

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
MAY 14-15, 2004**

The Thirteenth Assembly of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was held at Texas Lutheran University, Seguin, Texas, May 14-15, 2004. The theme of the assembly was "Marked with the Cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world."

OPENING SESSION

May 14, 2004, 10:00 a.m.
Texas Lutheran University

The assembly was convened at 10:00 a.m. by Bishop Ray Tiemann with the Order for the Opening of the Synod Assembly.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Bishop Tiemann called upon Kathy Bielfeldt, chair of the Credentials Committee, who gave the report of the committee. At 9:55 a.m. there were 345 voting members of which 99 are Rostered Voting Members and 246 Lay Voting Members. The Credentials Committee certified that all constitutional requirements regarding composition of the voting membership were met. There were 12 non-voting members, 0 ecumenical representatives, and 92 registered visitors for a total of 449 persons registered.

Bishop Tiemann introduced new congregations and their voting members to the Southwestern Texas Synod. It was moved and seconded that the Southwestern Texas Synod officially welcomes these congregations at the recommendation of the Synod Council.

VOTED

**SA04.5.1 To accept into the Southwestern Texas Synod the following congregations:
Love of Christ, Weslaco, Faith Lutheran, Weimer, St. Peter Lutheran,
Prairie Valley.**

ADOPTION OF STANDING RULES AND AGENDA

Mark Helmke, vice president, highlighted aspects of the Proposed Standing Rules, particularly new provisions 10C and F. He also noted the deadline of 5:00 p.m. May 14, 2004 for amendments to the budget or bylaws to the constitution.

VOTED

SA04.5.2 To adopt the Proposed Standing Rules of the Assembly.

VOTED

SA04.5.3 To adopt the Proposed Agenda for the Assembly.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Tiemann introduced the Rev. Lori Ruge-Jones, Campus Pastor and Church Relations Coordinator for Texas Lutheran University, who welcomed the Assembly on behalf of Dr. Jon Moline, President of Texas Lutheran University. She also thanked the Synod and its congregations for its support of Texas Lutheran University.

Bishop Tiemann introduced Sophie Rainville, chair of the Host Conference Assembly Planning Committee. She greeted the Assembly on behalf of the San Antonio Conference and presented Bishop Tiemann with a gift of a cross. Ms. Rainville was also given a gift from the synod for her work on the planning.

Bishop Tiemann introduced the members of the Host Conference Assembly Planning Committee, Becky Voges, Pastor Kevin Haug, Pastor Ann Helmke, Pastor Anne Kolmeier, Susan Rinn, Steve Anderson, Gail Josephson, Donna Stewart, Margery Erp, and Pastor David Mayer.

Bishop Tiemann recognized members on the dais: synod officers Mark Helmke (vice president) and Gayle Gordon Bouzard (secretary), and Parliamentarian Ron Stinson.

Bishop Tiemann announced the absence and resignation of synod treasurer, Richard Von Minden. He read Mr. Von Minden's resignation letter and explained the process for acquiring a new treasurer. Bishop Tiemann announced that Bill Maddox has agreed to be interim treasurer.

Bishop Tiemann introduced former bishops of the synod and their spouses, Youth Steward Sponsors, and representatives of Lutheran Bible Translators. He then asked all who serve in calls to specialized ministry stand and be recognized.

MISSION MINUTE

Jim Price, Commission for Communications Chair, presented a short informational piece about the work of the Commission. He was then presented with a gift as outgoing Commission Chair.

INTRODUCTION OF THOSE NEW TO SYNOD

Bishop Tiemann called upon the Rev. Dr. Lynn Schudy Ziese to introduce the following who have been ordained or who have been transferred into the synod since the last Assembly:

Ordained -

The Rev. Barbara Beale
The Rev. Jennifer Gold
The Rev. Larry Kula
The Rev. Susan Schnelle
The Rev. June Wilkins

Consecration –

Nicholas Wilkens, Diaconal Minister

Interns –

Jason Anderson – Messiah, Austin
Amy Becker – First English, Austin
Sam Brannon – St. Peter, Marble Falls
Jay Grace – Zion, Fredericksburg
Adam Wutka – Trinity, Blanco

Newly Called to the Synod –

The Rev. Mark Behrendt	The Rev. Robert Kaul
The Rev. William Breen	The Rev. Marcia Kline
The Rev. Walter (Skip) Courter	The Rev. Jennifer Krentz
The Rev. David Collins	The Rev. Robert Lim
The Rev. Rodger Ericson	The Rev. Arthur Lowe
The Rev. William Goff	The Rev. Milton Mayer
The Rev. Mark Gruebmeier	The Rev. Moises Mendez
The Rev. Larry Handeland	The Rev. Norman Sulaica
The Rev. Elizabeth Hanley	The Rev. Alan Watt
The Rev. Mark Hoffman	The Rev. Sharon Wiggins
	The Rev. Paul Zwarich

INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL GUESTS

Bishop Tiemann introduced Bishop Gary Lillebridge, Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, and read a letter of greetings from Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Flanagan, Archdiocese of San Antonio.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bishop Tiemann introduced the Rev. James Taylor, chair of the nominating committee, who gave the report of the committee and who introduced the members of the committee:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Lanne Bremer | Pr. David Carillo |
| Mrs. Pat Priem | Pr. Paul Zwarich |
| Mrs. Arlette Villaume | Ms. Michaela Zellmer |

The Nominating Committee announced the following persons as nominees for election:

Synod Vice President

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Mark Helmke | Allen L. Jank |
|-------------|---------------|

Synod Council Members

- Austin Conference – Clergy
Charles Holm-Roesler
Wayne Walther

- Coastal Bend Conference – Lay Male
Pete Houting
Alton Luedke

- Coastal Bend Conference – Lay Female
Laurie Hartman
Diane Kiddy

- Hill Country Conference – Lay Male
Scott Hofmann
David Houston

- Rio Grand Valley Conference – Clergy
David Carrillo
James Wilken

- Rio Grande Valley Conference – Lay Female
Dorothy Hernandez
Aurora B. Molina

- San Antonio Conference – Lay Female
Sophie Rainville
Margaret Reus

- Victoria Conference - Clergy
David Collins
Paul Zwarich

- Victoria Conference – Lay Male
Ronald Riske
Fritz Sturm

- Youth Member – At large, male or female
Christa McConaughy
Alice Schnelle
Leslie Blalock
Christina Parker

2005 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Clergy (vote for 5 and only one from each conference)

- Austin
Magdalene Holm-Roesler
Lori Ruge-Jones

- Coastal Bend
Don Taylor
Jeff Thompson

- Hill Country
Gary Mayer
Henry Schulte
Anamae Storbeck

- Rio Grande Valley
David Carrillo
Carl Fredrickson

- San Antonio
David J. Mayer
Thomas Robison

- Victoria
William “Bill” Hassel
Daniel Zellmer

Lay Female (vote for one in each conference)

- Person of Color or Language other than English, at large
Delores Yancey
Maria “Leti” Pequeno

