

**2013 ELCA-SOUTH EASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
May 31, June 1 & 2, 2013  
Chattanooga Convention Center  
Chattanooga, TN**

**FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2013**

**FIRST PLENARY SESSION ..... 12:30 – 2:45 PM  
Plenary Hall**

**A. Call to Order**

Bishop Gordy called the assembly to order at 11:59 PM.

1. Order for Opening of Assembly Tab J  
Using the Order for Opening of an Assembly, the Bishop opened the assembly.
2. Assembly Objectives  
The objectives of the assembly were outlined by the Bishop. He also shared that this is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Southeastern Synod of the ELCA.
3. Declaration of Bounds  
The Bishop outlined the definition of bounds and offered words of general introduction and housekeeping details.

**B. Opening Prayer - Assembly Chaplain**

The Bishop introduced the 2013 Assembly Chaplain, The Rev. Seyward Ask, Pastor of Outreach and Evangelism at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta, Georgia, who delivered the opening prayer.

**C. Report of the Credentials Committee**

The Bishop called upon the chair of the Credentials Committee, Ms. Carolyn Davis, member of Living Grace Lutheran Church in Tucker, Georgia who reported that of the 396 Voting Members Pre-registered, there were 286 in attendance, 192 of whom were lay and 94 of whom were clergy – which constituted a quorum.

**D. Adoption of the Agenda**

Tab A

After announcing that there were changes to the workshop schedule and that Bishop Hanson would provide a time of questions and answers in place of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service presentation during Saturday lunch,

**It was MOVED and  
VOTED SA13.31.01**

**that the amended Agenda for the five plenary sessions  
and one workshop session be adopted as the Orders of  
the Day.**

**E. Adoption of the Rules of Organization and Procedure**

Tab I, Exhibit 1

After the Bishop reviewed the rules of organization and procedure,

**It was MOVED and**

**VOTED SA13.31.02**

**that the Rules of Organization and Procedure  
recommended by the Synod Council be adopted.**

1. Introduction of Parliamentarian

The Rev. Dr. H. Warren Casiday, an ordained pastor of St. John’s United Church of Christ in Kannapolis, North Carolina, was introduced as the Assembly Parliamentarian.

2. Roberts Rules of Order Quick Reference Guide

A brief overview of Robert’s Rules of Order was given by the Bishop. A more detailed video presentation of Robert’s Rules was made available to voting members prior to the assembly.

**F. Report of the Nominating Committee**

Tab D

The Bishop called on the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Ms. Meredith Hendricks of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Atlanta, Georgia who provided background to the elections process and presented the following nominees.

Nominated by the Synod Council for the position of Synod Secretary to serve a four-year term to 2017, (either a pastor or a lay person), the nominees were:

- Mr. Wayne Fell
- Pastor Ruth Hamilton
- Pastor Randy Jones

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

For the position of clergy member of the Discipline Committee to fill a 6-year term to 2019, the Nominating Committee nominated:

- Pastor Tom Clark.

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

For the lay male position of the Discipline Committee to fill a 6-year term to 2019, the Nominating Committee nominated:

- Mr. Keith James
- Mr. Brad Ploeger

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

For the position of a lay female member of the Discipline Committee to fill a 6-year term to 2019, the Nominating Committee nominated:

- Ms. Beth Ford

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

For the position of a lay female member of the Discipline Committees to fill a 6-year term to 2019, the Nominating Committee nominated:

Ms. Lynn Frye

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

For the position of a clergy member of the Consultation Committee to fill a 6-year term to 2019, the nominating Committee nominated:

Pastor Larry Richardson

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

For the position of a clergy member of the Consultation Committee to fill a 6-year term to 2019, the nominating Committee nominated:

Pastor Jerry Weeks

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

For a clergy member of the Consultation Committee to complete a 4-year unexpired clergy term, the Nominating Committee nominated:

Pastor David Smedley

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

For a lay female position on the Consultation Committee to fill a 6-year term to 2019, the Nominating Committee nominated:

Ms. Karen Boda.

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

For a lay female position on the Consultation Committee to fill a 6-year term to 2019, the Nominating Committee nominated:

Ms. Jeannine Spann

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

For a young adult (between the ages of 18 and 30) lay person, either male or female, on Synod Council to serve a 1-year unexpired term, the Nominating Committee nominated the following:

Mr. Justin Marx

Mr. Benjamin Witcher

Nominations from the floor included:

Noah Eggleston

Nominations were closed.

For a position on Synod Council, designated for a youth (under the age of 18 but at least in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and able to complete the term prior to graduating from high school) lay person, either male or female, to serve a 2-year term, the Nominating Committee nominated:

Mr. John Baumgart.

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

#### **G. Report of the Credentials Committee**

The Bishop called upon Ms. Carolyn Davis, Chair of the Credentials Committee, who gave an updated credentials report prior to the first ballot for bishop. There were 432 voting members present, 319 were lay, 113 were clergy. (This report was later corrected.)

#### **H. Election Procedures**

Bishop Gordy relinquished the chair to ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson who gave an introduction to the call process (elections procedure) for a bishop. He reviewed the role of the bishop using the language found in the service of installation.

Another updated credentials report was give prior to balloting, stating that there were 441 voting members, 323 lay, 118 clergy. After a scripture reading and prayer by Bishop Hanson, the first ballot for the election of the synodical bishop followed. (This report was later corrected.)

#### **I. Bible Study and Anniversary Reflections**

Bishop Gordy introduced The Rev. Harold C. Skillrud, Bishop Emeritus and first bishop of the Southeastern Synod, elected in 1987, who led the assembly in Bible Study focusing on the newness of Christ's creation. He reflected on the history of the development of the ELCA and our history as a synod.

