

**Northwest Washington Synod
Twentieth Annual Assembly
Friday and Saturday, June 1 – 2, 2007**

**Friday, June 1, 2007
Plenary 1**

OPENING WORSHIP

Bishop Siegfried Springer, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia and Other States preached and Bishop Wm Chris Boerger presided at the Opening Worship of the 2007 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly. Bishop Boerger declared the Synod Assembly open at the conclusion of worship at 11:20 am.

CALL TO ORDER

After a short break, Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order for Plenary 1 at 11:30 am.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 1

The first credentials report was given by Millie Fosberg, Burlington, Burlington of the Registration Team: 327 Voting Members, 8 Observers, and 36 visitors present.

STANDING RULES

Larry Johnson, Associate in Ministry, Lord of Life, Renton and Synod Vice President, acting on behalf of the Synod Council, moved adoption of the standing rules. The motion to approve *carried*.

**SA2007.01 The Standing Rules of the 2007 Synod Assembly are adopted
as presented.**

ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Larry Johnson, acting on behalf of the Synod Council, moved adoption of the assembly agenda. The motion to approve *carried*.

SA2007.02 The 2007 Assembly Agenda is adopted as presented.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Boerger introduced guests of the synod: Lita Johnson, ELCA Representative; Bishop Siegfried Springer, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia and Other States; and former Bishop Gideon Monghina of Tanzania.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assembly Chair, Carla Berg, Sammamish Hills, Sammamish welcomed the members of the assembly and made brief logistical announcements.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Georganne Robertson, Queen Anne Seattle and a member of the Synod Council, brought the report of the Nominating Committee and announced that nominations will close at noon.

Consultation Committee: Pr. Debra Benson, Anacortes, Anacortes
Pr. Susan Burchfield, Immanuel, Seattle
Pr. Jane Prestbye, Kent, Kent
Astrid Martin, Denny Park, Seattle

Discipline Committee: Pr. Julie Blum, Maple Leaf, Seattle
Pr. Jim Kruse, Cross of Christ, Bellevue
Pr. Gretchen Mertes, St Matthew, Renton
Don Benson, Shepherd of the Hills, Sammamish

GREETINGS

Various persons representing extended ministries of the synod or organizations which support the work of the synod were invited to bring greetings to the assembly at various times.

Pr Eldon Olson, Chair of the Lay Theological Education Committee, introduced members of the committee and gave a brief overview of their process and plans for action.

Pr G. Lee Kluth brought a greeting from Pacific Lutheran University.

Larry Johnson spoke for Pr. Jim Miley, Region 1 Interim Coordinator, who is attending the Montana Synod Assembly.

PRAYER

Pr. Homer Berner died this morning at 3 am.

LUNCH

Bishop Boerger declared the assembly in recess until 1:30 pm.

Plenary 2

CALL TO ORDER

The assembly was called to order at 1:30 pm, followed by announcements.

VOTING PROCEDURES

David Swartling, Bethany, Bainbridge, Assembly Parliamentarian, reviewed voting procedures.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 2

Millie Fosberg provided the Credentials Report: 369 Voting members present, 11 observers, and 45 visitors.

Bishop Boerger passed the gavel to Lita Johnson, ELCA Representative. Lita reviewed the duties of the 65 bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

BISHOP ELECTION FORUM

Mary Beth Short, Prince of Peace, Seatac, Chair of the Bishop Election Task Force, moderated a question and answer session with Wm. Chris Boerger, the sole candidate. Five questions were asked by the Task Force and six other questions were provided from the assembly.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Rev. Dr. David Lose, Academic Dean and Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary, delivered the first keynote address on Preaching in the Post-Modern world.

ELECTION OF THE BISHOP

Pr. Kathryn Buffum, Holy Spirit, Kirkland, Chair of the Elections Committee, explained the balloting process. Ushers then distributed ballots to members of the assembly. During balloting, Pr. Nancy Winder, Faith, Seattle of the Worship Committee led the assembly in prayer and singing *Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading* from the new hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Following completion of the balloting, Lita Johnson passed the gavel back to Bishop Boerger.

ELCA CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

Lita Johnson, of the Global Mission Unit of the ELCA Churchwide organization, spoke to the assembly as the representative of the Churchwide organization. She brought greetings from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson.

WORKSHOP 1

Bishop Boerger released the assembly to the first Workshop session and indicated the assembly would resume at 5:20 pm. The workshops included Mission and Ministry – A Look at the Synod Budget; Stewardship: Fear and Promise!; and ELCA Advocacy 101 to 501 (Basic to Advanced).

Plenary 3

CALL TO ORDER AND CREDENTIALS REPORT 3

At 5:20 pm Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order and Millie Fosberg presented the third Credentials Report: 397 Voting members; 11 Observers; and 45 Visitors.

ELECTION OF THE BISHOP

Bishop Boerger turned the gavel over to Lita Johnson. Ms Johnson welcomed Mary Beth Short and Kathryn Buffum to the podium to report the results of the balloting. Kathryn Buffum reported that 384 ballots were cast: 24 abstained; 2 ballots were invalid, and 358 votes were cast for Wm. Chris Boerger. Lita Johnson declared Bishop Boerger reelected as Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod and returned the gavel to him. Bishop Boerger thanked the assembly and said it was time to get back to work.