- Austin
Lois Holck
Marge Kretschmar

- Hill Country
Berta Allen
Barbara Dierker
Nan Hengst

- San Antonio
Erna Dietert
Barbara Nellermoe

Lay Male (vote for one in each conference)

Coastal Bend

Wayne Atzenhoffer
Oscar Migl

Rio Grande Valley

Baldemar Cano, Jr.
Bruce Moilan

Victoria

Francis Fisbeck
Kevin Karnei

Youth – Male or Female, at large

Katherine Brawner
Leslie Blalock

Consultation Committee, six year term; at large

Lay Male (vote for two)

J.B. Marshall
Stan Post
Paul Watkins
Steve Larson

Clergy

Martin Foutz, Jr.
Clifford Locke

Discipline Committee, six year term; at large

Lay Male

Steven Paulsgrove

Lee H. Schnelle

Stephen Anderson

Clergy

Don Ofsdahl
George Reswick

Commission for Communications, Chairperson, four year term; at large; clergy or lay

Joe Patrick Bean

Jenny Peterson

Commission for Congregational Life, Chairperson, four year term; at large; clergy or lay

Rebecca Krogness

Donna Shurley

Bishop Tiemann asked for nominations from the floor for any of the positions listed. Susan Schmid, Christ Lutheran, Georgetown, was nominated for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, lay female, Austin Conference. Logan Watts, Christ Lutheran, Georgetown, was nominated for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Youth at large. There were no further nominations.

Bishop Tiemann declared nominations closed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark Helmke, vice president, presented the report. He pointed out the shortfall in income to the synod from July of 2003 through the end of the summer 2003 was \$153,000. In the fall of 2003, the synod took steps to cut back on spending which left the synod at a shortfall of \$27,566.00 at the end of 2003. A reduction in indebtedness on the Lutheran Ministry Center contributed greatly to the lessened shortfall at the end of 2003, but it was also pointed out that cuts in spending in other areas affected ministry within the synod.

Mark Helmke explained to the Assembly that the Synod Council at its February 2004 meeting adopted a 13% reduction in the approved 2004-2005 budget. He also pointed out that the proposed 2005-2006 synod budget reflects the increase of mission support to Churchwide at 55% as voted on by the 2002 Synod Assembly and that the Youth Ministry Consultant contract would be continued at the proposed 2004-2005 spending plan level. The 2005-2006 proposed annual budget for the synod contains a projected deficit of \$29,331.00.

VOTED

SA04.5.4

That the Synod Assembly approve the auditor's report as recommended by the Synod Council.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Rev. Ann Helmke introduced the Assembly keynote speaker, Mr. Gaylord Thomas, who spoke on the Assembly theme of "Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world."

Closing Devotions

Session I of the Assembly recessed at 12:00 p.m. by Bishop Tiemann for lunch and Breakout Sessions.

PLENARY SESSION II

Bishop Tiemann reconvened the Assembly at 2:30 p.m.

Opening Devotions

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Kathy Bielfeldt presented the report. As of 1:45 p.m. there were 444 Voting Members of which 128 rostered Voting Members, 316 Lay Voting Members, 21 non-voting members, 2 ecumenical representatives, and 106 registered visitors, for a total of 573 registered attendees.

VOTED

SA04.5.5 To accept the report of the Credentials Committee.

A brief presentation about its activities was given by Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest.

The Rev. David Meyer announced information about the Assembly Offering to benefit Ministry to Children of Costa Rica. The goal for the offering was \$50,000, with each conference giving a portion of the total. He challenged the Assembly to come to evening worship with gifts for this ministry.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL

Mark Helmke, vice president, made a presentation to Bishop Tiemann in honor of 25 years of ordained service. He then gave the report of the Synod Council. He called attention to the written report B-1, B-2 found in the Assembly reports.

Mark Helmke gave the following recommendations for action by the Assembly:

VOTED

SA04.5.6 To adopt the Compensation Guidelines as written and as recommended by the Synod Council.

VOTED

SA04.5.7 To adopt the Evangelism Task Force resolution (#22).

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #22
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

Resolution Regarding Evangelism Strategy

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in the Evangelism Strategy adopted in 2003, has called upon its members, congregations and synods:
• To pray for the renewal of this church so that every member, congregation, and institution might bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ:

- To nurture evangelical leaders so that this church will be faithful in its response to God's call to mission and evangelism;
- To train disciples by equipping people of all ages to be faith-filled witnesses to God as revealed in Jesus Christ and committed disciples in service to others, working for justice and peace in all the earth; and
- To support the development of new ELCA congregations and ministry sites in communities that invite all to faith in Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Southwestern Texas Synod, as stated in its mission/vision statement, is committed to equipping the people of God to be instruments of God's love; and

WHEREAS, The Bishop of this synod enthusiastically supports a synodical focus on evangelism for this decade and is appointing an Evangelism Strategy Task Force to plan this synod's response to the ELCA Evangelism Strategy; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod accepts and embraces this call to fervent prayer, renewal and nurturing of evangelical leaders, teaching of all people to live as disciples; and starting and renewing evangelical congregations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the synod commends, for study and implementation, the Evangelism Strategy to the congregations, congregational leaders, conference leaders and synodical leaders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that those present at this assembly commit themselves to pray daily for the renewal of the church and the evangelical witness of this synod.

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Resolution Regarding Sexual Abuse Case in Marshall, TX. –

Mark Helmke called the Assembly's attention to this resolution (as follows) and reported that it had been passed by the Synod Council at the May 13, 2004 meeting. No action was needed to be taken by the Assembly on this resolution.

RESOLUTION REGARDING SEXUAL ABUSE CASE IN MARSHALL, TEXAS

WHEREAS, we are shocked and saddened at reports of the criminal sexual abuse of children committed by a former ELCA pastor in Marshall, Texas, and by the resulting civil suit against the ELCA, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod and other persons and institutions related to the church; and

WHEREAS, as a synod we express our concern and support for all those harmed by this tragedy, and our ongoing commitment to preventing sexual misconduct and responding with compassion and justice when it occurs; it is, therefore,

RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves and encourage others to pray for comfort and healing for the victims of this horrible abuse; and

RESOLVED, that we express our concern and support for our brothers and sisters of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Marshall, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, and elsewhere in the church as they struggle to cope with the results of this tragedy and to prevent such calamities from being repeated; and

RESOLVED, that we reaffirm the "Statement of Policy Regarding Sexual Misconduct by Members of the Clergy and Rostered Lay Persons" adopted in September 2003, and direct the Commission for Communication to consider posting the Statement on the Synod's website and otherwise publicizing it to congregations and individuals within the synod; and

RESOLVED, that the Bishop of the Synod be directed to review the records of the Synod and to confer with the prior Bishops of the Synod and its predecessor bodies to the extent deemed reasonable and appropriate to determine that all credible reports of sexual abuse committed by a person on the professional rosters of this Synod have been adequately investigated, that reasonable measures have been taken so that the same person does not have the opportunity to repeat the abuse, and that appropriate steps have been taken to care for any victim of such abuse; and

RESOLVED, that the Bishop be further directed to consult with the leadership of the Commission for Professional Leadership and Candidacy Committee to discuss the Marshall case, the Synod's Statement of Policy Regarding Sexual Misconduct, and appropriate measures for responding to allegations of sexual abuse by a person in the candidacy process; and

FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Bishop of the Synod shall report the results of the review and consultation described above to the Executive Committee by the September 2004 Synod Council Meeting, along with any recommendations related thereto.

