Thursday, June 9, 2016

PLENARY SESSION I

OPENING OF ASSEMBLY, GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS, OPENING REMARKS

Following a 1:00 p.m. welcome and orientation session for first time attendees led by Synod Council Vice-President Ted Miller and Synod Attorney Josh Tatum, the Synod Assembly began in Convention Hall A/B at 2:00 p.m. with the Liturgy for Opening of Assembly led by Bishop William Gafkjen, ending with prayer, and Bishop Gafkjen declaring the assembly open in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The musicians leading the assembly’s worship were the ELCA Glocal Musicians. Bishop Gafkjen noted, “it is great to be here.”

He stated that he wanted the assembly to consider two questions: How is the Spirit filling us and where is the Spirit sending us. He noted ‘us’ in the question. He stated that he hoped “you will note new answers to these questions and think of it in the plural.” He emphasized ‘us’ together experiencing new abundant life. He challenged the assembly to think about their home mission centers. The assembly will have an opportunity to share answers to those two questions Saturday morning. There will be a time of voice to share. This is a time to reflect. How is the Spirit filling us and where is Spirit sending us? We are God’s. We would like to take the opportunity to have several speak.

Bishop Gafkjen then introduced the following individuals for floor waves: Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, Secretary of the ELCA; Rev. Matthew Riegel, Bishop of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod – our companion synod; Rev. Suzanne Dillahunt, Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod; Rev. Don Kreiss, Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod; Rev. Abraham Allende, Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod; Rev. Marcus Lohrmann, Bishop of the Northwestern Ohio Synod who has served 18 years as bishop and will be retiring soon; Rev. Vicky Garber, who serves on the ELCA church council; Marilyn Smith, ELCA Region 6 Coordinator for Missional Leadership; Chris Burnette, ELCA Gift Planner; Melissa Curtis Powell from Trinity Lutheran Seminary; Dave Dalton and Dan Lammers from Portico Benefits; Curt Fee from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund; and Josh Tatum, Parliamentarian and our synod attorney. Keynote presenters will be introduced later, as they speak. ELCA Glocal Musicians will introduce themselves later.

PRELIMINARY CREDENTIALS REPORT

At 2:20 p.m. Bishop Gafkjen invited to the podium Synod Assembly Planning Committee member Meghan Smith for a preliminary report of registration for the 29th Annual Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly. Registrants as of 2:00 p.m. included 200 registered voting members of which 142 were lay voting members and 58 were clergy voting members. She indicated to Bishop Gafkjen that the early registration reflected a quorum. Bishop Gafkjen declared that we are officially convened as assembly.
ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Secretary Judy Bush presented the proposed agenda (Attachment A), including proposed Rules of Assembly on pages 5 and 6, as recommended for adoption by the Synod Council. Copies of the proposed agenda were available on the website and in the bulletin of reports. There being no discussion, it was

VOTED: SA/2016/1: that the Synod Assembly agenda recommended by the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council in SC/2016/18 be adopted.

Bishop Gafkjen announced that there were parliamentary procedure charts on the tables for reference and should remain on the tables throughout the assembly.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Secretary Bush announced that the Synod Council had appointed the following 2016 Synod Assembly Committees:

Conduct of Elections is composed of Liz Michael, Meghan Smith and volunteers.
Minutes Committee is composed of Mike Anderson, Bernie Augenstein, Clyde Knigga, Sue Miller, Laura Richcreek, Pr. Randy Schroeder, Nancy Walter, and Judy Bush, ex officio.
Reference and Counsel Committee is composed of Pastor Tim Knauff, chair; Pr. Jessica King; Mike Anderson; Marilyn Saum; Josh Tatum, Parliamentarian; and Pr. Rudy Mueller, staff liaison.
Nominating Committee is composed of Rev. Steve Schwier (North Central Conference), Melissa Raley Kratzer (South Central Conference), Rev. Will Peugeot (Lafayette Conference), Dorothy Nevils (Northwest Indiana Conference), Janet Manning (East Central Indiana Conference), Tom Barker (Indianapolis Conference), Rev. Tim Kramer (Evansville Conference), and Bob Young (East Kentucky Conference) with Rev. Rudy Mueller as liaison with the synod office.
Registration is conducted by Meghan Smith and volunteers.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION I

Bishop Gafkjen noted that for the first time ever we have leaders from our two companion global synods with us today. He invited Rev. Dr. Willem Simarmata, Ephorus of the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) and Rev. Bimen Limbong, Christ Lutheran, Jeffersontown, KY, to the dais. Pastor Limbong will translate or assist with the presentation as needed.
Prior to the presentation, Bishop Don Kreiss of the Southeast Michigan Synod led the assembly in prayer from a floor microphone.
Rev. Dr. Willem Simarmata greeted everyone with “Good Afternoon and allow me to have Bimen here to help as I may need.” He stated he will use “ecumenical” English which is understood by all. He noted that he and Bishop Gafkjen have similar names and have close communication since he visited us. He expressed sincere appreciation for the relationship. He shared about the HKBP vision, mission, ministries. He noted that our main vision is that HKBP is a blessing to the world with three strategies through transformation, reconciliation and empowerment. We are throughout the world. Their emphases are global mission, go to the next level, from recipient to giver, caring for others, respect for others. They have five congregations in the United States and congregations throughout the world. “Go to the next level” means our Christianity should move to facing more problems in the world.
“From recipient to giver” means to help victims of earthquake, typhoons, bombing of a hospital, etc. as a sign of unity as Jesus is for others. “Caring for others and respect for others” is especially true as we are a very pluralistic country in Indonesia. We want to move to bigger quality as Christian to help globally all over the world. It is a sign of union with others. We respect others as brothers and sisters.

HKBP was established October 7, 1861, by German missionaries. Currently, there are a total of 3,519 churches with 5.5 million baptized members in the whole country and abroad (they have congregations in the USA, Singapore, Malaysia, and New Zealand). The congregations are mostly Batak ethnic and very progressive. He noted that sitting here in the assembly there are no youth; he asserted that youth are needed. They have a total of 1,772 ordained pastors – 1391 male, 381 female; 92 vicars and 38 ordained teacher-preachers; they are trained in their own seminaries. More and more are coming to be trained.

He continued. Our daily problem now is related to environmental problems, such as floods and typhoons. We are committed to saving the earth. They start every service with planting of the tree. They have a forest ministry and when Bishop Bill came they planted a tree. Every year they will plant one million trees for the conservation of the earth. They have emphasized different ministries in recent years: Children’s year 2013, Youth’s year 2014, Women’s year 2015, and Family year 2016. They did something for the children in 2013. We have 164 schools. CoYa is the name of a new school built as memorial to children who were killed. He showed pictures when Bishop Bill was there with 15,000 children. He asks children to join him when signing a plaque for a new building. Year of Youth was 2014. Teaching youth to respect others of different religions was an emphasis. God has made different cultures. The Church respects different cultures. They organized the soccer tournaments. Women’s year was 2015. Violence against women and children is coming up more and more. They have an organization of women, encouraging women empowerment in the government. Family Year is 2016. If the family is strong, the state and children are strong. They engage in ecumenical activities. They hosted assemblies with government and other religions. They have hosted the partnership consultation and would love to host a partnership with the ELCA. They strive to be useful to others. They are celebrating 500 years of being Lutheran, singing in Batak and German; they are making unity of the church happen. They make themselves useful to others. They are explaining what it means to be Lutheran. They are one with Lutherans, Islamists, Buddhists, Hindus. They have schools for those who have disabilities where they need more help with the students; they do it to help the people because the government does not; the disabled children need two people to help one child. They built a House of Happiness for the elderly. They have a shoe project for street children; they are trained to make shoes which takes those children out of criminal activities. Who will take care of street children except the church? They train the blind people to play musical instruments. They advocate for those who have no advocate. They have organic paddy for rice and coffee. Church is selling coffee to help poor children reflecting 3 c’s—church, children, coffee. They are helping others with cows and pigs; having two cows is enough for one family for biogas which provides energy. A pair of pigs can reproduce to help people, empowering them. They have an AIDS ministry. More and more the victims of AIDS are coming in our places. They had a Christmas celebration in prison school. He spoke about going to prison and visiting an individual who was scheduled to be executed. They built an eight-story school for children. Center for Disaster Risk Management is another project because they have experienced disasters.

Bishop Gafkjen presented him with a gift from the synod. He presented Bishop Gafkjen, Ted Miller, and Pastor Bimen Limbong with stoles with the ELCA symbol on one side and HKBP symbol on the
other. He also presented Bishop Gafkjen a traditional string instrument. Bishop Gafkjen expressed gratitude for Ephorus Willem Simarmata and his delegation with us and the witness of the Gospel that he is sharing. He also remembers warmly the 15,000 children who greeted him with a dance in an amazing outdoor service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTION PROCESS FOR THE OFFICE OF BISHOP OF THE I-K SYNOD

Bishop Gafkjen invited Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, Secretary of the ELCA, to the dais to take over as presider for the bishop election process. He stated that he was grateful that you are here and welcome your partnership.

Rev. Boerger said that it was an honor to be here. As a representative of presiding Bishop Eaton, he will do a report tomorrow. But now he stated we have a most important thing to do – one of the most important things an assembly can do. Similar to calling a pastor, you are calling a pastor to the synod – someone who proclaims the gospel, prays with you and one who will be with you. The bishop serves as a pastor, a leader, and can inspire those in the synod to be people of God. Also, the bishop is the CEO, leader, one who grieves with us, rejoices when we rejoice, leads the mission territory, and represents the synod. The bishop is pastor, leader, servant, CEO, and at times prophetic, speaks the Word of the Lord. To be bishop one must be on the roster of the ELCA, active or retired. He announced that everyone will receive a ballot to write the name of one’s choice. On first ballot it will require receiving 75 percent of legal ballots to be elected. Any nominee who wishes to withdraw will have until 10 p.m. tonight to do so. The results of the first ballot will be announced this evening. He asked if there are any questions. There were none. While he waited for the credentials report, he spoke about the Called Forward Together in Christ process. He urged individuals to take part in the process. There are no bad ideas. He announced that responses from the Called Forward Together in Christ discussions should be sent to future@elca.org.

An ELCA World Hunger video was shown.

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SYNOD

Since the credentials report was not ready, Secretary Boerger invited Vice-President Ted Miller to the dais for his report. Vice-President Miller referred to his written report that was available to all assembly members prior to the opening. He mainly wanted to say ‘thank you’ to the Synod Council. He noted lightheartedly that this was a different version of a TED talk, meaning not quite ready. He expressed that it is a real privilege to serve and a privilege to serve with other vice presidents across the church. The vice presidents meet together in Chicago every year; Miller stated that it is a real joy as we gather and worship and share. The vice-presidents in the region get together; there are five other synods in region 6. The primary work of the vice-president is to chair the Synod Council.

