRY.

>> I CALL FOR A DIVISION OF THE HOUSE.

>> OKAY.

WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE YOUR GREEN CARDS OUT AND YOUR RED CARDS OUT.

AND IF YOU FAVOR THE AMENDMENT WHICH I HAVE JUST READ, WOULD YOU PLEASE INDICATE SO BY HOLDING YOUR GREEN CARD UP?

THANK YOU.

YOU MAY PUT THOSE DOWN.

IF YOU ARE OPPOSED TO THE AMENDMENT, PLEASE HOLD YOUR RED CARDS UP.

I THINK THAT CLEARLY THE AFFIRMATIVE WINS.

THE MOTION TO AMEND IS PASSED.

SO THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR NOW IS ADOPTION OF THE BYLAWS AS A

WHOLE, AS AMENDED EN BLOC, WHICH MEANS THAT ACCORDING TO THE RULES THAT WE'VE VOTED ON WHEN WE ACCEPTED THE RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE, THERE ARE NO AMENDMENTS TO THIS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS DISCUSSION.

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS ADOPTION OF THE BYLAW CHANGES AS THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED, AND AS THEY HAVE BEEN AMENDED, PLEASE GO TO THE MICROPHONES AT THIS TIME.

THIS WAS MOVED BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL, AND THEREFORE DOES NOT NEED A SECOND.

WE'RE READY FOR DISCUSSION.

MICROPHONE 1.

>> JUST A POINT OF INFORMATION THAT I'M NOT SURE I GOT ACROSS OR PASTOR HENNING GOT ACROSS YESTERDAY, THAT WE BOTH SPOKE TO IT.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE'RE PROPOSING HERE IS THE ADDITION OF COALITIONS.

COALITIONS ARE NOT TIED TO CONFERENCES.

COALITIONS ARE NOT TIED TO STATES.

COALITIONS ARE NOT TIED TO CLUSTERS.

IF YOU HAVE A SIMILAR INTEREST IN MINISTRY, YOU MAY MAKE A COALITION WITH CONGREGATIONS THAT HAVE SIMILAR ISSUES.

THERE ARE MANY OF THOSE THINGS THAT YOU MAY DECIDE TO CREATE A COALITION WITH.

YOU MAY DO MINISTRY WITH ANY CONGREGATION IN THIS SYNOD.

AND IT'S EVEN BEEN SAID THAT WE MIGHT EVEN DO MINISTRY WITH CONGREGATIONS THAT ARE IN SISTER SYNODS NEXT DOOR.

SO KEEP THAT IN MIND.

THE COALITIONS THAT WE ARE PROPOSING GIVE YOU THE ABILITY TO DO MINISTRY WITH CONGREGATIONS THAT ARE NOT IN YOUR CLUSTER OR IN YOUR CONFERENCE.

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR JONES.

OTHER DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EN BLOC BYLAWS CHANGES?

MICROPHONE 1.

>> RON FROST, MESSIAH LUTHERAN, MONTGOMERY.

WHEN WE TALKED EARLIER ABOUT THE SIZE AND THE NUMBER OF CONGREGATIONS, I THINK THE KEY POINT HERE IS IF WE HAVE MORE CONGREGATIONS, WE'LL FIND THOSE TWO OR THREE, FOUR INTERESTED PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE SKILL AND ABILITY TO BRING THOSE CONFERENCES TOGETHER AND MAKE THEM WORK.

>> THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 4.

>> PASTOR GINNY KREKLING, CELEBRATION OF GRACE MISSION IN CANTON, GEORGIA.

I SPOKE YESTERDAY ABOUT THE NEED TO BE AWARE OF BOTH STRUCTURE AND HOW WE WORK TO GET MINISTRY DONE.

BUT I WANTED TO POINT OUT THAT IN MOST CASES, THIS CHANGE WILL ALLOW FOR SOME LARGER CONFERENCES TO SUPPORT MISSION

CONGREGATIONS.

HAPPENS THAT IN MY OWN, IT WON'T.

WE'LL HAVE THREE MISSION CONGREGATIONS.

BUT I THINK FOR THE OVERALL PICTURE, THAT'S TRUE, AND IF MISSION IS TRULY WHAT WE'RE AFTER, THEN I THINK THIS DOES GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THAT EFFORT.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> AND WE'LL ASK YOU TO HELP US A LITTLE BIT MORE SINCE THERE'S THREE OF US.

>> THANKS.

PLEASE, WHEN YOU GO TO THE MICROPHONE, LET ME SEE THE COLOR OF YOUR CARD, BECAUSE WE WANT TO DO NEGATIVE AND AFFIRMATIVE IN ALTERATION, IF THAT'S POSSIBLE.

WE HAVE A QUESTION AT NUMBER 2.

>> EDWIN BRYANT CHRISTUS VICTOR.

