

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
MAY 31-JUNE 1, 2008**

The Seventeenth Assembly of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was held at Texas Lutheran University, Seguin, Texas, May 31-June 1, 2008. The theme of the assembly was *Together – Faithful and Bold*.

**OPENING WORSHIP
May 31, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Texas Lutheran University
Jackson Auditorium**

A temple talk was presented prior to the opening worship by Michelle Schrank regarding the assembly offering to be received in support of the Youth Leadership Development Program, specifically the Manu Center, of our companion synod in Costa Rica. Opening worship was led by the Austin Conference assembly worship team with Bishop Ray Tiemann presiding, and Bishop Melvin Jimenez, Iglesia Luterana Costarricense, preaching.

**PLENARY SESSION I
May 31, 2008
Texas Lutheran University
Jackson Auditorium**

The assembly was convened at 10:43 a.m. by Bishop Ray Tiemann with the Order for the Opening of the Synod Assembly.

Bishop Tiemann recognized synod officers, Mark Helmke, vice president, Linda Zander, secretary, Bill Warncke, treasurer, Pr. Bill Sappenfield, parliamentarian, Ms. Lita Johnson, ELCA representative, The Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing, Bible study leader, and Janet Fries, administrative assistant to the bishop. Mr. Tom Winn, chair of the planning team sent greetings from the Austin Conference. Bishop Tiemann welcomed Bishop Joel Martinez from the Southwest Texas and Rio Grande Conferences of the United Methodist Church as an ecumenical guest.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Bishop Tiemann introduced Rita Carlson, chair of the Credentials Committee. As of 10:00 a.m., May 31, 2008, there were 431 voting members, of which 125 were Rostered Voting Members and 306 were Lay Voting Members. The Credentials Committee certified that all constitutional requirements regarding composition of the voting membership were met. In addition, there were 12 non-voting members, 1 ecumenical guest and 71 registered visitors for a total of 515 persons registered.

Mark Helmke introduced the voting members from New Hope Lutheran SAWC, Blanco; Lutheran Church of the Hills SAWC, Kerrville, Spirit in the Hills Lutheran SAWC, between Austin/Marble Falls; and The Netzer Co-op in Seguin, and welcomed them to the Southwestern Texas Synod.

ADOPTION OF STANDING RULES

Mark Helmke, vice president, presented the Proposed Standing Rules and moved for adoption of same pursuant to the recommendation of the Synod Council.

VOTED
SA08.5.01 To adopt the Proposed Standing Rules.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mark Helmke, vice president, presented the Proposed Agenda and moved for adoption of same pursuant to the recommendation of the Synod Council.

VOTED
SA08.5.02 To adopt the Proposed Standing Rules.

REPORT OF SYNOD COUNCIL

The report of the Synod Council was distributed for review. Mr. Helmke presented a resolution from Synod Council on the “Book of Faith Initiative” as follows:

WHEREAS the baptized affirm their baptismal promise “to hear the Word of God” and “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed”; and

WHEREAS all parents and sponsors covenant to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of their children and nurture them in faith and prayer; and

WHEREAS pastors at their ordination vow to be diligent in their study of the Holy Scriptures; and

WHEREAS the ELCA has begun a Book of Faith Initiative inviting everyone to join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become part of the initiative; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Southwestern Texas Synod become a “Book of Faith” synod, committing ourselves to center ourselves in the Word of God in all our meetings, assemblies and events, so that as we regularly and increasingly hear, read, study, share and are engaged by God’s Word, we lead by example in faithful service and holy living, living out our focus on **Forming Faithfulness – in leaders, with Congregations, among Partners**; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Bishop of our synod – who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church” – in coordination with the synod advocate lead this initiative personally and through collaborative programmatic work with congregations of the synod; and be it further

RESOLVED that all voting members of this synod assembly covenant together to begin a regular practice of Bible study and prayer, gathering with others in their congregation and/or community to speak and hear the Word from one another; and be it further

