

**Northwest Washington Synod Twenty-third Annual Assembly**  
***Living the Good News of God's Welcome***  
**Friday and Saturday, May 14 – 15, 2010**  
**Everett, Washington**



**Friday, May 14, 2010**

**OPENING WORSHIP**

The twenty-third annual Synod Assembly of the Northwest Washington Synod opened with worship at 10:00 am, with Director for Evangelical Mission the Rev. Jerry Buss, Church of Steadfast Love, Seattle preaching and Bishop Wm Chris Boerger presiding.

**PLENARY 1**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Following worship, Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 11:05 am.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The noon Friday deadlines for nominations and resolutions were announced.

**CREDENTIALS REPORT 1**

Registrar Tammie Zarfos, Associate in Ministry, Holy Spirit Kirkland, gave the initial credentials report of 100 ordained clergy, 221 lay persons, 5 observers, and 45 visitors registered and present.

**QUORUM**

Bishop Boerger declared a quorum. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the bishop reminded the assembly that nominations would be accepted until 12 noon.

**ELECTRONIC VOTING**

With the assistance of technicians, the bishop introduced the process of electronic voting, using five test questions for practice.

**STANDING RULES**

After noting the correction of the deadline for submission of nominations and resolutions in the proposed Standing Rules from 10 am to 12 noon, Vice President Larry Johnson, Associate in Ministry, Lord of Life, Renton, speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, moved adoption of the Standing Rules. The motion to approve *carried* with a vote of 251 for and 4 against.

**SA2010.01**

**The Standing Rules of the 2010 Synod Assembly are adopted as corrected.**

## **ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Larry Johnson moved adoption of the Assembly Agenda. The motion to approve *carried* with a vote of 256 for and 3 against.

**SA2010.02                    That the Assembly Agenda is approved as presented.**

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Bishop Boerger introduced guests of the assembly Carol Schneider of the Mission Investment Fund; Julie Sevig of *The Lutheran* magazine; the Rev. Julie Rowe, Global Missions of the ELCA; The Rev Dr Phyllis Anderson, President of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary; and the Rev. Ruben Duran, of the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit of the ELCA.

Bishop Boerger introduced Louise Johnson, Lord of Life, Renton as the 2010 Assembly Coordinator. Louise introduced her committee members: the Rev Eric Finsand, Christ the Servant, Bellingham, Worship Chair; Gerry Hart, Lord of Life, Renton, Treasurer; Corine Schmidt, Trinity, Lynnwood, Display and Bags Coordinator; Megan Koepnick, Central, Everett, Facilities Coordinator; and Tammie Zarfos, Associate in Ministry, Holy Spirit, Kirkland, Registrar. Louise also thanked Laurie Clark for creating the banner and Carol Swackhammer, Edmonds, Edmonds and all the ushers for their work. Louise also asked assembly members to take the bags home and use them when they shop, instead of accepting plastic bags.

## **MISSION INTERPRETERS**

Lee Bjorkland, Bethany, Seattle, announced the launch of a Mission Interpreter program throughout the synod this year – telling the story of ministry and faith. The goal of the program is to have at least one person in each congregation identified as a story teller, to begin to break the silence about what our church is doing in the world.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

Bishop Boerger noted that most of the proposed amendments to the synod's constitution result from actions taken by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Larry Johnson moved adoption of Amendment 57, which separates information about the Synod Assembly from more general information about synodically-authorized worshiping communities. The motion to approve *carried* with a vote of 231 for and 11 against.

**SA2010.03                    That Amendment 57 is approved as presented: To Amend S7.26. and add S13.40. and S13.41. to separate information about the Synod Assembly from more general information about synodically authorized worshiping communities:**

**S7.26.                    This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming recognized congregations and authorized worshiping communities**

**of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.**

**S13.40. Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities**

**S13.41. Authorized Worshiping Communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.**

Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Larry Johnson moved adoption of Amendment 58, which provides additional clarity about fidelity coverage for persons handling synod funds. The motion to approve *carried* with a vote of 266 for and 7 against.

**SA2010.04 That Amendment 58 is approved as presented: To amend S8.42. to provide additional clarity:**

**S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:**

- f. Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.-**

Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Larry Johnson moved adoption of Amendment 59, which dealt with voting rights for retired rostered leaders and adds voting rights for rostered leaders on disability. The motion to approve *carried* with a vote of 258 for and 8 against.

**SA2010.05 That Amendment 59 is approved as presented: To amend S7.22. and S7.23. to make them consistent and to add voting rights for those on disability:**

**S7.22. The synod may establish processes that permit retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. The synod may establish**

**processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered leaders specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.**

**S7.23. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.**

Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Larry Johnson introduced Amendment 60, which incorporates required provisions adopted or amended by the Churchwide Assembly and which are not subject to alteration or amendment by the Synod Assembly.

The amendment is provided here for information:

***Added †S8.16. and †S8.16.01. to incorporate procedures concerning matters of potential conflicts of interest for synodical bishops, as required by 10.32. and 10.32.01. of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:***

**†S8.16           Conflicts of Interest**

**†S8.16.01.      The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synodical bishops:**

- a. Whenever a synodical bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in †S8.16.01.b. may require his or her determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in †S8.16.01.c., the synodical bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synodical bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.**
- b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provision 7.46. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (†S14.13.), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where**

**determinations or actions by the synodical bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.**

- c. A related individual is one who, with respect to the synodical bishop, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, or in-law (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).**

*Added †S9.12. to require background checks for nominees for officers of synods:*

- †S9.12. Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synodical officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.**

*Amended †S11.01. to require each synod to have an Audit Committee, added †S11.05. to specify its composition, and amended †S15.31. to give to the Audit Committee responsibility for recommending a certified public accountant firm to conduct the annual audit:*

- †S11.01. There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee, and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be as set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

- †S11.05. The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom are members of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in †S15.31.**

- †S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm**

recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved selected by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod. The financial reports shall be in the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.