MY QUESTION IS: IS IT PROPER AT THIS POINT TO VOTE ON THE EN BLOC MOVEMENT, SINCE THERE ARE GOING TO BE ADDITIONAL CHANGES AS INDICATED IN DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT, IN THE LAY-CLERGY -- I FORGET THE NUMBER OF IT, BUT HOW THOSE ELECTIONS ARE GOING TO TAKE PLACE, THAT'S GOING TO ALTER -- I WAS UNDER THAT IMPRESSION, OR MIGHT ALTER.

SO CAN WE VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT EVEN THOUGH THERE'S GOING TO BE SOME CHANGES?

>> THOSE CHANGES I THINK ARE IN THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION.

>> THEY'RE IN THE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS AND THERE'S A CONSEQUENCE, BUT THERE'S NOT -- IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE CHANGED. AS A MATTER OF FACT, SINCE WE'RE VOTING ON IT EN BLOC, I DON'T THINK YOU CAN CHANGE IT UNLESS YOU VOTE IT DOWN ENTIRELY.

>> SO JUST TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE UNDERSTOOD THAT, THIS DOES NOT AFFECT THE BYLAWS EXCEPT AS WE HAVE AMENDED THEM, AND IT DOESN'T AFFECT WHAT IS IN THE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS.

IT WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE OUTCOME, HOWEVER, OF THAT GRID.

IS THAT CLEAR TO EVERYONE?

OKAY, THANK YOU FOR THAT QUESTION.

ANYONE ELSE?

MICROPHONE 4.

I CAN'T SEE YOUR CARD, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A YELLOW CARD.

THANK YOU.

>> PASTOR GALENZ WITH MOUNTAIN OF LIFE MISSION TO THE NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS.

I REALIZE MY QUESTION PROBABLY RELATES THAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF LAST NIGHT BEFORE 7:00 THIS MORNING.

BUT I RECOGNIZE AS A MISSION DEVELOPER THAT THERE'S A QUADRANT OF OUR STATE OF GEORGIA THAT IS NOT REPRESENTED BY ANY CONFERENCE, AND THAT'S THE NORTHEAST, OF WHICH MOST OF OUR MISSION DEVELOPMENT IS IDENTIFYING MANY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE A CHURCH.

I ALSO RECOGNIZE MIKE McCORMICK'S CONGREGATION IN CLEVELAND.

I DON'T THINK GEOGRAPHICALLY YOU'D PUT IN NORTHWEST GEORGIA, SO I DON'T KNOW IF ANYTHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS AS GEOGRAPHICALLY CORRECT AS POSSIBLE, AND I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE NOTED AS NORTH GEORGIA, NOT NORTHWEST GEORGIA.

>> THANK YOU.

AND IF YOU'LL NOTE, THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONGREGATIONS AS THERE CURRENTLY ARE TO MOVE FROM A CONFERENCE TO ANOTHER IF THE BOUNDARIES ARE INCORRECTLY NAMED.

THE CURRENT CONFERENCES NAMED THEMSELVES, AND THAT WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY, AS WELL.

SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'M NOT TRYING TO ARGUE FOR THE POINT.

I'M JUST TRYING TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

ARE THERE OTHER COMMENTS, QUESTIONS?

ANYONE ELSE WISH TO SPEAK TO THIS?

I DON'T SEE ANYONE MOVING TO A MICROPHONE, SO I THINK WE'RE READY TO VOTE, AND SINCE THESE ARE BYLAW AMENDMENTS, THEY MUST BE APPROVED BY A 2/3 MAJORITY OF THE ASSEMBLY.

THEREFORE, IF YOU FAVOR THE BYLAW AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED, IF YOU WOULD INDICATE THAT BY RAISING YOUR GREEN CARD, PLEASE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YOU CAN PUT THOSE DOWN.

THOSE OPPOSED TO THE CHANGES, PLEASE RAISE YOUR RED CARDS.

I THINK THAT IT CARRIES RATHER SIGNIFICANTLY.

SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO THE COMMITTEE.

AND WE'LL MOVE ON TO THE SECOND PART OF THIS.

THE SYNOD COUNCIL HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY PASS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION, THAT THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL BE APPROVED EN BLOC.

AS THIS IS A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SYNOD COUNCIL, IT DOESN'T NEED A SECOND.

THERE WERE NO REQUESTS TO SEPARATE ANY PART OF THESE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS.

WE VOTE FOR THEM SEPARATELY FROM THE BYLAWS FOR ONE REASON: IT REQUIRES ONLY A MAJORITY VOTE TO CHANGE THESE.

IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT AMENDING THE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS?

DON'T ANYONE MOVING TO A MIC.

YES, THERE'S A QUESTION MOVING TO A MICROPHONE.

MICROPHONE 4.

>> I HAVE A QUESTION.

THERE'S TWO RESOLUTIONS.

ONE IS -- I THINK IT'S ABOUT THE INCLUSION OF GAY AND LESBIAN PEOPLE, AND THERE'S TWO OF THEM.

ONE IS PRO AND ONE IS AGAINST.

WAS THERE A RESOLUTION -- WAS THAT RESOLVED OF WHICH RESOLUTION WAS GOING TO BE ACCEPTED?