The Council has twenty-six members and he said he would like to introduce them. He asked the Synod Council members to stand as he introduced them. There are four officers – the bishop, Judy Bush as secretary who is completing her fifth year as secretary and served on the Council as lay representative from the Lafayette Conference, and treasurer Sue Miller who has served four years. Eight are completing their first year: youth representative Noah Smith, lay rostered leader E. Louise Williams, Rev. Karen Strietelmeier, Rev. Dana Lockhart, Clyde Knigga from the Southeast Indiana Conference, Laura Richcreek from the Northeast Conference, Rebecca Jane Daum from the East Central Indiana Conference, and Mike Anderson from the Lafayette Conference. Five are completing their
second year of service: Rev. Jessica King, Rev. Randy Schroeder, Rev. Amy Beitschees-Albers, Amy Kruse from the South Central Conference, and Bernie Augenstein from the Indianapolis Conference. Completing three years of service on the Synod Council are young adult representative Danielle Nuss who is completing her term on the council, Pattiann Meeks from the North Central Conference and Nancy Walter from the Northwest Indiana Conference. Both conferences that Pattiann and Nancy represent will be served by a male lay member so they are completing their service on the council. Completing her fourth year is Liz Gaskins who is serving in an at large multicultural position. Completing her fifth year is Marilyn Saum from the Evansville Conference. Four are completing six years on the council – Rev. Jerry Mielke, Rev. Pamela Thiede, Rev. Charles Strietelmeier, and Paul Trickel from the East Kentucky Conference. Paul serves on the executive committee and is the chair of the Finance Committee. Rev. Vicki Garber is the ELCA Church Council representative from our synod. Lois Doerge meets with the Synod Council as president of the Indiana-Kentucky Women of the ELCA. He expressed thanks to all. He thanked God for the opportunity to serve, he expressed thanks to his church family, his support system at his home congregation of Gloria Dei, Crestview Hills, Kentucky, and his personal family for their support. This year the assembly didn’t occur on his anniversary which was unusual. He can really feel the spirit working through him when he is here in the assembly.

CREDENTIALS REPORT FIRST BALLOT FOR OFFICE OF BISHOP OF THE INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD

Meghan Smith from the credentials committee came to the dais. She reported that as of 3:00 p.m. there were 236 lay voting members and 127 clergy voting members for a total of 363 voting members.

Secretary Boerger announced those who were not voting members were to move to the perimeter of the room during voting. He asked them to please be surrounding this process in quiet prayer. Ballots were distributed to voting members. He explained that each should write the name of a pastor on the ballot and asked individuals not to fold the ballot. He asked for a period of silence and to wait until prayer before the ecclesiastical ballot.

When every voting member had a ballot, Bishop Marcus Lohrmann of the Northwestern Ohio Synod offered prayer from a floor microphone. Individuals voted and ballots were collected.

NOMINATIONS REPORT

Secretary Bush first noted that there are three lay positions that are open on the Synod Council. Lay Synod Council members represent their conferences so the conference nominates the individual for the position and there are no nominations from the floor in accordance with the synod constitution. The term is for three years and an individual may serve two consecutive terms. After a six-year period the conference is represented by the opposite gender; i.e., if the conference was represented by a lay male for six years, it would be represented by a lay female for six years. The three open positions are lay female from the East Kentucky Conference and two lay male positions, one from the North Central Conference and one from the Northwest Indiana Conference. She asked the nominees to please stand as their names were called. The nominations of the following three individuals by their respective conferences to serve three-year terms as lay members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council were as follows:

East Kentucky Conference – Linda Wray
North Central Conference – John Huchko and
Pursuant to S10.07.03. no further nominations were permitted from the floor, and the Bishop declared the three individuals elected by acclamation and it, therefore, was

**VOTED: SA/2016/2:** that Linda Wray, John Huchko, and Donald MacMillan be declared elected to three-year terms as lay members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council.

On behalf of the Synod Assembly Nominating Committee, Pastor Rudy Mueller, Assistant to the Bishop, reported. The Nominating Committee has several positions for which it has responsibility for obtaining nominees. The deadline for nominations was May 2. There were three Synod Council at-large clergy positions which can be filled by either a male or female and were three year terms. There was one Synod Council at-large position to be filled by a young adult who is between 18 and 30 at the time of election; it is a three-year term and can be filled by either a male or female. There were two positions on the Consultation Committee; one is to be filled by a male clergy and one by a female lay person. There is one opening on the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky Corporation board for either a male or female clergy and it is a three-year position.

Individuals nominated for the three Synod Council clergy positions are Rev. Joshua Burkholder, Rev. Brian Derrer, Rev. Teri Ditslear, Rev. Dr. David Doane, Rev. Rebecca Grate, and Rev. Michael Vinson. There was one nominee for Synod Council young adult member, Matthew Allen Pope. There were two nominees for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries clergy position: Rev. Benjamin Sloss and Rev. Curtis Black. There were no nominees for the two Consultation Committee positions.

For all of the positions for which the Nominating Committee is responsible additional nominations may be made from the floor pursuant to S9.03. There were no additional nominations for any of the positions from the floor. There being no additional nominations, Bishop Gafkjen declared the nominations for Synod Council Clergy, Synod Council Young Adult, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries board closed. The Synod Council will appoint individuals to the two positions on the Consultation Committee.

There being no other nominations for Synod Council Young Adult, Bishop Gafkjen declared Matthew Allen Pope elected; therefore, the Synod Assembly by acclamation

**VOTED: SA/2016/3:** that Matthew Allen Pope be declared elected to a three-year term on the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council.

The election for the open positions will occur on Friday.

**MISSION UPDATE: REPORT OF BISHOP WILLIAM O. GAFKJEN**

“I-K Synod”, Bishop Gafkjen began, “I want to begin by thanking your staff.” There are two new staff members; Chris Brunette, began April 1. He also has a table in the Mission Fest. Chris is the Regional Gift Planner and is also working with the Southern Ohio Synod. He is available to help congregations; please welcome Chris into your communities. Welcome Leslie French who is our new part-time communicator who does the synod newsletter and weekly news updates. There are four program staff – Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Rudy Mueller, Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Heather Apel, Director of Evangelical Mission Rev. Nancy Nyland, and Rev. Jerry O’Neal who is stewardship director. April Lynch is administrative assistant for the bishop and the office coordinator. Sylvia Ore is now administrative assistant for Rev. Rudy Mueller and Rev. Heather Apel. Carol Ann Webb is administrative support for Nancy Nyland and Marilyn Smith. Synod offices will be renovated by reducing synod office space and reorganizing the assignments. They are the best synod staff. Also, he stated that he wanted
to thank the assembly since we ended the year with income beyond budget. We all need to share in ministry of the gospel. Thank you for the partnership. Mission support is about mission and ministry. We also exceeded our goal for the malaria campaign by a contribution of $256,097.51 which amounted to $8.54 per member. The whole church exceeded the $15 million goal. He thanked Rev. Paul Meier, chair of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Malaria Campaign.

He reported on the RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Task Force. He noted that one may recall that it was initiated at last year’s synod assembly. There is a written report in the Bulletin of Reports. He read the resolution from last year. The task force agreed to compile a body of scriptures to help congregations, conferences, and individuals to use for their study of hospitality. The task force is committed to next steps of continuing to explore what the designation of being a RIC synod means, inviting congregations to engage in conversation about hospitality, constructing a survey for congregations to evaluate our current understanding and actions with regard to hospitality and neighbor of our contexts, and supporting those congregations and their conversations by providing Bible studies on the themes of hospitality, educational material about gender identity and sexual orientation, and lists of additional resources and groups to engage in their conversations. We are prepared to lead the way to a confused world. He is deeply encouraged by those conversations which many times we have not had them in our families and congregations. For those who have engaged in those conversations, he said thank you and encouraged others to do the same.

Reformation 500 in 2017 – he continued that he just wanted to highlight some things that are coming down the way. Plans are underway in Indianapolis for an event with the focus on ‘Isn’t the Gospel good news and how do we share it’. Saturday, October 29, there will be a Synod wide gathering of youth throughout the Synod at Christ the Savior in Fishers.

How important young people are. He had time to go to Lutherwald for the opening of camping season, it is the commissioning of the season. They were gracious in welcoming him. He is overwhelmingly grateful to God for the spirit of young people.

He has begun working with the archdiocese for a combined worship service. From Conflict to Communion is a guide for such interactions. Also, we have a small group to look at two important documents – The Hope of Eternal Life and Declaration on the Way which describe areas of agreement. We need to celebrate that.

Something that he has been working on for three years is that we have a Lutheran House of Study at Christian Theological Seminary. It will be for current practitioners, those who are considering seminary work, and for lay leaders. Christ the Savior Lutheran Church at Fishers is also working on the project. In the fall we will be doing some fundraising to have a chair for the Lutheran House of Study. He introduced Rev. Rob Saler who is the Executive Director for the Center for Pastoral Excellence and Research Professor of Lutheran Studies at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

Isaiah 43:19 – he continues to be set free, inspired, and convicted by that passage. Also Isaiah 43:20-22 are passages that he has been contemplating. God is using us to sing God’s praise. He gives thanks to God for you. We see God’s promises being fulfilled here among us. Thank you for being you. Thanks be to God.

Bishop Gafkjen made the following announcements:
- Thanks to Thrivent for sponsoring the refreshments during registration;
- Visit Mission Fest outside plenary hall;
- Doors will open for dinner at 6:00 p.m., here in this room;
- Please take all your materials with you;
• Resolutions with 50 or more signatures are due to the dais in front of room at 4:30 p.m.;
• If you have dietary restrictions, you will need another card for servers; and
• Please exit the room quickly so the staff can prepare for dinner.

MADE NEW FOR MISSION BANQUET: Celebrating Leaders and Ministries of the Past, Present and Future

At 6:00 p.m. the Synod Assembly gathered for the Made New for Mission Banquet in Convention Hall A/B. Bishop Gafkjen called the meeting to order and asked Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt of the Southern Ohio Synod to lead the group in prayer. After the meal, Bishop Gafkjen announced that dessert will be after worship. He noted that we would be recognizing the many ways we celebrate mission and ministry.

At 6:45 p.m. Bishop Gafkjen asked Secretary Boerger and Liz Michael to the dais to report the results of the first ballot for the Office of Bishop.

With 363 votes cast of which 360 were legal votes and 3 illegal votes, 270 or 75 percent of the number cast were needed for election.

