

**TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
of the  
EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD OF THE ELCA  
MINUTES**

**CIVIC CENTER ▪ JAMESTOWN, NORTH DAKOTA ▪ APRIL 17-18, 2010**

**Theme: “TOGETHER IN MISSION.”**

**Saturday, April 17 – 8:30 a.m.**

**OPENING WORSHIP:**

The offering was designated 1/3 to Lutheran Malaria Initiative, 1/3 to Lutheran Disaster Relief, and 1/3 to the Sudanese Worship Community.

**PLENARY ONE**

**OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY:**

The opening of this Assembly was called by Bishop Bill Rindy.

GREETINGS from Clarice Liechty, Jamestown Mayor, who welcomed everyone to Jamestown

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Bishop Rindy introduced the Synod officers: Shar Gumke, Vice President; John Leininger, Secretary; and Dave Molmen, Treasurer. He also introduced our parliamentarian, Ken Dalsted and our special guest – Rev. Gemechis Desta Buba, Director for African National Ministries, ELCA.

GREETINGS from Lacey Bartosh, President of the EaND Synod Lutheran Youth Organization

GREETINGS and report from Joy Vaagene, President of the EaND WELCA

**FIRST CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Terry Anderson, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, gave the first report of the Credentials Committee as follows:

**VOTING MEMBERS:**

Clergy/AiMs . . . . .	91
Lay . . . . .	328
Synodical Officers . . . . .	3
Total voting members. . .	422
Guests and Visitors . .	56
Total Registered . . . . .	478

Bishop Rindy declared a quorum present for our Assembly.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

**SA.10.04.01** Moved by John Pederson, second by Jerry Rosin, to adopt the agenda as amended with 3 additions or corrections: (1) 6:30 p.m. Saturday is the deadline for submission of resolutions; (2) Correction to change the budget to be approved from 2010 to 2011 and (3) Add the secretaries report following the Adoption of the Rules of Procedure. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE:**

**SA.10.04.02** Moved by Mel Erdmann, second by Bob Scheurer to adopt the 2010 Rules of Procedures. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:**

**SA.10.04.03** John Leininger, Secretary to the Synod, presented the certified minutes from the 2009 Synod Assembly and moved for approval as the official minutes of the Assembly, second by John Fick. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### STATE OF THE ELCA:

Rev. Dr. Gemechis Desta Buba - Greetings from Gemechis and from Bishop Hanson. The video from Bishop Hanson was not viewed due to technical difficulties. Gemechis pointed out the fact that ELCA Lutherans are one of the largest church denominations in the world. Our companion Synod, Central African Republic, continues to grow at a rapid pace. We must continue to share the good news of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ with the world.

### STATE OF THE SYNOD ADDRESS:

Bishop Bill Rindy began his remarks by pointing out the disaster that continues to devastate the Devils Lake Region. He mentioned the great work the Synod Endowment Fund is doing in assisting our seminary students to pay school expenditures and our pastors who are working to pay down their previous student loans. Bishop Rindy pointed out the financial challenges we continue to face in our synod. In 1989, the synod budget was \$1.6 million, which was \$500,000 more than our current budget. He emphasized and asked "what will the state of the synod be in 2010-2011?" There is a "God Sized" vision for us as individuals, congregations, synod and ELCA Churchwide. How will we get to where we need to be? How can we shape the vision of our synod? Bill reminded the voting members that this afternoon we will go out into the Jamestown community as "Laborers of the Lord." We must continue to keep our Synod Ministries alive. He pointed out the challenge of "going the extra mile" around the synod as follows: Oak Grove from \$1,000 to \$10,000; Red Willow Bible Camp from \$1,000 to \$10,000; Park River Bible Camp from \$1,000 to \$10,000; Luther Seminary from \$60,000 to \$100,000; Lutheran Campus Ministry from \$123,000 to \$175,000; Native American Ministry from \$6,000 to \$16,000; Dacotah O'Yate Lutheran from \$62,000 to \$80,000; Congregational Grants from \$0 to \$50,000; and Lutheran Disaster Response from \$0 to \$40,000. C.A.R. currently has over 70,000 members in 400 congregations. We need to add a budget item for our companion synod, C.A.R. including additional Village School Support to \$200,000; a Lutheran High School - \$200,000; Immunization and Birth Room at Gallo Clinic - \$150,000; Books and Instructors for Seminary - \$200,000; 32 motorcycles and ambulances - \$64,000; and church roofs - \$200,000. The "Extra Mile" budget would also enhance our churchwide ministries as follows: ELCA Global Missions for Missionary Sponsorships - \$250,000; ELCA World Hunger - additional \$250,000; and ELCA Lutheran Malaria Initiative - \$250,000. EaND Synod has 102,000 members - if each worshiper gave \$6 per month or \$72 a year X the 30,000 worshipers per month it would equal \$2,160,000 - more than enough to accomplish the entire Extra Mile for Mission. What is the state of the synod? Bishop Rindy pointed out that "you, the voting members and our members will decide!"