#### **J. ELCA Malaria Campaign**

Bishop Gordy called upon Mr. Jonathan Trapp, Chair of the synod's Hunger, Poverty and Justice Task Force and a member of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta, Georgia, who spoke about the ELCA Malaria Campaign, stating that it kills 655,000 people each year, especially affecting the vulnerable and oppressed. Congregations are invited to participate in campaigns to raise funds to overcome this preventable disease. He shared a short movie about Malaria and its prevention. Bishop Gordy also shared that Ms. Danielle Dunlap, a Peace Corp volunteer and a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Atlanta died April 28, 2013 of malaria while serving in Ghana. It was also noted that the offerings collected at assembly worship services would be split between the ELCA Malaria Campaign and the Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta.

#### **K. Election Procedures – Results of First Ballot for Bishop**

Bishop Gordy relinquished the chair to Bishop Hansen who called upon The Rev. Dena Lane, pastor of Nativity Lutheran Church, Austell, Georgia, and Chair of the Elections Committee who gave the results of the first ballot for bishop, which were as follows:

# total votes cast: 331  
 # of legal ballots: 321  
 # of illegal ballots: 10  
 # needed for election 241

The Rev. Delmer Chilton	1
The Rev. Jeff Crim	1
The Rev. Keith Cook	1
The Rev. Randy Jones	1
The Rev. James Chip Lingle	1
The Rev. Robert Mitchell	1
The Rev. Deborah Samuelson	1
The Rev. Joy Blalock	2
The Rev. Mark Hanson	2
The Rev. Scott Peterson	2
The Rev. Kevin Strickland	2
The Rev. Jill Henning	6
The Rev. Gary Christensen	7
The Rev. Julian Gordy	293

Bishop Hansen declared that Bishop Julian Gordy was elected to a 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Bishop of our Southeastern Synod of the ELCA.

#### **L. Recognitions (since last assembly)**

##### 1. Retiring Rostered Persons

Diaconal Minister Sylvia Countess (1/1/13)  
 The Rev. David P. Hendrix (10/1/12)  
 Associate in Ministry Jo Ann B. Hood (1/1/13)  
 The Rev. Barbara J. Hunter (8/1/12)  
 The Rev. Michael E. Jenkins (8/1/12)  
 The Rev. Marcus J. Miller (7/1/12)  
 The Rev. John B. Nieman (9/1/12)

##### 2. First Call Rostered Persons

The Rev. Jeffery P. Crim, Pastor, Ascension, Chattanooga, TN  
 The Rev. Daniel E. Pharr, Pastor, Christ, Prattville, AL  
 The Rev. Bridget L. Piggue, Director of Pastoral Education, Wesley Woods (Emory),  
 Atlanta, GA  
 The Rev. Will R. Rogers, Pastor, Christ the King, Tupelo, MS  
 The Rev. Laura J. Shally, Pastor Developer, Shepherd of the Lake, Loudon, TN  
 The Rev. Beverly B. Shaw, Associate Pastor, St. John's, Atlanta, GA

##### 3. New Seminary Graduates Assigned to our Synod

David (and Doris) Parr - LTSS  
 Ingrid (and Timothy) Schalk – LTSS  
 Karen (and James) Schwindler – LTSS

4. Rostered Persons New to Our Synod
  - The Rev. Kristine A. Blaess, Associate Pastor, St. George's Episcopal, Nashville, TN
  - The Rev. Michael A. Blaess, Associate Pastor, St. George's Episcopal, Nashville, TN
  - The Rev. Ruth E. Hamilton, Pastor, St. Luke's, Atlanta, GA
  - The Rev. Beth M. Halvorsen, Adjunct Professor, School of Religion, Belmont University, Nashville, TN
  - The Rev. Douglas H. Maginn, Retired
  - The Rev. Patrick J. McLaughlin, Pastor, Salem & Luther Memorial, Parrottsville, TN
  - The Rev. Paul H. Summer, Assistant to the Bishop, ELCA-Southeastern Synod
  - The Rev. David Trott, St. Stephen's, Decatur, GA
  
5. Rostered Persons Ordination Anniversaries (Five year increments)
  - Receiving recognition only:
    - 5th - 2008
      - The Rev. Allen C. Breedlove - 8/23
      - The Rev. Joel A. Emerson - 8/24
      - The Rev. Kevin L. Strickland - 6/14
      - The Rev. Nathan D. Hilkert - 12/7
      - The Rev. Patricia A. Axel - 7/6
      - The Rev. William E. Flippin - 11/30
  
    - 10th - 2003
      - The Rev. Hugh R. Williams, III - 2/2
      - The Rev. Julie A. Ehlers-King - 10/26
      - The Rev. Lynda A. Ernst - 3/2
      - The Rev. R. Dean Eatman, Jr. - 5/29
      - The Rev. Torrey O. Johnson - 12/14
  
    - 15th - 1998
      - AIM Jo Ann B. Hood - 5/98
      - The Rev. Donald C. Fritz, Sr. - 6/98
      - The Rev. Frederick C. Ohsiek, III - 12/13
      - The Rev. Michael J. Huntley - 7/12
      - The Rev. Miriam E. Beecher - 5/31
      - The Rev. Ralph L. Kirkpatrick, Jr. - 6/4
  
    - 20th - 1993
      - The Rev. Clifford A. Bahlinger - 8/1
      - The Rev. James M. Kroninger - 12/18
      - The Rev. Sandra S. Niiler - 6/12
      - The Rev. Steven B. Counts - 6/27
      - The Rev. Terri K. Stagner-Collier - 1/2