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**VOTED
SA04.5.8**

To adopt the amendment of section S7.22 of the Southwestern Texas Synod Constitution as follows:

S7.22. Retired ordained ministers in attendance at the Synod Assembly and serving under at least a year's contract with a congregation or agency recognized by this synod shall be voting members.

**VOTED
SA04.5.9**

To adopt by-law 2.07 to the Southwestern Texas Synod Constitution as follows:

2.07

- (a) Any resolution, memorial or other main motion not germane to the matter before a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly or on the assembly agenda shall be submitted in writing, supported by the signatures of at least two voting members, to the secretary of this synod no later than 60 days before the beginning of the meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such matters shall be referred as required by the chapter to the Committee on Reference and Counsel or Synod Council, which shall report such matters and their recommendations thereon to the voting members of the Synod Assembly in writing at least 10 days before the beginning of the meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- (b) Any matter not submitted in advance as required by subsection (a) of this bylaw shall not be considered or acted on by that meeting of the Synod Assembly except with:
- (1) the recommendation of the Synod Council;
 - (2) the recommendation of the Committee on Reference and Counsel; or
 - (3) a majority vote of the Synod Assembly.

MISSION MINUTE - Presented by Carl Tienert, Commission for Mission as to the activities of that Commission.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Kathy Bielfeldt presented the report. As of 3:22 p.m. there were 455 Voting Members of which 134 were rostered Voting Members, 321 Lay Voting Members, 22 non-voting members, 2 ecumenical representatives, and 106 registered visitors, for a total of 585 registered attendees.

VOTED

SA04.5.10 That the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted.

COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Bishop Tiemann introduced the chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, the Rev. Don Just, who presented the Committee's report:

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

Resolution Regarding The ELCA to Recognize and Support the Contributions of Parish Nursing

Submitted by The Rev. Don Just on behalf of the Parish Nurse Advisory Team of the Older Adult Ministry Resource Team

Revised by the Committee: 2/7/04

- WHEREAS,** • God created us to be whole persons: body, mind and spirit;
- WHEREAS,** • churches are reclaiming their historical role as places of health and healing;
- WHEREAS,** • the ELCA is committed to promoting health ministries in congregations;
- WHEREAS,** • the goal of parish nursing is to bring about health and healing by integrating body, mind and spirit; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod of the ELCA recognize and support the contributions of parish nursing.

THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS:

Approval

Rationale: The synod encourages the celebration of gifts which nursing brings to ministry and urges congregations to explore the role which Parish Nursing could bring to parish ministry.

VOTED

SA04.5.11 To adopt Resolution #1.

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**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

Resolution to Recognize and Celebrate the Contributions of Older Adults in the Church

Submitted by: Rev. Don Just on behalf of Older Adult Ministry Resource Team

Revised by committee: 3/7/04

- WHEREAS,** Figures published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Government Administration on Aging indicate that those in the U.S.

population 65 years and older will be increasing from 12.4 in the year 2000 to about 20 by 2030, and

WHEREAS, In recognition of this reality, the Administration on Aging has designated May as Older Americans Month for the past several years, and

WHEREAS, It is evident that the percentage of older people among the members of our congregations is also rapidly increasing but they may be neglected in the church's ministry, and

WHEREAS, This group often has special needs and concerns, i.e., the percent living in poverty increases with age over 65; the number living with chronic illness or disability is increasing; loss of spouse, job or physical or mental ability is common; caregivers their 60's and 70's may be caring for parents, children and/or grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Our older adults bring with them a wealth of wisdom and a willingness to volunteer. Our congregations need to find ways to utilize their gifts in the life and ministry of our congregations, and

WHEREAS, Many in this older age group travel to warmer climates during the winter and thus may be away from familiar support systems. They may need the help of local resources when crises occur; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that congregations in the Southwestern Texas Synod designate a Sunday each year to recognize and celebrate the contributions of older adults in the parish, bringing inspiration, hope, and encouragement to those in the aging population and joining hands in celebration and service of their contributions.

THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS:

Approval

Rationale: In carrying out this resolution, we urge the Older Adult Ministry Resource Team to provide congregational resources for the successful implementation of this resolution.

**VOTED
SA04.5.12 To adopt Resolution #2.**

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ORDER OF THE DAY

Mr. Gaylord Thomas gave the ELCA report to the Assembly. He gave a summary of how the ELCA's ministries are carrying out our missions as the Church. Bishop Tiemann presented Mr. Thomas with a gift from the synod.

The Assembly recessed at 4:40 p.m. so that the Cross Trails Ministry Corporation Meeting could take place. The written minutes of that meeting are following the written minutes of the Synod Assembly.

The 2004 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly reconvened at 5:21 p.m.

Bishop Tiemann reminded the Assembly that the voting members and the Cross Trails Ministry Corporation members are one in the same and thus the Assembly had voted to adopt the capital campaign appeal resolution.

Closing Devotions

The Assembly was adjourned at 5:33 for dinner and the Eucharist of the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly at Jackson Auditorium, Texas Lutheran University, Seguin, Texas.

**PLENARY SESSION II
MAY 15, 2004**

The Synod Assembly was reconvened by Bishop Tiemann at 8:00 a.m.

Opening Devotions

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Kathy Bielfeldt presented the report. As of 7:41 a.m. there were 467 Voting Members of which 140 were rostered Voting Members, 321 Lay Voting Members, 22 non-voting members, 2 ecumenical representatives, and 108 registered visitors, for a total of 599 registered attendees.

VOTED

SA04.5.13 That the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted.

ASSEMBLY OFFERING REPORT

The Rev. David Mayer gave the following report on the Assembly Offering received at worship May 14, 2004:

	<u>Gave</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Victoria Conference	\$7,374.03	\$7,374.03
San Antonio Conference	\$6,681.94	\$12,250.00
Rio Grande Conference	\$3,013.77	\$4,900.00
Hill Country Conference	\$5,111.32	\$7,350.00
Austin Conference	\$6,023.78	\$12,250.00
Individual gift	<u>\$1,577.00</u>	
Total	\$34,531.10	

Pastor Mayer stated that offerings would continue to be received throughout the remainder of the Assembly.

MISSION MINUTE - The Rev. James C. Bouzard, chair for the Commission for Professional Leadership, presented information on the activities of this Commission.