RESOLVED that we celebrate and continue to support and strengthen those places where Scripture is already taught and engaged, e.g., Lutheran Men in Mission, Women of the ELCA, Cross Trails Ministries, Junior and Senior High Gatherings, the School of Mission, Lutheran Educators Day, Summer Theological Institute, Tri-Synodical Theological Conference, Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest, Texas Lutheran University, campus

ministries, congregational councils, Sunday schools and other congregational groups; and be it further

RESOLVED that we encourage all congregations to become a “Book of Faith” congregation, which will find expression by

- exploring new opportunities for engaging the Bible,
- sending sufficient numbers of members to synod events for training as Bible study leaders,
- including Biblical study as an integral part of all meetings and groups,

in order to become more fluent in the first language of faith – the language of Scripture – that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

VOTED

SA08.5.03 To adopt the “Book of Faith Initiative”.

Mr. Helmke reported that Pr. Tracey Breashears is the Book of Faith Advocate for the synod.

Mr. Helmke presented the “Report on Compensation – 2008/2009” as approved by the Synod Council.

VOTED

SA08.5.04 To adopt the “Report on Compensation – 2008/2009” as outlined in the attached document.

Mr. Helmke introduced Bill Warncke, treasurer, who presented the Audit Report of April 9, 2008, from Randy Walker, a copy of which report is available at the Assembly Office.

VOTED

SA08.5.05 To approve the Audit Report of April 9, 2008, from Randy Walker.

Mr. Warncke reviewed the Present Balance Sheet/Statement of Activity for 2007-2008 as found in Section 2-Report of Synod Council-Treasurer’s Report, as well as the Analysis of 2007-2008 Fiscal Year as found in Section 2-Report of Synod Council-Treasurer’s Report. Further presentation was made of the Mission Support Comparison as found in the same section.

Mr. Warncke then presented the 2009-2010 Budget (Section 2 of Synod Council Report). Further discussion will be held in a break-out session.

Assistant to the Bishop Michael Robinson presented information concerning the Mission Partners presentation to be made later today.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Bishop Tiemann introduced Pr. Brad Highum, Chair of the Nomination Committee. Pr. Highum introduced the members of the Nomination Committee: Leroy DeHaven from the Coastal Bend Conference, Anne Hilbert from the Hill Country Conference, Pr. Alma Morales from the Rio Grande Valley Conference, Leah Clark from the San Antonio Conference, Pr. Steve Byrne from the Victoria Conference and Amanada Schnelle, Youth Representative. Pr. Highum presented the following nominations:

Vice President of the Synod

Donna Shurley
Carl Teinert

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Synod Council Members

Austin Conference, Clergy

Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones
Al Hoerig
Charles Holm-Roesler

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Coastal Bend Conference, Lay (Male)

Jerry Kramer
Willie Spreen

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Coastal Bend Conference, Lay (Female)

Gracia Cooley
Judy Weber

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Hill Country Conference, Lay (Male)

George Brannies
Mike Childers

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Rio Grande Conference, Clergy

Alma Morales-Saavedra
Pedro Caceres Larreategui

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Rio Grande Valley Conference, Lay (Female)

Linda Nicholas
Wanda Greenhill

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

San Antonio Conference, Lay (Female)

Barbara Nellerhoe
Vickie Hollmig

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Victoria Conference, Lay (Male)

Julius Knebel
Alfred Reinhardt

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Victoria Conference, Clergy

Eric Petty
Gary Goodson

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Youth Member, At Large

Katie Boos
Christa Crumrine
Kim Sump

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

2009 Churchwide Assembly**Austin Conference, Clergy**Janice Campbell
June Wilkins
Norb Firnhaber

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

San Antonio Conference, ClergyBob Palan
Paul Ziese

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Victoria Conference, ClergyBill Hassel
Bob Slade

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Rio Grande Valley Conference, ClergyAlma Morales-Saavedra
Sylvia De La Garza

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Youth, At LargeKatie Campbell
Christa Crumrine
Drew Ingram