The following received one vote each: Pastors Jane Aicher, Steve Albertin, James Bishoff, Vicky Blough, Mike Brown, Brian Derrer, Marcus Felde, Jim Kuchera, Jared Lee, Paul Meier, Rudy Mueller, Emlyn Ott, Bill Powlens, Barbara Rosing, Dared Schriber, Brian Spahr, Charles Strietelmeier, Pamela Thiede, Michael Vinson, Ron Voss, Dennis Wenzell, Roger Willer, Edward Young, and Jeff Zoll. 24

Eleven pastors received two votes each: Pastors Matthew Converse, Mike Crawford, David Doane, Tim Fleace, Richard Hartman, Mark Havel, Libby Manning, Lyle McKee, Steven Schwier, Dan Strobel, and James Stuck. 22

Pastor Heather Apel 3
Pastor Tim Kramer 3
Pastor Ann Marshall 3
Pastor Tim Knauff 4
Pastor Vicki Garber 5
Pastor Nancy Nyland 6
Pastor William Gafkjen 290

Total legal votes 360

Having received 80.56 percent of votes cast, Secretary Chris Boerger declared Pastor William Gafkjen elected bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. The Synod Assembly

VOTED: SA/2016/4: that Pastor William O. Gafkjen be declared re-elected to a six-year term as Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop.

Bishop Gafkjen expressed the following, “Thanks for your kindness, support, partnership, and affirmation. I did not have strong sense of call six years ago, but for you to say we want to continue walking together is humbling.” He called his wife Janet to the dais. He continued, “The role of spouse in a large geographic territory like ours is intense. There is no way I could fully embrace this call without Janet embracing me. We have two children – Kiera is home taking care of the dogs. Nathan is working in communications with the ELCA. Thank you for partnership, confidence to see where the Spirit takes us over the next six years. Thank you.”
Bishop Gafkjen invited those celebrating twenty-five and fifty years since ordination up to the dais to the chairs on the stage. Each honoree stood as Bishop Gafkjen spoke about the individual. Those recognized for twenty-five years of faithful service were Pastors Charlene Cox, Debra Meuter, Andrew Rutrough, and Christine Schrey; Pastor Carole Poole also was celebrating twenty-five years since ordination but was not present. Those recognized for fifty years of faithful service were Pastors Lowell Anderson, Alan Lorentzen, Daniel Nugent, Ted Stoneberg, and James Swanson; Pastors Keith Munneke, Herbert Schlotterbeck, and Gene Templar also were celebrating fifty years since ordination but were not present. Rev. Clark Hobby was recognizing the 50th anniversary of Lutheran ordination but had been ordained in another tradition a few years before; his 50th anniversary was celebrated at his request in 2014. Bishop Gafkjen expressed gratitude for their ministries. He noted that those celebrating 50 years since ordination were ordained in 1966. In discussing the twenty-five year honorees, he noted that four of the five were women. A group photo was taken of the honorees and each was presented a certificate.

Bishop Gafkjen invited Chaplain Glen Palmer to the dais to say a few words about his ministry. He is chaplain at Camp Atterbury. Luke 1:79 is a guiding scripture for him as an army chaplain. He has been an active duty army chaplain for fourteen years. He has knocked on twelve doors with the worst news possible. He is honored to be chaplain of all, regardless of race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. The chaplain stands for ethics and morality. It is ministry in the best sense. They are millennial, mosaic, all nationalities, all ethnicities. He doesn’t take care of committees but responds to service. We are doing what Jesus called us to do. He has to serve them where they are. He is proud to serve and be endorsed by the ELCA, only seven percent of Army chaplains are Lutheran. We have a theology that allows us to serve all; he is there to serve and not judge them. He knows whose he is and he serves his Lord Jesus Christ in war-torn places. He is a major who prefers to be called Chaplain. They will have prayer books for the armed services.

Bishop Gafkjen read the names of those celebrating more than fifty years since ordination. Those celebrating fifty-five years of faithful service were Rev. John Seibert and Rev. John Moe, Jr.; Rev. Thomas BeMiller was celebrating sixty years since ordination and Rev. Armin Reitz was celebrating seventy years since ordination. None were present.

Bishop Gafkjen invited any members present from congregations celebrating significant milestones to come stand in front of the dais. He read church names and handed out certificates. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hartford City, Indiana, is celebrating 150 years of service. Also, celebrating 150 years was Emanuel Lutheran Church in Lawrenceburg or Greendale, Indiana. Griffith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Griffith, Indiana, is celebrating seventy-five years. He also mentioned that predecessor church, Zion Lutheran of Covington (Park Hills), Kentucky, of Gloria Dei, Crestview Hills, Kentucky, would have been celebrating 100 years. He thanked them for their service. He remembered the shared activities in the congregations, generation after generation. Thanks for your faithful stewardship.

Bishop Gafkjen introduced those new to roster and first-call candidates in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. Those listed were Rev. Ronnie Belanga, First English Lutheran Church, Richmond, Indiana; Eric Hanson, first-call candidate from Wartburg Theological Seminary, (Carina Schiltz and Eric are married); Lake Lambert, Diaconal Minister, President, Hanover College, Hanover, Indiana; Rev. Tim Leitzke, Trinity Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, Indiana; Rev. Todd Lotridge, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, South Bend, Indiana, (and give thanks to Pr. Todd and the church for assembling the registration packet of materials);
Rev. Roberta Meyer, Grace and Peace Lutheran Church, Evansville, Indiana, who was first a diaconal minister; Carina Schiltz, first-call candidate from Wartburg Theological Seminary; Marissa Tweed, first-call candidate from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and was just called to Logansport and Camden; Rev. Michael Vinson, Campus Pastor, Purdue Lutheran Ministry, West Lafayette, Indiana; Rev. James Winjum, retired, Versailles, Indiana; and Jody Winter, candidate for commissioning from the Lutheran Deaconess Association who has a call vote this Sunday. He thanked all those new to the synod for coming to join us.

He asked nominees who are on a ballot for general elections to stand. He asked individuals to note their turquoise ribbons on their name tags. They will be available for conversation during the reception after worship.

After announcements the Bishop closed the banquet with gathering worship to begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Discovery Ballroom. He announced that Pre-worship music will begin at 7:45 in the Discovery Ballroom, which is on this main level; following worship, a dessert reception will be held in the Atrium of the DoubleTree – all are invited to reception; the DoubleTree is across the street from the Century Center and can be accessed via a sky bridge or by crossing Saint Joseph Street; and Plenary Session begins at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning, right back here in Convention Hall A/B.

GATHERING EUCHARIST

With gathering music beginning at 7:45 p.m., a worship service including Holy Communion was held in the Discovery Ballroom, Century Center, South Bend, Indiana, with presiding minister and preacher Bishop William O. Gafkjen and assisting minister Leigh Hayden. Music preceding the service and throughout the service was led by Choir Director Karen Russell. The Indiana-Kentucky Synod Worship Ministry Team, Pastor David Russell, and many members of the North Central Conference assisted with the worship service. Crucifer was Kevin Trimboli, and Torch Bearers were Karlee Russell and Emily Thorenton. Cantor was Douglas Mmari; lectors were Bishop Izani Bruch, who read Isaiah 61:1-3 in Spanish, and Ephorus Willem Simarmata, who read Ephesians 5:15-18 in Batak. The Gospel reading was Luke 4: 14–21 (The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry). Bishop Gafkjen brought greetings in the name of Jesus from Lake Luther, where he recently participated in the commissions of the camping season. They sent ‘Woo Hoo’ greetings and he asked the assembly permission to extend greetings to Christ the King Lutheran Church in South Bend, Indiana, where he would be preaching on Sunday.

Bishop Gafkjen’s sermon was taken from the passage in Luke where Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah in his home town of Nazareth at the beginning of his ministry. Jesus was preaching on the year of Jubilee. Every fiftieth year everything was getting a reset; freedom will be celebrated, prisoners will be set free, it was an opportunity to start over. It gave a hard reset for families during the Year of Jubilee. They were reunited with their homes; their food was provided from what nature gave them. The Year of Jubilee never happened in terms of the complete freedom yet hope was kept alive. There were relationships that kept hope alive. Then Jesus appeared. He returned from the wilderness. In the synagogue on the Sabbath he was handed the scroll and read from the prophet Isaiah. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” He told them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Bishop Gafkjen continued, God sent me to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. Was it any wonder that eyes fixed on him? Jesus says this scripture is fulfilled. ‘Today the promises have been
fulfilled because God has anointed me.’ Jesus returned from Jordan and was led by the Spirit to the wilderness where he was tempted to make his own way. Jesus went filled with the Holy Spirit. He doesn't go alone and neither do we. We go to proclaim the Good News marked with the cross of Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit forever. God has sent us to proclaim these promises have been fulfilled for all to experience Jubilee around the table of bread and wine. On the cross Jesus said ‘Father, my spirit I commend to you’, and we have that spirit. We are anointed, spirit filled, and spirit sent. What would it mean for us to be spirit filled and spirit sent?

Communion assistants included visiting bishops and those celebrating fifty or twenty-five years of rostered ministry, conference deans, and others serving in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. The offering supported Freed to Lead, which provides grants and educational opportunities to assist Indiana-Kentucky Synod rostered leaders in finances and stewardship, and was $3,363.63. Ushers and the Altar Guild were members of the congregations of the North Central Conference. Tom Umbaugh donated the use of the organ. Linda Henke designed the bulletin cover. Directors of the liturgy were Tom White, Tom Dearchs, Linda Henke, and Rev. Rudy Mueller.

After worship a dessert reception was held in the Atrium of the DoubleTree.

Friday, June 10, 2016

PLENARY SESSION II

The session opened with prayer, devotions and music led by the ELCA Glocal Musicians. Bishop Gafkjen asked, “Where is the Spirit filling us? Where is the Spirit sending us?” He noted that he is glad the assembly showed up again.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Bishop Gafkjen invited the Reverend Izani Bruch, Bishop of Iglesia Evangelica Luterana en Chile (IELCH), and her translator to the dais. Bishop Gafkjen gave thanks for the work of Bishop Izani and the strong and resilient church she is leading in Chile. He welcomed her and said he is honored to call her his sister.

Before she spoke Bishop Abraham Allende from the Northeastern Ohio Synod offered prayer from the floor.

Speaking in Spanish with the help of her translator, the keynote address follows. Thank you and peace be with you. I also want to thank the church in Chile for allowing me to be with you. I wish to learn with you, how you live here and how you live out your faith and how you may collaborate with a very small church in Chile. They asked me to speak about how God is working in the church in Chile. Speaking of the Holy Spirit is not something common for us. In Chile we speak of the Holy Spirit is the same as speaking in tongues, yells and shouts and dancing; and I ask myself, where is the Holy Spirit working in our church? The Holy Spirit is not even one percent and it is not clear to us in big events. Our mission always seems to be against the current in a church so small. It seems like a lone singular voice in the desert. Nevertheless, there is hope and motivation. Knowing the Holy Spirit is free and goes where it goes, small and big. It is transforming, reconciling and changing the church in all of its voices. It is manifested especially in the people of Israel and in Jesus and his followers. The Spirit of God in the water is the Spirit of God that opens doors, puts in action, is in movement to the wide open spaces in this life. The Spirit of God in the Old Testament is one of movement, storms, and wind. Life
was strength and creation. In this context the Spirit of God is seen and from here I will present the Spirit of God in the church in Chile.

