

**EASTERN WASHINGTON-IDAHO SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
MINUTES OF THE 2018 ASSEMBLY
APRIL 27-29, 2018
YAKIMA CONVENTION CENTER, YAKIMA, WASHINGTON**

Friday April 27, 2018

Bishop Kristen Kuempel officially opened the Assembly following the Gathering Eucharist Service.

BUSINESS SESSION #1

Saturday April 28, 2018

Matters of the Day: Dave Hellerich, Local Assembly Chair, welcomed everyone, made announcements, and went over the schedule. The entire assembly was photographed wearing beautiful blue EWAID T-shirts. We need 10 cluster PLU delegates, please communicate with Patty Cowen of the Nominations Committee.

Bishop Kuempel called the business session to order at 8:50 a.m. Mike Ingram the parliamentarian was introduced.

Bishop Kuempel introduced the Synod Officers:

Tami McHugh, Treasurer

Gary Gemar, Vice President

Lisa Therrell, filling in for Paula Kenney, Secretary

Bishop Kuempel introduced and recognized the work of Cathy Steiner, Synod Administrative Assistant, Julia Bennet, Assembly Manager and the Synod Assembly Planning Committee.

Paul Aebischer from Region 9 and Portico announced an upcoming Pre-retirement Seminar June 21, 2018 in Kennewick. Spaces are still available. A video was presented.

The rules of the assembly were presented. A motion was made and seconded to follow the rules of the assembly. Motion carries.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The ELCA Churchwide Report was presented by Rev. Ron Gluskamp. We have the intentionality to say “Y’all come,” but we don’t always have the implementation plan. He encouraged us to “Inform, Inspire and Invite” in our ministries. Delivering gratitude for the three expressions of the church. Delivering thanks for the \$267,000 contributed from our congregations for ELCA mission support. \$114,000 for ELCA World Hunger. 90% of ELCA congregations have a hunger ministry. \$130,000 for Lutheran Disaster Response from our synod. Seven domestic hunger grants were funded in our synod

for \$17,500. There are five Fund for Leader recipients in our synod. Mission Investment Fund has \$16 million in loans to this synod. Beth Adams, Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation, is an important resource for us. A video was presented. We are making a difference. Women and Justice Social Statement is open for public comment until September 30, 2018. 31,583 youth have registered for the Youth Gathering in Houston on June 27 – July 1, 2018. Global Farm Challenge will match \$515,000 with youth contributions. Campaign for the ELCA has received \$175.5 million. \$145 million in gifts and commitments with another \$30.5 million in planned gifts. This year's theme is Leadership. The \$15 million goal for Fund for Leaders, has now gone up to \$20 million. A video was shown with Bishop Eaton speaking to the Lutheran take on grace.

Credentials Report

Diana Abken, Registrar, presented a Credential Report/Quorum Ruling

Total voting members: 226

Voting Clergy: 72 - 31.9%

Voting Lay: 154 - 68.1%

Voting Lay Male: 67 - 43.5%

Voting Lay Female: 87 - 56.5%

A quorum is present.

Budget Report presented by Pastor Mike Sagan. The budget will fund a fulltime bishop assistant and DEM, new website, thus enabling a deeper connection with one another. We are accomplishing this by changing our ELCA mission support from 33% to 25% for the next three years, with the support of the ELCA, because we are church together. We still maintain our status as a First Fruits Synod. We will return to 33% or more in next five years. This will enable us to get boots on the ground to do more ministry together. Questions taken. What was the process taken by Synod Council to arrive at a budget? Bishop answered. Executive Council brought the proposed budget to Synod Council. Concern for relationship with churchwide expression. We tend to think of the synod or churchwide as "them" but our church organization is Trinitarian. All our money is a gift from God. We are a First Fruits synod, we give 10% or more right off the top to our churchwide partners. We pass that on knowing we will be stronger for it. Once we paid our commitment to payroll and ELCA churchwide, there was nothing left over for our mission partners such as campus ministry. Last year we heard the synod feels disconnected from one another and the synod office has not been responsive. But with only the Bishop, it is hard to meet all the needs. The goal is to realign the synod to create connections. We need to lift up what it is to be the People of God. Having an assistant to the Bishop will help and a fulltime DEM (funded by ELCA) and additional part-time office support will help manage this workload. One hundred extra hours of ministry will happen every week to help us catch up with undone work and other priorities. This is a transfusion to get healthy again.