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

**Person of Color/Primary Language
Other than English**Gilma Hernandez
Maika Hudson
Norma Kazen

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Austin Conference, Lay (Female)Kara Clark
Carol Gaskamp

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

San Antonio Conference, Lay (Female)Jill Frisbie
Heather Hansen
Barbara Nellerroe

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Hill Country Conference, Lay (Female)Sue Irvin
Edie Scheffel
Janet Sims
Jean Weber

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Coastal Bend Conference, Lay (Male)Alton Luedke
Christian Swanson

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Rio Grande Valley Conference, Lay (Male)Ronald Moe
Thomas Pearson

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Victoria Conference, Lay (Male)

John Dellis
Kernell Moritz

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Consultation Committee

Lay Female

Bev Braun
Mary Turney

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Clergy

Darrell Gilbertson
Elliott Pancoast

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Discipline Committee

Lay Female

Barbara Bohls
Anne Hilbert

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Lay Male

James Ehler
David Houston

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Clergy

Elizabeth Hanley
Susan Schnelle

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Clergy

Craig Gabriel
Tim Muehlbrad

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Commission for Congregational Life, Chairperson

Lois Holck
Mary Lou Walther

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Commission for Communications, Chairperson

Karl Biermann
Sharon Gruebmeier

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing lead the assembly in Bible study.

Mr. Chad Thompson from Thrivent presented a \$2,500 grant to the assembly which was used for the green cloth bags given to each participant.

Bishop Tiemann presented a gift to Mark Helmke for his years of dedicated service as vice-president of the synod.

After announcements by Bishop Tiemann, Plenary Session I was recessed at 12:29 p.m., with the assembly to reconvene at 1:30 p.m. in Memorial Gymnasium.

PLENARY SESSION II
May 31, 2008
Texas Lutheran University
Memorial Gymnasium

The assembly convened at 1:34 p.m. with a call to order by Bishop Tiemann.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rita Carlson, chair of the Credentials Committee, reported that as of 1:15 p.m., May 31, 2008, there were 461 voting members, of whom 147 were Rostered Voting Members and 314 were Lay Voting Members. The Credentials Committee certified that all constitutional requirements regarding composition of the voting membership were met. In addition, there were 17 non-voting members, 1 ecumenical guest and 76 registered visitors for a total of 555 persons registered.

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing lead the assembly in Bible study.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTIONS

Former Southwestern Texas Synod Bishop Henry Schulte and his wife, Frances.

Assistant to the Bishop Michael Robinson introduced those persons new to the Synod.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Gayle Gordon Bouzard, Chair of the Elections Committee, explained the written ballots being distributed for the election of persons as listed above. Balloting will close at 7:30 p.m. today, and ballots may be placed in the ballot boxes at the Facilitators' table, in the Hein Dining Hall foyer or in the Jackson Auditorium lobby.

ELCA REPORT: Lita Johnson

Lita Johnson presented a report from the ELCA and a video was shown from Bishop Hanson.

Bishop Tiemann presented a preliminary report on the assembly offering and reminded everyone that another time to contribute to this offering will be at worship tomorrow morning.

Assistant to the Bishop Robinson then lead the assembly in a rendition of the "Jeopardy" game to highlight work in "Forming Faithfulness – with Partners".

Bishop Tiemann reported to the assembly on Forming Faithfulness.

COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Bishop Tiemann introduced the chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, The Rev. Paul Collinson-Streng (University of Texas-Campus Ministry, Austin). The members of the committee were also introduced: Monica Buie (Faith, McDade), Carroll Boecker (Abiding Savior, Cameron), The Rev. Dr. Faye Schott (LSPS, Austin) and Mark Helmke (Synod Council Liaison).