*Amended and added the following to allow for expanded roles for youth and young adults in the governance in all expressions of this church:*

†S6.04.B09. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

†S10.01. The Synod Council, consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10–24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult, shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

*Amended and added the following to make the process for relocation parallel to the process for establishment of additional sites for worship:*

†S13.19. A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

*Added the following to provide an interdependent process for the establishment of additional sites for worship:*

†S13.20. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

*Amended the following to provide for the termination of a call when a parish arrangement terminates:*

- †S14.13.      a.      **The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:. . .**
- 6) **the dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or**  
*[with the remainder unchanged]*

Speaking on behalf of the Synod Council, Larry Johnson moved adoption of Amendment 61, a change to the bylaws incorporating a Young Adult position on the Synod Council and adding the Diaconal Minister and Deaconess rosters to the Associate in Ministry position. The motion to approve *carried* with a vote of 266 for and 12 against.

**SA2010.06                      That Amendment 61 is approved as presented: To Amend S10.07.01. to incorporate the new Young Adult position on the Synod Council:**

**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	Young Adult
1	Active Associate in Ministry, Diaconal Minister, or Deaconess
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 a young adult, for an active associate in ministry or diaconal minister or deaconess, 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 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. The procedure for elections to Synod Council shall be as provided in S9.11.03.**

#### **EVANGELICAL OUTREACH TEAM**

Heather Riggs, Camano, Camano Island, introduced the Evangelical Outreach Team's work, noted that they are wearing distinctive t-shirts and would like to talk individually with members of the assembly. Heather also announced the availability of Publicity grants of up to \$2,000 to help congregations carry the word of their ministry into their community.

#### **COMPANION SYNODS**

The Rev Julie Rowe, liaison for companion synods at the Global Missions Unit at Churchwide, spoke about the importance of the companion synod relationships for the church of God.

#### **LUNCH**

The bishop declared the assembly in recess for lunch at 12 pm.

### **PLENARY 2**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly back to order at 1:30 pm

## **CREDENTIALS REPORT 2**

Registrar Tammie Zarfos reported that 107 ordained clergy, 229 lay person, 5 observers, and 85 visitors had registered.

## **REPORT OF THE BISHOP**

Bishop Boerger opened his report with a report on the life of the synod – 105 congregations, 119 ministries. He reviewed the money (nearly \$1 million) set aside in the past to start new ministries. That money has been fully committed and the synod has a strong track record of supporting ministry development. According to parochial reports, the synod has about 47,000 baptized members. 29 congregations are growing, 19 are stable and 57 are declining. The bishop believes we are complacent with how we ‘do church’ in this synod.

Age of clergy is also becoming an issue within the synod. Over 70 percent of the ordained clergy in this synod are over the age of 50. The synod must prepare for the transitional changes that will be needed.

Another challenge we face as a synod is the decline in mission support to the larger church. There has been a shift in the pattern of support since the establishment of the ELCA. In 1988 congregations sent \$1,170,000 in mission support to the synod and Churchwide organizations. By 1995 the number had grown to \$1,268,224 and by 2000 had grown to \$1,504,221. Since 2000 the numbers have been declining and in 2009 the number was \$1,378,142.

Bishop Boerger went on to discuss the role of social statements in our church. They are not canon law but are teaching documents, designed to get the church into discussion. Social statements are also designed to bind Churchwide officers and synodical bishops in the public statements they make.

The bishop encouraged members of the assembly to participate in the Living Into the Future (LIFT) study process by which the church is looking at how we might be church together in the future. He also noted that there is widespread confusion about the polity of the ELCA: we are three expressions – congregation, synod, and Churchwide offices – in ministry together as the church.

The Mission Interpreter program that Lee Bjorkland spoke about earlier is a wonderful way that we can learn together to tell our stories. There are wonderful stories of ministry in our communities, life-changing work that we do at home and around the world. It is good for us to learn to tell those stories and show God’s children that we can make a difference in the world.

Opportunities for the church in this synod are many: we live in a part of the country that is growing and the people who are coming here are not coming from traditional Lutheran places. We can see ourselves as an immigrant church, ready to receive immigrants, something we know how to do. Our social ministry partnerships are strong, particularly with the Compass Center and Lutheran Community Services. Campus Ministries are a significant resource to the church and we are fortunate to have two strong ministries at Western Washington University and the University of Washington.

There are 49 persons involved in candidacy processes in this synod and, with the concurrence of the Conference of Bishops, the synod recently called Nancy Winder to serve a non-stipendiary call as an assistant to the bishop in the area of candidacy beginning September 1st. We have a core group of trained Interim Pastors who see their primary call serving in congregations between calls.

We have strong ecumenical ties with our brothers and sisters in Christ in other denominations and with interfaith partners. We share ministry sites, we are partners in ministry developments, we share conversation about issues of concern to all of us. These also are strong assets to the synod and the Lutheran church in this place.

Bishop Boerger thanked the officers of the synod, Larry Johnson, Associate in Ministry, Vice President; Pr Wesley Howell, Secretary; and Millie Fosberg, Treasurer for their support and service. He also thanked synod office staff for their support and highlighted Pr Jerry Buss as the newest member of the staff, with his focus on stewardship and evangelism. Both Bishop Boerger and Pr Jan Nesse will be on sabbatical between now and the next Synod Assembly.