Receiving recognition and certificates:

25th - 1988

The Rev. Janice E. Mynchenberg - 7/3  
The Rev. Lewis A. Groce - 5/20  
The Rev. Mercedes W. Browne - 10/30  
The Rev. Robert H. Stelter, Jr. - 4/23

30th - 1983

The Rev. Carl E. Yost - 5/27  
The Rev. Deryck Durston - 5/22  
The Rev. James E. Korzun - 6/5  
The Rev. Keith R. Cook - 6/26  
The Rev. Kerry P. Maurer - 6/10  
The Rev. Michael W. Bovingdon - 5/27

35th - 1978

The Rev. David G. Webb - 6/11  
The Rev. David L. Hart - 5/26  
The Rev. Gary M. Schimmer - 6/11  
The Rev. Michael A. Lippard - 6/11  
The Rev. Myrna B. Kysar - 7/9  
The Rev. Palmer D. Clemmer - 6/11

40th - 1973

The Rev. Frank C. Wise, Jr. - 6/12  
The Rev. John B. Nieman, Jr. - 9/16

45th - 1968

The Rev. Daniel W. Phifer - 6/2  
The Rev. Frederick P. Krautwurst - 6/9  
The Rev. George E. Doebler - 12/8  
The Rev. W. Vernon Luckey, Jr. - 6/2

50th - 1963

The Rev. Kinley O. Eittreim - 6/9  
The Rev. Larry J. Koehn - 6/2  
The Rev. Robert H. Loshuertos - 7/7  
The Rev. William M. Waddell - 6/8

55th - 1958

The Rev. Donald E. Hanberry - 6/1

60th - 1953

The Rev. A. Richard Smith - 4/28

- The Rev. Gerhardt G. Rische, Sr. - 8/19
- The Rev. Jesse E. Wolf - 5/27
- The Rev. John F. Schneiter - 4/28
- The Rev. Raymond L. Peters - 5/19
- The Rev. Richard L. Combs - 5/17

This represented a total of 1,690 years of rostered ministry.

**M. Portico**

The Bishop introduced Ms. Rochelle Christensen, director of the Portico Benefit Services Service Center, formerly known as the ELCA Board of Pensions. Ms. Christensen explained that the goal of the ELCA health plan was to equip ministry – to strengthen church leaders and their families which in turn strengthens ministry. Due to the Health Care Affordability Act, changes are coming to the Portico plan. They are seeking to preserve the qualities of a strong wellness focus, efficiency, and portability throughout the call process. She stressed that retaining age diversity is critically important for the health of the plan, and that in 2014 they will move from a 1 option to 4 options plan. More specific information will be made available in mid-August.

**N. Welcome and Greetings from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**

The Bishop called upon Mr. Greg Sinatra with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, whose generosity (with the Mission Investment Fund) helped to subsidize the captioning of the assembly. As a faith based Christian financial services organization, they look at money as a tool to care for the needs of their community in which they serve. Then Mr. Dave Mietzner, a partner in the Thrivent regional office housed in Chattanooga welcomed us to Chattanooga.

**O. Announcements**

The Bishop called on Ms. Doris Underwood, Synod Vice President, who gave announcements.

**P. Closing Prayer- Assembly Chaplain**

The Bishop called on the Assembly Chaplain, Pastor Seyward Ask, who led the assembly in prayer.

**Q. Recess**

The Bishop declared at 2:24 PM that the assembly was in recess until that evening at 7:00 PM.

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**3:00 – 4:30 PM**  
**4:30 PM**  
**5:00 - 6:45 PM**

**ASSEMBLY WORSHIP**  
**CONFERENCE CAUCUSES (AS NEEDED)**  
**DINNER**

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**SECOND PLENARY SESSION . . . . . 7:00 – 8:45 PM  
Plenary Hall**

**A. Call to Order**

The Bishop called the Second Plenary Session of the Southeastern Synod Assembly to order at 7:-04 PM.

**B. Opening Prayer - Assembly Chaplain**

The Bishop called on the Assembly Chaplain, Pastor Seyward Ask who led the assembly in prayer.

**C. Adoption of Revised Agenda**

Since the Bishop was elected on the first ballot, the agenda shifted to remove continued Bishop election procedures. Therefore,

**It was MOVED and  
VOTED SA13.31.03**

**that the revised Agenda for the five plenary sessions and  
three workshop sessions be adopted as the Orders of the  
Day.**

**D. Report of the Credentials Committee**

The Bishop called on Ms. Carolyn Davis, Chair of the Credentials Committee. Ms. Davis reported that there was a correction to the Credentials report given just prior to the Bishop’s election. The corrected report was that there were a total of 341 voting members present, 223 were lay and 118 clergy. This did not affect the election of the bishop.

The third Credentials report was that there were 385 voting members in attendance, 246 were lay and 139 were clergy.

**E. Report from Augsburg Fortress Press**

The Bishop introduced Ms. Beth Lewis, President and CEO of Augsburg Fortress who brought greetings to the assembly. Ms. Lewis described many of the adaptations which the publishing house has made to meet modern technological needs. They are launching a new resource [preludemusicplanner.org](http://preludemusicplanner.org). Additionally, the ELW Pastoral Care resource is now in e-book format, and there is a new prayer book for the Armed Services for use by not only military chaplains but all clergy seeking to support members of our military. She also described some video-based curriculum for use with youth or young adults.