It began in 1863. It came with the German immigration in the south of Chile. It was a transplant church. God spoke through immigrant groups. The church up until that point was the German church. In 1959 it became the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile and became Lutheran. It is a gift from Indiana-Kentucky Synod to Bishop Bruch to be in relationship. In 1960 the church began to open up to Chilean society. There are 10 congregations in the Lutheran Church in Chile. Even though it is a very small church, we have a very important social significance, especially in the role played in the political overthrow of the dictatorships. The church has six main objectives: the participation of lay leaders, a democratic organizational system with gender equality, justice in general, a prophetic voice but also a voice of hope, and promoting service to your neighbor with many projects. We are a small church with 10 small churches starting from Santiago. So in 1999 to 2001 the church was defined as a missionary church and has a missionary base. Although we are small, we feel we are part of the larger church around the world. When we speak about the church in Chile, we speak from the larger church around the world.

From 1960 the church has been part of the community with a kindergarten school. We have kindergarten in Lutheran schools. So why is the church involved with kindergarten, we think that the church is one of the ways to work on inequality in Chile and do so by providing quality education to children. That is the reason we work very hard in the schools. The church relates the differences by quality education which is raised in Chile and is seen in our media center and after-school center where we have musical programs.

The church also works strongly with women, even though they have not been overcome in the past. A woman a week is murdered through domestic violence and it worries us. That is due to the condition of Chile’s economy and we have much poverty – people who have no hope. We address the violence against women. Outside of the church, for women there is much violence. We address women and children needs. We also have workshops with recreation. The presence of God in the church gives space for transformation. When they are in the church, they can say no to violence.

The church in Santiago is in a fishing area and has arts and crafts. And works with the local fishermen to help the economy. And it is a sign of hope. So they bake bread in the bakery and it is known as the church in the community. Another picture of a kindergarten was shown. Right now it was a shelter for women and is very symbolic of kindergarten. This community with the kindergarten is one of biggest movements for homeless and for women who experience violence. It is a grassroots movement. People are able to work and then go home. The church continues to work with this community.

One of the things the church does is address violence in the streets. They are calling to stop the violence. We work within the network and we are grateful for all the churches who work with us from the ELCA. We see God through acting in our church addressing violence against women. God is guiding our church and the hope is that it will be a church with more people who is transformig and helping our little church that is helpful, loving, and inclusive with diversity. The spirit of God is flowing through the church. The mission is a church that is for everyone and for eternity and building a life better for them. It is a dream that one day we can be one church again. The spirit works in the church through our ministries. They passed a resolution that they are working on mission throughout the world and to be a missionary ministry. We are becoming stronger with new members and a community of faithful
workers. With the coming of new immigrants to our country from Peru, Columbia, Venezuela, and Bolivia our immigrants challenge us to be a church that accompanies, listens, and takes up the challenge to have a ministry that helps and moves to be outgoing. Whoever is the traveler and who has needs, we strongly feel the Spirit of God that moves to be the prophetic voice lifting up the voice of the church in Chile. From a small church that today is challenged to give answers we strive to be a church of purpose. We feel that God is with us and makes possible that men and women in the community know they have a purpose in God’s kingdom. It is a time that demands creative imagination in our community, and the church is a voice of hope. We need the greater power of God. We have faith in the redeeming power of God. Many try to compare to the concept of death to the aspect of dreams and hope and feel the presence of God in their small church. It is a renewing of our Christian faith by the permanent loving of God. We affirm that God continues to act in faith today. It continues to be a time when God’s salvation works in our actions. In every member of the church and in our congregation the Spirit of God is working; that is a reason for their faith and is a testimony of the grace and love of god. The Spirit of God is also in the church, in the brotherhood, that we are church, in each of us. The Spirit that moves us is the same as in the United States. Thank you and the Spirit of God continues to help us.

Bishop Izani Bruch gave Bishop Gafkjen an embroidery piece that shows the power of the Spirit of God because of the women who gather to embroidery as a face of resistance and are inspired to keep alive. It was a symbol of the Holy Spirit and always it flows through life for you.

Bishop Bill gave her a handmade version of Isaiah 43 where God says “I am about to do a new thing. Do you not see it?” He noted that we see it in you. He thanked her for her strong witness. Additionally, she will be doing a breakout session this afternoon.

INTRODUCE VOTING DEVICES

At 9:14 a.m. Bishop Gafkjen provided instruction in using the voting devices. He noted that one needed to press firmly on the choice one was making and to look for a small green light when pressing the button. The group engaged in a practice session answering sample questions. He announced that if one had problems to please take the device to the information booth.

TREASURER’S REPORT AND MISSION PLAN (BUDGET) PRESENTATION

At 9:22 a.m. treasurer Sue Miller and Finance Committee Chair Paul Trickel were invited to the dais for the treasurer’s report and the Mission Plan (Budget) presentation. Synod Treasurer Sue Miller noted that this was her fourth and final year as treasurer. She outlined the presentation which would be an overview of synod accounts, a review of the fiscal year which ended January 31, 2016, a discussion of additional activities and resources, and the budget proposal for fiscal year 2017-2018 which will be presented by Finance Committee chair Paul Trickel. She discussed the temporarily restricted funds, which are for a specific purpose and may be considered as ‘pass through’ funds. The endowment funds consist of permanently restricted assets and non-permanently restricted gifts and bequests. Council designated funds are funds and assets received that are expended at the discretion of the Synod Council and some are placed in Council Designated for ‘temporary parking’. Operations are funds which are commonly referred to as the budget; they specify all current activity.

She discussed operations activity for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Sources of income included $1,767,000 for mission support, $185,000 of temporarily restricted, $100,000 in Churchwide grants, $294,000 in other contributions and $550,000 in gifts in kind. The total revenue was $2.758 million with
sixty-four percent of the total being mission support ($1.767 million). Ministry expenditures included thirty-three percent or $919,000 to mission support, eleven percent or $308,000 for ministry support, thirteen percent or $360,000 for outreach/development, five percent for campus ministry, eight percent for churchwide ministries, eleven percent for administration, nine percent for program ministry, six percent for synodical ministries, and four percent for assembly. Actually, mission support exceeded budgeted amount by $66,000 and will be able to rebuild some of the reserves. The operations annual bottom line comparison of fiscal year for 2015-16 to previous years reveals the healthiest bottom line in the last twelve years. Mission Support for 2015-16 was slightly greater than for 2014-15 fiscal year but less than previous years. Six conferences have increased mission support in fiscal year 2015-16 compared to fiscal year 2014-15; three conferences decreased mission support and one remained the same. There were 44.4 percent of the congregations that increased mission support, 35.4 percent decreased mission support and 20.1 percent maintained level giving. The increase in giving amounted to $55,522. Endowment funds stand at $3.855 million as of January 31, 2016 and maintain the historic gift value of $1.5 million.

Every year the synod is audited by an independent, outside firm. The audit provides additional assurance that the synod’s financial statements represent a true and accurate reflection of the financial condition of the synod, as well as provides an opportunity for recommendations for improvement. The audit firm provided an unqualified opinion, which means they have no reservations about the integrity of the financial statements, and noted no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. The audit for fiscal year 2015-16 was done by auditors Capin Crouse, LLP.

Operations for fiscal year 2015-16 reflected most reductions that were carried forward from previous years. The budget continues to be a bare bones budget and again relies on one time funds to balance.

Treasurer Miller stated where resources regarding synod finances may be found, in the Bulletin of Reports, on the I-K website, and by request to the treasurer.

She thanked her husband for his support, the finance committee, Bishop Gafkjen and the Indiana-Kentucky Synod staff. Members of the Finance Committee are Paul Trickel (chair), Marty Mielke, Chris Walda, Marilyn Saum, and Sue Miller. She noted that she is an introvert and has been pushed outside of her comfort level as treasurer. She stated that it has been a privilege to serve and thanked the assembly for that opportunity.

Paul Trickel, chair of the Finance Committee began by stating that he was going to summarize key points related to the proposed 2017-18 budget. In his approach to the budget he has always wanted to bring a mission and vision perspective applied to work on the budget. He stated that the full budget is available through the Indiana-Kentucky Synod’s assembly web page, and that if you have not already reviewed it, he invited individuals to do so prior to the vote on the budget Saturday. He thanked Bishop Izani for her statement that the spirit moves quietly and opens doors wherever the spirit needs to be. God is filling the Indiana-Kentucky Mission Territory with the Spirit which can be seen through growth in mission support and steadier council designated funds for balancing the budget. For thriving ministries, we need the finances. He noted that his presentation would include a review of Mission Support, an overview of council designated funds which are funds Synod Council can allocate as needed, a discussion of the funding of Synodical Ministries, a summary of the mission support we share with churchwide, a discussion of the things being done within the synod to address the future of our ministries, and a concluding brief summary followed by questions from the floor.
He asked, “What would you do with 1.7 million dollars? What would you do with God’s abundance?” Mission Support has been at $1.7 million for fiscal year 2013-14 and fiscal year 2014-15 and is on target to be $1.7 million for fiscal year 2016-17. For fiscal year 2015-16 mission support was $1.76 million. For fiscal year 2017-18 mission support is at $1.75 million in the proposed budget. He asked, “how should we steward God’s abundance?” That’s the question we face as we plan for the future of ministries in and outside of the Indiana-Kentucky Mission Territory.

During the three previously completed years, the current fiscal year and for the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year, we have used council designated funds to balance the budget. We have done so knowing that this is not sustainable, and by the end of the 2016 – 17 fiscal year we will have exhausted most of the council designated funds. And during the 2017 – 18 fiscal year we will dip into the council designated endowment principal for the first time. The endowment principal can actually generate earnings depending on how our endowment performs. Thus, these funds can increase and have increased over time. Once the endowment principal is exhausted there will be no additional council designated funds unless funds are received and designated for council use.

Overall, our costs have not fluctuated much between fiscal year 2012 – 13 through fiscal year 2016 – 17. These costs represent the cost incurred by the synod after subtracting shared mission support, which is what we forward to churchwide for national and international ministries. The amount for fiscal year 2015-16 was $1.62 million. And some of our shared mission support is returned in the form of grants and other funding of synodical ministries. The proposed budget amount for those ‘local’ ministries is $1.68 million.

As he began to talk about Shared Mission support, he noted that it is important to mention that we do not develop our budget within a vacuum. We do this in consultation with churchwide, especially if we anticipate reducing shared mission support. During his tenure as Finance Committee Chair he has taken great pride in sharing our level of shared mission support anywhere or anytime he could bend an ear to the topic. However, as we developed the budget for fiscal year 2016 -17, we recognized the need to keep more mission support within our mission territory. Thus, we consulted with churchwide. The reduction in shared mission support is heart wrenching, but if we don’t do this, we would need to cut important synodical ministries. Thus, in consultation with churchwide the proposed budget included a nine percent cut in shared mission support for fiscal year 2016-17. The shared mission support has been fifty-two percent in fiscal years 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16. It is budgeted at forty-three percent in fiscal year 2016-17 and proposed at forty-three percent for fiscal year 2017-18. The reduction in dollar amount would be from $918,701 in fiscal year 2015-16 to a projected $752,500 in fiscal year 2017-18.