### SYNOD ENDOWMENT FUND:

Craig and Julie Johnson spoke briefly about the Synod Endowment Fund. We were the first Synod to establish an endowment, which is now 10 years old. Other synods are now following our lead. There is currently \$2.6 million in our Endowment Fund. Last year we supported 27 seminarians. We supported 40-50 pastors by assisting them in paying debt relief AND pension equity payments.

LUNCH: 11:45 a.m.

### PLENARY TWO

#### REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Scott Block, Chairperson of the Synod Nominating Committee, presented the following nominees to serve on the Synod Council:

- Rev. Jerry Rosin - Carrington Conference (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Rev. Allen Campbell - Devils Lake Conference (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- Rev. Corey Fuhrman - Fargo Conference (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- Mr. Mark Drevecky - Grafton Conference (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- Rev. Jon Nelson - Grand Forks Conference (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- Mr. Lee Miller - Jamestown Conference (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Mr. Richard Jacobson - Wahpeton Conference (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- Ms. Charlene Burthold - Multicultural Member to the Synod Council (1<sup>st</sup> term)

The following are the nominees for voting members to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Aug. 14-20:

- Rev. Jessica Merchant - Carrington Conference
- Ms. Paula K. Myhre - Carrington Conference
- Rev. Don Reynolds - Devils Lake Conference
- Ms. Michelle Reynolds - Devils Lake Conference
- Rev. Sonja Kjar - Fargo Conference
- Mr. Aaron Bye - Fargo Conference
- Ms. Natalie Carlson - Fargo Conference
- Rev. Ryan Fischer - Grafton Conference
- Ms. Marlene Arneson - Grafton Conference
- Rev. Chad Brucklacher - Grand Forks Conference
- Mr. Christopher Gjesfjeld - Grand Forks Conference
- Dr. Sharon C. Wilsnack - Grand Forks Conference
- Rev. Chris Hogstad - Jamestown Conference
- Dr. James Buhr - Jamestown Conference

Rev. Erik Heskin - Mayville Conference  
Ms. Merle Freije - Mayville Conference  
Rev. Chris Gaule - Wahpeton Conference  
Mr. Curtis Larson - Wahpeton Conference  
Mr. Robert Turner - Multicultural Representative  
Ms. Prairie Rose Seminole - Multicultural Representative  
Mr. Noel Tade - Multicultural Representative

The following are the nominees for alternate voting members to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Aug. 14-20:

Rev. Jerry Rosin - Carrington Conference  
Ms. Becky Goetz - Carrington Conference  
Rev. Jeff Nicla - Devils Lake Conference  
Ms. Veronica Nicla - Devils Lake Conference  
Rev. Mark Strobel - Fargo Conference  
Mr. Wayne Reitz - Fargo Conference  
Ms. Jean Zimmerman - Fargo Conference  
Rev. Rebecca Miller - Grafton Conference  
Ms. Amanda Schultz - Grafton Conference  
Rev. Tom Colenso - Grand Forks Conference  
Dr. Harold Randall - Grand Forks Conference  
Ms. Karen Retzlaff - Grand Forks Conference  
Rev. Leon Zavadil - Jamestown Conference  
Mr. Dale Hildebrant - Jamestown Conference  
Rev. Denise Parrello - Mayville Conference  
Ms. Vanessa A. Bring - Mayville Conference  
Rev. Roger Reinhart - Wahpeton Conference  
Mr. Richard Jacobson - Wahpeton Conference

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Dave Molmen, Treasurer for the Synod, presented the financial report and the proposed 2011 Mission Plan (budget). Dave also reported that our morning offering was \$5,729.09, which will be equally divided between the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, Sudanese Worship Community and Lutheran Disaster Relief. The financial reports are attached to these minutes.