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Bishop Tiemann called upon Joyce Voelter, chair of the Elections Committee, to give the results of the balloting for elected positions:

Synod Vice President

Mark Helmke	306	Allen Jank	108
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Synod Council Members

Austin Conference – Clergy			
Charles Holm-Roesler	202	Wayne Walther	208

Coastal Bend Conference – Lay Male			
Pete Houting	133	Alton Luedke	275

Coastal Bend Conference – Lay Female			
Laurie Hartman	236	Diane Kiddy	163

Hill Country Conference – Lay Male			
Scott Hofmann	183	David Houston	213

Rio Grande Valley Conference – Clergy			
David Carrillo	183	James Wilken	207

Rio Grande Valley Conference – Lay Female			
Dorothy Hernandez	239	Aurora B. Molina	158
San Antonio Conference – Lay Female			
Sophie Rainville	171	Margaret Reus	231
Victoria Conference – Clergy			
David Collins	161	Paul Zwarich	236
Victoria Conference – Lay Male			
Ronald Riske	242	Fritz Sturm	146
At Large Youth			
Leslie Blalock	104	Christa McConaughy	58
Christina Parker	66	Alice Schnelle	165

2004 Churchwide Voting Members

Clergy (vote for five and only one from each conference).

Austin Conference

Mag Holm-Roesler	111	Lori Ruge-Jones	209
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Coastal Bend Conference

Don Taylor	143	Jeff Thompson	193
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Hill Country Conference

Gary Mayer	68	Henry Schulte	172
Anamae Storbeck	124		

Rio Grande Valley Conference

David Carrillo	159	Carl Fredrickson	122
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San Antonio Conference

David J. Mayer	173	Thomas Robison	151
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Victoria Conference

William “Bill” Hassel	183	Daniel Zellmer	103
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At Large Youth

Leslie Blalock	113	Katherine Brawner	106
Logan Watts	164		

Lay Female Person of Color or Language other than English

Maire “Letti” Pequeno	171	Delores Yancy	213
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Lay Female

Austin Conference

Lois Holck	158	Marge Kretschmar	125
Susan Schmid	125		

Hill Country Conference

Berta Allen	98	Barbara Dierker	144
Nan Hengst	145		

San Antonio Conference

Erna Dietert	199	Barbara Neller-moe	205
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<u>Lay Male</u>			
Coastal Bend Conference			
Wayne Atzenhoffer	219	Oscar Migl	171
Rio Grande Valley Conference			
Baldemar Cano, Jr.	216	Bruce Moilan	160
Victoria Conference			
Francis Fisbeck	178	Kevin Karnei	217
Consultation Committee			
<u>Lay Male(vote for two)</u>			
Steve Larson	233	J.B. Marshall	128
Stan Post	211	Paul Watkins	198
<u>Clergy</u>			
Martin Foutz, Jr.	156	Clifford Locke	238
Discipline Committee			
<u>Lay Male</u>			
Stephen Anderson	146	Steven Paulsgrove	114
<u>Clergy</u>			
Don Ofsdahl	214	George Reswick	182
Commission for Communications (Chairperson), Clergy or Lay			
Joe Patrick Bean	173	Jenny Peterson	220
Commission for Congregational Life (Chairperson), Clergy or Lay			
Rebecca Krogness	187	Donna Shurley	205

Bishop Tiemann announced a second ballot needed for Youth Synod Council Member, 2005 Churchwide Voting Member – Youth, 2005 Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Female, Austin Conference, 2005 Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Female, Hill Country Conference, and Discipline Committee – Lay Male.

Bishop Tiemann declared the following as having been elected: Mark Helmke, Wayne Walther, Alton Luedke, Laurie Hartman, David Houston, James Wilken, Dorothy Hernandez, Margaret Reus, Paul Zwarich, Ronald Riske, Lori Ruge-Jones, Jeff Thompson, Henry Schulte, David J. Mayer, William “Bill” Hassel, Delores Yancy, Barbara Neller-moe, Wayne Atzenhoffer, Baldemar Cano, Jr., Kevin Karnei, Steve Larson, Stan Post, Clifford Locke, Stephen Anderson, Don Ofsdahl, Jenny Peterson, and Donna Shurley.

COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

The Rev. Don Just continued the report of the Committee.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #3 FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD

Resolution for Clarification about Sexuality and Marriage
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Submitted by: Rev. David Chancellor; David Weden – Zion, Kerrville Also Endorsed by Church Councils: St. Paul, Hondo; Zion, Kerrville; St. Paul, New Braunfels; St. Paul, Yorktown; St. Paul, Bulverde; St. James, Harper; Zion, San Antonio; Pastor Vitek - Holy Ghost, Fredericksburg; Pastor Bohls – St. Stephen, Portland

WHEREAS, The ELCA published its first draft on a social statement on human sexuality as far back as October of 1993; and

WHEREAS, there is growing confusion of appropriate sexual boundaries within our society and the ELCA; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly affirms that sexual intercourse is a gift from God reserved for a man and a woman within the bonds of matrimony.

THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS:

The Reference and Counsel Committee failed to reach a consensus about this Resolution, but a majority of the committee favored recommending adoption.

MOVED, SECONDED

FAILED YES - 161 NO - 198 To amend Resolution #3 to read as “**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly affirms that heterosexual intercourse is a gift from God...**”

MOVED, SECONDED

CARRIED

(2/3 VOTE REQUIRED) That debate on resolutions be limited to 2 ½ minutes.

VOTED

SA04.5.14

That Resolution #3 not be acted upon.

Yes - 192, No - 14, Abstain - 195

ORDER OF THE DAY

Bishop Tiemann gave announced and gave instructions for the “Shape Shops” and lunch. He recessed the Assembly at 9:21 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION III

Bishop Tiemann reconvened the Assembly at 1:45 p.m.

Opening Devotions

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Kathy Bielfeldt presented the report. As of 1:13 p.m. there were 481 Voting Members of which 145 were Rostered Voting Members, 336 Lay Voting Members, 23 non-voting members, 2 ecumenical representatives, and 111 registered visitors, for a total of 617 registered attendees.

INTRODUCTION OF SYNOD STAFF

Bishop Tiemann introduced the Synod Staff and noted their work on the Assembly. Assistant to the Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Lynn Schudy Ziese; Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, Anne Jones; Database Manager/Secretary, Carrie Blank; Bookkeeper, Janet Fries; and Secretary/Receptionist, Evelyn Tenayuca.

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Bishop Tiemann called upon Joyce Voelter, chair of the Elections Committee to give the results of the second ballot for elected positions:

Youth Synod Council Member – Lay

Alice Schnelle	220	Leslie Blalock	173
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2005 Churchwide Voting Member – Youth (male or female, at large)

Logan Watts	206	Leslie Blalock	183
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2005 Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Female

Austin Conference			
Lois Hock	146	Marge Kretschmar	112
Susan Schmid	135		
Hill Country Conference			
Nan Hengst	192	Barbara Dierker	193

Discipline Committee – Lay Male

Stephen Anderson	231	Lee Schnelle	156
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Bishop Tiemann declared the need for a third ballot for 2005 Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Female, Austin and Hill Country Conferences.

Bishop Tiemann declared the following to have been elected on the second ballot: Alice Schnelle, Logan Watts, and Stephen Anderson.