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1
FOR THE 2008 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD, ELCA

<p><u>A resolution to hold future synod assemblies only at Texas Lutheran University</u> Doubly submitted by: Herb and Kay Karnau, First Lutheran, Gonzales and Pastors Herb Beyer and J.R. Westerfield, Tri-County Cooperative Ministry</p>

WHEREAS Texas Lutheran University and the Southwestern Texas Synod's offices are located within an hour of 90% of our synod's congregations (and therefore better stewardship of energy and financial resources given the rising costs of energy and transportation); and

WHEREAS the cost to voting members attending the synod assembly tends to be less when meeting in Seguin, compared to other locales, due to housing costs (and therefore better stewardship of financial resources by member congregations and others); and

WHEREAS voting members would know each year where the assembly would meet and their congregations would be better able to budget for the assembly in advance; and

WHEREAS Texas Lutheran University's dorms and Seguin motels offer sufficient accommodations for attending voting members to the synod assembly; and

WHEREAS Texas Lutheran University and the synod office are a natural site for Lutheran activity and provide sufficient space for the assembly and the opportunity to highlight the ministry of these institutions for persons attending the synod assembly; and

WHEREAS synod staff would have easier access to its resources at Texas Lutheran University and would not have to transport things needed for the synod assembly a great distance (and therefore better stewardship of time by staff and volunteers); and

WHEREAS the various conferences of our synod can still be responsible for the planning of a synod assembly on a rotating basis and have the opportunity to highlight the ministries and uniqueness of their conferences through the worship experience, displays, presentations and other creative means while on the campus of Texas Lutheran University; and

WHEREAS the Victoria Conference at its fall conference assembly on November 11, 2007 approved such a proposal; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the synod staff and Synod Council work with Texas Lutheran University to hold the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly on the campus of Texas Lutheran University on a continuing annual basis as soon as feasible.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Synod bylaw 2.01 deals with the subject raised by the proposed resolution:

2.01

SYNOD ASSEMBLY: A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held annually. Synod Council shall determine the time and place for each Assembly and prepare its proposed agenda and program.

The essence of the proposed resolution is that all future synod assemblies would be held on the campus of Texas Lutheran University. As such, the Committee on Reference and Counsel believes that it conflicts with bylaw 2.01, which commits the question of the location of the synod assembly to the discretion of the Synod Council. The Committee accordingly anticipates that the chair will rule the proposed resolution out of order. If the Synod Assembly desires to change the method of determining the location for an assembly, the appropriate course of action would be to amend the bylaw, which would require a 2/3 vote.

Motion by Mr. Helmke for the assembly to go into a quasi-committee of the whole for twenty minutes to discuss the subject of location for future assemblies. Motion seconded.

VOTED

SA08.5.06 Approved discussion by assembly in quasi-committee of the whole for twenty minutes regarding the subject of location of future assemblies.

Motion by Mr. Helmke for the assembly to rise from a quasi-committee of the whole. Motion seconded.

VOTED

SA08.5.07 Approved the assembly to rise from quasi-committee of the whole.

Bishop Tiemann rules that Resolution #1 is out of order.

Bishop Tiemann recognized first-call congregations. Out of a study across the ELCA, 14 congregations were chosen for the study, with two in our synod – Grace, Bandera and St. John, San Juan.

A Mission Investment Fund video was presented.

The Rev. Joe Garcia addressed the assembly.

Motion to amend the agenda to move the Order of the Day from 5:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

VOTED

SA08.5.08 To amend the agenda by moving the Order of the Day to 4:45 p.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Plenary Session II recessed at 4:45 p.m.

CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY CORPORATION MEETING

The Cross Trails Ministry Corporation held its corporation meeting (see separate minutes of that organization).

Bishop Tiemann reminded the assembly of the concert by Jazz Sunday in Jackson Auditorium beginning at 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5:45-7:15 p.m. at Hein Dining Hall.

**PLENARY SESSION III
June 1, 2008
Texas Lutheran University
Memorial Gymnasium**

The assembly convened at 8:01 a.m. with a call to order and opening prayer by Bishop Tiemann.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rita Carlson, chair of the Credentials Committee, reported that as of 8:00 a.m., June 1, 2008, there were 473 voting members, of whom 148 were Rostered Voting Members and 325 were Lay Voting Members. The Credentials Committee certified that all constitutional requirements regarding

composition of the voting membership were met. In addition, there were 19 non-voting members, 1 ecumenical guest and 88 registered visitors for a total of 581 persons registered.