In closing, for the 2017-18 fiscal year we are projecting 1.75 million dollars in mission support. We are maintaining the reduced shared mission support at forty-three percent. The total budget is $2.4 million and there is a reduced dependence on council designated funds. Synod staff, council and the finance committee continue to explore ways to support our missional vitality while assuring our financial sustainability and staying Spirit Filled and Spirit Sent.

The session was opened for questions. Pastor Tim Kraemer from Jasper asked, will we return to increased amount of mission support? The answer included comments about the portion supplementing depending on the endowment which depends on performance the last three years; the bulk from endowment is designated for new starts and candidacy. Bishop Gafkjen noted that he is working with churchwide to determine amount of shared mission support over three years. We always want to grow in generosity.
Bishop Gafkjen thanked both treasurer Sue Miller and Finance Chair Paul Trickel for their work and dedication.

ELCA CHURCHWIDE GREETINGS

At 9:48 a.m. Bishop Gafkjen invited Rev. Vicki Garber, pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Crestview Hills, KY, and a member of the ELCA Church Council, to pray from a floor microphone before Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger spoke. She brought greetings from our brothers and sisters in the churchwide office, especially from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

After Pastor Vicki’s prayer, Secretary of the ELCA Rev. Chris Boerger began his presentation by taking a panoramic picture. He gave the assembly his contact information. His presentation follows.

We are unique in the US among other denominations. We are three expressions – congregations, synods, churchwide organization. When he puts his offering in the offering plate he is giving to all three expressions. The three expressions are interdependent partners of which we are a member of all three.

Bishop Eaton has established four emphases: we are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together, we are church for the sake of the world. A message from presiding Bishop Eaton was played. One of her favorite Biblical stories is of Mary Magdalene coming to the tomb after Jesus death. Jesus knew her. We are church for the sake of the world because we have been known by Jesus. We are providing clean, safe water for the world. We feed with food and feed souls. There are many other ways we help. Jesus himself was a refugee. We talk about the why we do what we do, because of Jesus and reconciliation which we are invited to join. We need everyone in all expressions of the church. We are church first., we are set free by God to be church for the sake of the world.

Secretary Boerger continued. We are 3.7 million members in 9,300 places. Jesus sends us out of the church into world. We need to be thinking about the future. What is God calling us to do with our resources? There was $1.8 billion given to congregations, $51 million given to synods and $47 million given to churchwide. We have started 62 new congregations and have eighty companion churches in the world. The Indiana-Kentucky Synod has shared fifty-two percent with churchwide last year, a total of $918,792.

We are preparing for the Grace Gathering in New Orleans in August with the theme of Freed & Renewed in Christ, 500 years of God’s Grace in Action. During the Grace Gathering and Churchwide Assembly there will be service learning Thursday afternoon. Business to be considered during the Churchwide Assembly will include electing a new ELCA Vice President, consideration to unify the three official lay rosters into one roster of Ministry of Word and Service, adoption of a budget for the churchwide organization, consideration of proposals from synod assemblies, consideration of Declaration on the Way, and consideration of a strategy to accompany migrant minors (AMMPARO). For more information, visit ELCA.org/assembly.

To see what is being planned for the 500th anniversary of the reformation, go to ELCA500.org. God’s work, Our Hands Sunday will be Sept 11, 2016; congregations are asked to think about first responders when planning the day. Resources are on the website. Confronting racism and actions since the Charleston killing are an emphasis. He urged local congregations to address racism. ELCAvotes is an initiative to expand the role of the church in encouraging faithful and non-partisan voter participation by providing faith-based resources around voting; to provide a
framework for all Lutherans to understand and speak out about the intersection of voting/elections, racial/gender and economic justice; to provide young adults the tools to understand and speak about what it means to be a young person of faith who is civically engaged; and to engage with and equip ethnic communities to talk about voting rights and race and their connection with elections today. It is a program to advocate for individuals to be good citizens.

*Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* was overwhelmingly approved in August 2013 by the voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The five-year fundraising effort, the ELCA’s first comprehensive campaign, formally launched on February 1, 2014, and will end January 31, 2019. The campaign is 44 percent of the way to goal; campaign giving is by priority. The priorities are to renew and begin new congregations, to end poverty and hunger, and overcome malaria, to identify, train and support new leaders and engage young people in the life of this church, to expand the ELCA’s disability ministries, and to grow this church’s capacity to serve globally, support ELCA missionaries and women leaders among global companion churches. There have been sixty-two new congregations formed. There are renewal efforts in 134 congregations. There are two hundred thirty-five students in seminaries receiving scholarships. There are seventy-three young adults in global mission. Six college scholarships have been given to women globally. There are hunger programs throughout the world including in Avon, Indiana. The malaria goal has been exceeded; we are seeing a measurable decline in malaria.

He reviewed how the church is working on various aspects of mission. The Called Forward Together in Christ conversations and questions will provide direction for the church. He encouraged individuals to follow on social media on Facebook and to faithfully read Living Lutheran. The phone number for the ELCA office is 773-380-2700.

Bishop Bill presented Secretary Boerger with a gift. He reminded individuals to submit questions to either information kiosk by 4:45 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bishop Gafkjen announced that the offering last night for Freed to Lead amounted to $3,363.63. He reviewed the Freed to Lead program. The funds will be used to restart the grants.

Lost and Found is located at the Information Desk which is the box office. The approved April Synod Council minutes are now available on the table in the atrium near the Information Desk. Coffee is available downstairs.

**SPARK TALKS**

At 10:27 a.m. Bishop Gafkjen dismissed the attendees to the Spark Talks which were all located on the lower level. The Spark Talks were the following: Stories from Shared Ministries led by Rev. Nancy Nyland; Zimbabwe to Flint: The World Water Crisis led by Mary Anderson, ELCA World Hunger Ambassador for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod; What gives you LIFE? Led by Rev. Dan Forehand and Rev. Randy Schroeder; Supporting Your Church Through Stewardship and Generosity: As Easy as A, B, C! led by Thrivent Representatives; Connect led by members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Renewing Mission Table; Virtual Mission Trips – Connecting your congregation to the work of the ELCA led by Phil and Susan Schmidt; Not a Dress Rehearsal led by Rev. Rick Barger; and Music – A language that speaks volumes led by ELCA Glocal Musicians.
PLENARY SESSION II, CONTINUED

COMPENSATION STANDARDS

At 11:31 a.m. Bishop Gafkjen invited to the dais Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Rudy Muller for presentation, on behalf of the Compensation Guidelines Committee and the Synod Council, of the proposed standards for compensation for ELCA Rostered Clergy and ELCA Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers. Copies were in the bulletin of reports.

Pastor Mueller first referred to the recommended guidelines for standards for rostered clergy. The changes were only typos and updating of dates. The COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) was zero percent. The compensation salary chart is to be used in the call process. Seeing no questions, the recommendation of the Synod Council was presented for vote. Voting by digital devices with 315 Yes votes and 5 No votes, it was

VOTED:  SA/2016/5: that the recommended 2016–17 Minimum Standards and Workbook for Compensation for ELCA Rostered Clergy be adopted.

Pastor Mueller then turned to consideration of the recommended compensation standards and workbook for rostered associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers. There are basically the same minor edits. The recommended cost-of-living increase is also zero percent. Those voting for the standards as recommended by Synod Council were 317, and 7 voting ‘no’. The Synod Assembly

VOTED:  SA/2016/6: that the recommended 2016-17 Minimum Standards for Compensation for ELCA Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers be adopted.

Bishop Matthew Riegel of the West Virginia -Western Maryland Synod provided brief greetings. His synod is the ELCA domestic companion synod with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. He stated that he enjoyed welcoming Bishop Gafkjen to their synod assembly last week. He said it was a treat to be here as we explore how do we make the relationship real. We need to work on it at our end; it is a challenge to collaborate and share. We have many of the same issues. He said that they are a small synod with sixty-one congregations and approximately twelve thousand members. Their population is declining. The average attendance on Sunday is 48. There is a totally different reality here. We have connections in the synod that we don’t often recognize; we are closer together than we realize.

GENERAL ELECTION

Meghan Smith reported to the dais and provided an updated credentials report. There were 253 lay voting members, 141 clergy with a total of 394 voting members. Bishop Gafkjen asked that the voting members use their electronic devices for voting for the three at-large clergy positions on Synod Council. Carina Schiltz, seminarian awaiting call, led prayer from the floor microphone. After prayer individuals voted.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS FROM REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

Bishop Gafkjen invited Rev. Tim Knauff, chair, to the dais to lead the consideration of resolutions from the Reference and Counsel Committee. Pastor Tim Knauff expressed thanks for serving together. He noted that the role of the Reference and Counsel Committee is to help the assembly to help us all do
our work together. As a committee he will bring a recommendation or no recommendation. There are three resolutions that have been revised. He noted that actions recommended to churchwide are memorials or a call for action or a request.

Resolution R-01-16, Support for Peacemaking with Justice in Israel and Palestine, a resolution which has been revised and comes with a recommendation of approval. Resolution R-02-16, Revised, Resources to Help IK Synod Members to share Friendship and the Gospel with Muslim Neighbors and Refugees, the committee recommends that it be approved as revised. Resolution, R-03-16, Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, has been revised and separated into R-03-16 which is action for the synod and into R-04-16 which is a Memorial to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

Bishop Gafkjen thanked Pastor Knauff and announced that the resolutions will be discussed at 2:30 p.m.

He then made the following announcements before lunch:

- Pre-purchased box lunches are available in the lobby area,
- There are maps on the information table for local dining options,
- Plenary session begins again at 1:30 p.m., and
- Visit the Mission Fest.

The assembly adjourned for lunch at 12:07 p.m.

**LUNCH**

**PLENARY SESSION III**

At 1:30 p.m. Bishop Gafkjen called the meeting to order. The meeting opened with prayer, devotions and music led by the ELCA Glocal Musicians. Each of them introduced themselves.

Bishop Gafkjen invited Bishop Elect Douglas Sparks of the Northern Indiana Diocese of the Episcopal Church to the dais to bring a greeting. An ordination and consecration service for Bishop Elect Sparks is scheduled for June 25 at Trinity English Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne.

He regretted that he could not attend earlier. They are working on restoration, healing and hope. He brought greetings and great joy. Glory to God for generations forever. Bishop Gafkjen noted that in our Indiana-Kentucky Mission Territory there are four Episcopal bishops, two in Indiana and two in Kentucky. They all speak to the call to common mission.