Resolution 1 – Compensation Guidelines for Word and Service Roster.

Rev. Kimmy Meinecke, Co-chair of Reference and Counsel, introduced Resolution 1. The resolution came out of the Reference and Counsel Committee, and therefore does not need a motion, but does need a second. Motion was seconded. Discussion followed in favor of the resolution. Motion carries.

Resolution 2 - To Appoint a Chaplain for our EWA-ID Synod Assemblies.

Resolution has come from the Reference and Counsel Committee. Resolution was seconded. Discussion followed both for and against the resolution. Evan Sperline spoke with a point of order. Abide by assembly rules of identifying yourself and your home church when you speak. Also, don't debate the intent of the document, all that matters is what is on the document. James Aalgaard, made a motion for an amendment, to insert "volunteer" before "chaplain" in the first whereas line 20, in order to address financial constraints. Motion was seconded. Amendment to resolution passed. Dwayne Anderson, of Deer Park, proposed an amendment at end of first resolved, that the synod continue to have a staffed prayer room. This amendment did not receive a second because the language is already included in the last resolve of the resolution. Mike Sager called the question, it was seconded, the assembly voted to end debate. Vote taken and resolution passed as amended.

BUSINESS SESSION #2

Bishop introduced Cluster Deans and the Synod Council.

ELCA Mission Advancement presentation from Victoria Flood, ELCA Director of Mission Support. All of us strengthen each other to transform the world around us. She is looking forward to meeting us and learning more about our ministries. We are all part of the same body. There is not a magic line that causes suffering relative to the reduced mission support our synod has planned for the next few years. Rather we suffer when we are disconnected. We are Church, We are Lutheran, We are Church for the sake of the world. How can the EWAID synod find a deeper connectedness with our congregations, our communities, and the churchwide expression? This investment in each other will result in clearer understanding of who we are. God leads and guides us. The other 64 synods will have to help make up deficit—our brothers and sisters are supporting us. Here to say thank you for the ways we make a difference in this world.

Credentials Report

Diana Abken, Registrar, presented a Credential Report/Quorum Ruling

Total voting members: 227

Voting Clergy: 73 – 32%

Voting Lay: 154 - 68%

Voting Lay Male: 67 - 43.5%

Voting Lay Female: 87 - 56.5%

A quorum is present.

Memorial 1 - Concerning Thrivent Financial (as updated.)

A memorial is sent forward to churchwide assembly. Memorial received a second. Discussion followed both for and against the memorial.

A motion was made to amend line 32 in the 3rd resolve section to replace "Progressive charitable organizations" with "certain charitable organizations." Motion seconded.

Motion to amend Line 32, say “how choice dollars are limited” and to eliminate the section that says “from certain charitable organizations.” Second made. John Guthridge, point of order, that the amendment is on the floor. Dwayne Anderson, Deer Park, point of order, the motion should have been an amendment to the amendment.

The amendment passed. Lines 28-31 now reads as follows:

“**RESOLVED:** that regional bishops, pastors, and congregations and especially Thrivent Members contact the Thrivent Financial regional vice presidents/general agents, the Regional Member Networks and local agents to express their concerns about how Choice Dollars are limited; and be it further”

A motion was made to amend the memorial by dropping the last resolved lines 33-35 with a period after the word “limited.” Motion seconded. Evan Sperline, called the question. Voted to close debate. Voted on the amendment. Amendment carries.

Memorial now ends with a period behind the word limited on Line 30. The remaining verbiage is no longer part of the memorial.

Matt Swanson, Central Spokane, called the question. Second. Voted to close debate. Memorial approved by the showing of green voting cards. Asked for Division of the House. 153 in favor and 49 opposed. Memorial passes.

Elections Synod Council

Representative Cluster F: Felicity Pittman, Central Lutheran, Yakima, WA elected by acclamation.

Representative Cluster I: Carma Jo Kenyon, Emanuel Lutheran, Ritzville, WA elected by acclamation.

Representative Cluster K: John Jameson, Fairfield Community Church, Fairfield, WA elected by acclamation.

BUSINESS SESSION #3

Announcements: We pray for Mike Scheid who is having difficulty with stem cell treatment, and for the family and friends of James Comb, author, who passed away yesterday.