#### RESOLUTIONS:

Pastor Beth Peterson, member of the Committee of Reference and Council, presented the following resolution for consideration and adoption:

#### **RESOLUTION #1 - TO REMOVE THE SOCIAL STATEMENT "HUMAN SEXUALITY: GIFT AND TRUST"\***

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with ELCA bylaw 12.12.01, adopted a social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" by exactly a two-thirds vote; and  
WHEREAS, the social statement has generated substantial disagreement and debate among faithful members of the ELCA; and  
WHEREAS, members of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America believe that the social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" should be reconsidered and removed [revised]; and  
WHEREAS, "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" expressly provides for reconsideration of a social statement by the Churchwide Assembly following its adoption and its removal or revision; therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, that the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly direct the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council to request the Church Council to request the Churchwide Assembly to reconsider and remove [revise] the social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns."

\* The "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" provides a process for reconsideration of a social statement. This process applies in lieu of the motion to rescind/amend something previously adopted as addressed in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* (10th ed.), section 35. The relevant provision of the ELCA policy on p. 17 states as follows:

Churchwide Assemblies may reconsider previously adopted social statements. Such reconsideration may involve either a revision or removal of the statement. This may be done in two ways:

1. A Churchwide Assembly, by a two-thirds vote, may call for the reconsideration of a social statement at the next assembly. Subsequent to such a vote, the social statement shall be referred to the Church in Society unit for re-study. The proposed change and the reasons for it shall be made available to this church with an official notice of such proposed action to be sent to the synods by the secretary of this church at least three months prior to the Churchwide Assembly at which it will be considered. A two-thirds vote of the assembly shall be required to revise or remove the social statement.

2. The Church Council by a two-thirds vote of its voting members may ask the Churchwide Assembly to reconsider a social statement. Such Church Council action must be taken no later than at the Church Council meeting in the autumn prior to the assembly. The proposed change and the reasons for it shall then be made available to this church with an official notice of such proposed action to be sent to the synods by the secretary of this church at least three months prior to the Churchwide Assembly. A two-thirds vote of the assembly shall be required to reconsider the statement and also to revise or remove it. Both actions may occur at the same assembly.

Submitted by Arlene Lillestol, Duane Lillestol, Jeanette Johnson, James Martinson, Tammy Martinson, Rosamond Hogness, Orvin Hogness, Marlene Hogness, Donald Wehlander, Rev. G.O. Elwood & Elsie Skarpness, Amy J. Erickson, Melinda Mund, Arlin Mund, Ken Quam, Tom Hogness, Wanda Hogness, Ryan Hogness, Harlan Hogness, Sandy Hogness, Raymond Martinson, Karen Krause, Allison Halmrast, Joel Halvorson, Loran Hudson, Mona Hudson, Annette Hudson, Mack Hudson, Trevor Martinson, Vickie Berndt, Helga G. Hogness, Justine Gibbon, Jean Gion, Mary Alice Mund, Daniel Mund, Dawn Mund, Stephen Mund, Paul Mund, congregational president. Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, rural Milnor, ND, Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council, Hillsboro, ND, and Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council, Gackle, ND.

**SA.10.04.04** Motion by Jessica Arneson, second by Dan Forsberg to adopt Resolution #1.

**SA.10.04.05** Motion by Bob Bekkerus, second by Jon Nelson to end debate and vote on motion #SA.10.04.04 (above). **Motion Carried.**

**Motion SA.10.04.04 (Resolution #1) Failed 179 yes, 249 no.**

Joel Kangas, member of the Committee of Reference and Council, presented the following resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION #2 – 2011 COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS GUIDELINES FOR PASTORS AND ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY**

WHEREAS, congregations of the Eastern North Dakota Synod request and appreciate the aid and counsel of their companion congregations in this synod and synod leadership in ascertaining fair, equitable, and adequate compensation and benefits for pastors and professional staff; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern North Dakota Executive Committee has discussed and approved these guidelines and commends them to the 2010 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly and to the congregations of this synod for deliberation and use; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2010 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly adopt and commend to the congregations of this synod these guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this assembly approve the publication and distribution of these "Guidelines" to congregations of this synod through the usual and appropriate means employed by the synod office.