BISHOP'S AWARD

Bishop Boerger presented this annual award to three congregations for raising up new leaders and congregations for the church:

Faith, Seattle	For challenging its members to respond to God's call to service in the church and for faithfully and consistently raising up leaders for this church.
Gift of Grace, Seattle	For challenging its members to respond to God's call to service in the church and for faithfully and consistently raising up leaders for this church.
Grace Chinese, Seattle	For supporting the development of pastoral leaders in this church and for actively starting new communities of faith in partnership with other congregations and the whole church.

GREETINGS

Bishop Siegfried Springer brought greetings to the assembly from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States, with Eva Mader, Grace, Bellevue providing translation services. Bishop Springer emphasized the financial support needed for itinerant pastors, which we can assist through this synod via the "Team Russia: Russian Pastor's Fund." Bishop Boerger asked all those whose congregation has a companion congregation relationship with a church in Bishop Springer's area to stand and encouraged those not standing to note those who could tell them how to get started.

BISHOP'S REPORT

Bishop Boerger turned the gavel over to Larry Johnson, Synod Vice President, who called on the bishop to give his report to the assembly. In 2006, this synod – its congregations and individuals gave \$600,000 to mission support to Churchwide; over \$400,000 to the World Hunger Appeal (an increase of 21 percent over 2005) and Lutheran Disaster Relief. He noted that this outpouring reflected our commitment to the larger church. The synod closed six congregations in past six years, have seven new ministries and several others in prospect. The bishop said that he expects a number of pastors will be retiring in the next few years. He reported that the synod has withdrawn from the multi-synodical candidacy process. We have over seventy persons in the candidacy process. Bishop Boerger challenged the assembly to raise up one new mission site per year. He then introduced and thanked the synod staff.

Bishop Boerger reminded the assembly that we are all the synod, we are all the ELCA. The ELCA is not just the staff in Chicago and the synod is not just the synod staff and the committees. He noted that when people put money in the offering plate, they are giving money to all three expressions of the church, not giving congregational money to the synod or synodical money to Churchwide. Congregational giving has increased significantly over the years, while giving to synods and Churchwide has remained stagnant or declined over the same period. The bishop would like the synod to challenge congregations to meet a specific portion of the money

needed to accomplish specific mission activity. Congregations could consider how to accept or modify that challenge and ultimately have the Synod Assembly ratify those decisions.

Bishop Boerger asked the members of the Synod Council to stand and be recognized. He also encouraged members of the assembly to be in contact with David Swartling, Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium (LPGC) about passing along the legacy of wealth. Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley was held as a model of talking about tithing as a faith issue. Bishop Boerger noted that our society talks about money; we need to add our faith values to that discussion.

Bishop Boerger asked Interim Pastors to stand and be recognized. He also discussed the call process and the important work the Interim Pastors do to assist congregations in that process. He held up Natural Church Development as a tool of congregational renewal. The bishop thanked Lutheran Campus Ministry for their service and the impact the ministry has had over the past 100 years on the lives of young persons. The bishop welcomed the youth members of the assembly.

His report ended with his presentation of a second Assistant to the Bishop position to the staff, to work with congregations to connective those with strengths and those with need. He noted this will cost approximately \$200,000, or roughly \$4 per baptized member.

Larry returned the gavel to the Bishop.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Pr. Chris Berry, Chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, announced that there are 11 resolutions to be considered by the assembly this year. A short video about youth ministry leaders in the ELCA was presented. On behalf of the committee, Chris moved acceptance of Resolution A - In Support of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network. The motion *carried*.

SA.2007.03 BE IT RESOLVED that congregations encourage their members to pray for our young people, adult youth ministry leaders, and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations encourage adult youth ministry leaders and pastors to take advantage of opportunities that renew, educate, and connect them and their ministries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individuals from this synod be encouraged to become members of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations, organizations, synods and individuals be encouraged to support the ELCA Youth Ministry Network by sending adult youth ministry leaders to the annual Extravaganza in Anaheim, CA February 7-11, 2008 and New Orleans, LA February 5-9, 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America memorialize the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage congregations, adult youth ministry leaders and pastors to support the ELCA Youth Ministry Network by joining the network and by sending adult youth ministry leaders to the annual Extravaganza in Anaheim, CA February 7-11, 2008 and New Orleans, LA February 5-9, 2009.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard Bridges, Trinity, Lynnwood, Treasurer, summarized key points in his written report.

2008 BUDGET CAP

Wayne Daley, Bethany, Bainbridge, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved adoption of a Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Cap of \$1,501,709. The motion *carried*.

SA.2007.04 That the General Fund Budget adopted for Fiscal Year 2008 shall be capped at \$1,501,709, and

that motions to increase any expenditure item in said fund shall include a recommended offsetting decrease, and

that Fiscal 2008 General Fund receipts in excess of \$1,501,709 be disbursed 45.5% to Churchwide, 24.5% to the Extended Ministries Fund, and 30% to Synod Ministries.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Mission and Ministry moments were held throughout the assembly, offering an opportunity for those involved in leadership in these ministries to discuss what is taking place. Members of the synod involved in emergent ministry in the North King County/South Snohomish County area spoke:

Ryan Marsh, Church of the Beloved – Ryan is a Synodically-authorized minister working with 18-35 year olds, who make up less than 10 percent of ELCA. He invited members of the assembly to worship with them on Thursday nights at the Jeremiah Center in Edmonds.