Credentials Report

Diana Abken, Registrar, presented a Credential Report/Quorum Ruling

Total voting members: 226

Voting Clergy: 72 – 31.9%

Voting Lay: 154 – 68.1%

Voting Lay Male: 67 - 43.5%

Voting Lay Female: 87 - 56.5%

A quorum is present.

Elections Synod Council, continued

At large Lay Female: 208 ballots counted. 1 write-in for Holly Gunby at .5% of the vote. Ella Gordon with 44 votes at 21.1%, and Terri Lindemann 163 78.3%. Terri Lindemann is elected to the position.

At large Clergy: 212 votes cast, Barbara Harrison Condon with 71 votes at 33.5%, Matt Larson with 141 votes at 66.5%. Matt Larson is elected to the position.

John Rosenberg, PLU Director of Congregational Engagement. Brings greetings. Presidential search is underway. Summer theological conference is returning this year June 11-13. Director of Congregational Engagement is budgeted next year as a fulltime position.

Resolution 3 – Synod Assembly Task Force

Presented by Rev. Kimmy Meinecke. The resolution has come from Reference and Council Committee. Resolution seconded. Discussion took place both in favor and against the resolution.

A motion was made to amend the final “be it resolved” to drop the specific dollar amount of \$300. No second. Evan Sperline, Holy Trinity, Ephrata requested that the amendment be restated. The amendment was seconded. Discussion took place both in favor and against the amendment. The vote was taken on the amendment. The amendment failed.

Discussion of the resolution continued both in favor and against the resolution. The vote was called. Moved and seconded to extend discussion. Motion failed. Vote 134 in favor, and 89 opposed. The resolution passed.

Elections for Churchwide Voting Members

Voting took place by written ballot.

Person of color or language other than English: 202 votes counted.

Juvi Masumbuko 96 votes for 47.5%,
Norfilia Tijerina 103 votes for 51%.
Norfilia Tijerina was elected to the position.

Youth / young adult – First Vote: 207 votes counted, 4 votes were invalid. 105 needed to elect.

Ryan Lawrence 101 votes for 48.8%.
Gwen McQuaig 102 votes for 49.3%.
No Election. The vote was retaken.

Youth / young adult - Second Vote: 210 votes counted, all were valid. 106 votes needed to win.

Ryan Lawrence 99 votes at 47.1%.
Gwen McQuaig 111 votes at 52.9%.
Gwen McQuaig was elected to the position.

Clergy position 1 - First Vote: 212 votes counted, 107 votes needed to elect. No election. Ginny Kreckling falls from the ballot.

Ginny Kreckling 21 votes at 1%
Matthew Erickson 74 votes at 35%
Carolyn Hellerich 23 votes at 11%
Barbara Harrison Condon 46 votes at 21.7%
James Aalgaard 48 votes at 22.6%

Clergy Position 1 - Second Vote: 209 votes counted. 106 to elect. No election. Carolyn Hellerich falls from the ballot.

Matthew Erickson 85 votes at 40.6%
Carolyn Hellerich 15 votes at 7.2%
Barbara Harrison Condon 53 votes at 24.5%
James Aalgaard 56 votes at 26.8%

Lay Female – First Vote: 201 votes counted. 102 to elect. No election. Tamara Evers falls from the ballot.

Rosanna Cartwright 67 votes at 33.3%
Patty Cowen 90 votes at 44.8%
Tamara Evers 13 votes at 6.5%
Ella Gordon 31 votes at 15.4%

Elections for Discipline Committee

Voted with cards from the floor. Both Rev. Bob Edwards and Rev. Holly Gunby were both elected by acclamation.

Introduced Campus Pastors

Arianna Arends EWU, Nick Nicholai WSU, Karla Neumann Smiley U of I

Bishop's Report – Bishop Kristen Kuempel

Her report is on pages 34 – 36 of the assembly packet. The Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) position is being filled. This is a significant way that the ELCA gives back to the synod by covering the salary for this position. The first round of applicants were very gifted, but not the right fit. The bishop is currently reaching out to a second slate of candidates. She is hoping to conclude interviews by the end of May. Assistant to the Bishop position is partially funded by temporary realignment of ELCA mission support, and partly by not extending Net-Worker positions and eliminating the part-time Communications Director position. Net-Worker positions were only compensated for 10 hours per week, but were working 20-30 hours per week. We were blessed by the work of the Net-Workers. Working the call process is taking lots of time. Making significant progress on filling pastoral positions. The bishop reports she is doing great. The role of bishop is a wonderful gift. Her greatest fear is disappointing the assembly. She loves this work. The synod has been very welcoming.