**F. Report of the Churchwide Representative – Bishop Hanson**

Bishop Gordy called upon ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, who served as the Churchwide Representative to our assembly, who reported to us that the ELCA is made up of 4 million baptized Christians who live out their faith daily. He also stressed that our 2017 commemoration of the anniversary of the Reformation is not a celebration of separation, but a recognition of how the Gospel is being proclaim in partnership with others, including our Roman Catholic Church brothers and sisters. In regard to the current ELCA, he challenged congregations to ask: “Are we suffering from nostalgia or leading the congregation to being made new?” He also reported that over \$8 million has been raised to fight against Malaria.

**G. Connecting the Dots – Owning and Multiplying Our Strengths**

Bishop Gordy called upon The Rev. Dr. Susan Montgomery, Pastor of Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and Chair of the Southeastern Synod Stewardship Table, who challenged the assembly to consider how the synod connects us and supports us as we do ministry with one another. She encouraged people to come to their workshop to learn to be stewards to each other of our varied gifts. As a synod, we connect to do what we cannot do alone.

**H. Announcements**

The Bishop called on Ms. Doris Underwood, Synod Vice President, who gave announcements.

**I. Closing Prayer – Assembly Chaplain**

The Bishop called on the Assembly Chaplain, Pastor Seyward Ask who led the assembly in prayer.

**J. Recess**

The Bishop declared at 8:40 PM that the assembly was in recess until the following morning at 9:30 AM.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2013**

**8:30 - 9:15 AM**

**Workshop A**

**Tab A**

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**THIRD PLENARY SESSION..... 9:30 – 11:30 AM**  
**Plenary Hall**

**A. Call to Order**

The Bishop called the Third Plenary Session of the Southeastern Synod Assembly to order at 9:36 AM.

**B. Opening Prayer**

The Bishop called on the Assembly Chaplain, Pastor Seyward Ask who led the assembly in prayer.

**C. Credentials Report**

The Bishop called upon Ms. Carolyn Davis, Chair of the Credentials Committee, who reported that there were 410 voting member in attendance, 265 were lay and 145 were clergy.

**D. Discussion and Vote on the 2014 Ministry Funding Plan**

**Tab E**

The Bishop called upon The Rev. John Rossing, Pastor of Christ the King, Dalton Georgia and Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee who presented information about the 2014 Ministry Funding Plan.

**It was MOVED and VOTED SA13.01.04**

**that the 2014 Ministry Funding Plan recommended by the Synod Council be adopted.**

**E. Presentation of 2014 Compensation Guidelines**

**Tab I, Exhibit 4**

The Bishop called on The Rev. Scott Seeke, Chair of the Compensation Guidelines Team, who presented the guidelines for 2014. He noted that there were funds available to support wellness and sabbatical grants for rostered leaders.

**It was MOVED and VOTED SA13.01.05**

**that the 2014 Compensation Guidelines recommended by the Synod Council be adopted.**

**F. Joint Declaration on Justification by Faith -- Reflections**

Bishop Gordy called upon Southeastern Synod Bishop Emeritus Harold Skillrud who offered his reflections on signing the Joint Declaration on Justification between the ELCA and the Roman Catholic Church. Bishop Skillrud reviewed the development of this historical event in which both church traditions celebrated our justification through Jesus Christ. He also stated that the work of this Declaration was not complete until all receive this message of good news – that we are saved solely through the atoning act of Jesus Christ on the cross.

**G. Report of Reference & Counsel Committee**

The Bishop called upon The Rev. Justin Ask, Associate Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Chair of the Reference & Counsel Committee who informed the assembly that there would be two resolutions presented for the assembly's consideration: 2013-01 A Resolution Regarding Energy Stewardship, and 2013-02 A Resolution to Encourage Our Multi-cultural Ministries.

**H. Newberry College, Rev. Ernie Worman**

The Bishop introduced The Rev. Ernie Worman, Campus Pastor and Director of Church Relations of Newberry College, Newberry, South Carolina, who brought greetings from the college. Worman reported that Newberry recently purchased an elementary school across from the campus to use as center for education and sports education. They have also established a degree in social media, started women's field hockey, and made improvements to the physical plant of the college. He invited assembly members to visit the campus and closed by giving thanks for the synod's ongoing support.

**I. Elections Procedures**

The Bishop called on Pastor Dena Lane, Chair of the Elections Committee who introduced the elections procedures for all positions other than the Bishop. Balloting followed.

**J. Novus Way – Standing on the Promise Campaign Update**

The Bishop introduced Ms. Libby Bedenbaugh, Sr. Development Associate of Novus Way Ministries (formerly known as Lutheridge+Lutherock Ministries), who updated the assembly on the progress of the Standing on the Promise Campaign – a capital campaign to build an 80 bed retreat center at Lutheranch in Tallapoosa Alabama. She introduced The Rev. Tim Smith, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta, Georgia, The Rev. Gary Christensen, Cross and Crown in Chamblee, Georgia and The Rev. Michelle Kuhlman, Grace Lutheran in Carrollton, Georgia who shared stories of their congregation's participation in the Standing on the Promise Campaign and how such efforts brought new life and vitality to their congregations. To date, Southeastern Synod congregation had made pledges totaling \$1,646,000.

**K. Synod Disaster Task Force Update**

The Bishop called upon The Rev. Morgan Gordy, Chair of the Synod's Disaster Preparedness and Response Task Force, who provided an update on the work of the task force noting that there were 30 trained disaster response coordinators across the synod territory. She also stressed the importance of disaster preparedness on the congregation level, offering a free booklet to assist in the development of a congregational disaster preparedness plan.