Pr. Marlon Wang, Living Truth – There are 10,000 Chinese in the Kenmore – Bothell – Woodinville area, and 25 Chinese churches in the greater Seattle area. Living Truth is a new Chinese Lutheran Church which uses a method of outreach involving making friends with newcomers. They make friends through offering conversational English classes and Bible Study groups. Pr Wang emphasized that their work is dependent on prayer. He thanked First Evangelical Lutheran in Bothell for their support. We hope that you will keep them in your prayers so we can together evangelize the Chinese in that area.

Mustard Seed, Paul Sundberg – A video was presented about doing ministry with people in the neighborhoods, people who want community but are not coming to church. *Be the gospel where we live.*

Emergent Mission Prayer Team, Pr Gary Rothenberger – Pr Rothenberger invited members of the assembly to take risks to partner with these emerging ministries.

New Sanctuary Movement – Bishop Boerger discussed his participation in this new movement and asked the assembly to remember that there are many points of view on immigration policy; the church needs to be in conversation about those immigrants in our midst, fellow members of the body of Christ, who are in danger of deportation.

RECESS

Bishop Boerger reminded members of the assembly of the workshops scheduled during the evening, after the dining and fellowship time. The assembly was declared in recess until 8 am on Saturday.

HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES

Will Sappington provided music during a time of fellowship and dining.

WORKSHOPS 2

The workshops included Leaving a Legacy, Lutheran Men in Mission, and Confessing Our Faith Together.

Saturday, June 2, 2007

Plenary 4

MORNING PRAYER

Pr Lydia Wittman Grebe, Zion, Custer led the assembly in morning prayer.

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 8:15 am.

CREDENTIALS REPORT 4

Millie Fosberg gave this credentials report: 397 voting members, 11 observers, 45 visitors

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Larry Johnson presented his report to the assembly, referring the members to his written report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Francis Baker, St John United, Seattle, Chair of the Constitution and Legal Matters Committee, presented Amendments 55 and 56 for approval by the assembly. Amendment 55, a bylaw requiring one reading, was *adopted*.

SA2007.05

To amend S10.07.01 with additions and deletions as shown, add new bylaw S10.07.02 and renumber subsequent bylaws in this section.

S10.07.01. Except for the elections at the constituting convention, persons shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee or from the floor and elected by the Synod Assembly to fill specific positions on the Synod Council. The positions are as follows:

<u>Positions</u>	<u>Designation</u>
1	Youth
1	Active Associate in Ministry
1	Male layperson of color and/or male layperson whose primary language is other than English
1	Female layperson of color and/or female layperson whose primary language is other than English.
1	Ordained minister of color and/or ordained minister whose primary language is other than English.
1	Female ordained minister
4 to 8	Male laypersons (unrestricted)
4 to 8	Female laypersons (unrestricted)
6	Ordained ministers (unrestricted)

The election for Synod Council shall occur in two phases. In the first phase, elections shall take place for a youth, for an active associate in ministry, for a male layperson of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English, for female layperson of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English, for an ordained minister of color and/or ordained minister whose primary language is other than English, and for a female ordained minister. When the first phase of elections for the Synod Council has been completed, the Nominating Committee shall determine the number of male laypersons (unrestricted), and female

laypersons (unrestricted) to be elected to the Synod Council in order to comply with +S6.04. Thereafter, in the second phase, elections shall take place for male laypersons (unrestricted), for female laypersons (unrestricted), and for ordained ministers (unrestricted). Persons nominated but not elected to positions for youth, for Associate in Ministry, for persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English and for the female ordained minister may be nominated for other positions from the floor, provided that they meet the prerequisites for them and agree to such nomination. The procedure for elections to Synod Council shall be as provided in S9.11.03.

S10.07.02 Persons nominated for the offices of Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer and not elected to that office may be nominated from the floor for an unrestricted position on the Synod Council, provided that they meet the prerequisites for that position and agree to such nomination.

Renumber the bylaws to this section

S10.07.023. For purposes of filling the youth position on the Synod Council, a youth shall be defined as a person who, at the time of election by the Synod Assembly, has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday or has not graduated from high school, whichever occurs later. A person elected to the youth position on the Synod Council may not be re-elected to that position. In the event that the youth position becomes vacant, the Synod Council shall arrange for the appointment of a youth to fill the unexpired term.

S10.07.034. The Synod Council shall meet at least quarterly.

S10.07.045. If a member of any board, committee, or organizational unit elected by the Synod Assembly dies, resigns, or becomes unable to serve or if he or she fails to attend at least one-half of its meetings in a calendar year, the Synod Council may declare that person's position vacant. The process of determining if a member is unable to serve shall be the same as provided

in S8.56. If a vacancy occurs, the Synod Council shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term

Francis moved adoption of Amendment 56. It was moved and seconded to amend to delete all words after birthday and end with period. The motion to amend *failed*.

It was moved and seconded to amend with this language: ‘has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday or has not graduated from high school, whichever occurs later.’ The amendment *passed*.

Amendment 56, a bylaw requiring one reading, was *adopted as amended*.