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing lead the assembly in Bible study.

COMMISSION FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE REPORT

Donna Shurley presented a report for the commission.

The Rev. Skip Courter presented an introduction about Compensation Guidelines (further discussion to be part of the break-out sessions).

YOUTH COORDINATORS' REPORT

Heather Hanson and Whitney Myers presented a report and video.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Gayle Gordon Bouzard, Chair of the Elections Committee, presented the following results of the elections:

Vice President of the Synod

Donna Shurley - 204

Carl Teinert - 220

Carl Teinert was elected.

Synod Council Members

Austin Conference, Clergy

Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones - 174

Al Hoerig - 106

Charles Holm-Roesler - 145

There will be a run-off between Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones and Charles Holm-Roesler.

Coastal Bend Conference, Lay (Male)

Jerry Kramer - 270

Willie Spreen - 135

Jerry Kramer is elected.

Coastal Bend Conference, Lay (Female)

Gracia Cooley - 156

Judy Weber - 237

Judy Weber is elected.

Hill Country Conference, Lay (Male)

George Brannies - 160

Mike Childers - 234

Mike Childers is elected.

Rio Grande Conference, Clergy

Alma Morales-Saavedra - 205

Pedro Caceres Larreategui - 201

Alma Morales-Saavedra is elected.

Rio Grande Valley Conference, Lay (Female)

Linda Nicholas- 214

Wanda Greenhill - 189

Linda Nicholas is elected.

San Antonio Conference, Lay (Female)

Vickie Hollmig - 221

Barbara Nelleremoe - 191

Vickie Hollmig is elected.

Victoria Conference, Lay (Male)

Julius Knebel - 191
Alfred Reinhardt - 207

Alfred Reinhardt is elected.

Victoria Conference, Clergy

Eric Petty - 206
Gary Goodson - 201

Eric Petty is elected.

Youth Member, At Large

Katie Boos - 180
Christa Crumrine - 116
Kim Sump - 115

There will be a run-off between Katie Boos and Christa Crumrine.

2009 Churchwide Assembly

Austin Conference, Clergy

Janice Campbell - 153
June Wilkins - 99
Norb Firnhaber - 149

There will be a run-off between Janice Campbell and Norb Firnhaber.

San Antonio Conference, Clergy

Bob Palan - 175
Paul Ziese - 242

Paul Ziese is elected.

Victoria Conference, Clergy

Bill Hassel - 240
Bob Slade - 158

Bill Hassel is elected.

Rio Grande Valley Conference, Clergy

Alma Morales-Saavedra - 177
Sylvia De La Garza - 228

Sylvia De La Garza is elected.

Youth, At Large

Katie Campbell - 130
Christa Crumrine - 111
Drew Ingram - 163

There will be a run-off between Katie Campbell and Drew Ingram.

**Person of Color/Primary Language
Other than English**

Gilma Hernandez - 135
Maik Hudson - 94
Norma Kazen - 172

There will be a run-off between Gilma Hernandez and Norma Kazen.

Austin Conference, Lay (Female)

Kara Clark - 210
Carol Gaskamp - 199

Kara Clark is elected.

San Antonio Conference, Lay (Female)

Jill Frisbie - 109
Heather Hansen - 203
Barbara Neller-moe - 107

There will be a run-off between Heather Hansen and Jill Frisbie.

Hill Country Conference, Lay (Female)

Sue Irvin - 87
Edie Scheffel - 122
Janet Sims - 78
Jean Weber - 120

There will be a run-off between Edie Scheffel and Jean Weber.

Coastal Bend Conference, Lay (Male)

Alton Luedke 223
Christian Swanson - 166

Alton Luedke is elected.

Rio Grande Valley Conference, Lay (Male)

Ronald Moe - 153
Thomas Pearson - 234

Thomas Pearson is elected.