**L. Greetings from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary**

The Bishop introduced The Rev. Dr. Clayton Schmit, the new Provost of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenior Rhyne University, who brought greetings to the assembly, thanking the assembly for their support: financially, by sending students to the seminary, through prayer, and by receiving interns and pastors. Schmit stated that this first year as merged institutions has been a very good year, with 32 students graduating this May.

In every measurable category, the seminary was in better standing than it had been in years – balancing the budget, offering raises to faculty and staff, refurbishing portions of the campus, and having an incoming class for the coming year which contained three times as many ELCA Lutherans than in previous classes. He also noted an upcoming “retirement tsunami” among ELCA pastors, stating that in the next 10 years, there will be significant need for new rostered leaders in the church.

**M. Announcements**

The Bishop called on Ms. Doris Underwood, Synod Vice President, who gave announcements.

**N. Closing Prayer – Assembly Chaplain**

The Bishop called on the Assembly Chaplain, Pastor Seyward Ask who led the assembly in prayer.

**O. Recess**

The Bishop declared at 11:24 AM that the assembly was in recess until 4:30 PM that afternoon.

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<b>11:30 AM – 12:45 PM</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
<b>11:30 AM – 12:45 PM</b>	<b>LUNCH with Bishop Hanson – Q &amp; A</b>	
<b>1:00 – 2:00 PM</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY WORSHIP</b>	
<b>2:15 – 3:00 PM</b>	<b>WORKSHOP B</b>	<b>Tab A</b>
<b>3:15 – 4:15 PM</b>	<b>SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD MISSION PLANNING</b>	

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**FOURTH PLENARY SESSION .....4:30 – 6:00 PM  
Plenary Hall**

**A. Call to Order**

The Bishop called the Fourth Plenary Session of the Southeastern Synod Assembly to order at 4:30 PM.

**B. Opening Prayer**

The Bishop called on the Assembly Chaplain Pastor Seyward Ask who led the assembly in prayer.

**C. Report of the Credentials Committee**

The Bishop called on Ms. Carolyn Davis, Chair of the Credentials Committee who reported that there were 410 voting members in attendance, 265 were lay, 145 were clergy.

**D. Election Procedures**

Tab D

The Bishop called on Pastor Dena Lane, Chair of the Elections Committee, who explained the process of balloting.

For the position of synod secretary:

# of total votes cast:	362
# illegal ballots:	5
# legal ballots:	357
# needed for election:	179

Pastor Ruth Hamilton	148
Pastor Randy Jones	128
Mr. Wayne Fell	81

There was no election. The Bishop declared that the next ballot would contain the names of Pastor Ruth Hamilton and Pastor Randy Jones.

For the clergy position on the Discipline Committee:

# of total votes cast:	331
# illegal ballots:	2
# legal ballots:	329
# needed for election:	165

Pastor Tom Clark	329
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The Bishop declared Pastor Tom Clark elected to a 6-year term on the Discipline Committee.

For the lay male position on the Discipline Committee:

# of total votes cast:	268
# illegal ballots:	0

# legal ballots:	268
# needed for election:	135

Brad Ploeger	146
Keith James	122

The Bishop declared Brad Ploeger elected to a 6-year term on the Discipline Committee.

For the lay female position on the Discipline Committee:

# of total votes cast:	322
# illegal ballots:	2
# legal ballots:	320
# needed for election:	161

Beth Ford	320
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The Bishop declared Beth Ford elected to a 6-year term on the Discipline Committee.

For the lay female position on the Discipline Committee:

# of total votes cast:	303
# illegal ballots:	2
# legal ballots:	301
# needed for election:	151

Lynn Frye	301
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The Bishop declared Lynn Frye elected to a 6-year term on the Discipline Committee.

For the clergy position on the Consultation Committee:

# of total votes cast:	313
# illegal ballots:	1
# legal ballots:	312
# needed for election:	157

Pastor Larry Richardson	312
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The Bishop declared Pastor Larry Richardson elected to a 6-year position on the Consultation Committee.

For the clergy position on the Consultation Committee:

# of total votes cast:	301
# illegal ballots:	4
# legal ballots:	297
# needed for election:	149

Pastor Jerry Weeks	297
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The Bishop declared Pastor Jerry Weeks elected to a 6-year position on the Consultation Committee.

For the clergy position on the Consultation Committee:

# of total votes cast:	315
# illegal ballots:	2
# legal ballots:	313
# needed for election:	157

Pastor David Smedley	313
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The Bishop declared Pastor David Smedley elected to a 4-year unexpired clergy position on the Consultation Committee.

For the lay female position on the Consultation Committee:

# of total votes cast:	309
# illegal ballots:	1
# legal ballots:	308
# needed for election:	155

Karen Boda	308
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The Bishop declared Karen Boda elected to a 6-year position on the Consultation Committee.

For the lay female position on the Consultation Committee:

# of total votes cast:	317
# illegal ballots:	5
# legal ballots:	312
# needed for election:	157

Jeannine Spann	312
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The Bishop declared Jeannine Spann elected to a 6-year position on the Consultation Committee.

For the young adult member of the Synod Council:

# of total votes cast:	344
# illegal ballots:	3
# legal ballots:	341
# needed for election:	171

Noah Eggleston	129
Benjamin Witcher	122
Justin Marx	90



There was no election. The Bishop declared that the next ballot would contain the names of Noah Eggleston and Benjamin Witcher.

For the position of youth member of the Synod Council:

# of total votes cast:	321
# illegal ballots:	2
# legal ballots:	319
# needed for election:	160

John Baumgart 319

The Bishop declared John Baumgart elected to a 2-year term on the Synod Council.