SA2007.06

Add new bylaw S7.21.01, to read:

S7.21.01 Each congregation or ministry currently entitled to elect voting members may elect one additional lay voting member of the Synod Assembly, that member to be a youth who has not reached his or her 18th birthday or has not graduated from high school, whichever occurs later.

And renumber S721.01 and S7.212.02 to S7.21.02 and S7.21.03, respectively.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Georganne Robertson presented the report to the assembly. Larry Mills withdrew his name from consideration for the vacancy on the Consultation Committee. Don Benson is a member of Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah, not Sammamish Hills, Sammamish as the written report indicates.

BALLOTING

Kathryn Buffum, Elections Committee Chair, directed the assembly in balloting process. Ushers distributed ballots.

GREETINGS

Leadership Support Team – Pr Thom Wert, St Paul’s of Shorewood, Seattle introduced other members of the team, including Anita Proudfoot, Gethsemane, Seattle (new chair of the team), Karen Dicken, Peace, Silvana, Pr Walt Rice, Bethlehem, Sedro Woolley, Melinda Cox, Prince of Peace, Everett, and Pr Jan Nesse (*ex officio*). Anita and Karen helped Thom introduce the 30 August 2007 church staff training event, *Making Team Work: Conflicts and Community*, a follow-on event to last year’s day of learning.

World Hunger Team – Kristie Neklason, Gift of Grace, Seattle, Chair of the committee, reported on the work of the team over the past year. She recognized seven congregations for exceptional accomplishments: Bethlehem, Marysville; Edmonds, Edmonds; Grace, Des Moines; Trinity

Freeland; Trinity, Lynnwood; Lord of Life, Renton; and Immanuel Seattle. There was a 21 percent increase in giving from the congregations and individuals in this synod in 2006. Kristie presented a globe to Bishop Boerger as inspiration and continued reminder of opportunities. Kristie also thanked the synod for the \$5,000 gift from last year's assembly to world hunger appeal; she presented a gift of baskets to Vice President Larry Johnson to remind the synod to continue offerings to end world hunger.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Luther's Table – Gretchen Mertes, St Matthew, Renton and many of the clergy from the South King County Cluster talked about the ministry portion of the Renton Lutheran Redevelopment Project. The ministry will involve a new type of gathering place for those who will not go to church. More than a pub, it will be a sacred space, a true 'Luther's Table where people can find conversation, honesty and faith development. Other participants in the redevelopment project will be Renton School District, Renton Technical College, the IKEA Performing Arts Center, Lutheran Community Services NW, and the Compass Center.

Grace Chinese Lutheran Church of South King County – Pr Kirby Unti, St Matthew, Renton introduced Mike and Rowena Wang, synodically-authorized ministers for this new Chinese language ministry in South King County, sponsored by Grace Chinese, Seattle and St Matthew, Renton.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Pastors Chris Berry (Western Washington University) and Scott Postlewait (University of Washington) presented a joint announcement of the 100th Anniversary of Lutheran Campus Ministry and reminded pastors to send in the information forms on young members who are going to attend college this fall. They announced is a nationwide program to have congregations donate one copy of the new ELW to campus ministries and encouraged congregations to put links to campus ministries on their websites and include them in church directories. Pr Berry and Pr. Postlewait emphasized that they are YOUR campus pastors at Western Washington University and the University of Washington.

2008 BUDGET

Wayne Daley, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the motion for the Synod Council to adopt the 2008 General Fund Budget. The motion to approve *carried*.

SA2007.07 That the 2008 General Fund Budget is approved as presented.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Chris Berry deferred to Claudia LaFollette to present Resolution G, sponsored by the Synod Council. The motion to approve *carried*.

SA2007.08 Be it resolved that the Northwest Washington Synod, the congregations that comprise it and all the ministries of the synod continue to recognize 2007 as the year to celebrate the

100-year heritage of Lutheran Campus Ministry in the United States; and

Be it further resolved that congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod continue to find ways to make known the value of Lutheran Campus Ministry to their members and encourage college-bound students to participate in the furtherance of faith through Lutheran Campus Ministry; and

Be it further resolved that university faculty and staff whose vocations are lived on college and university campuses are encouraged in their ministries of teaching, research and administration and that their unique intellectual contributions are welcomed in the congregations and structures of the Northwest Washington Synod; and

Be it further resolved that new and increased ways – including but not limited to funding – are found to support the work of students, faculty, university staff, and campus ministries in our region; and

Be it further resolved that alumni/ae of Lutheran Campus Ministry and all interested persons be encouraged to participate in the Northwest Washington Synod Lutheran Campus Ministry Centennial Celebration that will be held in the fall of 2007; and

Be it further resolved that the work of the Lutheran Campus Ministry Task Force established by the 2006 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly be continued through the coming year, submitting a report to the Synod Council in January 2008 and a final report to the Synod Assembly in 2008.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Pr Jane Prestbye announced the ordination service in Kent, Kent for Timothy Loehrke next Sunday; he has accepted a call to Pigeon, Michigan.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Chris Berry moved adoption of Resolution E. The motion to adopt *carried*.