The Eighth Annual Bishop's Award was presented to St Matthew's, Renton for creative courage in reaching out to the community. They are involved in supporting Grace Chinese of South King County and will help develop the new Luther's Table ministry in the redevelopment of the Renton Lutheran properties.

Finally, the bishop asked members of the assembly to read his written report and invite him to come to your congregation so we can work together, He said that it is a blessing and honor to serve in the office of bishop.

## **GREETINGS**

The Rev. G. Lee Kluth of the Office of Congregational Relations at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) greeted the assembly and announced the summer theological conference at PLU focused on the spiritual formation of pastoral leaders. Pr Kluth also presented a PLU sweatshirt to Bishop Boerger.

## **MISSION MOMENT**

The Rev Kari Reiten of Faith, Everett introduced the Quilting video the congregation submitted to the Churchwide video contest last year. In addition, Kari introduced Esau Cuevas, who will intern at Faith next year, working on the development of a Latino ministry in south Everett.

## **REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Becky Bunke, Bethlehem, Sedro Woolley presented the report of the Nominating Committee.

## **ELECTIONS 1**

The Rev. Jennifer Schultz, Salem, Mount Vernon explained the voting process. The first vote will be for restricted positions. The voting will be done electronically and the results will not be

displayed immediately but will be reported by the Elections Committee at the beginning of the next round of voting.

Bishop Boerger declared this round of voting void after complaints from voters that they didn't have enough time to review the nomination forms before being asked to vote. The first round of voting will be redone at 3 pm.

### **REPORT OF THE CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE**

Bishop Boerger introduced the Rev. Ruben Duran, highlighting his connections to the synod as a graduate of Lutheran Bible Institute Seattle and former youth director at Mount Si, North Bend.

Bishop Hanson's video message was presented to the assembly. Pr Duran commented on Bishop Boerger's key role in work with the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit as part of the Conference of Bishops. Speaking about the Book of Faith initiative, Pr Duran called the bible a place you can 'go home' to, with faith stories that strengthen one another and strengthen us for evangelism in the community, our first language of faith. Other comments dealt with mission support and the Full Communion relationship with the United Methodist church which was approved at the last Churchwide Assembly.

Speaking about growth in the church, Pr Duran noted that past growth has been due to immigration and the Baby Boom. There are many Lutherans in the East and Midwest, with fewer in the West and South. Shifts in demographics are taking place and our congregations are being effected. The larger church is focusing on growth in non-white ethnic-specific ministry settings. Pr Duran noted that ethnic-specific ministry is not an end in itself, it is a means to an end: God's work in our world. It's time to get out of the house! The assembly responded to Pr Duran's challenge with a standing ovation.

### **ELECTIONS 1A**

Bishop Boerger directed the assembly to vote for the following positions:

Synod Vice President: Kay Edgerton, Nativity, Renton or Georganne Robertson, Queen Anne, Seattle

Synod Secretary: Faye Bone, Zion, Custer or Pr Wesley Howell, Grace, Bellevue

Synod Council Youth: Aaron Korneliussen, Nativity, Renton

Synod Council Person of Color or Whose Language is Other Than English, Male: Esau Cuevas

Synod Council Clergy, Female: Pr Kristy Daniels, Church of Steadfast Love, Seattle or Pr Deanna Wildermuth, Holy Trinity, Mercer Island

2011 Churchwide Assembly Person of Color or Whose Language is Other Than English: Mark Kremen

### **BREAK**

Bishop Boerger recessed the assembly at 3:30 pm.

## PLENARY 3

### CALL TO ORDER

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 3:50 pm.

### CREDENTIALS REPORT 3

Registrar Tammie Zarfos reported that 113 Ordained Clergy, 235 Lay Persons, 6 Observers, and 90 Visitors had registered for the assembly.

### ELECTIONS REPORT 1

Jennifer Schultz reported the results of the first ballot:

Synod Vice President, 270 votes cast, 136 required to elect  
Kay Edgerton received 100 votes, Georganne Robertson received 170 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Georganne Robertson **elected**.

Synod Secretary, 282 votes cast, 142 required to elect  
Faye Bone received 103 votes, Pr Wesley Howell received 179 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Wesley Howell **elected**.

Synod Council Youth Position, 280 votes cast, 141 required to elect  
Aaron Korneliussen received 203 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Aaron Korneliussen **elected**.

Synod Council Person of Color or Whose Primary Language is Other Than English, Male  
282 votes cast, 142 required to elect  
Esau Cuevas received 202 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Esau Cuevas **elected**.

Synod Council Clergy, Female, 271 votes cast, 136 required to elect  
Pr Kristy Daniels received 167 votes, Pr Deanna Wildermuth received 104 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Kristy Daniels **elected**.

2011 Churchwide Assembly Person of Color or Whose Primary Language is Other Than  
English, 285 votes cast, 143 required to elect  
Mark Kremen received 285 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Mark Kremen **elected**.

### REFERENCE & COUNSEL 1

Claudia LaFollette, Fir-Conway, Mount Vernon, Chair of the Reference & Counsel Committee, speaking on behalf of the committee, moved adoption of Resolution C – The Conservative Option. A Member of the assembly objected to consideration of the resolution. Bishop Boerger

explained that a two-thirds vote would be needed to set aside the resolution and that no debate was allowed. The vote was 168 for upholding the objection and 83 against; Bishop Boerger ruled Resolution C Set Aside.

On behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, Claudia LaFollette moved adoption of Resolution A - Faithfulness in Decision-Making. A Member of the assembly objected to consideration of the resolution. The vote was 188 for upholding the objection and 83 against; Bishop Boerger ruled Resolution A Set Aside.

On behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, Claudia LaFollette moved adoption of Resolution D - Resolution regarding the Kairos Palestine Statement. The Rev. John-Otto Liljenstolpe, maker, spoke to the resolution. It was moved and seconded to refer the resolution to the Synod Council. The vote was 244 in favor and 28 against; Bishop Boerger ruled Resolution D Referred to Synod Council.

## **ELECTIONS 2**

Pr Schultz, Chair of the Elections Committee, presented the next categories for voting: Synod Council Young Adult and Synod Council Female Person of Color or Whose Language of Origin is Other Than English. Bishop Boerger directed the assembly to vote for the following positions:

Synod Council Young Adult: Emily Brown, Bethesda, Mountlake Terrace or Liv Mothershead, Lutheran Campus Ministry-WWU,  
Synod Council Person of Color or Whose Language of Origin is Other Than English,  
Female: Faye Bone, Zion, Custer or Kay Edgerton, Nativity, Renton

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER 1**

Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop the Rev. Jerry Buss introduced Dr. Amy Oden of Wesley Theological Seminary and author of *God's Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World*. Dr Oden used a number of interactive exercises to help members of the assembly develop pragmatic tools and clarify processes for use in growing the capacity for hospitality. Dr Oden discussed practicing holy conversation as a way to handle conversations about difficult issues.

## **MISSION MOMENTS**

Pr Jerry Buss introduced the new ministry in Columbia City under the leadership of Pr Darla DeFrance and Pr Rachel Bass, rebuilding on the base of Bethlehem, Seattle which is closing. Darla recently served as the regional coordinator for the Lutheran Volunteer Corps.

Gethsemane Lutheran, Seattle is working in partnership with the Compass Housing Alliance to build 50 units of housing for financially disadvantaged persons in the community. Their new facility will include space for Mary's Place, a new worship space, and a garden.

## **ELECTIONS REPORT 2**

Pr Jennifer Schultz reported the results of the previous ballot

Synod Council, Young Adult, 251 votes cast, 126 required to elect  
Emily Brown received 160 votes, Liv Mothershead received 91 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Emily Brown **elected**.

Synod Council Person of Color or Whose Language of Origin is Other Than English,  
Female, 261 votes cast, 131 required to elect  
Faye Bone received 92 votes, Kay Edgerton received 169 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Kay Edgerton **elected**.

## **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Millie Fosberg, Salem, Mount Vernon reported to the assembly that God is good and we live in a world of abundance. Although economic times are hard we are not in need. The Treasurer reported that the synod continues to send 45.5 percent of undesignated mission support funds to the Churchwide organization. Synod financial reserves are lower this year, making it necessary to cut funding to partner ministries. Additional cuts to the 2010 Spending Plan were made at the beginning of the fiscal year, including cuts in salary for synod staff. The Treasurer and the Finance Committee will continue to monitor expenses and income.

## **ELECTIONS 3**

Pr Schultz presented the next categories for voting: Churchwide Assembly, Young Adult.  
Bishop Boerger directed the assembly to vote for the following position:

2011 Churchwide Assembly, Young Adult: Emily Brown, Bethesda, Mountlake Terrace;  
or Ryan Brown, Bethlehem, Marysville; or Tony Rhodes, Advent, Mill Creek

## **STAND AND SING**

The bishop invited members of the assembly to stand and stretch and the assembly joined in singing *Spirit of Gentleness*.

## **2011 BUDGET CAP**

Wayne Daley, Bethany, Bainbridge, Chair of the Finance Committee, echoed comments from the Treasurer regarding the difficulties of managing synod finances over the past year. On behalf of the Synod Council, Wayne moved that the General Fund Budget adopted for Fiscal Year 2011 shall be capped at \$1,400,000, and that motions to increase any expenditure item in said fund shall include a recommended offsetting decrease, and that Fiscal 2011 General Fund receipts in excess of \$1,400,000 be disbursed 45.5 percent to Churchwide, 25 percent to Partner Ministries, and 29.5 percent to Synod Ministries. The motion was **adopted**.

**SA2010.07**

**The General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 shall be capped at \$1,400,000, and**

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

**That Fiscal Year 2011 General Fund receipts in excess of \$,4000,000 be disbursed 45.5 percent to Churchwide, 25 percent to Partner Ministries and 29.5 percent to Synod ministries.**

## **REFERENCE & COUNSEL 2**

Speaking on behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, Claudia LaFollette moved adoption of Resolution B, Rescission of Resolution 4. A Member of the assembly objected to consideration of the resolution. The vote was 137 for and 71 against setting aside the resolution; Bishop Boerger ruled the objection to the resolution overturned. Barbara Wilson, Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor is not a voting member of the assembly but Bishop Boerger ruled that she may speak to the motion for two minutes. The vote was 59 votes for and 164 votes opposed. The resolution *failed*.

Speaking on behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, Claudia LaFollette moved adoption of Resolution E, New Ministry and Leadership Capital Campaign Authorization. Following a period of discussion the previous question was moved; the vote was 211 in favor and 14 against and debate was closed. The vote was 215 in favor and 10 against. The resolution *passed*.