Victoria Conference, Lay (Male)

John Dellis - 278
Kernell Moritz - 131

John Dellis is elected.

Consultation Committee

Lay Female

Bev Braun - 148
Mary Turney - 248

Mary Turney is elected.

Clergy

Darrell Gilbertson - 136
Elliott Pancoast - 279

Elliott Pancoast is elected.

Discipline Committee

Lay Female

Barbara Bohls - 206
Anne Hilbert - 199

Barbara Bohls is elected.

Lay Male

James Ehler - 195
David Houston - 197

David Houston is elected.

Clergy

Elizabeth Hanley - 199
Susan Schnelle - 207

Susan Schnelle is elected.

Clergy

Craig Gabriel - 140
Tim Muehlbrad - 271

Tim Muehlbrad is elected.

Commission for Congregational Life, Chairperson

Lois Holck - 195
Mary Lou Walther - 209

Mary Lou Walther is elected.

Commission for Communications, Chairperson

Karl Biermann - 217
Sharon Gruebmeier - 192

Karl Biermann is elected.

Motion to amend the agenda to break from the Order of the Day.

VOTED

SA08.5.09 To amend the agenda by breaking from the Order of the Day.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Gayle Gordon Bouzard, Chair of the Elections Committee, explained the written run-off ballots that were distributed.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Plenary Session III recessed at 9:27 a.m. for break-out sessions. Festival worship service to begin at 11:00 a.m. in Jackson Auditorium.

**FESTIVAL WORSHIP
June 1, 2008, 11:00 a.m.
Texas Lutheran University
Jackson Auditorium**

Worship was led by the Austin Conference assembly worship team with The Rev. Lori Ruge-Jones, presiding, and Bishop Ray Tiemann, preaching.

**PLENARY SESSION IV
June 1, 2008
Texas Lutheran University
Memorial Gymnasium**

The assembly convened at 2:01 p.m. with a call to order and opening prayer by Bishop Tiemann.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Rita Carlson, chair of the Credentials Committee, reported that as of 1:50 p.m., June 1, 2008, there were 473 voting members, of whom 148 were Rostered Voting Members and 325 were Lay Voting Members. The Credentials Committee certified that all constitutional requirements regarding composition of the voting membership were met. In addition, there were 20 non-voting members, 1 ecumenical guest and 88 registered visitors for a total of 582 persons registered.

The Rev. John Boldt introduced the following persons who were commissioned as Steward Leaders in the synod: Barbara Ott, Paul Ziese, Herb Beyer, Jennifer Fite and Wayne Scubiatta. Bishop Tiemann thanked Pr. Boldt for his work as a Stewardship Specialist with the synod as he has accepted a call to Hosanna, Houston.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Gayle Gordon Bouzard, Chair of the Elections Committee, presented the following results of the run-off elections:

Synod Council Members

Austin Conference, Clergy

Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones is elected.

Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones - 205
Charles Holm-Roesler - 179

Youth Member, At Large

Katie Boos - 246
Christa Crumrine - 133

Katie Boos is elected.

2009 Churchwide Assembly

Austin Conference, Clergy

Janice Campbell - 200
Norb Firnhaber - 178

Janice Campbell is elected.

Youth, At Large

Katie Campbell - 169
Drew Ingram - 209

Drew Ingram is elected.

**Person of Color/Primary Language
Other than English**

Gilma Hernandez - 141
Norma Kazen - 229

Norma Kazen is elected.

San Antonio Conference, Lay (Female)

Jill Frisbie - 109
Heather Hansen - 263

Heather Hansen is elected.

Hill Country Conference, Lay (Female)

Edie Scheffel - 176
Jean Weber - 201

Jean Weber is elected.

2009-2010 BUDGET (Section 2 of Synod Council Report)

The budget was previously presented on May 31, 2008, and was presented for adoption by the assembly as recommended by the Synod Council.

VOTED

SA08.5.10 To adopt the 2009-2010 Budget as it appears in the Treasurer's Report of the Assembly Bulletin of Reports.