SA2007.09

BE IT RESOLVED THAT these are the members of the Pacific Lutheran University Corporation selected by the Northwest Washington Synod for the terms indicated:

<u>Cluster</u>	<u>Delegate</u>	<u>Home Congregation</u>	<u>Elected/ Term End</u>
Whatcom	Peggy Carr	Central, Bellingham	2006/2009
Whatcom	Kristina Daheim	Christ the Servant, Bellingham	2006/2009
Skagit-Isle	Anita Holzemer	Anacortes, Anacortes	2005/2008
Skagit-Isle	Rev. Jerry Buss	Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	2006/2009
Sno-Isle	Vacant		2007/2010
Sno-Isle	Rev. Kevin Bates	Advent, Mill Creek	2004/2010
South King	Milly Olden	Lord of Life, Renton	2006/2009
South King	Diane Lewis	Lord of Life, Renton	2006/2009
NE Seattle	Rev. Dennis Anderson	Bethany, Seattle	2006/2009
NE Seattle	Dr. Mark Egbert	Prince of Peace, Shoreline	2006/2009
Central Seattle	Glenn Ryder	Denny Park, Seattle	2006/2009
Central Seattle	Steven Chapman	Central, Seattle	2006/2009
Stillaguamish	Suzanne Knaus	Our Saviour's, Arlington	2006/2009
Stillaguamish	Connie Hall	Camano, Camano	1999/2008
Sno-King	Sylvia Pugh	First Richmond Beach, Shoreline	2006/2009
Sno-King	Rev. Paul Sundberg	Trinity, Lynnwood	2006/2009
NW Seattle	Lisa Dahlen	Crown, Seattle	2006/2009
NW Seattle	Sherianne Caldwell	Luther Memorial, Seattle	2006/2009
East King	Nicola Seiler	Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah	2006/2009
East King	David Bly	St Luke's, Bellevue	2006/2009
Seatac	Julie (Wiesner) Landskov	Prince of Peace, Seatac	2006/2009
Seatac	Jim Zimmerman	Grace, Des Moines	1999/2008
Cascadia	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel	First, Bothell	2004/2010
Cascadia	Michael Schultz Rothermel	First Bothell	2004/2010

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Kathryn Buffum reported on the results of balloting. 328 ballots were cast, of which 328 were valid. 165 votes were required to elect for each position.

Consultation Committee

Clergy – three to be elected; 943 total votes cast. Pr Debra Benson, Anacortes, Anacortes received 317 votes, Pr Susan Burchfield, Immanuel, Seattle received 314 votes; Pr Jane Prestbye, Kent, Kent received 312 votes. Bishop Boerger declared Debra Benson, Susan Burchfield, and Jane Prestbye *elected*.

Lay Male – one to be elected; 290 total votes cast. Dan Daniels, Faith, Bellingham received 173 votes, Marcus Lang, Faith, Seattle received 117 votes. Bishop Boerger declared Dan Daniels *elected*.

Lay Female – one to be elected; 309 total votes cast. Astrid Martin, Denny Park, Seattle received 309 votes. Bishop Boerger declared Astrid Martin *elected*.

Discipline Committee

Clergy – three to be elected; 921 total votes cast. Pr Julie Blum, Maple Leaf, Seattle received 244 votes, Pr Susan Kirlin-Hackett, Holy Cross, Everett received 220 votes, Pr Jim Kruse, Cross of Christ, Bellevue received 266 votes, and Pr Gretchen Mertes, St Matthew, Renton received 191 votes. Bishop Boerger declared Julie Blum, Susan Kirlin-Hackett, and Jim Kruse *elected*.

Lay Male – three to be elected; 877 total votes cast. Don Benson, Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah received 230 votes, John Bittinger, Trinity, Everett received 245 votes, John Natterstad, Bethlehem, Marysville received 197 votes, and Daniel Squires, Queen Anne received 205 votes. Bishop Boerger declared Don Benson, John Bittinger, and Daniel Squires *elected*.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Pr Wesley Howell reported to the assembly, referring members to his written report.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

El Camino de Emaus, Burlington – Luz Maria Cabrera and Pr Eduardo Cabrera thanked their ministry partners and the Board of Outreach for support. Eduardo spoke of the pain of deportations and the threats of deportation.

St James Place, White Center – Pr Steve Grumm, Our Redeemer's, Seattle reported on the new ministry growing in St James Place (formerly St James Lutheran Church, Seattle). It is becoming a community space for youth, community arts programs, a cultural resource center, and youth leadership training. The St James Place Team is working in partnership with the people of White Center, taking the church into a new place. The community wants a cultural center, where everyone is welcome, and a place where cultural traditions and norms can be passed along to new generations.

GREETINGS

Synod Women of the ELCA – Yvonne Deacon, Prince of Peace, Seatac, President brought greetings to the assembly.

Lutheran Men in Mission – Ron Sailer, Bethlehem, Marysville brought greetings to the assembly and discussed the important work being done to build up men's ministry in congregations.