### **SA2010.08**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the 2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly authorizes the Synod Council and the office of the Bishop to test the feasibility of conducting a capital fund drive with a tentative goal of 4 million dollars; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if feasible the Synod Council and office of the bishop be authorized to initiate said capital campaign; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proceeds of the capital campaign be designated for starting new ministries or supporting transformational ministry projects and for reducing student debt incurred in pursuit of theological education for first call pastors, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry or deaconesses serving in the Northwest Washington Synod. The actual amounts to be determined based on the results of the capital campaign; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the 2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly pledge to support this campaign with their financial resources and by encouraging other members of this synod to participate in the capital campaign.**

## **ELECTIONS REPORT 3**

Pr Schultz reported the results of the previous ballot:

2011 Churchwide Assembly, Young Adult, 211 votes cast, 106 required to elect, 70 required to advance  
Emily Brown received 71 votes, Ryan Brown received 52 votes, Tony Rhodes received 88 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Emily Brown and Tony Rhodes **advanced**.

### **EVENING PRAYER**

The Worship Team led the members of the assembly in evening prayer and Bishop Boerger declared the assembly in recess for the day at 5:30 pm.



**Saturday, May 15, 2010**

### **PLENARY 4**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger declared the assembly in session at 8 am.

#### **MORNING PRAYER**

The Worship Team led the assembly in prayer as the new day of deliberations began.

#### **CREDENTIALS REPORT 4**

Tammie Zarfos reported that 114 Clergy, 239 lay person, 6 observers, and 97 visitors had registered.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bishop Boerger gave a special word of thanks to Pr Eric Finsand, Christ the Servant, Bellingham for his work as Worship Coordinator for the Assembly.

Ron Sailer, Bethlehem, Marysville, announced that there will be a Lutheran Men in Mission event on 26 June 2010 at Bethlehem. The bishop thanked Ron Sailer for his work in keeping this ministry going in this synod.

#### **ELECTIONS 4**

Bishop Boerger directed the assembly to vote for the following positions:

2011 Churchwide Assembly Youth/Young Adult: Emily Brown, Bethesda, Mountlake Terrace or Tony Rhodes, Advent, Mill Creek

Synod Council Lay Female (Vote for two): Faye Bone, Zion, Custer; or Sherianne Caldwell, Luther Memorial, Seattle; or Sidney Evans, Christ the Servant, Bellingham; or Cydney Korneliussen, Nativity, Renton; or Gunbjorg Ladstein, Ballard First, Seattle; or Liv Mothershead, Kent, Kent

Synod Council Lay Male (Vote for three): Curt Eidem, Light of the Cross, Bothell; or David Gross, Ebenezer, Lake Stevens; or Paul Whitfield, Magnolia, Seattle

Synod Council Clergy (Vote for two): Scott Kramer, Lakeridge, Seattle; or Deanna Wildermuth, Holy Trinity, Mercer Island

2011 Churchwide Assembly Clergy (Vote for three): Kevin Bates, Advent, Mill Creek; or Lewis Benson, Ebenezer, Lake Stevens; or Bev Piro, Phinney Ridge, Seattle; or Kirby Unti, St Matthew, Renton; or Deanna Wildermuth, Holy Trinity, Mercer Island; or Lydia Wittman Grebe, Zion, Custer

#### **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

Larry Johnson expressed his appreciation for serving with such a diverse group as the Synod Council, recognizing those Council members who were present.

Larry talked about the outstanding mission work being done in the Synod and used Renton Lutheran Church as an example. This church closed its doors but gave their resources and property to be used as a place for housing and services to veterans and others, with the Synod and Lutheran Housing Alliance working together to make this happen.

Due to the decrease of mission support funding, the synod council has made a fifteen percent cut in ministry support from the Synod, including a pay cut for synod staff. Having worked in many of the partnership agencies, the depths of the need are real – mission support is about serving lives, not the organizations. In closing, Larry thanked Bishop Boerger for his leadership and friendship.

Following Larry Johnson's speech, Bishop Boerger said that the Synod has been blessed with great leaders and Larry is an example of the quality leaders the Assembly elects.

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER 2**

In her second address to the assembly, Amy Oden spoke about hospitality practices of the early Christians.

#### **ELECTIONS REPORT 4**

Pr Schultz reported the results of the latest round of voting:

2011 Churchwide Assembly, Young Adult, 176 votes cast, 89 required to elect  
Emily Brown received 78 votes, Tony Rhodes received 98 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Tony Rhodes **elected**

Synod Council Lay Female, Unrestricted, 348 votes cast, 58 required to advance  
Faye Bone received 75 votes; Sherianne Caldwell received 57 votes; Sidney Evans  
received 42 votes; Cydney Korneliussen received 46 votes; Gunbjorg Ladstein received  
60 votes; Liv Mothershead received 68 votes.  
Bishop Boerger declared Faye Bone, Gunbjorg Ladstein, and Liv Mothershead **advanced**

Synod Council Lay Male, Unrestricted, 527 votes cast, 89 required to elect  
Curt Eidem received 172 votes; David Gross received 179 votes; Paul Whitfield received  
176 votes.  
Bishop Boerger declared Curt Eidem, David Gross, and Paul Whitfield **elected**

Synod Council Clergy, Unrestricted, 353 votes cast, 89 required to elect  
Scott Kramer received 175 votes; Deanna Wildermuth received 178 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Scott Kramer and Deanna Wildermuth **elected**

2011 Churchwide Assembly, Clergy, 546 votes were cast, 90 required to elect  
Kevin Bates received 107 votes; Lewis Benson received 61 votes; Bev Piro received 64  
votes; Kirby Unti received 119 votes; Deanna Wildermuth received 85 votes; Lydia  
Wittman Grebe received 100 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Kevin Bates, Kirby Unti, and Lydia Wittman Grebe **elected**

## **GREETINGS**

The Rev Dr Phyllis Anderson brought greetings from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.  
The Rev Ron Olson brought greetings from Luther Seminary. The Rev Phil Streufort, new head  
of Consultation to Clergy was introduced.

## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

The Rev Wesley Howell referred members of the assembly to his statistical report, provided in  
the printed materials. Pr Howell encouraged members of the assembly to think about the church  
of the future.

## **MISSION MOMENTS**

The Rev Paul Sundberg of Trinity, Lynnwood talked about Pointe of Grace, the second site  
ministry they established in Mukilteo in the former Harbour Pointe Lutheran Church building.

Pr Jerry Buss announced that there is a Churches Planting Churches workshop scheduled for  
October in Vancouver, Washington and encouraged congregations to consider sending a team to  
this event.

### **LIVING INTO THE FUTURE (LIFT)**

Pr Duran reported on the work of the task force examining the current structure of the Churchwide organization and how that might need to change. What is God calling this church to do and to be in the future? What changes are needed to the organization (ecology) to enable us to do that? Pr Duran asked the assembly to consider, now, the question “In the context of God’s mission, what do you believe the ELCA as a whole does well? What do you believe this church needs to do better?” Members of the assembly received a handout with links to the LIFT website for more detail.

### **MISSION MOMENT**

Pr Jerry Buss asked assembly members to think about where they would locate a new congregation or a second site of an existing congregation. He invited people to come to the Evangelical Outreach table, complete a questionnaire and receive a prize.

### **BREAK**

Bishop Boerger recessed the assembly, requesting that voting members be back in their seats at 10:30 am.

### **RECOGNITION**

Bishop Boerger called rostered leaders forward to receive certificates of recognition for anniversary of ordination, commissioning or consecration. Those recognized include

65 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	The Rev Theodore Brueckner The Rev Glenn Bragstad The Rev Henry Ericksen
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	The Rev Neal Snider The Rev Gerald Hefty
35 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	The Rev R John Henkel The Rev Tom Kidd The Rev James McEachran The Rev Phil Strain The Rev Rod Vereb The Rev Paul Wuest
25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	The Rev Paul Benz The Rev Chris Berry The Rev Nathan Bowman The Rev Verlon Brown The Rev Susan Van Hoy Burchfield Ms Sherry Kiefel, Associate in Ministry The Rev Susan Kirilin-Hackett The Rev Richard Hays

The Rev Douglas Lindsay  
Ms Helen McBride, Associate in Ministry  
The Rev Cindy Salo  
The Rev Tim Webber

Bishop Boerger recognized these congregations which have or are celebrating significant anniversaries this year:

Gethsemane, Seattle	125 years
Ebenezer, Lake Stevens	100 years
Bethlehem, Sedro-Woolley	100 years
Northlake, Kenmore	50 years
Trinity Community, Point Roberts	25 years

The Rev Diana Bottin, Trinity, Kirkland and The Rev Jeannine Daggett, Zion, Everett were ordained during the past year. The following leaders have transferred into the synod during the past year:

The Rev John Okan, Immanuel, Everson (from Northwest Minnesota Synod)  
Deanna Wildermuth, Holy Trinity, Mercer Isl. (from Eastern North Dakota Synod)  
Eric Finsand, Christ the Servant, B'ham (from Southeastern Minnesota Synod)  
Chris Finsand, Disability (from Southeastern Minnesota Synod)  
Mitch Watney (from Oregon Synod)  
Mark Griffith, Mount Si, North Bend (from Southwestern Washington Synod)  
George Brunjes, retired (from Metropolitan New York Synod)  
Paul Stumme-Diers, Bethany, Bainbridge (from Greater Milwaukee Synod)  
Paul D. Anderson, Fir-Conway, Mount Vernon (Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod)

### **FESTIVAL WORSHIP**

Bishop Boerger preached and Bishop Grant Hagiya of the Pacific Northwest Conference and the Alaska Conference of the United Methodist Church presided at the festival worship service. Following worship, Bishop Hagiya brought greetings to the assembly from the Conference. Musicians at the service included alumni from Lutheran Youth Encounter ministry groups from the 1970's and beyond.

### **LUNCH**

Following worship, Bishop Boerger recessed the assembly for lunch at 12 noon.

## **PLENARY 5**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 1:30 pm.

## **FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT**

On behalf of the Registrar, Becky Cole, Holy Spirit, Kirkland gave the final credentials report:

### Members of the Assembly

Total Voting Members Present	360
Lay Persons Present	243
Female	130
Male	113
Ordained Ministers on the roster	117
Persons of color or whose primary language is other than English	12
Observers	7
Visitors	99

## **ELECTIONS 5**

Bishop Boerger directed the assembly to vote for the following positions:

- Synod Council Lay Female (Vote for two): Faye Bone, Zion, Custer; or Gunbjorg Ladstein, Ballard First, Seattle; or Liv Mothershead, Christ the Servant, Bellingham
- 2011 Churchwide Assembly Lay Male: Ryan Brown, Bethlehem, Marysville; or Curt Eidem, Light of the Cross, Bothell; or John Grebe, Christ the Servant, Bellingham; or David Gross, Ebenezer, Lake Stevens; or Paul Whitfield, Magnolia, Seattle
- 2011 Churchwide Assembly Lay Female (Vote for two): Emily Brown, Bethesda, Mountlake Terrace; or Faye Bone, Zion, Custer; or Sherianne Caldwell, Luther Memorial, Seattle; or Elaine Harrison, Faith, Seattle; or Cindy Kopperstad, Grace, Des Moines; or Gunbjorg Ladstein, Ballard First, Seattle; or Kim Unti, St Matthew, Renton

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER 3**

Amy Oden spoke on the topic of Hospitality within the Body of Christ: Welcoming Theological Strangers. Dr Oden showed the assembly how welcoming the stranger causes change not just for the stranger but for the person doing the welcoming. If we are not being changed, we're probably not being welcoming.