>> IT WAS, BUT AT THE CURRENT TIME, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS, SO IF YOU COULD ASK THAT AFTER WE VOTE ON THIS, BECAUSE I THINK THAT WOULD BE OUT OF ORDER AT THIS TIME.

>> I'M SORRY.

I THOUGHT IT WAS PART OF THE SAME THING.

>> NO APOLOGY NECESSARY.

NO.

NO.

THE QUESTION IS APPROVE THE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS EN BLOC AS THEY'VE BEEN PRESENTED BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

THERE'S A QUESTION AT MICROPHONE 4.

>> YEAH, I'M BERT ENGLISH FROM PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, KNOXVILLE.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE IN THE BOOK WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING AT THESE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS.

>> THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.

I'M GOING TO ANSWER THAT FOR YOU, BECAUSE IT TOOK ME ABOUT 22 YEARS TO FIGURE THAT OUT.

IF YOU WILL LOOK AT -- UNDER TAB F, YOU WILL SEE THE CONSTITUTION, CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS, AND THE BYLAWS OF THIS SYNOD.

AND I'M TRYING TO FIND A CONTINUING RESOLUTION MYSELF.

>> CAN I ANSWER THAT QUESTION FOR YOU?

>> YOU CAN.

YOU PROBABLY HAVE IT RIGHT.

>> THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS HAVE TWO SETS OF NUMBERS FOLLOWED BY A PERIOD, FOLLOWED BY TWO SETS OF TWO NUMBERS, SO IT'S NUMBER, NUMBER, DOT, NUMBER, NUMBER.

THE BYLAWS HAVE THREE: NUMBER, NUMBER, DOT, NUMBER, NUMBER, DOT, NUMBER, NUMBER.

AND THE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS ARE ALL IN ITALICS, AND THE LAST NUMBERING ALWAYS BEGINS WITH A LETTER BEFORE THE NUMBER.

AND ACTUALLY, THE LETTER IS FOLLOWED BY -- THE NUMBER IS ACTUALLY THE DATE THAT THE -- THE YEAR THAT THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION WAS ENACTED.

SO IF IT'S IN ITALICS, IT'S A CONTINUING RESOLUTION.

>> THANK YOU.

YOU CAN SEE ONE OF THOSE AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 41.

IT'S NOT PERTINENT TO THIS.

ALL OF THESE ARE EMBEDDED IN THE CONSTITUTION.

IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE TO FIND THESE IN A LITTLE BIT SIMPLER WAY.

ALL OF THE PARTS OF THE CONSTITUTION THAT ARE ACTUALLY PART OF THE CONSTITUTION ITSELF IS IN BOLD TYPE.

THE BYLAWS ARE IN NOT-BOLD TYPE, AND THE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS ARE IN ITALICS.

IF YOU'LL LOOK AT PAGE 34 NEAR THE TOP OF THE PAGE, THIS IS TAB F, PAGE 34.

THERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CONTINUING RESOLUTION THAT YOU WILL BE ADOPTING IF YOU VOTE FOR THIS.

IT'S 112.01.13.A.09.

ARE THERE OTHER QUESTIONS OR QUESTION AT NUMBER 2?

>> I POINTED OUT LAST EVENING THAT THERE IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS AND THE AMENDMENTS WE HAVE JUST ADOPTED, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH IN VALDOSTA BEING LISTED IN CONFERENCE 1 IN CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS, BUT IN CONFERENCE 2 IN THE AMENDMENTS WE ADOPTED.

>> WE'LL NEED TO CHANGE THAT, OBVIOUSLY.

>> ACTUALLY, LET ME SEE IF I CAN SPEAK TO THAT FOR A MOMENT.

YOU HAVE A SHEET THAT HAS ALL OF THE CONGREGATIONS LISTED AND ALL OF THE CONFERENCES LISTED, AND THAT'S NOT IN THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

IT'S JUST FOR REFERENCE.

IT'S OUR BEST GUESS AS TO WHERE EVERYTHING FITS.

THE DESCRIPTION OF WHERE CONGREGATIONS GO IS ACTUALLY IN THE PARTICULAR SECTION THAT WE CALLED OUT, WHICH EVENTUALLY I COULD FIND, I THINK.

BUT IT'S THE ONE WE JUST AMENDED.

THOSE VERBAL DESCRIPTIONS ARE ACTUALLY THE DESCRIPTIONS AS

TO WHERE THE CONGREGATIONS GO.

AGAIN, THE TABLE OF CONGREGATIONS IS NOT A PART OF THE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS OR CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS AT ALL.

SO IT'S A NICE REFERENCE, BUT IF IT'S WRONG, IT STILL DOESN'T APPLY TO THE EXTENT THAT IT'S INCONSISTENT WITH THE BYLAWS.

>> AND, PASTOR, THE SYNOD COUNCIL WILL CLEAR THAT UP, AND IT IS AN ERROR, BUT IT'S NOT AN ERROR IN THE ACTUAL CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS AND BYLAWS.

OTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THE MATTER AT HAND?

ARE WE READY TO VOTE?

THIS REQUIRES A MAJORITY.

AND THE PROPOSAL IS TO ACCEPT THE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS AS PRESENTED BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

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

>> AYE.

>> ALL OPPOSED, SAY NO.

>> NO.

>> THE PROPOSAL CARRIES.

AND WE HAVE JUST AMENDED THE BYLAWS AND THE CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE SYNOD.

AND THANKS AGAIN.

I THINK WE SHOULD SAY THANKS TO THIS TASK FORCE FOR ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK.

[APPLAUSE]

STAND UP, TASK FORCE MEMBERS, IF YOU'RE HERE.

MARLYN KELM, RANDY, PAUL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THAT.

OKAY.

WHERE ARE WE?

WE HAVE 15 MINUTES.

IS SANDRA GUSTAVSON HERE?

ARE WE READY?

OKAY.

WE TURN TO J, NOMINATIONS FOR AT-LARGE MEMBERS OF SYNOD COUNCIL.

AND I CALL ON THE VICE PRESIDENT, WESLEY CRENSHAW.

THANK YOU.

>> GOOD MORNING.

THERE ARE 2 AT-LARGE POSITIONS ON THE SYNOD COUNCIL THAT MUST BE FILLED BY THIS YEAR'S ASSEMBLY.

TO ASSIST IN MEETING OUR INCLUSIVITY GOALS, ALL OF THE NOMINEES MUST BE LAY FEMALES.

THE SYNOD COUNCIL NOMINATES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO FILL THESE TWO AT-LARGE POSITIONS: SHARON BOST AND MEREDITH HENDRICKS.

>> THANK YOU.

THIS IS FOR THE AT-LARGE POSITION IN THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

THIS MUST BE A LAY FEMALE.

SYNOD COUNCIL NOMINATES SHARON BOST AND MEREDITH HENDRICKS.

ARE THERE OTHER NOMINATIONS FOR LAY FEMALE AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL?

I'M NOT SEEING ANYONE GOING TO A MICROPHONE, SO WE'LL SAY THAT THE NOMINATIONS ARE CLOSED.

THERE WILL NOT BE A BALLOT ON THIS UNTIL AFTER LUNCH, SO WES? I THINK BIOGRAPHICAL FORMS FOR THOSE -- THERE WEREN'T ANY NOMINATED.

THAT'S WHY YOU SAT DOWN, OKAY.

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE A-5 IN YOUR ASSEMBLY MATERIALS, AND NOW WE MOVE TO THE PORTION OF THE ASSEMBLY WHERE WE CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS AND MEMORIALS RECOMMENDED BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL.

A SYNOD COUNCIL RESOLUTION HAS ALREADY BEEN MOVED AND SECONDED WHEN IT COMES TO THE ASSEMBLY, SO AS I THINK I MUST HAVE SAID 20 TIMES YET, IT DOESN'T NEED A SECOND.

SO AS SOON AS IT'S MOVED, THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE.

THOSE RESOLUTIONS THAT COME FROM THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, WILL REQUIRE A SECOND.

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

PASTOR NANCY CHRISTENSEN IS OUR ABLE TIMEKEEPER.

WHEN THERE ARE 30 SECONDS REMAINING ON YOUR 3 MINUTES, PASTOR CHRISTENSEN WILL TURN ON A YELLOW BLINKING LIGHT AND WHEN TIME IS UP, SHE WILL TURN ON A RED LIGHT.

AND IF YOU DON'T GET THE NOTE BY THAT TIME, WE'LL CUT THE MICROPHONE OFF.

SO DO WE COMMUNICATE THERE?

ALL KIDDING ASIDE, WE WANT TO GIVE EVERYONE A CHANCE TO SPEAK, AND THERE ARE LOTS OF US HERE, SO PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE TIME AND BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS, IF YOU WILL.

FURTHER REMINDER TO VOTING MEMBERS: YELLOW CARDS, RED CARDS, GREEN CARDS, PLEASE BRING A GREEN CARD IF YOU WANT TO SPEAK FOR WHAT'?

S ON THE FLOOR, A RED CARD TO SPEAK AGAINST, A YELLOW CARD IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, POINT OF ORDER.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO MOVE A RESOLUTION OR AMENDMENT, PLEASE MAKE YOUR AMENDMENT BEFORE YOU SPEAK TO IT.

AND WE'LL ENDEAVOR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, AS I SAID EARLIER, TO ALTERNATE BETWEEN AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE, GREEN AND RED CARDS.

IF YOU WANT TO CALL THE QUESTION, REMEMBER OUR RULES SAY THAT YOU MAY NOT DO THAT AT THE END OF A SPEECH.

YOU HAVE TO DO THAT ONLY, AND YOU CAN BRING A RED CARD TO CALL THE QUESTION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THESE DETAILS, AND WE KNOW

THAT WE OPERATE HERE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SPIRIT, AND IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD.