RECOGNITION

Bishop Boerger recognized rostered persons who are new to synod, interns, congregations, newly ordained, retirements, and one who was returned to the roster since the previous assembly:

New to the Synod

Ryan Alexander – from Pacifica Synod
Woody Carlson – from Rocky Mountain Synod
Phil Lee – from Sierra Pacific Synod
Joel Lohafer, Hope, Lynden – from the Association of Free
Lutheran Churches
George Nickelsburg, Retired – from Southern Ohio Synod
Phil Reitz – from Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod
Mark Peterson – from Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod
Michael Ross – from Rocky Mountain Synod

Interns

Nick Barootian – St John United, Seattle and Lutheran
Public Policy Office
Jeannine Daggett – Trinity, Lynnwood
Erin Horne – Ballard First, Seattle
Ted Mosher – Church of the Beloved, Edmonds
Alvina Olstead – Edison, Bow
Valorie Putt – Our Savior's, Everett
Sheila Rawn – Central, Everett
Anda Wilhelm – Phinney Ridge, Seattle

Congregational Anniversaries

Bethany, Seattle – 100th
Crown, Seattle – 50th
St Luke's, Bellevue – 50th

Newly Ordained

Rita Anderson – Saint Andrew's, Bellevue
Justin Johnson – Our Saviour's, Bellingham
Sharon Swanson – Faith, Bellingham
Lydia Wittman Grebe – Zion, Custer

Retired

Brian Beistel
JB Brandt
Dick Christensen
Ed Markquart

Restored to the Roster Darrell Schoen – serving as a chaplain with Maritime
Ministry

Bishop Boerger then presented certificates in honor of ministry milestones for the following members of the roster:

25th Anniversary of Commissioning	Sister Elizabeth Steele, Associate in Ministry, Retired
25th Anniversary of Ordained Ministry	Gary Dalenius – Holy Cross, Dalenius Paul Hoffman – Phinney Ridge, Seattle David Hustoft – Clearbrook, Nooksack Joel Kutzke – Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah Gary Jensen – On Leave from Call Gary Rothenberg – Gloria Dei, Alderwood Manor Tom Rohde – Good Shepherd, Snohomish James Sack – Missionary, Japan Carl Schwinck – On Leave from Call Marilyn Schultz Rothermel – First Evangelical, Bothell Michael Schultz Rothermel – First Evangelical, Bothell
35th Anniversary of Ordination	Richard V. Anderson, Pastoral Counselor Paul Fauske – Holy Trinity, Mercer Island Carl Gabrielson – Our Saviour's, Arlington Mark Johnson – First Evangelical, Mount Vernon Kemp Segerhammar – Gethsemane, Seattle
50th Anniversary of Ordination	Paul Bartling – Retired Charles Gunnerson – Retired Jack Hustad – Retired Everett Savage – Retired Herb Siefkes – Retired Don Taylor – Retired
65th Anniversary of Ordination	Karsten Baalson – Retired Kermit (KG) Egertson – Retired

RECESS

Bishop Boerger declared the assembly in recess until 1:15 pm, reminding members of the assembly of the workshops scheduled before lunch.

WORKSHOPS 3

The workshops included Endowments, Continue Your ONE Lutheran Journey, and Home-grown Mission Trips.

Plenary 5

CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Boerger called the assembly into session for Plenary 5 at 1:15 pm.

FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT

Millie Fosberg presented the final Credentials Report:

Total Voting Members Present	427
Lay Persons Present	272
Female	143
Male	129
Ordained Ministers on the Roster of the Synod Present	155
Persons of Color or Whose Primary Language is Other Than English	14
Observers Present	10
Visitors Present	73

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Rev. Dr. David Lose presented his second lecture on Preaching in the Post-Modern world.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Chris Berry moved adoption of Resolution B - A Memorial to Respond to the Decision of the Discipline Hearing Committee. It was moved and seconded to refer the resolution to the Synod Council. The motion *failed*. Pr Paul Bartling, who served on the Discipline Committee concerned, spoke in favor of the motion. It was moved that action on this resolution be deferred until after CWA addresses the subject matter. Bishop Boerger, on advice from the Parliamentarian, declared the motion out of order. The motion was withdrawn. It was moved and seconded to postpone debate on this resolution indefinitely. The motion to postpone indefinitely *failed*. Bishop Boerger announced that 30 minutes of debate had been completed; it was moved

and seconded to extend debate. The motion *failed* to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority. The motion to approve the resolution *carried*.

SA2007.10 BE IT RESOLVED that this Synod Assembly submit the following memorial for consideration by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

RESOLVED, that the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly direct the Committee on Appeals to develop an amendment to the definitions and guidelines established under ELCA bylaws 20.71.11. and 20.71.12. that removes provisions precluding “practicing homosexual persons” from the rosters of this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Churchwide Assembly direct the Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, to develop an amendment to the policies established under ELCA bylaws 7.31.11., 7.31.13., and 7.51.03.b. that removes provisions requiring persons who are “homosexual in their self-understanding” to “abstain from homosexual sexual relationships”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Churchwide Assembly direct the Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, to develop an amendment to the policies established under ELCA bylaws 7.31.15. and 7.52.13. that permits the reinstatement to the rosters of this church, without the usual requirement of five consecutive years without call, of persons who have resigned or been removed from the rosters solely because they are in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this Churchwide Assembly direct the Church Council to take the necessary steps to amend the definitions and guidelines established under bylaws 20.71.11. and 20.71.12., the policies established under bylaws 7.31.11. and 7.31.13., and the policies established under bylaws 7.31.15. and 7.52.13. in conformity to the preceding directions to the Committee on Appeals and Vocation and Education unit.

Chris Berry moved adoption of Resolution C - A Memorial to Endorse Restraint. The motion to adopt *carried*.

SA2007.11 BE IT RESOLVED, that this Synod Assembly submit the following memorial for consideration by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA endorses and calls for restraint in the application of provisions relating to the rostered service of

persons who, in policies separate from the ELCA Constitution, are referred to as “practicing homosexuals” or as “homosexual in their self-understanding.”