The Bishop called on Ms. Doris Underwood who introduced the nominees for 2 at-large positions (2-year terms till 2015), both designated for lay females.

For the first position, the Synod Council nominated:

Linda Larsen  
Alice Schuneman

There were no nominations from the floor and nominations were closed.

For the second position, the Synod Council nominated:

Karen Boda

Nomination from the floor:

Sharon Bost

Nominations were closed.

Balloting continued.

## **E. Report of the Bishop**

Tab B-1

Bishop Gordy gave his report to the assembly. Quoting a PEW Research study, in the six year period from 2007 to 2012, the percentage of Americans who list no religious affiliation (the “nones”) grew from 15% to just under 20%. Addressing this changing context in which we serve, particularly since our synod was formed 25 years ago, Bishop Gordy stated that when Christianity ceases to be a cultural expectation, it will become the church that Jesus wants us to be. Quoting the Episcopal Church’s Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bishop Gordy took hope in her words: “The church is growing where it provides attractive opportunities for people to wrestle with the big spiritual questions.” He urged humility, engaging with the neighbor as beloved children of God, and an openness to learn as much as to teach.

He also encouraged congregations to do mission planning, assembly members to participate in “Talking Together Across Cultures” events, and the importance of continued mission planning on a synodical level. A video highlighting ministry in our synod was then shown.

**F. Discussion and Vote on Resolutions Brought by the Committee on Reference and Counsel** Tab G

The Bishop called upon Pastor Justin Ask, Chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, who presented the following resolutions for consideration.

2013-01

Submitted by Reference and Counsel

Reference and Counsel made no recommendation

**A Resolution Regarding Energy Stewardship**

**WHEREAS**, we are called to tend to God’s creation as part of our loving service to God and to our neighbor, and yet persist in consuming no-renewable fossil fuel resources in a way that is both unsustainable in the future and unfair to those in the developing world;  
and

**WHEREAS**, human activity, especially the over-consumption of energy and natural resources, appears to be a critical factor in causing environmental distress, thereby exacerbating already difficult situations for millions living with poverty and hunger, as weather extremes such as violent storms, flood, and drought increase;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recognizing the gravity of these threats, has long been committed to addressing environmental issues as part of our call to justice, sustainability, and solidarity with affected communities, as witnessed by its social statement, “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice,” adopted by the ECLA Church-wide Assembly on August 28, 1993;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, along with our partners in the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief, is committed to working to alleviate hunger, poverty, and unsustainable living conditions globally;  
and

**WHEREAS**, there are several resources available through the Lutheran organizations, including “Lutherans Restoring Creation,” a grass roots program for energy efficiency and conservation, to assist us in understanding the challenges of the environments and how we are respond;  
and

**WHEREAS**, a national organization, Interfaith Power and Light, provides a religious response to climate change and has active affiliates in Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama, that can support any means of advocacy for energy efficiency and conservation; therefore

**It was MOVED and  
VOTED SA13.01.06**

**that the Southeastern Synod authorize the establishment of a Southeastern Synod Green Team Task Force for a term not to exceed three years and to be economically funded along task force guidelines established by the SE Synod Council for task forces; and that the Southeastern Synod Council appoint those to serve on the task force; and, that the task force identify organizations and those benefitting from energy stewardship to provide information and instruction for, and to encourage faithful stewardship of, energy by this Synod, its congregations, administrative offices, and individual members; and, that the Southeastern Synod Green Team facilitates its congregations, administrative offices and outdoor ministries in offering a public witness of energy stewardship by helping them understand and significantly improve the energy efficiency and conservation of the facilities they operate.**

2013-02

Submitted by Reference and Counsel

Reference and Counsel made no recommendation

### **A Resolution to Encourage Our Multi-cultural Ministries**

**WHEREAS**, the constitutions of the Southeastern Synod (S6.02.A09) and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (5.01.A87, 5.01.C00) have set a membership goal of at least 10% people of color and/or primary language other than English;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the 2012 census found that 50.4 percent of all the babies born in the United States in the 12 months ending July 2011 were of ethnic origin other than northern European;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the 2010 census found that one of every six American adults is of Latino background, up forty three percent since the 2000 census, and that one out of every four children under the age of 18 is of Latino background;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the 2010 census also found that one out of every eight Americans is black or of African descent, up twelve percent over the same ten years with an even greater increase projected over the next ten years;  
and

**WHEREAS**, it is projected by a Pew Research study and the U S Census Bureau that over the next fifteen to thirty years there will be no ethnic majority in the United States of America;

and

**WHEREAS**, the church is called in scripture to be reflection of and involved in the well-being of its community;

and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeastern Synod currently has about sixty congregations involved in a process called Talking Together as Christians Cross-culturally, therefore:

**it was MOVED and  
VOTED SA13.01.07**

**that, as we celebrate the past twenty-five years of life together as a synod and look forward to the next twenty-five years, the congregations of the Southeastern Synod prepare themselves to live into our calling in this ever-changing, multi-cultural society by learning to talk together as Christians cross-culturally;**

**and,**

**that we encourage all congregations to become intentional in welcoming people of all cultures into our congregations, creating open and multi-cultural communities;**

**and**

**that the synod staff and Synod Council be charged with developing and implementing a process for training congregational leaders to expand this conversation throughout our conference and in every willing congregation.**

#### **G. Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA**

The Bishop introduced Ms. Jean Minkin, President of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA who is also a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lilburn, Georgia. Ms. Minkin brought greetings to the assembly, noting that all women members of ELCA congregations are part of the Women of the ELCA. She highlighted some of their many current efforts including advocating for justice in society, encouraging education through support of the Fund for Leaders, raising funds for Lutherock in 2013, and providing additional support for the Lutheran Malaria Campaign. She stressed the importance of involvement in clusters and introduced Patti Austin who is on the Churchwide Women of the ELCA Board.