**REPORT OF ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Liz Michael of the elections committee began her report of the results of the first ballot for election to Synod Council (clergy)

**Synod Council — Clergy** (three vacant positions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Votes Cast</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Burkholder</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Derrer</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teri Ditslear</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Done</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Grate</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Vinson</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Votes Cast 336
Number needed for election 169
Bishop Gafkjen declared that the Synod Assembly

**VOTED: SA/2016/7: that Pastors Teri Ditslear and Rebecca Grate were elected to three-year terms on the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council.**

Bishop Gafkjen then asked the Assembly to vote for the remaining vacancy for the Synod Council clergy position. The two remaining candidates with the highest number of votes were Joshua Burkholder and Michael Vinson. The voting members voted.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SYNOD**

Secretary Bush began her report by stating, “Let me begin by inviting you to consider serving on the Synod Council if given the opportunity to do so. The Synod Council is a dedicated, committed group of Lutherans who enjoy the work and represent you as they do so. If given the opportunity to serve, I would encourage you to do so.”

Last year during the Synod Assembly the assembly was asked to engage in Holy Conversations in their communities and congregations. The Holy Conversations begun last year were a focus for the Synod Council as well as preparing for the bishop election this year.

You, the Synod Assembly, are the highest legislative authority of the synod. Yesterday, in electing your bishop, you carried out one of your most important responsibilities. The Synod Council acts as the board of directors of the synod and serves as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. There are four officers: the bishop, vice president, secretary and treasurer; the bishop serves a six-year term and the other officers serve four year terms. Additionally, there is one lay member from each of the ten conferences, eight clergy under call, one lay rostered leader, one youth and one young adult member. The adult members serve three-year terms and the youth serves a two-year term. The clergy members, lay rostered leader, youth member, and the young adult member are elected at large by the Synod Assembly upon nomination by the Nominating Committee. If no persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English are elected to the Synod Council, the Synod Council at its first meeting following the Annual Synod Assembly shall elect to the Synod Council for a three (3) year term up to two (2) lay members to ensure that there are two (2) persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English on the Synod Council.

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council has met five times since the 2015 Synod Assembly. Meetings were held in September, November, and April over two day periods beginning on Friday evening through Saturday afternoon. The regularly scheduled meeting in January was rescheduled to a retreat format Friday evening and Saturday and extended to Sunday with a typical agenda on Sunday. The Synod Council met yesterday morning.

The minutes that have been approved are found on the website. The minutes of the April meeting were approved yesterday.

In November the Synod Council received a report on the progress of the Holy Conversations in the synod. Then in January the Synod Council spent several hours working on next steps as a result. There were 3-4 prototypes that were developed as a result of the analysis of the Holy Conversations. In April the Synod Council engaged in Called Forward Together in Christ Conversations and the Synod Council encouraged that the conversations be held in local congregations. In April the Synod Council engaged in discussion regarding proceeds from the sale of the Calvary Church property in Louisville. The
secretary encouraged the assembly to read the results of that discussion. Also, in April Chris Walda was appointed synod treasurer.

In closing, she encouraged individuals to serve on the Synod Council if given the opportunity to do so; it is a congenial, friendly group. Please contact members if you have a question, concern or suggestion. She closed by stating, “It has been my joy to serve with this group of individuals. Thank you for the opportunity to do so.”

GENERAL ELECTIONS

Bishop Gafkjen announced that the election to the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky Corporation Board clergy vacancy is to be determined. The two candidates are Rev. Benjamin Sloss and Rev. Curtis Black. He announced that voting members may use their electronic devices for the election. After prayer led by Bishop Gafkjen, the voting members voted. The results were the following:

Rev. Curtis Black 49%
Rev. Benjamin Sloss 51%

Bishop Gafkjen declared that the Synod Assembly had

VOTED: SA/2016/8: that Rev. Benjamin Sloss was elected to a three-year term to the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Corporation Board.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS FROM REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Bishop Gafkjen invited Pastor Tim Knauff, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, to the dais for discussion of the resolutions.

Resolution R-01-16, Support for Peacemaking with Justice in Israel and Palestine, was submitted by the North Central Conference. Pastor Tim read the resolution. The committee recommended pass and opened for discussion. After discussion, the Synod Assembly by a vote of approve 292 and defeat 42

VOTED: SA/2016/9: that R-01-16 be adopted as follows:

WHEREAS the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is led by the promise of Jesus Christ who said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God;” and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has committed itself to non-violent responses to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the Peace Not Walls campaign’s effort

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America affirms its role as an agent of justice, peace, and reconciliation, and recognizes that fulfilling this role in areas of international conflict will require both political action and locally driven grassroots efforts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod memorializes the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to reaffirm the commitment of this church to:

1. Continue its awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy on behalf of a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine;

2. Embrace the principles of restorative justice as part of the ELCA’s advocacy and engagement for the just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and actively
seek ways to support Palestinians and Israelis engaging in restorative justice
dialogue and other projects involving mutual cooperation;
3. Consider continued commitment to making positive economic investments in
those Palestinian projects and businesses which peacefully strengthen the
economic and social fabric of Palestinian society; and
4. Recognize that Palestinians and Israelis are all born free and equal in dignity and
rights; and
5. Support efforts for protecting the human rights of both Palestinians and Israelis
and condemning and opposing all violence and actions of either party which
discriminate or deny any people their basic freedom, dignity, or economic, social,
legal, educational or cultural rights; and
6. Continue to support and pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and
the Holy Land; and
7. Support a just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated
settlement, even in the midst of the current violence and deteriorating political
relations between the parties, but rather than relying on past failed methods of
simple calls to return to the negotiating table:
(a) challenge the United States government to offer a new, comprehensive, and
time-bound agreement (based on dialogue with both parties) to the
Governments of Israel and the Palestinian Authority for the resolution of all
final-status issues including borders, the status of Jerusalem, refugees,
settlements, and security arrangements; and
(b) urge the United States government to offer strong, built-in incentives --
including economic, commercial, diplomatic, and travel-related incentives -- to
encourage both parties to adopt this as the framework for a final status
agreement.

Resolution, R-02-16 revised, Resources to help IK Synod Members to Share Friendship and the
Gospel with Muslim Neighbors and Refugees, was presented for discussion. It was submitted by the
Evansville Conference.

- Pastor Tim Kraemer made a motion to substitute the original language of the resolution in
place of the revised resolution. The motion was seconded. According to Rule 16 adopted by
the Assembly, amendments to the original motion need to be disposed of before a
substitute motion may be considered.
- Then there was discussion on whether to amend the motion. By a vote of 92 percent
approve and 8 percent defeat, the Assembly voted to close discussion on whether to amend
the resolution as presented.
- It was moved to refer the resolution back to Reference and Counsel Committee. The
previous question was moved, and by a vote of Yes 94% and No 6% the discussion on
whether to refer the resolution was closed. The Assembly defeated the motion to refer
back to Reference and Counsel by a vote of Yes 46% and No 54%.
- Discussion of R-02-16 revised as presented by Reference and Counsel Committee resumed.
The Assembly voted Yes 31% and No 69% to amend the revised resolution. The Assembly
voted against amending the revised resolution.
- Consideration of whether to substitute the original resolution for the revised resolution was
discussed. By a vote of Yes 89% and No 11% the Assembly voted to close debate. The
motion to substitute the original resolution for the revised resolution was defeated by a vote of Yes 15% and No 85%.

- Pastor Vicki Garber asked for prayer. She led the assembly in prayer prior to voting.

The Synod Assembly by a vote of Yes 277 No 61

VOTED: SA/2016/10: that R-02-16 be adopted as follows:
Whereas, Muslims are already neighbors to many of the members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, and Muslims continue to join our local communities and will have opportunities to become neighbors to members of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod,
Whereas, we are called to welcome others and to share the most valuable thing we have, which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Whereas, Christians have responded to Muslims in many ways, but all too often, without the compassion that characterized Jesus. Therefore,
Be it resolved that congregations in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod are encouraged to extend friendship in culturally aware ways and share the love of Jesus Christ with their Muslim neighbors. For this purpose, the ELCA has created resources on Muslim Relations, which are currently available at http://www.elca.org/en/Faith/Ecumenical-and-Inter-Religious-Relations/Inter-Religious-Relations/Muslim-Relations.
Be it further resolved that all synod program staff will review the ELCA materials on Muslim Relations to encourage their promotion throughout the synod.

GENERAL ELECTIONS

Elections committee chair Liz Michael returned to the dais and reported the results of the election for the remaining clergy position on Synod Council.

Number of Votes Cast 306
Number needed for election 154
Joshua Burkholder 150 votes
Michael Vinson 156 votes

Bishop Gafkjen declared that the Synod Assembly had

VOTED: SA/2016/11: Pastor Michael Vinson was declared elected to a three-year term on the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council.

Bishop Gafkjen dismissed the attendees to afternoon breakouts which were all on the lower level.

BREAKOUTS

The Breakouts were the following: Welcome and Hospitality in the Church led by Rev. Dr. Jessicah Duckworth; Area Mission Conversations led by Rev. Rudy Mueller and Rev. Nancy Nyland; Pass It On: The Power of Intergenerational Relationships in Faith Formation led by Rev. Dan Fugate; Our Global Companions: A Look into the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) Church, Indonesia, led by Rev. Dr. Willem Simarmata, Ephorus, HKBP; Our Global Companions: A Look into the Iglesia Evangelica Luterana en Chile (IELCH) Church, Chile, led by Rev. Izani Bruch, Bishop, IELCH; Called Forward Together in Christ led by Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, Secretary, ELCA; Spiritual Gifts led by Rev. Jerry O’Neal; One Roster of Word and Service led by E. Louise Williams, Associate in Ministry and Deaconess, Lutheran
Deaconess Association and Rev. Dr. Bill Gafkjen, Bishop, Indiana-Kentucky Synod; LWR Personal Care Kits Service Project led by the I-K Synod Women of the ELCA; and Would you give a gift that cost you nothing? Led by Chris Burnette, ELCA Gift Planner.

PLENARY SESSION III, CONTINUED

Bishop Gafkjen welcomed everyone back at 4:34 p.m. HKBP guests from Colorado sang two songs, introduced members of their band, their pastor, and his wife. They greeted the group with a typical Batak greeting and taught the assembly to sing and dance two songs with the help of the HKBP leaders.

ELCA CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST

ELCA Secretary Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger led an introduction to the Called Forward Together in Christ conversations. Bishop Gafkjen said that the conference of bishops spent an entire five-hour period engaged in the process. Secretary Boerger advised that individuals should check out the website www.ELCA/future.org. He encouraged the assembly to do the process. He noted that Pastor Vicki Garber who is on the Church Council is working on the process and to talk to her to answer questions. He divided the room into four groups and assigned a question to each of the groups; he gave the group ten minutes to discuss the question. After ten minutes he gave them another question and seven minutes to answer and discuss that question. He did note that groups could answer a question that was not assigned. At the end he asked groups to send answers to the ELCA at the address future@elca.org.