Chris Berry moved adoption of Resolution D - A Memorial to Refrain from Discipline. The motion to adopt *carried*.

SA2007.12 BE IT RESOLVED that this Synod Assembly submit the following memorial for consideration by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

RESOLVED, that in order to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements, synods, synodical bishops, and the Presiding Bishop of this church are encouraged to refrain from disciplining those who – in good conscience and for the sake of outreach, ministry, and commitment to continuing dialogue – call, approve, ordain, commission, or consecrate otherwise-qualified candidates for rostered service who are in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship; and be it further RESOLVED, that synods, synodical bishops, and the Presiding Bishop of this church are encouraged to refrain from disciplining those rostered leaders in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship who have been thus called, approved, ordained, commissioned, or consecrated.

Chris Berry moved adoption of Resolution F – Anguished Lutheran Hispanic Community. The motion to adopt *carried*.

SA2007.13 BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod lead and comfort our Hispanic Community during this time of Kairos until the time of justice comes upon us and have us as part of our flock; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the good offices of our congregations, Synod Council and the office of the Bishop denounce and demand that the raids, deportations and massive firings of undocumented immigrant workers cease immediately; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the bishop meet with the heads of our ecumenical partners to jointly denounce the massive raids and deportations; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the bishop encourage Lutheran agencies, congregations and committees to designate grants that will create or support faith based institutions that are currently serving the undocumented immigrants within the United States who are currently

being defrauded by unscrupulous and untrustworthy organizations that profit at their expense; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the bishop meet with grass roots leaders involved in immigration issues, to listen to their concerns and pray for members who are confronting deportation proceedings; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the bishop and synod office make available the *New Sanctuary Movement Statement of Support and Involvement* to congregations and that the Synod Council consider adopting this Statement at the 2008 Synod Assembly; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly to request the Presiding Bishop provide for an urgent national meeting church workers, lawyers and theologians to establish strategies for accompanying undocumented immigrants, including the establishment and support of Sanctuaries in congregations; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly to request the office of the Presiding Bishop to arrange an urgent meeting with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services to discuss the expansion of its mission from solely providing services to refugees to directly assisting refugee families within the United States which need legal representation as they confront deportation proceedings and other immigration proceedings; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly to request that the Presiding Bishop and the Conference of Bishops encourage all synods of this church to establish committees on immigration that include leaders from the Hispanic community who are involved in immigration issues and to encourage the members of this church to continue to pray that God gives us the power and will to walk with the immigrant community in this time of trial and injustice.

Chris Berry reported that the assembly will deal with the remaining resolutions in this order: H, I, J, K, L, M.

GREETINGS

Pr Everett Savage, retired, Trinity, Lynnwood, Chair of the Global Missions Committee spoke to the assembly about the committee's work in the synod and offered opportunities to congregations to support the four missionaries currently being sponsored by the synod.

Pr Wesley Howell, Grace, Bellevue talked about the Russian Companion Synod and reported ways that congregations could join the effort.

Pr Dick Grinstad, Burlington, Burlington spoke about the Ethiopian Companion Synod and Haik Orphanage.

CONGREGATIONAL RENEWAL

Assistant to the Bishop, Pr Jan Nesse, First Richmond Beach, Shoreline made a presentation on Natural Church Development as one means of congregational renewal. Renewing your church is not about getting more members but as your members are renewed they will naturally bring their friends to share the life and growth that is taking place in your congregation. The focus of Natural Church Development is not on the numbers but on the health of the organism. Six principals in Natural Church Development:

Interdependence; Multiplication; Energy transformation (making use of negative energy rather than fighting it); Sustainability (make the results of the work into something that sustains the work); Symbiosis (monoculture ultimately dies off, learn to live in and with diversity); and Fruitfulness (the function of God's church is to grow disciples who will grow more disciples).

For additional information about congregational renewal in the synod, Pr Nesse encouraged members of the assembly to visit the Youth Board's display downstairs; to talk to the Outreach Board; to talk to congregations who were honored at this assembly for information about how your congregation can raise up new leaders for the church; and to talk to Pr Nesse about Natural Church Development.

What is God calling you to do? If you always do what you've always done, you'll get the same thing you've always gotten . . . except maybe not so much of it.

GREETINGS

Lance Georgeson, Phinney Ridge, Seattle brought greetings from Trinity Lutheran College. He introduced Stina Lund, a senior at Lake Stevens High School and a member of Immanuel, Seattle, winner of the Northwest Washington Synod's Bishop's Scholarship at Trinity. Lance also introduced Stina's parents, Paul and Holly Lund.

Pr Kemp Segerhammer, Gethsemane, Seattle brought greetings from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Roberta Nestaas, Executive Director, brought greetings from Lutheran Community Services Northwest. The Village at Angle Lake was presented to the Synod Assembly five years ago as a dream and Bishop Boerger participated in the dedication of the new facility just a few weeks

ago. She thanked the synod for action taken at this assembly to advocate for immigrants in our communities.

Pr Don Haven, Western States Mission Advancement Director, brought greetings from Lutheran World Relief. Financial gifts, quilts, layettes, fair trade products, hygiene kits are evidence of the many ways this synod and its members support the poor and broken of the world.