Bishop Boerger thanked Dr Oden for her time with the synod.

## **OFFERING**

The offering for the assembly was \$4,566.05. It will be shared by Lutheran Disaster Response for Haiti (50 percent) and the two companion synod teams (25 percent each).

## **ELECTIONS REPORT 5**

Pr Schultz reported the results of the previous ballot:

Synod Council, Lay Female, 373 votes were cast  
Faye Bone received 125 votes; Gunbjorg Ladstein received 126 votes; Liv Mothershead received 122 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Faye Bone and Gunbjorg Ladstein **elected**

2011 Churchwide Assembly Lay Male, 199 votes cast, 101 votes needed to elect, 40 votes needed to advance  
Ryan Brown received 29 votes; Curt Eidem received 25 votes; John Grebe received 58 votes; David Gross received 54 votes; Paul Whitfield received 33 votes.  
Bishop Boerger declared John Grebe and David Gross **advanced**

2011 Churchwide Assembly Lay Female, 226 votes cast, 90 votes needed to elect, 57 votes needed to advance  
Emily Brown received 60 votes; Faye Bone received 53 votes; Sherianne Caldwell received 38 votes; Elaine Harrison received 86 votes; Cindy Kopperstad received 53 votes; Gunbjorg Ladstein received 57 votes; Kim Unti received 110 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Kim Unti **elected** and Emily Brown, Elaine Harrison, and Gunbjorg Ladstein **advanced**

## **ELECTIONS 6**

Bishop Boerger directed the assembly to vote for the following positions:

2011 Churchwide Assembly Lay Male: John Grebe, Christ the Servant, Bellingham or David Gross, Ebenezer, Lake Stevens

2011 Churchwide Assembly Lay Female: Emily Brown, Bethesda, Mountlake Terrace; or Elaine Harrison, Faith, Seattle; or Gunbjorg Ladstein, Ballard First, Seattle

## **GREETINGS**

Janet St Clair, Lutheran Community Services Northwest greeted the assembly and talked about the new Caregiver University Program.

## **2011 BUDGET**

Wayne Daley, Bethany, Bainbridge, Chair of the Finance Committee, referred the assembly to the handout showing the breakout of partnership support in the budget. Wayne noted that the 2010 Spending Authorization and the 2011 Budget Proposal are identical. On behalf of the Synod Council, Wayne moved adoption of the 2011 General Fund Budget as presented. After some discussion, it was moved and seconded to terminate debate. The vote was 190 in favor and 31 opposed. The motion *carried*. The vote on the 2011 Budget was 209 in favor and 14 opposed. The budget was **adopted** (the full budget is attached as Attachment 1). Wayne and the members of the Finance Committee received a round of applause from the assembly for their work at this difficult time.

**SA2010.09                    The 2011 Budget is adopted as proposed.**

**REFERENCE & COUNSEL 3**

Speaking on behalf of the Reference & Counsel Committee, Claudia LaFollette moved adoption of Resolution F, Pacific Lutheran Corporate Delegates. A minor correction was made to the resolution, changing the church membership for Pr Julie Hutson to Luther Memorial, Seattle. The vote was 218 in favor with 3 opposed. The motion **carried**.

**SA2010.10                    BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following are the members of the Pacific Lutheran University Corporation selected by the Northwest Washington Synod for the terms indicated.**

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Delegate</b>	<b>Home Congregation</b>	<b>Elected/ Term End</b>
Whatcom	Peggy Carr	Central, Bellingham	2006/2012
Whatcom	Kristina Daheim	Christ the Servant, Bellingham	2006/2012
Skagit-Isle	Rev. Gretchen Cohan	Gift of Grace, Seattle	2008/2011
Skagit-Isle	Rev. Larry Olsen	Edison, Bow	2009/2012
Sno-Isle	David Gross	Ebenezer, Lake Stevens	2008/2011
Sno-Isle	Karel Sahlberg	Christ the King, Snohomish	2010/2013
South King	Milly Olden	Lord of Life, Renton	2006/2012
South King	Diane Lewis	Lord of Life, Renton	2006/2012
NE Seattle	Rev. Dennis Andersen	Bethany, Seattle	2006/2012
NE Seattle	Dr. Mark Egbert	Prince of Peace, Shoreline	2006/2012
Central Seattle	Glenn Ryder	Denny Park, Seattle	2008/2011
Central Seattle	Steven Chapman	Central, Seattle	2008/2011
Stillaguamish			
Stillaguamish	Rev. Scott Brents	Camano, Camano Island	2008/2011
Sno-King	Sylvia Pugh	First Richmond Beach, Shoreline	2006/2009
Sno-King	Rev. Paul Sundberg	Trinity, Lynnwood	2006/2012
NW Seattle	Rev. Julie Hutson	Luther Memorial, Seattle	2009/2012
NW Seattle	Sherianne Caldwell	Luther Memorial, Seattle	2006/2012
East King	Nicola Seiler	Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah	2006/2012
East King	Rev. Ryan Fletcher	Our Savior, Issaquah	2009/2012
Seatac	Julie (Wiesner) Landskov	Prince of Peace, Seatac	2006/2012
Seatac	Rev. Bjoern Meinhardt	Vashon, Vashon	2008/2011
Cascadia	Rev. Mark Peterson	Faith, Redmond	2008/2011
Cascadia	Mary Hatlen	First, Bothell	2009/2012

**BREAK**

Bishop Boerger recessed the assembly for a short break at 2:54 pm.