#### **H. ELCA Mission Investment Fund**

The Bishop introduced Associate in Ministry Jerry Johnson who is the Region 9 Manager for the ELCA Mission Investment Fund (MIF), who offered financial support for captioning the assembly. He highlighted the functions of the Mission Investment Fund which finances capital expenditures made possible through the investments of Lutherans throughout the US. He shared a video entitled "Raising the Walls of Hope" which showed how MIF investments are used to further ministry.

**I. SESLYO Report**

The Bishop introduced Taryn Connely, outgoing chair and MacKenzie Heck, incoming chair, who highlighted some of the ministries engaging the youth of our synod, including SESLYO Assembly, the National Youth Gathering, state-wide gatherings and AFFIRM. They described what a powerful experience these events were to them. SESLYO plans to implement Conference Days in the future, with the goal of building leadership skills for service and worship support. They also plan to focus next year's events on the process of inviting others to engage in their faith.

**J. Elections Procedures**

The Bishop called on Pastor Dena Lane who offered the following report.

For the position of synod secretary:

# of total votes cast:	328
# illegal ballots:	4
# legal ballots:	324
# Needed for election	163

Pastor Ruth Hamilton 180

Pastor Randy Jones 144

The Bishop declared Pastor Ruth Hamilton elected to a 4-year term as Synod Secretary.

For the position of young adult member of the Synod Council:

# of total votes cast:	325
# illegal ballots:	6
# legal ballots:	319
# needed for election:	160

Noah Eggleston 176

Benjamin Witcher 143

The Bishop declared Noah Eggleston elected to fill a 1-year unexpired term as the young adult member of the Synod Council.

**K. Announcements**

The Bishop called upon Doris Underwood, Synod Vice President, who gave announcements.

**L. Closing Prayer**

The Bishop called upon Assembly Chaplain Pastor Seyward Ask who led the assembly in prayer.

**M. Recess**

The Bishop declared the assembly in recess at 6:17 PM until 10:30 AM the following morning.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2013**

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**8:00AM - 9:15AM            ASSEMBLY WORSHIP**  
**9:30 – 10:15                WORKSHOP C**

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**FIFTH PLENARY SESSION . . . . .10:30 AM – 12:00 NOON**  
**Plenary Hall**

**A. Call to Order**

The Bishop called the Fifth Plenary Session of the Southeastern Synod Assembly to order at 10:35 AM.

**B. Opening Prayer**

The Bishop called on the Assembly Chaplain Pastor Seyward Ask who led the assembly in prayer.

**C. Final Report of the Credentials Committee**

The Bishop called on Ms. Carolyn Davis, Chair of the Credentials Committee, for the final report of the committee. There were 270 lay voting members, 149 clergy and 139 visitors for a grand total of 558 at the assembly. The detailed report of voting members was:

In Attendance	
Lay Voting Member from a Congregation	245
Lay Voting Member from Synod Council	9
Diaconal Minister	4
Associate in Ministry	7
Deaconess	1
Synodically Authorized Minister	4
Clergy	148
<u>Ecumenical Pastors</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Voting Members	419

**D. Election Procedures**

The Bishop called on Pastor Dena Lane, Chair of the Elections Committee, who offered the following report.

- Nominated by Conferences for a 2-year term on the Synod Council, beginning today:
  - Conference 1: Pastor Gary Soop
  - Conference 2: Marcia Proud
  - Conference 3: Pastor Nathan Hilbert
  - Conference 4: Hilton Austin
  - Conference 5: Tony Endozo

**It was MOVED and VOTED SA13.02.08**

**that those persons nominated by Conferences for 2-year term position son the Synod Council be elected.**

I

Balloting for two at-large positions on Synod Council proceeded.

**E. Description of proposed Constitution and Bylaw changes**

Tab F

The Bishop called on The Rev Terri Stagner-Collier, Synod Secretary, who presented the proposed Bylaw changes.

**Bylaw Amendments Recommended by the Synod Council**

(new wording is underlined; deletions are denoted by strike-outs.)

S10.03.02 When a position on the Synod Council becomes vacant due to the resignation or death of a member or under circumstances not otherwise addressed within the constitution, bylaws, or continuing resolutions, the synod bishop shall nominate an individual to fill the vacant position until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such person shall take office immediately upon election by the Synod Council as provided in S10.03.01.e. Such interim service shall not be considered a term for the purposes of bylaw S10.07.22.

S10.07.14 In the event that any person nominated by a conference is not elected at the Synod Assembly, then the nominating conference shall caucus at the Synod Assembly and nominate another representative for such position. In the event that the nominating conference does not nominate another person who is elected at the Synod Assembly, such position shall be filled in accordance with bylaw ~~S10.06.01~~—10.03.02. In the event that any person nominated by a conference to fill a vacancy is not elected by the Synod Council, then the nominating conference shall nominate another representative for such position at the next conference assembly.

S7.13.01 Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be published in a synodical publication and also sent electronically not let than 30 days prior to the meeting ~~by United States mail~~ to each congregation of this synod, ~~and each ordained minister, active associate in ministry, consecrated deacon or deaconess, commissioned teacher, and certified or commissioned lay professional~~ and to each person on the roster of this synod as the roster exists 45 days prior to the meeting.