Angie Meyer, Mission Interpreter Coordinator, made a presentation to the assembly.

Campus Pastors Jaime Bouzard, Paul Collinson-Streng, and Jennifer Bower, along with the 2007 Synod Offering Chairperson, Suzette Price, reported that last year's assembly offering was in excess of \$106,000. A goal had been set to reach \$100,000 to celebrate 100 years of campus ministry.

Greetings were received from The Rev. Ann Svennungsen, President of Texas Lutheran University.

COMMISSION FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Claudia Teinert presented a report for the commission.

COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Rev. Collinson-Streng presented the following:

**RESOLUTION #1
FOR THE 2008 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD, ELCA**

**A resolution to hold future synod assemblies only at Texas Lutheran University
Doubly submitted by: Herb and Kay Karnau, First Lutheran, Gonzales
and Pastors Herb Beyer and J. R. Westerfield, Tri-County Cooperative Ministry**

WHEREAS, Texas Lutheran University and the Southwestern Texas Synod's offices are located within an hour of 90% of our synod's congregations (and therefore better stewardship of energy and financial resources given the rising costs of energy and transportation); and

WHEREAS, the cost to voting members attending the synod assembly tends to be less when meeting in Seguin, compared to other locales, due to housing costs (and therefore better stewardship of financial resources by member congregations and others); and

WHEREAS, voting members would know each year where the assembly would meet and their congregations would be better able to budget for the assembly in advance; and

WHEREAS, Texas Lutheran University's dorms and Seguin motels offer sufficient accommodations for attending voting members to the synod assembly; and

WHEREAS, Texas Lutheran University and the synod office are a natural site for Lutheran activity and provide sufficient space for the assembly and the opportunity to highlight the ministry of these institutions for persons attending the synod assembly; and

WHEREAS, synod staff would have easier access to its resources at Texas Lutheran University and would not have to transport things needed for the synod assembly a great distance (and therefore better stewardship of time by staff and volunteers); and

WHEREAS, the various conferences of our synod can still be responsible for the planning of a synod assembly on a rotating basis and have the opportunity to highlight the ministries and uniqueness of their conferences through the worship experience, displays, presentations and other creative means while on the campus of Texas Lutheran University; and

WHEREAS, the Victoria Conference at its fall conference assembly on November 11, 2007 approved such a proposal; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the synod staff and Synod Council work with Texas Lutheran University to hold the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly on the campus of Texas Lutheran University on a continuing annual basis as soon as feasible.

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Synod bylaw 2.01 deals with the subject raised by the proposed resolution:

2.01.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY: A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held annually. Synod Council shall determine the time and place for each Assembly and prepare its proposed agenda and program.

The essence of the proposed resolution is that all future synod assemblies would be held on the campus of Texas Lutheran University. As such, the Committee on Reference and Counsel believes that it conflicts with bylaw 2.01, which commits the question of the location of the synod assembly to the discretion of the Synod Council. The Committee accordingly anticipates that the chair will rule the proposed resolution out of order. If the Synod Assembly desires to change the method of determining the location for an assembly, the appropriate course of action would be to amend the bylaw, which would require a 2/3 vote.

If the chair rules that the proposed resolution is in order, the Committee recommends:

That Resolution #1 be referred to the Synod Council, for its consideration in determining the time and place for future synod assemblies.

RATIONALE:

Ease of transportation, adequate facilities and economical housing are important considerations in determining the location for a synod assembly, but they are not the only considerations. The Synod Council, in consultation with the assembly planning team and host conference, puts considerable effort into weighing all relevant considerations in determining the location for an assembly. Requiring that all synod assemblies be held at a single location would prevent the Synod Council from being able to balance all of those considerations to best meet the needs of the entire synod. Leaving the decision to the discretion of the synod council also allows flexibility for dealing with unanticipated circumstances, for example, if the needed facilities on the TLU campus were not available on the dates desired. The Committee believes that the existing method for choosing the site for an assembly has generally worked well, and should be retained.