Darel Grothaus, Interim Executive Director, brought greetings from the Washington Association of Churches and specifically thanked Pr Paul Benz, Director of the Lutheran Public Policy Office.

David Swartling, Bethany, Bainbridge brought greetings from the Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium of Western Washington. He encouraged everyone to have a personal estate plan and to take back to their congregations the draft letter about the IRA Charitable Roll-over, which ends at the end of 2007. David is willing to visit congregations with information about planned giving and to visit with individuals about leaving a legacy to support ministry.

ELCA REPRESENTATIVE

Lita Johnson answered questions from members of the assembly and presented a video greeting from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

It was moved and seconded to suspend the rules and limit speakers to two per side. The motion *failed*. It was moved and seconded to suspend the rules of the day to move Resolution J to immediate consideration. The motion *carried*.

Chris Berry moved adoption of Resolution J - Stand Against the Iraqi War. It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution, in the first Resolve adding the word “publicly” before the phrase, “stand in opposition” and in the second Resolve adding the words “and the ELCA Conference of Bishops” after the words, “the ELCA Church Council”. The motion to amend *carried*. It was moved and seconded to close debate and call the previous question. The motion *carried*. The motion to adopt *carried*.

SA2007.14 BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA publicly stand in opposition to the U.S. war against Iraq; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA call upon the President of the United States and the congressional members of the State of Washington to be expeditious in bringing our troops home, while pursuing non-military political solutions with Iraq and with the rest of the nations of the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA memorializes the Church Council of the ELCA and the ELCA

Conference of Bishops to take a similar stand in opposition to the U.S. war against Iraq; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA memorializes the 2007 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly in Chicago to take a similar stand in opposition to the U.S. war against Iraq.

Chris Berry read the titles of the resolutions remaining before the assembly; Bishop Boerger declared that the resolutions below are referred to the Synod Council for action.

H – Lambeth

I – Affirming Marriage

K – Memorial Supporting the 1993 Statement of the Conference of Bishops

L – A Memorial Calling for No Changes to Vision and Expectations

M – Supporting Ending World Hunger and ONE Lutheran

Bishop Boerger thanked Chris Berry and the other members of the Reference and Counsel Committee for their work. He encouraged members of the assembly to report to their congregations that the assembly would have been able to consider all the resolutions if they had been received on time. The majority of resolutions were received after the deadline for receipt and as a result the agenda for the assembly was structured without adequate time for discussion. He indicated that it will likely be September before the Synod Council has time to address the resolutions referred by the assembly. Bishop Boerger encouraged members of the assembly to look for updates on action on the synod website www.lutheransnw.org.

RAFFLE, CLOSING REMARKS, NEXT YEAR'S ASSEMBLY DATES

Carla Berg, Assembly Coordinator, noted that there are recycle boxes for voting cards and parliamentary procedures booklets, evaluation forms and nametags. There are order forms available for the assembly DVD. Carla thanked Bishop Boerger for the opportunity to serve and be part of this event. She thanked synod staff for their help and support and thanked the ushers for their hard work. Carla also thanked the members of the assembly planning committee. Raffle prizes were presented to the winners.

NEXT YEAR'S ASSEMBLY DATES

Bishop Boerger announced that next year's assembly will be on May 16-17, 2008 at the Everett Events Center, Everett. He also reported that the Synod Council has chosen the weekend following Mother's Day as the regularly scheduled date for the assembly in the future.

CLOSING REMARKS

Bishop Boerger noted that the assembly began with Word and Sacrament. He is humbled by your trust, as evidenced by your reelection of him as your bishop. The bishop hoped there has been a brief glimpse of what God is doing in this place. Bishop Boerger also expressed his concern that divisive issues are too much the focus at our assemblies instead of who we are as the body of Christ. We are here in response to God's actions, not our choices. Thank you for your hard work.

Bishop Boerger adjourned at 5 pm, with Festival Worship following.

APPENDICES:

- A – Standing Rules of the 2007 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly
- B – 2007 Assembly Agenda
- C – Report of the Treasurer
- D – Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Proposal
- E – Report of the Vice President
- F – Report of the Secretary

- Amendment 55 of the Constitution & Bylaws (passed)
- Amendment 56 of the Constitution & Bylaws (passed as amended)
- Resolution A – In Support of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network (passed)
- Resolution B - A Memorial to Respond to the Decision of the Discipline Hearing Committee
(passed)
- Resolution C – A Memorial to Endorse Restraint (passed)
- Resolution D – A Memorial to Refrain from Discipline (passed)
- Resolution E – Pacific Lutheran University Corporate Delegates (passed)
- Resolution F – Anguished Lutheran Hispanic Community (passed)
- Resolution G – Honoring 100 Years of Lutheran Campus Ministry (passed)
- Resolution H – Lambeth (referred to Synod Council)
- Resolution I – Affirming Marriage (referred to Synod Council)
- Resolution J - Stand Against The Iraqi War (passed as amended)
- Resolution K – Memorial Supporting the 1993 Statement of the Conference of Bishops (referred
to Synod Council)
- Resolution L – A Memorial Calling for No Changes to Vision and Expectations (referred to
Synod Council)
- Resolution M – Supporting Ending World Hunger and ONE Lutheran (referred to Synod
Council)