**It was MOVED and VOTED SA13.02.09**

**that the bylaw amendments recommended by the Synod Council be adopted en bloc.**

**F. Discussion and vote on resolutions**

Tab G

**brought by the Committee on Reference and Counsel (continued)**

The Bishop called on Pastor Justin Ask, Chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel who offered a resolution of thanks.

2013-03

Submitted by Reference and Counsel

Reference and Counsel recommended adoption

**A Resolution of Thanks at the 2013 Assembly**

**WHEREAS**, we rejoice and give thanks to the Holy Spirit for the calling and election of Julian Gordy as Bishop of the Southeastern Synod; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeastern Synod celebrates 25 years of walking together in congregational, synodical, and Churchwide ministry and God's ongoing work to make a new creation in us and through us; and

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

**WHEREAS**, through the witness of Bishop Hanson and the Churchwide leadership, we are inspired to continue in the ministry God has called us to and are reminded that we are "always being made new"; and

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

**it was MOVED and  
VOTED SA13-02-09**

**that the 2013 voting members and visitors of the Southeastern Synod Assembly offer up our heartfelt thanks and prayerful support to the Bishop, officers and staff, not only for their joyful and faithful labors, but especially for their persistent and loving encouragement to all of us in the Southeastern Synod in proclaiming to us that we are "always being made new." We offer very special thanks to Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson; Bishop Emeritus Harold Skillrud; Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Seyward Ask; the Rev. Dr. Warren Casiday, Assembly Parliamentarian; the Synod Assembly Committee; the Synod Worship Team, musicians and worship leaders; the assembly volunteers; and Thrivent Financial and the Mission Investment Fund (for providing funding to allow captioning of the plenary sessions) and the convention center staff and technical crew;**

**and,**

**that we acknowledge the work of the Holy Spirit in our newest congregation, Nativity Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Georgia;**

**and,**

**that we give thanks and praise to God for the labor of the Holy Spirit through the election and affirmation of the call to Julian Gordy as Bishop and for his continued service to the members and congregations of our Southeastern Synod.**



**G. Lutheran Men in Mission**

The Bishop called on Mr. Doug Haugen, Executive Director of Lutheran Men in Mission who announced that the 2014 annual gathering of LMM, themed “Guys, Guts and God’s Glory” to be held July 18-20, 2014 in Nashville, Tennessee. The goal of this organization is to strengthen the spiritual lives of the men of the ELCA. He encouraged the use of the Master Builders Bible for Men and active engagement in spiritual growth among men.

**H. Celebration of Congregation Anniversaries and Reception of New Congregation**

Congregations Celebrating Anniversary Milestones:

Celebrating 25 years (organized in 1988):

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, St. Simons Island, GA

Celebrating 50 years (organized in 1963):

Ascension Lutheran Church, Jackson, MS

Living Word Lutheran Church, Arlington, TN

Advent Lutheran Church, Augusta, GA

Celebrating 75 years (organized in 1938):

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Elberton, GA

Celebrating 100 years (organized in 1913):

Ascension Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Celebrating 125 years (organized in 1888):

St. John’s Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

Celebrating the Reception of a New Congregation

The Bishop called upon Diaconal Minister Rebecca Kolowé, Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop, who presented Nativity Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, GA for reception as a new congregation of the ELCA. Located on Christmas Avenue, they are a growing and intentionally welcoming congregation. She also recognized Pastor Gary Christensen, former DEM in our synod who helped to plant this congregation. The Rev. Patti Axel, developer and now called pastor of Nativity offered her thanks to and praise of God for the formation of this new congregation.

**I. Elections Procedures**

The Bishop called on Pastor Dena Lane, Chair of the Elections Committee who offered the following report:

For the position of at-large lay female position on Synod Council:

# of total votes cast: 275

# illegal ballots: 2

# legal ballots: 273

# needed for election: 137

Linda Larson	148
Alice Schunemann	125

The Bishop declared Linda Larson elected to a 2-year term on Synod Council.

For the position of at-large lay female position on Synod Council:

# of total votes cast:	277
# of illegal ballots:	3
# of legal ballots	274
# needed for election:	138

Karen Boda	158
Sharon Bost	116

The Bishop declared Karen Boda elected to a 2-year term on Synod Council.

**J. Thanks to outgoing officers, Synod Council members, deans, others**

The Bishop extended the thanks of the synod to various leaders in our synod who have completed their terms of office, including:

Outgoing members of Synod Council:

- Stephanie Gaines
- Pastor Ed Myers
- AIM Michelle Angalet
- Elizabeth Hawkins
- Stan Semmler
- Sharon Bost
- Pastor Mary Peters
- Mercedes Jackson
- Pastor John Beckman

Outgoing Deans:

- Pastor Jerry Weeks
- Pastor Barbara Hunter
- Pastor Clay Seneker
- Pastor Rick Ohsiek
- Pastor Wayne Cobb

Outgoing Synod Staff Member:

- Elaine Schwartz (plaque given)

Outgoing Synod Secretary:

- Pastor Terri Stagner-Collier (plaque given)

**K. Closing Remarks:**

The Bishop offered several closing remarks:

- that the assembly offerings designated for the Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta and the Lutheran Malaria Campaign totaled \$7,270.82,
- noting the exceptional ministry of those rostered leaders who entered the Church Triumphant in the past year,
- and sharing a video of the city of our next assembly, Chattanooga TN.

**L. Installation of persons elected at this assembly**

The Bishop called on Pastor Terri Stagner-Collier who read the names of all those elected at this assembly, including the incoming SESLYO Board Members. They were installed for service in their various posts.

**M. Closing of an Assembly**

Using the Order for the Closing of an Assembly, the Bishop adjourned the Twenty-sixth Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – Southeastern Synod at 11:37 AM.

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