Submitted by the Eastern North Dakota Synod Council.

**SA.10.04.06** Motion by Joel Kangas, second by Nancy Rader to adopt resolution # 2. **Motion Carried.** Guidelines are attached to these minutes.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Rev. Dr. Gemechis Desta Buba led our Bible study based on Jeremiah 6:16. Our church is built on unmovable rock. Our church will stand, it will not die. The church will continue when we stand on the Rock, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The future is open and full of possibilities. The future is forward, move your church forward. We have to go to the mountain with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each of us has this responsibility. The future of the Church is the second coming of Jesus Christ. The Holy Word of our Lord, is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow - it will never change. The promises of our Lord will never change. Many things, countries, resolutions will come and go, but the word of truth in the Bible will never change. Our Church must move forward, we must walk into the future. Rely on our Lord to walk with you as you go and tell others of the Lord's promises in the New Testament. Tell them of the Good News. Who is paying for our future? **JESUS CHRIST.** The **action** of the church is the **life** of the church. Without a mission, there is no church. Focus on the mission of Jesus Christ. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. We, the EaND Synod, are at a crossroads - we either move forward by taking our ministry to the mountain top, or we will continue to struggle with our ministry.

**MISSION BLITZ - Delegates were dispersed to do mission work in and around the Jamestown area.**

TOGETHER IN MISSION CELEBRATION BUFFET: 6:30 pm

MILESTONES IN MINISTRY/MINISTRY CELEBRATIONS:

Terry Brandt, Associate with the Bishop, introduced our new seminarians and their families: Jacob Anderson, Zack Bey, Tessa Hansen Mitzel, and Natasha Woitzel-Kolles.

Pastors and AiM anniversaries:

25 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Olson, AiM	50 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Ray Heidtke
25 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Rich Budd	50 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Nels Lillejord
50 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Dan Faust	55 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Harold Vold
50 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. James Alger		

Congregations celebrating anniversaries:

125 <sup>th</sup>	Milnor Lutheran, Milnor	100 <sup>th</sup>	St. Mark's Lutheran, Grand Forks
	Grandfield Lutheran, rural Sheyenne		St. Paul's Lutheran, Tower City
	Big Pembina Lutheran, Langdon	75 <sup>th</sup>	Faith Lutheran, West Fargo
	Sarnia United Lutheran, Whitman		Zion Lutheran, Harwood
	Nordland Lutheran, Rutland	50 <sup>th</sup>	Messiah Lutheran, Fingal
	Ottawa Lutheran, Aneta	25 <sup>th</sup>	Peace Lutheran, Devils Lake
	Sundahl Lutheran, Aneta		New Congregation New Hope Lutheran, Leonard
	Evanger Lutheran, Grand Forks		
	Eidfjord Lutheran, Hannaford		
	Willow Creek Lutheran, Overly		
	St. Olaf Lutheran, Walum		

**Sunday, April 18, 2010**

**Global Mission Breakfast - Trinity Lutheran, Jamestown**

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

**PLENARY THREE**

Rev. David Eppelsheimer, lifted up the "Book of Faith" , encouraging all of us to adopt the "Book of Faith Initiative" for ourselves and in our congregations. This initiative is a 5-year initiative, meaning special emphasis is placed on Biblical engagement by all members of the ELCA during this time. He encouraged engagement in the "Book of Faith" so that it becomes our most cherished daily reading.

SECOND REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

Don Reynolds, member of the Credentials Committee, gave the second report of the Credentials Committee as follows:

VOTING MEMBERS:

Clergy/AiMs . . . . .	103
Lay . . . . .	347
Synodical Officers . . . . .	<u>3</u>
Total voting members. . .	453
Guests and Visitors . .	<u>60</u>
Total Registered . . . . .	513

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – SHAR GUMKE

What is God calling this Church to be and to do? Our council decided we are going to lead the EaND Synod with the Bible and not with the binder. What if every baptized member in our congregations was a missionary for Christ? What if everyone had the vision and the goal of, “I love to tell the story of Jesus”? What if we all focused on mission and not the care of our church buildings and grounds? What if we all focused on helping others grow in their faith with Jesus Christ? The future of our church is in your hands. There is no magic formula, all you need is hope and faith - "our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus Christ"!