Approval of Budget

Page 29. Budget comes from the Synod Council. Called for discussion. Several questions were asked. The question was called. The budget was passed.

Vice President's Report – Gary Gemar

Thanks for passing budget. The Way Forward was designed as an adaptive change, as is the new budget passed by this assembly. With the reorganization of the synod office staff Gary is looking forward to better connectedness between the congregations, synod and churchwide. Vibrant ministry at All Saints Lutheran resulted in the church needing back the space used as the EWAID Synod Office. The new synod office is at the Paulsen House, which is the location of the Episcopal Diocese. The Synod Council approved the new office location and costs for remodeling which took place, in order to move in March 1, 2018. Phone issues are being addressed. The Paulsen House is a historic building built in early the 1900s with concrete walls and wood floors. Gary shared a slide show of the new office.

Resolution 5 – Constitution Amendment regarding Treasurer

Resolution has come from the Synod Council. The resolution was seconded. Mike Sager explained the rationale. Appointing makes sure that someone has the qualifications needed. Greg Steeber, Faith Lutheran, Leavenworth made a motion to amend last line to read “The treasurer may either be a lay person or a rostered minister” in order to reflect that ministers of Word and Service may also serve in addition to ministers of Word and Sacrament. No discussion. Amendment passed. Motion to close discussion, second, motion carried. Resolution was approved.

Resolution 4 – Updating Our Language

Rev. Kimmy Meinecke introduced a revised version of the resolution (see attached language at the end of these minutes.) A motion was made to adopt the revised resolution. The motion was seconded. Discussion took place both in favor and against the resolution.

A motion was made to amend the resolution to delete language “recognize and celebrate both rosters” in the “therefore be it resolved” paragraph and insert “Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Minister of Word and Service.” Seconded. No discussion to amendment, amendment carried.

Intern Seth Rumage, St. Peter Lutheran, Spokane asked to see the words to the resolution on screen. Once that happens, he calls the question. Suggested words, “be encouraged to.” John Lohrmann, Reference and Counsel, came forward with a point of order.

John Lohrmann, Christ Lutheran, Walla Walla made a motion to table the resolution until next year, since there are issues undetermined now on the language that will be used for ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service as joint rosters that will be resolved by ELCA this year. Seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Resolution 6 – St Paul Lutheran, Ontario, Oregon joining the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod

A motion was made to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. Discussion took place in favor of the resolution. Betty Kraft, Spokane, asked for clarification that references to St. Paul specifically say St. Paul, Ontario, Oregon on lines 11 and 17 so as not to confuse with other St. Paul

churches in the synod. Point of order to make language changes as an amendment. Betty Kraft, Spokane made a motion to add Ontario, Oregon to lines 11 and 17. Seconded. No further discussion. Amendment passed. No further discussion. Resolution approved.

BUSINESS SESSION #4

SUNDAY APRIL 29, 2018

Credentials Report

Diana Abken, Registrar, presented a Credential Report/Quorum Ruling

Total voting members: 226

Voting Clergy: 72 – 31.9%

Voting Lay: 154 – 68.1%

Voting Lay Male: 67 - 43.5%

Voting Lay Female: 87 - 56.5%

A quorum is present.

Elections for Churchwide Voting Members, continued

Clergy Position 1 - Third Vote – 200 votes counted. 101 to elect. No election. Barbara Harrison Condon falls from the ballot.

Matthew Erickson 94 votes at 47%

Barbara Harrison Condon 45 votes at 22.5%

James Aalgaard 61 votes at 30.5%

Clergy Position 1 - Fourth Vote – 189 votes counted. 96 to elect. Matthew Erickson was elected as clergy representative to the churchwide assembly.

James Aalgaard 78 votes at 41.3%

Matthew Erickson 111 votes at 58.7%

Lay Female – Second Vote. 187 votes counted. 95 needed to elect. No election. Ella Gordon falls from the ballot.