An ELCA campaign video was shown. This year the emphasis was on world hunger. We are church together and together we can do more for the sake of the world. The offering at worship on Saturday will be for the ELCA campaign for future leaders. It was also announced that at dinner there will be a silent auction for the Spirit Filled, Spirit Sent logo.

I-K SYNOD MISSION AMBASSADOR COORDINATORS

Bishop Gafkjen invited Phil and Susan Schmidt to the dais for sharing. They are the mission coordinators or ambassadors. They feel that God has asked them to share the Good News. When they retired, they took the opportunity to teach in Slovakia in a partnership ministry. They were sent to teach English. They wondered where they were going to worship since they didn’t speak Slovak. They found the only protestant church in Bratislava. The had great discussions with people from all different cultures. The church was a community and support group. It was a witness that the ELCA is inclusive. They thanked the assembly for their support; their work could not have happened without the gifts to the ELCA. They wanted to tell the story of how mission dollars are used to change lives.

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTIONS FROM REFERENCE AND COUNSEL, CONTINUED

Bishop Bill invited Rev. Tim Knauff to dais. Pastor Knauff, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, reported that there are two remaining resolutions R-03-16, Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, and R-04-16, To Memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. Pastor Tim read R-03-16; the committee recommended adoption. There was some discussion in support of the resolution. Bishop Gafkjen offered prayer prior to voting. The Synod Assembly by 286 Approve and 29 Defeat

VOTED: SA/2016/12: that R-03-16 be adopted as follows:
Whereas: The whole of Creation is God’s work, that God declares it all as good, and that God’s Spirit dwells within it, and
That Jesus Christ became incarnate in human form to show God’s love and mercy to all humanity, in all its variety, and to every race and people on every continent of the earth, and
That much pain and damage has been done to the indigenous inhabitants of the Americas by the European conquest and migration to what Europeans called a “new world,” but which was in reality already the homeland of many peoples, and
That Christian churches were and remain complicit in that conquest, migration and dispossession, and that Christian churches helped develop conceptions of Native peoples that blamed them for their own ills and that continue to perpetuate prejudice and injustice against them and their descendants, and
That the so-called “doctrine of discovery”: the legal principle, originating with Pope Alexander VI in 1493 and further entrenched in U.S. federal law in Johnson v. McIntosh (1823), does not provide Native inhabitants property or any other rights which colonizing European nations and their sovereigns are bound to respect. This principle promotes the myth that the Americas were a largely empty land that European conquerors and migrants had a right to claim, occupy, and possess simply by virtue of their Christianity and their European civilization.
Therefore, be it resolved:
That the 2016 Indiana-Kentucky Synod in Assembly offers by this resolution a statement of repentance and reconciliation to Native nations in this country for damage done in the name of Christianity and “civilization,”; and that it be further resolved,
To deplore and reject the concept of Manifest Destiny and the so-called “doctrine of discovery”; and that it be further resolved
To call congregations of the Synod to offer programs of education and justice concerning Native people.

Resolution R-04-16 is related to R-03-16 and memorializes the ELCA to action. Pastor Knauff read the resolution; the committee recommended adoption. The Synod Assembly, by 275 Approve and 33 Defeat,

VOTED: SA/2016/13: that R-04-16 be adopted as follows:
Whereas: the Indiana-Kentucky Synod in assembly has voted to deplore and reject the concept of Manifest Destiny and the so-called “doctrine of discovery”,
be it resolved that
The Indiana-Kentucky Synod in assembly memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to
1. offer a statement of repentance and reconciliation to Native nations in this country for damage done in the name of Christianity and “civilization,” and to plan an appropriate ELCA national ceremony of repentance and reconciliation with tribal leaders, and provide resources for similar synodical and congregational observances with local tribal leaders, at all such times and places as are appropriate,
2. join with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, The Episcopal Church, The United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church and The Moravian Church in explicitly and clearly repudiating the historic American vision of Manifest Destiny and the European Christian-derived “doctrine of discovery” and their continuing impact upon tribal governments and individual tribal members to this day, acknowledging and repenting of its complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas,

3. commit itself, with the help of Native communities, to the development of resources in the next triennium, to help its congregations and people understand and reduce the negative impact of the “doctrine of discovery” and its consequences for Native people in North America, and

4. direct the ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit to bring forward to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly a renewed strategy for ministry with Native people in the ELCA and accompaniment with North American Native communities generally, with a particular commitment to long-term, stable funding of ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native ministries, increasing partnerships with congregations and synods in the ELCA, and promoting efforts with the Native communities within which our congregations and synods reside.

Bishop Gafkjen thanked the Assembly for engaging in discussion, thinking about how the Spirit is filling us and how the Spirit is sending us.

TIME OF VOICE

Bishop Gafkjen announced that there would be a short time of voice. Individuals could focus on Where is the Spirit sending us and how is the Spirit filling us. Sister Elsie Fregeau shared their ministry developed in an abandoned church to meet the needs of children.

Another individual shared remembrances of her father who was a pastor for sixty-one years. She framed her dad’s stoles for children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Gafkjen made the following announcements.

• Visit Mission Fest before dinner. This will be the last chance to get your card signed and submitted for gift giveaway during the evening program.

• Dinner begins at 7:15 p.m. here in this room.

• Please take all your materials with you.

• Please exit the room quickly so the staff can prepare for dinner.

BREAK AND MISSION FEST

EVENING BANQUET

The Evening Meal began at 7:15 p.m. with Eric Hanson, seminarian awaiting call, offering grace. After dinner Bishop Gafkjen introduced Linda Doerge, president of the Indiana-Kentucky Women of the ELCA. Linda shared the purpose statement for the women of the ELCA: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. She stated that today we have seen this partnership in action in the assembling of 615 relief kits. She thanked the synod for asking them to partner with the Assembly. She especially thanked Pastor Heather
Apel who worked diligently in organizing the project. She mentioned the tenth triennial gathering to be held in July 2017 in Minneapolis.

Rev. Rick Barger, President of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, was called to the dais. He began, “on behalf of an amazing faculty and students, I bring you greetings.” He mentioned those present from the Seminary: Dr Hank Langknecht, Sister Becky Swanson, Prof emeritus Al Sager, and board member Rev. Jerry O’Neal.

He congratulated Bishop Bill on his election. Bishop Gafkjen used Isaiah 43 in his leadership and we need new leaders who make all things possible. At Trinity God is doing a new thing; there is an innovative master of divinity with a 2 +2 curricular plan where students spend their first two years in a part-time supervised pastoral ministry setting, while continuing to take classes part-time. There is delivery of theological formation in a new and interesting format, a high focus on ecologic stewardship with a reduced footprint, a Spanish for ministry program as a core requirement. They are engineering new master parts, such as ecologic justice or combating racism. They recently became a Reconciling in Christ seminary. They appreciate your partnership and your alums.

Bishop Bill Gafkjen called Finance Chair Paul Trickel and Treasurer Sue Miller to the dais. Paul said that he felt compelled by the spirit to say some words. About 83 days after her election as treasurer, Sue learned that the former treasurer and the former finance chair were leaving the synod. About a year after her election, she did her first budget presentation and even though she is introverted she hit a home run. About 450 days before her term was to end the synod was looking at a new management of synod finances. The auditors were very concerned with the change but Sue made sure it went well. He is amazed that there are 2000 hours until the end of her term. Thank you, Sue. She said that she didn’t know what to say; she said that she was shocked and humbled. She expressed appreciation for Paul’s friendship and leadership, for Bishop Gafkjen, and all the staff. She will be staying on the finance committee. Bishop Gafkjen presented her with a small gift of gratitude; she has given many hours and lots of energy.

ELCA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The assembly had the opportunity to submit questions earlier for the ELCA representative to address. Secretary Wm. Chris Boerger stated that he appreciated the questions which were substantive. The first question was what is the make-up of new congregations in terms of diversity and what about sustainability? He replied that fifty-eight percent were in ethnic and diverse communities; sixteen percent were in millennial communities. Sustainability is what we are trying to get our hands around; we are trying to be involved with struggling congregations sooner. Next question was what is the model in a community of poverty? We are trying to develop congregations that look different. Next question was do Associates in Ministry and diaconal ministers get to vote on becoming Ministers of Word and Service? There will be a vote at Churchwide Assembly so voting members will vote. There will be two rosters: Word and Sacrament and Word and Service; they have not come up with a different name. One can opt out of being on the new roster; the change will require a two-third’s vote so that the ELCA constitution can be changed.

The next question was How is ELCA involved in immigration policy? Secretary Boerger replied that there is advocacy in D.C. There is political division, but no one says our immigration system is working; we see people being hurt by the system.
The final question was What steps are being taken to assure that we are teaching what it means to be Lutheran? We will all be studying Luther’s catechism; we will be studying what is our distinctive Lutheran identity. Most congregations are being served by a pastor who was trained at a Lutheran seminary, they teach the small catechism. We are people of God called by God; we accept the Augsburg Confession as a true declaration of the faith of our congregations.

He closed by thanking the assembly for the thoughtful questions.

MISSION FEST GIFT GIVEAWAY

Phil Henke came forward to begin the gift giveaway. Names of people who were to receive gifts from Mission Fest booths were called out. Individuals received the gifts.

The silent auction for the Spirit Filled, Spirit Sent logo resulted in Steven Renner purchasing the logo for $375.

TRANSITION TO EVENING PRAYER

Bishop Gafkjen made the following announcements as the group transitioned to evening prayer. The 2017 Synod Assembly will be June 1-3 in Covington, KY. The assembly will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

EVENING PRAYER AND COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

At 9:00 p.m. Bishop Gafkjen as liturgist, Liz Michael as cantor, and Tom White as pianist led a service of evening prayer using Holden Evening Prayer including remembrance of the ministry of leaders who passed to the Church Triumphant in the past year—LeRoy Martinson, Molly Swanson, Bill Andrews, Hazel Stacy, Al Nyland, Fred Hubert, Jerry Moe, John Frank, Sue Meyer, Peg Dorwick, Dick Frazier, Judy Stephey, and Judy Kiser. Members of the assembly also lighted additional candles in remembrance of loved ones.

Saturday, June 11, 2016

PLENARY SESSION IV

Bishop Gafkjen called the Assembly to order at 8:30 a.m., which began with music, readings, and prayer led by the ELCA Glocal Musicians.