Concerning the vote on Resolution #3 where there was no majority for either yea or nay, Bishop Tiemann announced that the Parliamentarian determined the abstentions could not be the ruling vote. Therefore, when the Assembly continued the Reference and Counsel report, a motion for reconsideration of Resolution #3 would be entertained, and that the abstain voting card would no longer be used.

MISSION MINUTE - The Rev. Bill Hassel, chair for Commission for Congregational Life gave a presentation on the work of this Commission.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFERING

The Rev. David Mayer gave an updated report on the Assembly offering:

Austin Conference	\$6,123.78
Coastal Bend Conference	\$4,582.76
Hill Country Conference	\$6,5351.32

REPORT OF THE BISHOP (C-1 through C-4)

Bishop Tiemann highlighted the Evangelism Strategy portion of his report. He stated that a task force was forming within the synod to implement the strategy and events like Equipping Congregational Leaders will be coming up as part of that strategy. He also reported that there is a video on Evangelism available through the ELCA for churches to use for Evangelism events.

2005-2006 BUDGET

Mark Helmke, vice president, presented the proposed 2005-2006 budget to the Assembly. He made a motion that the 2005-2006 Budget of the Southwestern Texas Synod be approved as recommended by the Synod Council. He then presented Budget Amendment #1 received on May 14, 2004 before the 5:00 p.m. deadline. He reported that the Synod Council recommended that this amendment not be approved. An amendment to the amendment was made, but ruled out of order by the Parliamentarian.

VOTED

SA04.5.15

(2/3 vote required) That the following amendment be defeated.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT #1
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

*Submitted by Rev. David C. Chancellor and David A. Weden, Zion Lutheran Church,
Kerrville, Texas*

- WHEREAS,** • the leadership of Cross Trails is commended for revitalizing our camping ministry; and
WHEREAS, • Camp Chrysalis is entering into a capital improvement campaign, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that Cross Trails (line 27, account 1-500160) be amended to restore funding for the 2004-05 and 2005-06 budget years to the 2003-04 level with the offset being achieved by authorizing the Synod Council to reduce the number of times the *Vista* is published within a year (line 164, account 1-500970).

IMPLICATIONS OF RESOLUTION

- 1) What is the financial impact of this resolution on our synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?
See actual amendment.
- 2) What are the personnel implications within our synod – or churchwide? Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution?
This will help Cross Trails. The Synod Council can easily manage the changes.
- 3) How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod?
It gives priority to our youth ministry.

THE SYNOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

That the proposed amendment not be adopted.

Rationale: Reducing support for the agencies and institutions related to the synod was one of the difficult decisions resulting from decreases in mission support to the synod. The Synod Council affirms the importance of the ministry carried out through the agencies and institutions, including Cross Trails Ministry.

The Synod Council believes that the Vista is an essential part of the synod's ongoing communications. The synod itself, as well as its related agencies and institutions, including Cross Trails Ministry, rely on the Vista as a vital link to the people of the synod. The proposed amendment would require eliminating 1 issue during the current year, and as many as 3 issues during the next budget year.

The only real solution to the difficult budget issues we face as a synod is increased mission support.

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Mark Helmke presented Budget Amendment #2 and reported that the Synod Council recommended that this it not be approved.

**VOTED
SA04.5.16
(2/3 vote required) That the following amendment be defeated.**

**BUDGET AMENDMENT #2
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Anamae Storbeck, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Blanco, Texas

WHEREAS, • the Texas Rural Church Network exists to advance ecumenical relationships among Texas judicatories, congregations and leaders in order to strengthen mission and ministry in rural communities, and

WHEREAS, • no line item exists in the budget for the Texas Rural Church Network, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2005-2006 budget be amended by creating a line item (after item 29 under Institutions) for the Texas Rural Church Network in the amount of \$500.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the total budgeted for Congregational Life be reduced by \$500.00.

IMPLICATIONS OF RESOLUTION

4) What is the financial impact of this resolution on our synod budget? If expenditures are required, what are the sources of income anticipated to accomplish the purpose of the resolution?

Move \$500.00 from Congregational Life into a new line item under Institutions. Congregational Life budget will be reduced by \$500.00.

5) What are the personnel implications within our synod – or churchwide? Who will be responsible for implementation of the resolution?

Pastor Anamae Storbeck is replacing Pastor Steve Byrne as our judicatory representative to the Texas Rural Church Network. Lynn Ziese is staff liaison.

6) How does this resolution enhance and forward the mission of the church and our synod?

A line item to the Texas Rural Church Network shows our commitment as ecumenical partners in rural communities.

THE SYNOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

That the proposed amendment not be adopted.

Rationale: Although the Synod Council affirms the importance of rural ministry, it believes that the funding for participation in the Texas Rural Church Network is properly left to the discretion of the Commission for Congregational Life.

In a separate action the Synod Council recommended that the Commission for Congregational Life give serious consideration to funding for the Texas Rural Church Network in the process of allocating its budgeted funds.

**VOTED
SA04.5.17**

That the 2005-2006 Southwestern Texas Synod Budget be adopted as recommended by the Synod Council.

COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

The Rev. Don Just continued the committee's report.

**MOVED, SECONDED
CARRIED** To reconsider the vote on Resolution #3.

**MOVED, SECONDED
CARRIED
(2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)** To close debate.

**VOTED
SA04.5.18** That Resolution #3 be adopted.
Yes - 191 No - 178

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #3
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

Resolution for Clarification about Sexuality and Marriage

Submitted by: Rev. David Chancellor; David Weden – Zion, Kerrville Also Endorsed by Church Councils: St. Paul, Hondo; Zion, Kerrville; St. Paul, New Braunfels; St. Paul, Yorktown; St. Paul, Bulverde; St. James, Harper; Zion, San Antonio; Pastor Vitek - Holy Ghost, Fredericksburg; Pastor Bohls – St. Stephen, Portland

WHEREAS, The ELCA published its first draft on a social statement on human sexuality as far back as October of 1993; and

WHEREAS, there is growing confusion of appropriate sexual boundaries within our society and the ELCA; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly affirms that sexual intercourse is a gift from God reserved for a man and a woman within the bonds of matrimony.

*THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS:
The Reference and Counsel Committee failed to reach a consensus about this Resolution, but a majority of the committee favored recommending adoption.*

+++++

Resolution #4, submitted by Reference and Counsel Committee, was recommended as a substitute resolution to combine Resolutions 4-A, 4-B, 4-C, and 4-D.

**MOVED, SECONDED
DEFEATED** To substitute Resolution #4-C for Resolution #4.
Yes - 130 No - 224

**MOVED, SECONDED
CARRIED
(2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)** To close debate.

**VOTED
SA04.5.19** That Resolution #4 be adopted.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

Substitute Resolution to combine Resolutions 4-a, 4-b, 4-c, and 4-d

Submitted by Reference and Counsel Committee, Don Just, chair.