Ella Gordon 31 votes 16.6%

Patty Cowen 90 votes at 48.1%

Rosanna Cartwright 66 votes at 35.3%

Lay Female - Third Vote. 190 votes counted. 96 Needed to elect. Patty Cowen elected to Lay Female.

Rosanna Cartwright 80 votes at 42.1%

Patty Cowen 110 votes at 57.9%

Clergy Position 2 - First Vote – 209 votes counted. 97 needed to elect. No election. Ginny Kreckling falls from the ballot.

Ginny Kreckling 17 votes at 8.9%

Carolyn Hellerich 19 votes at 8.9%

Barbara Harrison Condon 61 votes at 31.8%
James Aalgaard 95 votes at 49.5%

Clergy Position 2 - Second Vote – 191 votes counted. 97 needed to elect. Rev. James Aalgaard elected.

Carolyn Hellerich 18 votes at 9.4%
Barbara Harrison Condon 60 votes at 31.4%
James Aalgaard 113 votes at 59.2%

Lay Male– First Vote 192 votes counted. 97 needed to elect. 1 invalid vote. No election. Dave Schneider falls from the ballot.

Dave Hellerich – 93 votes at 48.4%
Dave Schneider – 47 votes at 24.5%
Greg Steeber – 52 votes at 27.1%

Lay Male– Second Vote 191 votes, 97 needed to elect. Dave Hellerich was elected to Lay Male.

Dave Hellerich – 113 votes at 59.2%
Greg Steeber – 78 votes at 40.8%

Kent Schaufelberger announced the completion of Estate Planning of the Heart. Three modules are available for congregations to check out from the synod office.

Casey Cross spoke as coordinator for the Houston Youth Gathering. The theme is “This Changes Everything” and the scripture is “For it is by grace you have been saved through faith...” Youth gathering is a life changing event. Over 30,000 youth are registered.

Leslie Mason, spoke as president of EWAID WELCA. Scholarships awarded for sending 10 girls to Middle School in Tanzania. WELCA also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to help a woman from our synod with continuing education in ministry.

Holden Village is now receiving guests.

Adam Sperline spoke on behalf of PLTS/CLU. The university is looking for a synod representative for the board. The seminary is now on Center Street in the heart of downtown Berkley. Working to reduce student debt. Developing online learning options.

Luther Seminary (St. Paul) greetings delivered from Ladd Bjerneby. Excited about Jubilee Scholarship, in response to clergy debt. Starting this Fall ALL students will receive a full tuition scholarship. 45% on students are online, meaning campus will reduce its size.

Jay Carroll given plaque for 6 years of service on Synod Council. He has volunteered to serve as synod attorney.

Global Mission Team Report. Deacon Heidi Cryer, Lord of Life Lutheran, Kennewick and Ethan Bergman, First Lutheran, Ellensburg spoke on behalf of the Global Mission Team. The Dining Hall project at Tumaini School is complete. Electricity going in now. German partners have donated a computer room. Furniture is going in. Domestic hunger grants have been given out, including several given out in our synod. Applications are due in June. \$2500 - \$3000 grants take advantage of existing community assets. Two points of emphasis. 40 days of giving during Lent. October 16 is World Food Day. This is an opportunity to increase local giving to foodbanks.

Synod Shorts were shared.

At 9:20 AM business was concluded at Synod Assembly 2018.

Attachment:

**Eastern Washington- Idaho Assembly 2018
Resolution 4
Updating our Language (Revised 4-28-2018 by author)**

WHEREAS our churchwide constitution was updated in 2016 to reflect a change in language, using “ministers of Word and Sacrament” and “ministers of Word and Service;” and

WHEREAS ministers of Word and Sacrament are often called ordained ministers, clergy, or pastors, and

WHEREAS ministers of Word and Service have been called associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses, and are now called deacons, and

WHEREAS within this church we tend to use the word “clergy” and/or “pastor” for the collective whole, which doesn't recognize our ministers of Word and Service, formerly known as lay roster,

WHEREAS this Synod supports, encourages, and commissions people from both the ordained and lay roster to ministry,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that persons throughout the Eastern Washington – Idaho Synod recognize and celebrate both rosters by referring to “rostered ministers” instead of the aforementioned titles in conversation and business when referring to the collective whole.

Submitted by:

Rev. Kirsten Sauey-Hofmann, Pastor, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Kennewick, WA