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

Scott Block, member of the Elections Committee, stated that the slate of candidates for positions on the Synod Council and as voting members to the Churchwide Assembly presented to the assembly yesterday will stand as presented, since no additional nominations were received.

**SA.10.04.07** Motion by Jerry Rosin, second by Bob Bekkerus to have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for all nominees.  
**Motion Carried.**

ADOPTION OF THE 2011 MISSION PLAN:

Dave Molmen, Synod Treasurer, reported that our Sunday morning offering was \$6,534.05. This amount is designated to be divided equally between the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, Sudanese Worship Community and Lutheran Disaster Relief. He also reported that the Extra Mile Fund to date is \$8,103.00, which includes motorcycles for C.A.R. at \$333.00.

**SA.10.04.08** Motion by Dave Molmen, second by Megan Hogstad to adopt the 2011 Plan of Mission, asking God's help in accomplishing it, further committing that every member of this assembly should carry it back to their congregation with enthusiasm and conviction of God's big mission for us. **Motion Carried.**

#### RESOLUTIONS:

#### **RESOLUTION #3 - MEMORIAL TO RESCIND ACTIONS ON MINISTRY POLICIES**

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted resolutions on ministry policies that included a commitment to “finding ways for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church” [CA09.05.26] and also included a process of “structured flexibility” that would eliminate the prohibition on rostered service by individuals in such relationships while not imposing such service on any expression of this church [CA09.05.27]; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with and in order to implement the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA Church Council has amended the policy on reinstatement to the roster and has considered amendments to “Visions and Expectations,” “Definition and Guidelines for Discipline,” the “Candidacy Manual,” and other documents; and

WHEREAS, members of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seek the rescission [amendment] of the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on ministry policies and of the actions adopted by the Church Council to implement them and desire the restoration of ministry policies that authorize sexual intimacy for rostered persons only in the context of heterosexual marriage; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as follows:

- (1) To rescind actions CA09.05.26 and CA09.05.27 of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; and
- (2) To direct the appropriate churchwide units and offices to prepare, the Committee on Appeals to make, and the ELCA Church Council to approve and adopt, appropriate amendments to the policy documents, which were revised in response to those prior actions, in order to re-establish the prohibition of rostered service by non-celibate homosexual persons and to restore the requirement for rostered persons that sexual intimacy take place only in the context of heterosexual marriage.

Submitted by Arlene Lillestol, Duane Lillestol, Jeanette Johnson, James Martinson, Tammy Martinson, Rosamond Hogness, Orvin Hogness, Marlene Hogness, Donald Wehlander, Rev. G.O. Elwood & Elsie Skarpness, Amy J. Erickson, Melinda Mund, Arlin Mund, Ken Quam, Tom Hogness, Wanda Hogness, Ryan Hogness, Harlan Hogness, Sandy Hogness, Raymond Martinson, Karen Krause, Allison Halmrast, Joel Halvorson, Loran Hudson, Mona Hudson, Annette Hudson, Mack Hudson, Trevor Martinson, Vickie Berndt, Helga G. Hogness, Justine Gibbon, Jean Gion, Mary Alice Mund, Daniel Mund, Dawn Mund, Stephen Mund, Paul Mund, congregational president. Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, rural Milnor, ND; Bethany Lutheran Church, Hatton, ND; St. John Lutheran Church, Hatton, ND; Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council, Gackle, ND; Zion Lutheran Church Council, Harwood; Pastor Russell Christiansen, First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND; Pastor David Killeen, Trinity Lutheran, Lisbon, ND.