- WHEREAS,** Resolutions 4a, 4b, 4c, and 4d ask the Synod Assembly to take a position on issues currently being studied within the ELCA; and
- WHEREAS,** the work of congregations and voting members, in preparing these resolutions, is appreciated and reflects their concern for the church; and
- WHEREAS,** some congregations have completed their study of Journey Together Faithfully, Part 2; others are in the study process and still others have not yet begun; and
- WHEREAS,** some voting members of this Assembly have not participated in Journey Together Faithfully, Part 2; and
- WHEREAS,** congregations, groups and individuals will continue to have opportunity to use Journey Together Faithfully, Part 2, and let their voices be heard through their responses to the to the ELCA Task Force on Sexuality Studies until November 2004; and
- WHEREAS,** extended debate at this assembly on these issues may be divisive and time-consuming and prevent the Assembly from discussing other important priorities of mission and ministry; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2005 Synod Assembly will provide opportunity to memorialize the 2005 Churchwide Assembly regarding the issues addressed in Journey Together Faithfully, Part 2 (the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination, consecration, and commissioning of people in committed same-sex unions); and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that every congregation in this synod be urged to participate in the study, Journey Together Faithfully, Part 2, and send their responses to the ELCA Task Force on Sexuality Studies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that every member of this synod be encouraged to participate in this study and send his/her responses to the Task Force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly forward resolutions 4-a, 4-b, 4-c and 4-d to the Task Force for their serious consideration.

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The following resolutions were combined into Resolution #4:

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4-a
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

Resolution Regarding Homosexuality Issues

*Submitted by: Laura Atzenhoffer
Grace, Sinton*

- WHEREAS,** The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America proclaims in its constitution that "This Church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life";
- WHEREAS,** Christians have for nearly 2000 years held, taught, and believed that the Holy Scriptures proclaim Homosexuality as sin;
- WHEREAS,** For many years Churchwide and Synod Assemblies have attempted to undermine and erode the Biblical understanding that Homosexuality is sin;

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the present time is attempting to legalize the marriage of homosexuals and the ordination of homosexuals within the Church;

WHEREAS, Such "legalization" would have the effect of proclaiming that homosexuality is not sin; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we in the Southwestern Texas Synod of the ELCA, stand on the Holy Scriptures and oppose legitimatizing that which the Holy Scriptures call sin; and

BE IT RESOLVED, That we in the Southwestern Synod of the ELCA memorize to the Churchwide Assembly that any and all resolutions calling for the legalization of marriage and/or ordination in this Church be defeated.

*THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS:
See Resolution #4*

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4-b
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

Resolution Regarding Homosexuality Issues

Submitted by: Rev. Lewis A. Groce; Mr. George Brannies (Voting Delegate) - St. Paul, Mason

WHEREAS, holy scripture speaks with many voices to lift up a message of love, grace and mercy, and

WHEREAS, the words of Christ do instruct in John 13:34-35, "*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ^By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*" and

WHEREAS, our Lord Christ further instructs in John 8:7 when they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "***Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.***"

WHEREAS, St. Paul instructs in 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." and

WHEREAS, St. Paul again in Galatians 6:12-18 states, "It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised-only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. "Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh, ^May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. "For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule-peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen." and

WHEREAS, the fifteenth chapter of Acts serves as a model for deliberation and decision making within the Church and states (in part) Acts 15:1-9 Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders, So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses." The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter, After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us, and

WHEREAS, the ELCA continues to study the issues of Blessing Same-Sex Unions and the Ordination, Consecration, and Commissioning of persons within those unions, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SWT Synod of the ELCA supports the church-wide study process, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SWT Synod of the ELCA affirms the gracious, ongoing activity of God in our midst, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SWT Synod of the ELCA affirms the scriptural mandate to remove the log from our own eye prior to attempting removal of the speck from our neighbor's eye, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SWT Synod of the ELCA defines itself not by exclusion, but rather by God's inclusive love through grace-filled proclamation of the Word and right administration of the Sacraments following the command of our Lord Christ.

THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS:

See Resolution #4

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**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4-c  
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

|                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A Resolution Opposing the Blessing of Same-Sex Unions and the Ordination,<br/>Consecration, Commissioning of Non-celibate Homosexuals</b> |
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***Submitted by: Rev. William Breen; Norm Nevins; Sandra Nevins (Voting Members),  
Trinity, Stonewall***

**WHEREAS,** according to its Constitution, the Southwestern Texas Synod confesses that "the canonical Scriptures of the New Testaments are the written Word of God" and are "the inspired Word of God Old and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life," and

**WHEREAS,** according to its Constitution, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), with which church the Southwestern Texas Synod is affiliated, "accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life," and

**WHEREAS,** the members of the congregations in the Southwestern Texas Synod believe that both Testaments clearly condemn sexual immorality of all kinds, including the sexual practices of homosexuals, and

**WHEREAS,** notwithstanding this condemnation, the ELCA is studying homosexuality "with respect to two issues: the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination, consecration, and commissioning of people in committed same-sex unions" (ELCA Studies on Sexuality: Part Two, page 3), and

**WHEREAS,** at present the ELCA "has no policy on the blessing of same-sex unions" (ELCA Studies on Sexuality: Part Two, page 5), therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the voting members of the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly oppose the blessing of same-sex unions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the members of the Southwestern Texas Synod oppose the ordination, consecration, and commissioning of practicing (i.e., non-celibate) homosexuals, whether in committed same-sex unions or not; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the members of Southwestern Texas Synod call on Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, the other elected leaders, and the other congregations and synods of the ELCA to join them in taking a clear, public stand against such blessing and such ordination, consecration, and commissioning; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the members of Southwestern Texas Synod call on the voting members of the other synods to support and adopt, for presentation to the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, a resolution declaring that the ELCA opposes the blessing of same-sex unions as contrary to Holy Scripture and detrimental to the structure God created for human sexual relationships, that is, the faithful marriage of one man and one woman.

*THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS:*

See Resolution #4

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**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4-d
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

<p>A Resolution Opposing the Blessing of Same-Sex Unions and the Ordination, Consecration, and Commissioning of Non-Celibate Homosexuals</p>

Submitted by: Pastor Gary Mayer and Oliver Ersch on behalf of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cave Creek

WHEREAS, the Constitution of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cave Creek, Texas, states that "the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God," the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life," and

WHEREAS, according to its Constitution, the Southwestern Texas Synod, with which synod St. Paul Lutheran Church is affiliated, confesses that "[t]he canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God" and are "the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life," and

WHEREAS, according to its Constitution, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), with which church St Paul Lutheran Church is affiliated, "accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life," and

WHEREAS, the members of St Paul Lutheran Church believe that both Testaments clearly condemn sexual immorality of all kinds, including the sexual practices of homosexuals, and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding this condemnation, the ELCA is studying homosexuality "with respect to two issues: the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination, consecration, and commissioning of people in committed same-sex unions" (ELCA Studies on Sexuality: Part Two, page 3), and

WHEREAS, at present the ELCA "has no policy on the blessing of same-sex unions" (ELCA Studies on Sexuality: Part Two ^page 5), therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of St Paul Lutheran Church oppose the blessing of same-sex unions; be it further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of St Paul Lutheran Church oppose the ordination, consecration, and commissioning of practicing (i.e., non-celibate) homosexuals, whether in committed same-sex unions or not;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of St Paul Lutheran. Church call on the bishop, the other elected leaders, and the other congregations of the Southwestern Texas Synod to join them in taking a clear, public stand against such blessing and such ordination, consecration, and commissioning;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of St Paul Lutheran Church call on the voting members of the Synod Assembly of the Southwestern Texas Synod at their May meeting in Seguin to join them in taking a clear, public stand against such blessing and such ordination, consecration, and commissioning by supporting and adopting a resolution to that effect;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of St Paul Lutheran" Church call on the voting members of the Synod Assembly to support and adopt, for presentation to the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, a resolution declaring that the ELCA opposes the blessing of same-sex unions as contrary to Holy Scripture and detrimental to the structure God created for human sexual relationships, that is, the faithful marriage of one man and one woman.

THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS:

See Resolution #4

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Resolution #5, submitted by: Dr. Boug Bahr, Rodger Johnson, and Rena Dietert on behalf of the Church Council of St. Paul, New Braunfels was recommended for referral to the ELCA Church Council, through the Southwestern Texas Synod Council, for consideration and possible action.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #5  
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

**Resolution Regarding the ELCA's Full Communion Partner's  
Consecration of a Non-celibate Homosexual Bishop**

***Submitted by: Synod Lay Delegates: Dr. Doug Bahr; Rodger Johnson and Erna Dietert  
on behalf of the Church Council of St. Paul, New Braunfels***

**WHEREAS,** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Episcopal Church, USA (ECUSA) entered into full communion in 1999 ("Called to Common Mission"); and

**WHEREAS,** Paragraph 14 of the Called to Common Mission agreement states, "The two churches will acknowledge immediately the full authenticity of each other's

ordained ministries (bishops, priests, and deacons in The Episcopal Church and pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)."

**WHEREAS,** Paragraph 17 of the Called to Common Mission agreement states, "the ultimate authority under which bishops preach and teach is the gospel itself; and

**WHEREAS,** Paragraph 21 of the Called to Common Mission agreement states, "The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by this Concordat recognizes the bishops, priests, and deacons ordained in the Episcopal Church as fully authentic ministers in their respective orders within the Episcopal Church and the bishops of the Episcopal Church as chief pastors in the historic succession exercising a ministry of oversight (episkope) within its dioceses;" and

**WHEREAS,** The ELCA "accepts the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life" (ELCA Constitution Chapter 2; Article 2.03); and

**WHEREAS,** The consecration as Bishop of a non-celibate homosexual person by the ECUSA is contrary to those Scriptures, specifically qualifications of Church officers (1 Timothy 3: 1-7); therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the secretary of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the ELCA communicate to the ECUSA by letter this synod's deepest regret and concern with its action consecrating a non-celibate homosexual person as Bishop; and

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod of the ELCA memorialize the ELCA 2005 Churchwide Assembly to suspend the Called to Common Mission agreement with the Episcopal Church until these contradictions to Scripture, Lutheran teachings and current ministry standards as detailed in Visions and Expectations are resolved~~

*THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS:  
Referral to the ELCA Church Council, through the Southwestern Texas Synod Council, for consideration and possible action.*

*Rationale: It is constitutionally more appropriate for the churchwide organization to address this issue than an individual synod in the ELCA.*

**MOVED, SECONDED  
CARRIED**

**To substitute the original Resolution #5 for the recommendation by Reference and Counsel.**

**MOVED, SECONDED  
CARRIED**

**To amend Resolution #5 by striking the second "BE IT RESOLVED,"**

**MOVED, SECONDED  
CARRIED  
(2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)**

**To close debate.**

**VOTED  
SA04.5.20**

**That Resolution #5 be adopted as amended.**

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Resolution #6, submitted by: the Rev. Brian Peterson – Ascension, Austin; the Rev. Stephen Youngdahl – Shepherd of the Hills, Austin; the Rev. James Bouzard – Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Wimberley was recommended for approval.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #6  
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

|                                          |
|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Resolution Regarding World Hunger</b> |
|------------------------------------------|

*Submitted by: Rev. Brain Peterson - Ascension, Austin; Rev. Stephen Youngdahl - Shepherd of the Hills, Austin; Rev. James Bouzard - Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Wimberley*

- WHEREAS,** 840,000,000 people are hungry and chronically malnourished throughout the world.<sup>1</sup>
- WHEREAS,** At least 16,000 children under the age of 5 die every day as a result of hunger."
- WHEREAS,** God has provided the sufficient resources to feed every child, woman and man living on earth.
- WHEREAS,** The Biblical mandate to feed the hungry is unequivocal, (i.e. Jesus' words in Matthew chapter 25, "I was hungry and you gave me food.")
- WHEREAS,** Many in this church agree that "the time has come for all churches to acknowledge their biblical heritage and the ongoing scandal of hunger in the contemporary world." ""
- WHEREAS,** All regularly called rostered ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have made a public commitment to "speak for justice in behalf of the poor and oppressed... and to increase support given by the congregation to the work of the whole church". ""
- WHEREAS,** The voting members of the 2002 Southwestern Texas synod assembly overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling for a "giving goal" of \$7.00 per communing member by June 1, 2005.
- WHEREAS,** Total congregational giving in 2003 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and the Stand With Africa Campaign was \$196,550 or \$4.43 per communing member; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That together the congregations of the Southwestern Texas Synod ELCA commit to increase total giving to World Hunger through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and the Stand With Africa Campaign by an additional \$2.57 per communing member by June 1st of 2005.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that all rostered members of this synod commit to fulfill their promise to speak for justice and increase support by their congregations to the work of the whole church by specifically encouraging their congregations to generously support the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Stand With Africa Campaign.

<sup>1</sup> State of Food Insecurity in the World 2002. Food and Agriculture Organization of the" Ibid.

"" CraigNessan, Lutheran Partners. May-June, 1997.

"" Letter of Call to An Ordained Minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

*THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS:*

*Approval*

*Rationale: This resolution calls us to be faithful to what we have said we will do as the church.*

**MOVED, SECONDED  
CARRIED  
(2/3 VOTE REQUIRED)**

**To close debate.**

**VOTED  
SA04.5.21**

**That Resolution #6 be adopted.**

Resolution #7, submitted by: Dr. Doug Bahr; Rodger Johnson and Erna Dietert on behalf of St. Paul Lutheran Church Council, New Braunfels was recommended to substitute the following "Resolved" and "Resolved" for the original "Resolved" and "Resolved":

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #7  
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

|                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Resolution Requiring Ratification of Constitutional Amendments, Ecumenical Agreements or Ministry Standards</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

***Submitted by: Synod Lay Delegates: Dr. Doug Bahr; Rodger Johnson and Erna Dietert on behalf of St. Paul Lutheran Church Council, New Braunfels***

**WHEREAS,** the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) recognizes the importance of the relationships between congregations, synods, and the Churchwide Organization, and further recognizes the interdependent nature of those relationships (ELCA Constitution paragraph 8.11); and