THE FIRST RESOLUTION FOR OUR DISCUSSION WILL BE BROUGHT TO FOR US FROM THE SYNOD COUNCIL BY MR. MIKE KREKLING, CELEBRATION OF GRACE, CANTON, GEORGIA.

AND MIKE KREKLING -- THAT'S NOT MIKE KREKLING.

>> BISHOP GORDY, MIKE IS ON HIS WAY.

UNFORTUNATELY, HIS HOUSE HAD A BROKEN PIPE THIS MORNING, AND SO HE HAS MANAGED TO GET THE WATER OFF, AND I CAN READ IT, OR IF YOU WANT A SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBER TO READ IT, THAT WOULD BE FINE.

>> YOU CAN READ IT, THE VICE PRESIDENT SAYS.

WE ONLY NEED TO READ THE RESOLVEDS, SO WE'RE LOOK AT THE ELCA MEMORIAL TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION. BEFORE YOU READ THAT, JUST ONE NOTE FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MAY BE NEW TO THIS: SYNOD ASSEMBLIES MAY ASK THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY TO TAKE SOME ACTION OR NOT TAKE SOME ACTION, AND THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY'S DOING THAT IS KNOWN AS A MEMORIAL. SO THIS IS A PROPOSED MEMORIAL THAT WILL ASK THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, WHICH MEETS IN AUGUST, TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION IN THE RESOLVED CLAUSES.

TAB G, ITEM 2009-01.

THIS IS RESOLUTION 01.

>> "MAY IT BE RESOLVED, THAT THE SOUTHEASTERN 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.

>> THANK YOU, PASTOR.

THAT COMES TO YOU AS A MOTION FROM THE SYNOD COUNCIL.
IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ON THE MEMORIAL TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE SUICIDE PREVENTION?

MICROPHONE 1.

>> IT'S ME AGAIN, LAURA SENEKER JONES FROM ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CHATTANOOGA.

THIS IS A VERY PERSONAL.

WHEN MY FATHER WAS IN SEMINARY IN 1981, PROFESSOR AUL'S SON, WHO HAD TAKEN ME UNDER HIS WINGS, WE'D JUST GOTTEN THERE IN JUNE, HUNG HIMSELF IN HIS BEDROOM, AND HIS 4-YEAR-OLD SISTER FOUND HIM.

ALL THE SIGNS WERE THERE, BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW THE SIGNS.

I'VE BEEN -- I'VE HAD THREE NERVOUS BREAKDOWNS AND BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL, AND IN PASTORAL CONFIDENCE, MY HUSBAND WAS ADMITTED THIS PAST WEEK AND IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL.

THIS IS THE THIRD LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH OF PEOPLE BETWEEN BASICALLY 15 TO 35.

AND THOSE ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT THEY CAN ACTUALLY PROVE AS SUICIDE AS OPPOSED TO DRINKING AND DRIVING AND WRECKING OR O.D.'ING.

I THINK THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THIS

MEMORIAL, AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO LEARN THE SIGNS OF DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ANYONE ELSE?

MICROPHONE 1.

>> IT'S REALLY A POINT OF CLARIFICATION, I THINK MAYBE WORDING.

I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU CAN INVITE SUICIDE SURVIVORS, BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE NONE.

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUICIDE ATTEMPT SURVIVORS, OKAY.

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO INSERT THAT WORD "ATTEMPT."

>> I THINK THIS IS ALSO FAMILIES OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE TAKEN THEIR LIVES.

I THINK THAT'S WHAT'S INTENDED HERE.

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE AN AMENDMENT?

OKAY, THANK YOU.

ANYONE ELSE?

MICROPHONE 4.

>> JUST A QUESTION: IS THERE A SUICIDE PREVENTION ENDOWMENT FUND?

IS THAT ESTABLISHED?

I'M SORRY, DENNIS FAKES, ST. MARK'S, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

>> I THINK THERE IS, ACTUALLY.

>> I ASSUME THERE WAS.

I JUST WAS WONDERING.

THIS IS NOT ESTABLISHING SOMETHING THAT'S NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED?

>> NO, I THINK THERE DOES EXIST SUCH A THING.

>> THE ELCA PASSED A THINGY, SOCIAL STATEMENT, ON THIS, IN 1999, AND THAT IS PART OF THE INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE FOR THIS RESOLUTION.

>> THANK YOU.

MICROPHONE 3.

>> YES, CHAPLAIN KREY, PORT OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

I KNOW IN THE SEAFARING WORLD, WE TALK ABOUT THE BLACK DOG, THE SEVERE DEPRESSION WHICH ALLOWS FOR THE TRAGEDY OF SEAFARERS DISAPPEARING ON THE SEAS IN SUCH GREAT NUMBERS.

BUT IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THIS RESOLUTION TO STUDY THE OCCUPATIONS OR LINES OF WORK THAT ARE MOST PRONE TO SUICIDE?

>> I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ADD AN AMENDMENT ASKING -- THIS IS A MEMORIAL TO ELCA CHURCHWIDE, AND I SUPPOSE YOU COULD PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT ADDING THAT TO THE RESOLUTION.