The Committee is sympathetic with the concern expressed in the resolution over the cost to congregations and individuals of attending synod assemblies. It recommends that voting members of this and future assemblies make their views known in their evaluations of the assembly, and to the members of the synod council from their respective conferences.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2
FOR THE 2008 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD, ELCA**

<p><u>A resolution to *</u> Submitted by: *</p>

**Resolution on “Book of Faith Initiative”
Southwestern Texas Synod Council
May 30, 2008**

WHEREAS, the baptized affirm their baptismal promise “to hear the Word of God” and “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed”; and

WHEREAS, all parents and sponsors covenant to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of their children and nurture them in faith and prayer; and

WHEREAS, pastors at their ordination vow to be diligent in their study of the Holy Scriptures; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA has begun a Book of Faith Initiative inviting everyone to join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become part of the initiative; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod become a "Book of Faith" synod, committing ourselves to center ourselves in the Word of God in all our meetings, assemblies and events, so that as we regularly and increasingly hear, read, study, share and are engaged by God's Word, we lead by example in faithful service and holy living, living out our focus on **Forming Faithfulness – in Leaders, with Congregations, among Partners**; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the bishop of our synod—who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church”—in coordination with the synod advocate lead this initiative personally and through collaborative programmatic work with congregations of the synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all voting members of this synod assembly covenant together to begin a regular practice of Bible study and prayer, gathering with others in their congregation and/or community to speak and hear the Word from one another; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we celebrate and continue to support and strengthen those places where Scripture is already taught and engaged, e.g. Lutheran Men in Mission, Cross Trails Ministries, Junior and Senior High Gatherings, the School of Mission, Lutheran Educators Day, Summer Theological Institute, Tri-Synodical Theological Conference, Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest, Texas Lutheran University, campus ministries, congregational councils, Sunday schools and other congregational groups; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage all congregations to become a “Book of Faith” congregation, which will find expression by

- exploring new opportunities for engaging the Bible,
- sending sufficient numbers of members to synod events for training as Bible study leaders,
- including biblical study as an integral part of all meetings and groups,

in order to become more fluent in the first language of faith—the language of Scripture—that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.

WHEREAS ***

Announcements by Bishop Tiemann – Under the Commission for Professional Leadership Report,, the pages entitled “Southwestern Texas Synod Roster Report May 1, 2007 to April 30, 2008” in the section entitled “Necrology” the name of The Rev. Dr. August Wenzel should be added.

INTRODUCTION OF SYNOD STAFF

Bishop Tiemann introduced and thanked the Synod Staff for their work on the assembly.

Bishop Jimenez and Bishop Tiemann then blessed the quilts and quilt makers for the many beautiful handmade quilts that have been on display during the assembly. Bishop Tiemann then presented Bishop Jimenez with gifts from the assembly.

It was reported that at this time, the offering at the assembly totals \$81,954.56.

INTRODUCTION OF ASSEMBLY PLANNING TEAM

Mr. Tom Winn, Chair of the Assembly Planning Team, introduced and thanked the following persons for their work on the assembly:

- Don Bergstrom - Hospitality
- The Rev. Tom and Renee Kesselring
and Thomas Pavlechko – Worship and Music
- Marge Kretschmar – Food and Beverage
- Lois Holck and Barbara Schutz – Support and Care
- Mary Macaulay – Decorations
- David Austin – Publicity
- Jonathan Zitelman – Technology
- Michelle Schrank – Chair of Global Mission Committee – Synod Offering
- Rita Carlson – First Aid Station Coordinator

Bishop Tiemann thanked all the members of the Synod Council, Commission Chairs, and The Rev. Elliott Pancoast (former Assistant to the Bishop) for their service to the synod.

Bishop Tiemann then installed the newly elected vice president, Synod Council members, committee members and commission chairs.

Bishop Tiemann announced that the 2009 Synod Assembly will be held May 16-17 in McAllen, Texas.

Following the Order for Closing of the Assembly, the assembly was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Zander
Synod Secretary