**WHEREAS,** the Constitutions of our predecessor bodies recognized the fundamental representative nature of congregations and its members when gathered as the larger church body (ALC Constitution, 503.1, 503.5; LCA Constitution Article X, §5; ULCA Article VIII, §4; AELC Article VIII, §3; ELC Chapter 7, 33); and

**WHEREAS,** such representation by constituent congregations was implicit when making changes to the constitution that would impact those congregations; and

**WHEREAS,** requiring ratification by synod assemblies or congregations of amendments to the ELCA Constitution would promote better communication and better relationships between congregations, synods, and the Churchwide Assembly; now therefore

~~BE IT RESOLVED, that this Southwestern Texas Synod petition the Southwestern Texas Synod Council to memorialize the ELCA Church Council to propose an amendment to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, with the stipulation that it is to be considered and acted upon prior to any votes concerning the blessing of same-gender unions and the rostering of persons in committed homosexual relationships, and that those votes be subject to the provisions of this amendment, to~~

~~Amend chapter 22.11 by deleting "The constitution of this church may be amended only through either of the following procedures:" and substituting for it, "Any amendment to the constitution of this church shall be amended in accordance with 22.12 of this constitution and through the following procedures:"~~

~~And to add to the ELCA Constitution the following provision:~~

~~22.12. Any amendment to the ELCA Constitution, any ecumenical agreement or change to ministry standards of the ELCA (Visions and Expectations), in addition to approval by a regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly, must be ratified by a "Yes" vote of a simple majority of the total number of ELCA congregations at a constitutionally called congregational meeting within one calendar year of the Churchwide Assembly's action), or abstain. Any congregation that does not register a vote, regardless of reason, will be counted as a vote of abstention, and~~

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that should the ELCA Church Council fail to propose this amendment, that this synod memorialize the 2005 Churchwide Assembly to consider and act upon it with the same stipulations.~~

*THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS:  
Substituting the following "Resolved" for the two "Resolved" sections in the resolution.*

RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly direct the Southwestern Texas Synod Council to forward this resolution to the ELCA Church Council for consideration and possible action, namely, to amend chapter 22.11 by deleting "The constitution of this church may be amended only through either of the following procedures:" and substituting for it, "Any amendment to the constitution of this church shall be amended in accordance with 22.12 of this constitution and through the following procedures:" and to add the ELCA Constitution the following provision:

22.12. Any amendment to the ELCA Constitution, any ecumenical agreement or change to ministry standards of the ELCA (Visions and Expectations), in addition to approval by a regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly, must be ratified by a "Yes" vote of a simple majority of the total number of ELCA congregations at a constitutionally called congregational meeting within one calendar year of the Churchwide Assembly's action), or abstain. Any congregation that does not register a vote, regardless of reason, will be counted as a vote of abstention.

*Rationale: Guidance from the ELCA Secretary, the Rev. Lowell Almen, notes the following principle concerning resolutions: "A resolution and memorial may not be combined in one action. That is, the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly may not be addressed in the same resolution. Neither should a synod address both the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly on the same subject."*

*Since the first "Resolved" addresses the Church Council and the second "Resolved" addresses the Churchwide Assembly, the Reference and Counsel Committee recommends substituting the alternate "Resolved." It was felt that of the two "Resolved" sections, the complexity of this issue needs to be addressed by the ELCA Church Council in consideration of the implications of such a change. Should the Church Council bring this issue to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, its passage as an amendment could be approved in one vote given the proper six-month announcement time.*

*The changing in the wording of the "Resolved" also recognizes that a resolution cannot stipulate how and when it will be presented on the Assembly floor.*

**MOVED, SECONDED  
CARRIED**

**To substitute the two "Resolved" recommended by Reference and Counsel for the original two "Resolves".**

**VOTED  
SA04.5.22**

**That Resolution #7 be adopted as amended.**

+++++

Resolution #8, submitted by Leon Peterson, Ascension, Austin, was not allowed to come to the floor of the Assembly due to late filing under Standing Rule 10C.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #8  
FOR THE 2004 SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD**

**Resolution Ordaining Homosexuals for Pastors**

**Submitted by: Leon Peterson, Ascension, Austin**

**WHEREAS,** The church of the ELCA are studying and considering ordaining homosexuals for pastors; and

**WHEREAS,** I firmly believe this is immoral and contrary to Biblical doctrine; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Synod take a position opposed to it.

*THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECOMMENDS: That the resolution not be considered because of late filing per rule 10C. Furthermore, the matter is already addressed in/by Resolution #4.*

**NO ACTION TAKEN BY THE ASSEMBLY, PER THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL  
RECOMMENDATION**

**REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Bishop Tiemann called upon Joyce Voelter, chair of the Elections Committee, to give the results of the third ballot for elected positions:

2005 Churchwide Voting Member – Lay Female

|                         |     |                 |     |
|-------------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Austin Conference       |     |                 |     |
| Lois Holck              | 192 | Susan Schmid    | 181 |
| Hill Country Conference |     |                 |     |
| Nan Hengst              | 174 | Barbara Dierker | 195 |

Bishop Tiemann declared Lois Holck and Barbara Dierker to be elected.

Bishop Tiemann declared the 2004 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly closed at 4:34 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Gayle Gordon Bouzard, synod secretary

**CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY CORPORATION MEETING  
May 14, 2003**

The Cross Trails Ministry Corporation Meeting was called to order at 4:41 p.m. The Board of Directors and Staff were introduced. A Powerpoint presentation on the "State of the Camps" was given. An auditors' report stated that all financial matters were in order.

The 2005-2006 Budget was presented.

**Motion  
Seconded To approve the 2005-2006 Budget of Cross Trails Ministry. Motion carried.**

The names of Dawn Lindsey and Mark Tezel were placed in nomination for At-Large Board member. Mark Tezel was elected to that position.

The following resolution was presented to the voting members:

- WHEREAS,** This vital ministry of the church is growing and ready to responsibly prepare the sites for current and future usage; and
- WHEREAS,** Cross Trails Ministry has demonstrated financial stability and has closed each year with a balanced budget since the congregations of the Southwestern Texas Synod assumed ownership of Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch; and
- WHEREAS,** a master plan has been developed with input on current and future programmatic needs, review of current facilities, and a goal of simple comfort for all ages, year round; and
- WHEREAS,** the first implementation of the master plan has been completed with the construction of a new cottage-style duplex cabin at Chrysalis that will be the prototype for future buildings to be constructed as funds become available; and
- WHEREAS,** a feasibility study on the prospects of successfully completing a capital campaign, conducted by Grunland Sayther Brunkow, showed strong support for the plans, programs and leadership, and included a recommendation that a campaign could be successfully conducted: now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the corporation of the Southwestern Texas Synod Outdoor and Retreat Ministries, Inc., d.b.a. Cross Trails Ministry, authorizes the board and staff to conduct a capital campaign appeal with a \$1.5 million dollar goal, beginning in 2005.

**Motion  
Seconded To adopt the capital campaign appeal resolution. Motion carried.**

The Cross Trails Ministry Corporation Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.