>> COULD I HAVE 2 MINUTES TO TRY TO WRITE ONE UP?

>> YOU CAN WRITE, QUICKLY BECAUSE WE'RE TO GO TO WORKSHOPS IN 5 MINUTES, IF WE CAN.

THANK YOU.

CAUCUSES, RATHER, SORRY, NOT WORKSHOPS.

OTHER DISCUSSION?

>> MY NAME IS JERRY WEIROCK.

I'M A MEMBER OF LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION IN
MARIETTA, GEORGIA.

AND THIS MEMORIAL WAS DRAFTED BY MY WIFE, ELSIE, AND MYSELF.

A POINT OF CLARIFICATION: THERE HAS BEEN A SUICIDE PREVENTION
ENDOWMENT FUND WITHIN THE ELCA FOUNDATION FOR THE PAST 10
YEARS.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT, AND SO THAT'S
ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THIS.

FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION, THIS MEMORIAL AUTHORIZES A
VOLUNTARY SUICIDE PREVENTION MINISTRY TO INITIATE ACTION
CALLED FOR IN THE 1999 SUICIDE PREVENTION MESSAGE APPROVED BY
THE CHURCH COUNCIL.

THIS HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR 10 YEARS.

WE'RE NOW BRINGING LIFE AND LIMBS AND VOICE TO THAT MESSAGE.

AND THAT MESSAGE SAYS, "THE CHURCH COUNCIL ENCOURAGES
MEMBERS, CONGREGATIONS, AND AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT SUICIDE AND ITS PREVENTION IN THEIR COMMUNITIES TO
ASK WHAT THEY CAN DO, AND TO WORK WITH OTHERS TO PREVENT
SUICIDE."

NO MECHANISM EXISTS CURRENTLY TO TAKE THIS ACTION.

THE ADVICE OF CHURCH IN SOCIETY UNIT HAS BEEN INCORPORATED IN
THIS MEMORIAL.

PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BECOME INVOLVED AND ADD
SUGGESTIONS AND SO ON ARE INVITED TO COME BY OUR BOOTH AND

JOIN THIS VOLUNTARY SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE, AND WE CAN INCLUDE ALL OF YOUR CONCERNS AND IDEAS IN THAT.

>> MICROPHONE 3.

>> YES, CHAPLAIN KREY, PORT OF SAVANNAH.

I'D LIKE TO AMEND OR ACTUALLY ADD NUMBER 6 TO THE SECOND RESOLVED.

NUMBER 6 READING, "DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE CHURCHWIDE UNIT TO STUDY THE 5 TO 10 OCCUPATIONS MOST PRONE TO SUICIDE INTERNATIONALLY."

>> OKAY, THIS IS AN AMENDMENT BY ADDITION.

>> YES.

>> THERE WILL BE A NUMBER 6.

AND IF YOU COULD BRING THAT IN WRITING.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEAK TO THAT?

>> SECOND.

>> THANK YOU, THERE'S A SECOND.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEAK TO THAT?

>> YES, I THINK ONE OF THE SIGNS THAT WE ROSTERED LEADERS AND OTHER LEADERS IN THE CHURCH NEED TO BE AWARE OF IS THAT IF ONE OF OUR PARISHIONERS BELONGS OR WORKS IN A CERTAIN FIELD, THAT WE SHOULD GIVE THAT PERSON SOME -- OR THOSE PERSONS -- SOME ATTENTION ON THIS SUBJECT.

>> THANK YOU.

IF YOU DON'T MIND BRINGING THAT DOWN, PASTOR.

ARE THERE OTHER -- IS THERE OTHER DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDMENT TO ASK THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY TO ASK THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE LEADING CAUSES OF -- OCCUPATIONS INVOLVED WITH SUICIDE?

WE DID GET A SECOND, YES, YES.

THE CHAIR DID NOT REMEMBER TO ASK FOR ONE, BUT HE GOT ONE ANYWAY FROM A GRACIOUS MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY.

MICROPHONE 1.

>> SHARON BOST, MEMBER OF SYNOD COUNCIL.

I'D LIKE TO CHANGE THE WORD "STUDY" TO IDENTIFY, BECAUSE THAT'S BASICALLY -- AND WE CAN IDENTIFY IN AN ORDER.

IS THAT APPROPRIATE?

>> YOU'RE PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT?

IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> IS THERE A SECOND?

>> SECOND.

>> WE HAVE A SECOND, AND THE AMENDMENT IS TO STRIKE "STUDY," --

>> AND ADD "IDENTIFY."

>> AND ADD "IDENTIFY."

IS THERE DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT?

I'M TRYING TO SEE IF PEOPLE ARE JUST WANDERING AROUND OR IF THEY'RE GOING TO MICS.

OKAY, NUMBER 4.

>> THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE -- BERT ENGLISH FROM PEACE LUTHERAN.