## **PLENARY 6**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Bishop Boerger called the assembly to order at 3:10 pm.

### **ELECTIONS REPORT 6**

Pr Schultz reported the results of the previous ballot:

2011 Churchwide Assembly Lay Male, 223 votes were cast  
John Grebe received 117 votes; David Gross received 106 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared John Grebe **elected**.

2011 Churchwide Assembly Lay Female, 225 votes were cast, 114 needed to elect  
Emily Brown received 68 votes; Elaine Harrison received 100 votes; Gunbjorg Ladstein  
received 57 votes  
Bishop Boerger declared Emily Brown and Elaine Harrison **advanced**

### **ELECTIONS 7**

Bishop Boerger directed the assembly to vote for the following positions:

2011 Churchwide Assembly Lay Female: Emily Brown, Bethesda, Mountlake Terrace or  
Elaine Harrison, Faith, Seattle

The results of voting were available immediately: Emily Brown received 74 votes and Elaine  
Harrison received 112 votes. Bishop Boerger declared Elaine Harrison **elected**.

### **GREETINGS**

Pr Kevin Bates, Advent, Mill Creek greeted the assembly on behalf of Trinity Lutheran College  
and announced the recipient of the Bishop's Scholarship, Dakota Daoura, a member of Advent.

### **SYNOD COUNCIL RECOGNITION**

Larry Johnson recognized the service of those members of the Synod Council whose terms will  
be completed at the end of this year: Paul Georgeson, Phinney Ridge, Seattle; Dorothy  
Baumgartner, St Peter's, Clinton; Mark Johnson, Magnolia, Seattle; Fritz Baesman, Lutheran  
Church in the San Juans; and Tony Rhodes, Advent, Mill Creek.

### **REFERENCE & COUNSEL 4**

Speaking on behalf of the committee, Claudia LaFollette moved adoption of Resolution G –  
More Just and Equitable Tax Structure in Washington State. The vote was 131 in favor and 58  
opposed. The motion **carried**.

**SA2010.11 BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA call**

**upon the citizens of Washington State to reform our state tax structure so that people of every income level would be paying an equitable portion of their income in taxes; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA support any initiative that would accomplish this purpose by taxing those who are in the top 3% of income earners in the State of Washington; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Northwest Washington Synod be encouraged to review and study the recommendations of the ELCA Social Statement on Economic Life in this regard and to participate in any campaign that would correct the regressive tax structure of the State of Washington, and maintain programs and services for the most vulnerable people within the State of Washington.**

#### **POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Marv Jonason – Point of personal privilege; Snohomish County Jail across the street. Request for prayer for the lives of the persons incarcerated there.

#### **MISSION MOMENTS**

The Mission Planning Task Force – Pr Kirby Unti, reporting on the work of the task force, noted that the members have a deep heart and longing that the Lutheran church in the Northwest be vital. They believe this is a great time to be the church. The group is charged with choosing and guiding a process to completion to determine how our synod will engage in evangelism and Pr Unti asked members of the assembly to consider what ‘evangelism’ means to them.

Mission Support – Mark Manti, Christ the King, Snohomish shared his belief that their first fruits tithe has blessed the congregation. Ryan Marsh, Church of the Beloved, Edmonds talked about the resources needed to plant a new church and reported that Beloved has trained eight emerging leaders and baptized four people in the past year.

The Rev Laurie Jones and Diakonda Gurning gave a promotional pitch for the September 2010 annual Stewardship event

#### **CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE**

Ruben Duran told the assembly that it is clear the Northwest Washington Synod is ready to move ahead in mission, that we will listen with curiosity and will receive good news and hospitality from others. In the face of difficult economic times, the spiritual reality is that the cup is NOT half-full. Pr Duran encouraged members of the assembly to hold tight to the promises of God: “I will build my church.” “I will be with you always.” “The word that comes out my mouth will never come back empty.” Pr Duran received a standing ovation from the assembly.

### **BISHOP'S REFLECTIONS**

Bishop Boerger noted that he sees this time as a pivotal point in life of the synod. We have committed ourselves to a significant spiritual challenge and it will take our hands and the hands of those who are not yet known to us. The bishop said to the assembly that they have reminded him that this call is a missional call from God and thanked the assembly. Are we divided? Yes, definitely. Should we pay attention to that? Yes, certainly. The lord who called us here and now sends us out; we have lots to do. Thank you for giving us faithful leadership. The work we are about is God's work.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Louise Johnson announced recycling opportunities for printed materials and voting tools. Louise encouraged members of the assembly to take materials back to share within the congregations and to use the grocery bags provided by the committee. DVD records of the assembly are available for order from Spiritborne. She thanked everyone you for coming to the assembly.

Bishop Boerger presented Louise with a bouquet of flowers for her work on the assembly.

Margit Peiffle, Synod Communications Administrator and a member of Our Saviour's, Arlington announced that information and photos are posted on the website. A link to the online event evaluation will also be posted on the website.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Bishop Boerger noted this is the first time he has seen the Churchwide Representative get a standing ovation (twice). It is clear from our actions today that we are the church, not just the synod. The synod will gather again on 13-14 May 2011 in Lynnwood.

The bishop declared the assembly closed at 4:07 pm following a brief service of prayer.

### **Attachment A – 2011 Budget**