**SA.10.04.09** Motion by Denise Parello, second by Terry Monson to amend resolution #3, by striking the word heterosexual where it appears in resolution 3. **Motion Failed**

**SA.10.04.10** Motion by Ken Iverson, second by Rollie Blixt to adopt resolution number 3. **Motion Failed**  
Division of the house found yes - 190; no - 213

#### **RESOLUTION #4 – REGARDING RATIFICATION BY INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATIONS**

WHEREAS, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly considers statements, resolutions, and policies that have a major impact on congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, these statements, resolutions, and policies are adopted by duly elected, voting members who are a small cross section of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, in the past, independent groups have sought to influence voting members at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to vote in ways favorable to their causes; and

WHEREAS, individuals and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may have differing convictions on social statements, resolutions, and policies that are adopted by the voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and

WHEREAS, congregations of the Eastern North Dakota Synod, along with congregations in many synods of the ELCA, have a strong desire to participate in the shaping of this church by having the opportunity to either ratify or reject major decisions, (similar to the system used by the Presbyterian Church, USA); and

WHEREAS, amending the current ELCA Constitution to adopt such a comprehensive change would be cumbersome, if not impossible, and unavailable for consideration until the 2013 Churchwide Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is currently engaged in a comprehensive study exploring and reevaluating our life together in mission as a church body (Living Into The Future Together, “LIFT” task force, [www.LIFTELCA.org](http://www.LIFTELCA.org)); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA LIFT task force will be making recommendations regarding the way in which major decisions are made in this church to the Conference of Bishops, the ELCA Church Council, and the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly for possible action; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA LIFT task force be urged to consider recommending the implementation of a congregational ratification process whereby all statements, resolutions, and policy changes passed by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly that define matters of doctrine and the teachings of this church must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the member congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council's Executive Committee for referral to the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) Task Force in accordance with the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

Submitted by Melvin A. Stark, member of United Lutheran Church, Cavalier, ND and Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council, Hillsboro.

**SA.10.04.11** Motion by Melvin Stark, second by Bob Caranicas to adopt resolution #4. **Motion Failed.**

#### **RESOLUTION #5 – ESTABLISHING A THEME FOR THE 2011 EaND SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS, the Eastern North Dakota (EaND) Synod of the ELCA has gathered together at this 2010 assembly under the theme, "God's Work. Our Hands. Together in Mission"; and

WHEREAS, Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 35, 40 read: brothers and sisters, 35 "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." 40 "And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me'"; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA's constitution states the church shall serve in response to God's love to meet the human needs of those in our world who are hungry and thirsty and in need of dignity and justice; and

WHEREAS, the number of hungry people in the world, during the past two years, has grown from 840 million to slightly over one billion; and

WHEREAS, the current yearly giving for our Eastern North Dakota (EaND) Synod, as of year-end 2009 is \$2.21/baptized member; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that each congregation in the Eastern North Dakota Synod, the heart of the Bread Basket of the World, challenge their membership to raise their annual Giving to the world hunger program of the ELCA, meeting or exceeding the current giving level of \$2.21/baptized member; and be it further

RESOLVED, this 2010 Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly expand the mission emphasis of this assembly by challenging us to come together at our 2011 Synod Assembly under the theme, "God's Work. Our Hands. Meeting the Needs of a Hungry World."

Submitted by Rev. Elwood N. Rieke on behalf of the Eastern North Dakota Synod Hunger and Justice Committee

**SA.10.04.12** Motion by Carl Cooper, second by Megan Hogstad to adopt resolution #5. **Motion Carried.**

#### **RESOLUTION #6 – 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO EaND SYNOD**

WHEREAS, 25 years ago she began working for the Synod with a mission for equipping leaders for Ministry; and

WHEREAS, for those 25 years she has worked faithfully, tirelessly, and "resourcefully" to further our knowledge, understanding, and creativity; and

WHEREAS, she loves the Lord and desires strong leaders for the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, she has the determination of a detective to find just the right thing for each request; and

WHEREAS, she is our human "google" .... with much more personalized and caring service; and

WHEREAS, she has blessed us with her ministry; and

WHEREAS, she has served with purpose, care, and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, as Director of the Eastern North Dakota Synod Resource Center, she has built a magnificent Resource Center that is recognized all over the ELCA, and beyond, as the model Resource Center; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that September 14, 2010 be declared **Julie Aageson Day** in the Synod to celebrate and thank her for 25 years of faithful, creative, "resourceful" ministry and her continued commitment to acquiring and maintaining resources which improve our understanding of God, self and world; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we begin showing our appreciation today with a round of applause.

**SA.10.04.13** The resolution was unanimously approved by our Assembly Delegates. **Motion Carried.**

#### CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Bishop Rindy led the closing of the Assembly with prayer and song followed by official adjournment of the 2009 EaND Synod Assembly.