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIMPLY IDENTIFYING AND UNDERSTANDING THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE SUICIDES IN THOSE 5 TO 10 OCCUPATIONS.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT SIMPLY IDENTIFYING CAN BE DONE BY LOOKING UP STATISTICS, BUT IT REALLY REQUIRES A LOT OF STUDY TO UNDERSTAND WHY THAT HAPPENS, AND TO GET INFORMATION TO THOSE THAT NEED IT.

>> THANK YOU.

OTHER DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDMENT TO CHANGE THE WORD "STUDY" -- OR CHANGE THE WORD "IDENTIFY," TO "STUDY"?

>> I CAN WITHDRAW THE AMENDMENT.

IS THAT PROPER?

>> IF YOU WITHDRAW -- IT'S BEEN SECONDED AND PEOPLE ARE DISCUSSING IT.

I THINK IT'S TOO LATE TO WITHDRAW IT.

>> OKAY, OKAY.

>> THE DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT. NUMBER 2.

>> LISA SPEAK, ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH IN NORCROSS. COULD WE CHANGE IT TO SAY "IDENTIFY AND STUDY"?

[APPLAUSE]

>> SECOND.

>> I THINK THAT'S OUT OF ORDER, BECAUSE WE CAN'T HAVE AN AMENDMENT TO AN AMENDMENT TO AN AMENDMENT.

I THINK ROBERT'S RULES STOPS AT AMENDMENTS TO AMENDMENTS. SO I THINK WE STILL HAVE TO VOTE ON THIS, AND IF IT FAILS, WE COULD HAVE ANOTHER AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT.

OTHER DISCUSSION ON -- YES?

>> CHECK WITH THE PARLIAMENTARIAN, BUT I THINK YOU CAN DO IT AS WHAT'S CALLED A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT.

>> WE COULD DO THAT.

COULD WE DO THAT?

PARLIAMENTARIAN SAYS WE COULD ASK FOR THAT TO BE A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT IF THE ASSEMBLY WISHES TO DO SO.

SO WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOTE ON THAT?

IF YOU WISH TO AMEND BY -- I THINK NOW WE WOULD BE AMEND BY ADDING THE WORD "STUDY," SO IT WOULD BE "IDENTIFY AND STUDY."

WOULD YOU PLEASE SAY AYE.

>> AYE.

>> IF YOU'RE OPPOSED TO THAT, SAY NO.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

[LAUGHTER]

NOW WE'RE VOTING ON THE AMENDMENT.

THE AMENDMENT IS TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE ELCA CHURCHWIDE UNIT TO IDENTIFY AND STUDY THE 5 TO 10 OCCUPATIONS -- OKAY, PASTOR -- MOST PRONE TO SUICIDE.

OH, YES, INTERNATIONALLY.

THAT WORD IS IN THERE, INTERNATIONALLY MOST PRONE TO SUICIDE.

THAT'S THE WORD I COULDN'T READ IS "INTERNATIONALLY."

IS THERE FURTHER DISCUSSION NOW ON THE AMENDMENT?

YES, MICROPHONE 1.

>> NOT THAT ONE.

I WANT TO MAKE ONE.

>> ANY MORE DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDMENT?

THEN I THINK WE'RE READY TO VOTE.

THOSE WHO ARE IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT, WOULD YOU INDICATE
SO BY SAYING AYE.

>> AYE.

>> THOSE OPPOSED, NO.

THE AMENDMENT CARRIES, AND NOW BACK ON THE FLOOR IS THE
ORIGINAL MEMORIAL TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE SUICIDE PREVENTION
ACTION AS AMENDED BY THE ADDITION OF NUMBER 6.

IS THERE DISCUSSION NOW ON THE MEMORIAL, THE PROPOSED
MEMORIAL?

I THINK, THEN, WE ARE READY TO VOTE.

THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MEMORIAL -- DO YOU NEED ME TO READ THIS
AGAIN?

>> NO.

>> GOD BLESS YOU AGAIN.

WE ARE VOTING ON THE MEMORIAL TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE

SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION.

THAT'S RESOLUTION 2009-01.

ALL OF THOSE IN FAVOR, PLEASE SAY AYE.

>> AYE.

>> THOSE OPPOSED, SAY NO.

THE AYES CARRY, AND THE MOTION IS ADOPTED.

AND NOW WE NEED TO MOVE INTO CAUCUSES, IS THAT CORRECT?

OH, YES, YES, EXCUSE ME.

I WANTED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE YOU'VE ALREADY MET.

JERRY AND ELSIE WEYRAUCH.

WHEN THEIR DAUGHTER TERRI, WHO WAS A YOUNG PHYSICIAN, TOOK HER OWN LIFE IN 1987, THEY INITIALLY BLAMED THEMSELVES.

THEY WENT ON, HOWEVER, AND HAVE SINCE DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO PREVENTING SUCH TRAGEDIES.

SINCE THOSE FIRST DARK DAYS, THE WEYRAUCHS, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF RESURRECTION IN MARIETTA, LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE THEMSELVES AND OTHERS ABOUT THE CAUSES OF SUICIDE, AS WELL AS SOME OF THE METHODS OF PREVENTION.

IT'S THE 8th LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN THE UNITED STATES, AS SOMEONE POINTED OUT.

THEY FOUNDED THE SUICIDE PREVENTION ADVOCACY NETWORK CALLED "SPAN."

THEY HAVE A DISPLAY OUTSIDE.

AND THEY'VE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN RAISING NATIONAL AWARENESS

OF SUICIDE PREVENTION, INCLUDING THE ELCA'S OWN SUICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVE.

SO IF YOU DON'T OBJECT, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THEM TO BRIEFLY GREET THE ASSEMBLY.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, BISHOP.

I THINK WE'VE PROBABLY SAID ENOUGH ALREADY, AND I JUST WANT TO PERSONALLY SAY THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH FOR YOUR POSITIVE ACTION.

MY WIFE, ELSIE, ALWAYS GETS THE LAST WORD, AND SHE'LL MAKE IT SHORT.

[LAUGHTER]

>> IT IS VERY SHORT.

IT'S: THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT, FOR THIS SYNOD, FOR THE BISHOPS THAT HAVE SUPPORTED IT, AND PLEASE, PLEASE, LET'S CARRY THIS BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES, IN OUR CONGREGATIONS, WHERE SUICIDE HAPPENS TO ANYONE AND EVERYONE.

NO ONE IS IMMUNE.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

JERRY AND ELSIE WEYRAUCH ARE ALSO JUST DELIGHTFUL PEOPLE TO WORK WITH, SO WE APPRECIATE ALL THEIR TIRELESS WORK OVER MANY YEARS IN SUICIDE PREVENTION.

PLEASE TURN TO TAB-I, EXHIBIT 5, AND FIND THE NEW CONFERENCE NUMBER FOR YOUR CONGREGATION.

THERE MAY BE AT LEAST ONE ERROR IN THERE, PASTOR DIAMOND.

OKAY.

PARDON?

YES, I'VE GOT THAT, I'VE GOT THAT.

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SOME CHANGES, AND I'M GOING TO TRY TO DO THIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

SINCE THE CHART WAS DRAFTED BEFORE THE AMENDMENT WAS MADE AND PASSED, I WANT TO READ THE DESCRIPTIONS FOR CONFERENCES 7, 8, AND 9 AGAIN, OKAY?

CONGREGATIONS IN THESE CONFERENCES, PLEASE DISREGARD THIS CHART.

OF COURSE, IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO DISREGARD IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT CONFERENCE -- NEVER MIND.

YOU CAN FIGURE THAT OUT YOURSELF.

OR YOU CAN TALK TO PAUL ARNE, WHO'S UP HERE IN THE FRONT.

I'M CALLING YOUR ATTENTION TO THE CONFERENCE DESCRIBED IN G.

THIS WILL BE CONFERENCE 7, I THINK, WHICH IS ALABAMA,

MONTGOMERY NORTHWARD, AND THEN CONFERENCE 8, WHICH IS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND TUPELO, TENNESSEE.

NO, THAT'S MISSISSIPPI, ISN'T IT?

TUPELO HAS BEEN IN MORE CONFERENCES THAN ANY OTHER

CONGREGATION, DID YOU KNOW THAT?

AND THEN CONFERENCE 9, WHICH IS JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, DOTHAN, ALABAMA, AND CONGREGATIONS SOUTH.

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, DOTHAN, ALABAMA, AND CONGREGATIONS SOUTHWARD.

SO THAT'S CONFERENCE 9.

THE REST OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND YOUR CONFERENCE IN THE CHART.

IF YOU WOULD THEN PLEASE MOVE TO THE ROOMS INDICATED.

IN EACH ROOM THEY HAVE A FACILITATOR FROM THE SYNOD COUNCIL WHO WILL LEAD YOU THROUGH THERE CAUCUSES.

THE CAUCUSES NEED TO END BY 11:00.

OUR MIDDAY WORSHIP BEGINS AT 11:10.

I REMIND EVERYBODY THAT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ASSEMBLY, THERE WAS A CHANGE MADE TO THE PRINTED AGENDA.

THE PLENARY SESSION FOUR BEGINS AT 2:30 THIS AFTERNOON, AND NOT AT 3:00.

2:30, NOT 3:00.

SO I WANT TO REPEAT THAT AGAIN: 2:30, NOT HAPPY NEWS, BUT PLEASE BE HERE AT 2:30.

WE HAVE LOTS LEFT TO DO.

ALSO, WE WILL VOTE ON THE OTHER SYNOD COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS IN PLENARY FOUR.

I HAVE A POINT OF ORDER.

>> SAME QUESTION FOR BOTH OF US: WHICH PAGE HAS THE CAUCUS

MEETING ROOMS LISTED?

>> PARDON ME, PASTOR.

IT'S EXHIBIT 14.

>> THANK YOU.

>> EXHIBIT 14.

THANK YOU.

WE'RE ADJOURNED.

[END OF PLENARY THREE]

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