FINAL REPORT ON REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE

At 8:45 a.m. Bishop Gafkjen called Meghan Smith to the dais for the final credentials report on registration and attendance. There were a total of 395 voting members and 88 visitors and guests, a total of 483. Of the voting members, 142 were clergy and 253 were lay voting members. There were 36 percent clergy and 64 percent lay voting members. Of the clergy 43 or 30 percent were female and 99 or 70 percent were male. Of the lay voting members 149, or 59 percent, were female, and 104, or 41 percent, were male. Of the total voting members 192 or 48.6 percent were female and 203 or 51.4 percent were male. Of the clergy 10 or 7 percent were young adults, 22 or 15 percent were age 31-40, 22 or 15 percent were age 41-50, 32 or 23% were age 51-60, and 56 or 40 percent were age 61 and above. There were 4 or 3 percent of the clergy who were people of color and/or English as a second language. Of the lay voting members 5 or 2 percent were youth, 14 or 6 percent were young adults, 12
or 5 percent were age 31–40, 32 or 13 percent were age 41–50, 56 or 22 percent were age 51-60, and 134 or 52 percent were age 61 and above. Of the lay voting members 11 or 4 percent were people of color and/or English as a second language. There were 12 (11 women and 1 man) or 5 percent of the lay voting members who were rostered lay people. Secretary Bush received the report for the record.

Bishop Gafkjen spoke about the benefit of having diversity that represents the world. Synod Council had adopted a continuing resolution to allow additional voting members who are persons of color, youth and/or young adults.

He noted that Bob and Myriam Stuck were celebrating their fifth anniversary. He also stated that we have exciting guests with us to strengthen our ties with our Anabaptist friends.

ADOPTION OF FY 2017–18 BUDGET

At 9:00 a.m., Bishop Gafkjen invited back to the podium Finance Committee Chair Paul Trickel for presentation of the fiscal year 2017–18 Budget for adoption (Attachment B). Paul reported, in summary, that the budget represents a Spirit Filled Spirit Sent globally and within the Indiana-Kentucky Mission Territory. The current budget projects $1.7 million and the proposed budget projects $1.75 million in mission support. The percentage of mission support shared with churchwide will remain at 43 percent; the current year the amount sent to churchwide is projected to be $731,000 and for the proposed budget the amount sent into the world via churchwide will be $752,500. The amount of mission support in the Indiana-Kentucky Mission Territory will increase from $969,000 to $997,500. Changes in the proposed budget from the current budget include an increase for Isaiah 43 and for program staff compensation and a decrease in New Starts and SAWCs and administrative staff. He invited others to join the Finance Committee.

There was a question about the new program staff. Bishop Gafkjen answered that it is planned to address emerging needs. He is not sure what those needs would be and the staff may be part-time. A comment was made thanking the committee on the focus on mission rather than overhead. Paul noted that the bishop and the staff are great partners in building the proposed budget. He also noted that several congregations have stepped up and increased support. With no additional questions or comments Bishop Gafkjen asked individuals to vote with their electronic devices; the proposed budget comes as a recommendation from Synod Council. The Synod Assembly by a vote of Approve 287 and Defeat 4

VOTED: SA/2016/14: that the 2017–18 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Budget with income and expenditures of $2,436,470 and mission support of 43 percent to the ELCA be adopted.

Bishop Gafkjen thanked the finance committee and others for their fine work, especially in keeping mission at the center and carefully monitoring resources.

NEW SYNOD FOR A NEW DAY UPDATE

Bishop Bill Gafkjen noted that in his initial report he referred to what God is calling us to do. His current report is part of the bulletin of reports so he will not repeat much of what is in the written report. He noted that Chris Walda has agreed to be our treasurer. He has been on the finance committee; he has a missional sense and financial acumen. This is the first time to appoint the treasurer which was allowed with change in the synod constitution. There was a nominating committee that did a search.
He shared some things that have been evolving and have been coming out of our Holy Conversations. One possibility is the way deans have been functioning and possible new ways forward. We may be calling on deans to more narrowly focus on supporting rostered leaders, but we are not sure what that will look like. What is the role of lay members on Synod Council? A way forward may be for them to work more closely with deans.

Because we are a large geographic territory there are more effective ways to network and serve; the concept of network weavers has been proposed. We are looking at having deans meet with Synod Council in September. We are looking at the best way to move forward.

The lay worship leader ministry has been on hold, but we are having a need for individuals to serve congregations without pastors. The role of the Lutheran House of Study may be helpful.

We have been meeting with first-call pastors. How might we better support those on first call? Each has a mentor and is in a colleague group, but we also need to work with congregations of first-call pastors.

The assembly watched the AMMPRO (Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) video. A court-watch and advocacy program started by the Southwest California Synod is entitled Guardian Angel program to support undocumented migrant minors. There may be a time when some congregations in the synod may be asked to help and provide support in terms of worship and other forms of hospitality.

He closed by thanking the assembly for their partnership in ministry. He said that he was excited about the next six years and is grateful to be on board with the assembly to see what God is doing in our Mission Territory

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION III

The Bishop then invited Rev. Andre Gingerich Stoner and Kathryn Johnson to the dais for the third keynote address. Rev. Stoner is Director of Interchurch Relations and Holistic Witness for the Mennonite Church, USA. Ms. Johnson is Director of ELCA Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations. Before beginning their addresses, Bishop Gafkjen invited Bishop Don Kreiss, Southeast Michigan Synod, to the floor microphone for prayer. Before prayer Bishop Kreiss noted the engagement in dialogue that we have found a way to dialogue with the Anabaptist and now the Mennonite Church, USA.

Rev. Stoner began by referring to a photo of Bishop Gafkjen in April 2012. At that time a river birch tree with three trunks but one root system, planted in front of the Mennonite offices in Elkhart, Indiana, became a mark of reconciliation among Lutherans and Mennonites at a dedication service on April 10. He extended welcome to northern Indiana. He works in the denominational office in Elkhart. Mennonite roots are in the Anabaptist movement in Germany. The name Mennonite comes from an early church leader; churches in other parts of world are larger. Jesus is the center of the faith; the community is center of our life; reconciliation is the center of our work.

For many years we were antagonists with Lutherans and then have been living side-by-side but not working together. Lutherans have reached out for formal dialogue and reconciliation.

Katheryn Johnson stated that it was a deep pleasure to share a Holy story, one that is the work of the Spirit, of invitation but remembering was is being sent to this century with the Mennonites in our territory.

In 1980 the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession was being celebrated but the memory on Mennonites was of persecution of Anabaptists in the 16th century which was advocated by the
Augsburg Confession. Many Anabaptists celebrate the story of the Anabaptist who was pursued and turned to help his pursuer and then was executed.

Right remembering done by Lutherans by looking honestly at our past could change the telling of the relationship. The ELCA and the Mennonite Church USA formed a liaison committee to reflect ways to heal the memories of the sixteen century. “Right Remembering” is the document (April 2004) that reports on the work of the committee. It brings our deep and abiding sorrow and regret. In 2005 the Lutheran-Mennonite International Study Commission reported on their work in “Healing Memories, Reconciling in Christ.” Remembering was insufficient, repentance was necessary. Execution was justified; Lutherans did not step up; nothing to do but repent. When Lutherans began to talk to Mennonites about repentance, the Executive Director of the Lutheran World Federation was invited to the Mennonite World Conference Assembly in Paraguay, July, 2009. He received an emotional standing ovation as he described Lutheran sorrow and regret at their history and their intention to seek forgiveness. In the end the two embraced and people began to cry. Lutherans began to plan for their world conference in 2010. We ask forgiveness from God and from our Mennonite sisters and brothers for all inappropriate, misleading and hurtful portraits of Anabaptists. The process moved from repentance to reconciliation. At the time of the Lutheran World Federation Assembly in 2010 Bishop Hanson was Bishop of the Lutheran World Federation. He asked all to kneel for this action rather than raising a card, and the only ones sitting were Mennonites. Lutherans and Mennonites joined their forgiveness with God and then proceeded to worship together; no one doubted that the Holy Spirit was at work. Everyone was given a copy of the drawing of Dirk Willem, the Anabaptist, rescuing his persecutor from the water.

In 2017 we will celebrate five Hundred years of Reformation – an anniversary that invites us to move forward toward the Unity Christ desires. The Pope is coming to kick off the celebration. We set on our path with the help of our Mennonite brothers and sisters.

Rev. Andre Stoner stated that the Mennonites were deeply moved by the apology. He said we confessed to telling the best of our story while telling the worst of your story. They reminded schools to examine their teaching; the process of repentance and reconciliation is not just an academic exercise but the work is changing us and freeing us. We want to share parts of the Mennonite movement; we cling to our martyr stories and by so doing we separate and isolate ourselves. We beat ourselves up and become the victim. If a child that suffers trial or trauma doesn’t do the job of healing, it stays within the child and is internalized. New events can re-traumatize us. Unhealed trauma still keeps us limited. We need to do the healing in all aspects of our lives; it can free us and help us become what God intends us to be. We need to be released from the victim mentality to be freed. When we let the healing occur, we no longer need to be quiet. We don’t have to do it on our own. They have sent a letter to Bishop Eaton that we are painfully aware that the Body of Christ is deeply fractured, compromised and broken and we want to be in communion with you Lutherans.

Kathryn Johnson commented, one can see how the sense of connection, of collaboration, common prayer and Bible study is moving. The implication of the 2010 Reconciliation between Lutherans and Mennonites/Anabaptists is bearing fruit. Some of the work has been done here in Indiana.

Rev. Andre Stoner stated that following the assembly, Lutheran and Mennonite leaders will visit Menno-Hof in Shipshewana, Indiana, and will also celebrate plans for a new exhibit. While some of the exhibits at this Amish-Mennonite interpretive center vividly tell stories of Anabaptist persecution by
other Christians, the Menno-Hof board recently approved the development of an exhibit that will tell the story of the recent repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation with Lutherans and other Christians.

Dr. Nelson Kraybill, President of the Mennonite World Conference and lead pastor of the Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Indiana, brought greetings to the assembly. He presented a towel and basin which is a symbol of humility to Bishop Gafkjen. Jesus washed his disciples’ feet at a time of internal division. It pleases our Lord to know that Lutherans and Mennonites are working to reconcile. Jesus prayed that his followers may become completely one; it is a process, a journey. We should not idolize the reconciliation; we have a unique theology and mission so that the world may know. Kraybill held up the example of Leymah Gbowee as an inspiring model of Lutheran-Mennonite collaboration. A Lutheran leader from Liberia who studied conflict transformation at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, she courageously organized women to bring an end to the civil war in Liberia and in 2011 received the Nobel Peace Prize. She will be a keynote speaker at the ELCA Grace Gathering in August.

Dr. Kraybill continued, Lutherans and Mennonites have addressed reconciliation. It falls on us at all levels to resolve that we will collaborate at all levels. Let us in Indiana and Kentucky be bold at our levels. Congratulations on affirmation of the assembly; this is one moment of which you can be proud.

A “pick-up” choir of more than 20 local Mennonites from eight area congregations led singing during the presentation. At the end of the presentation, the Mennonite choir members invited participants to join them in singing the first verse of a hymn written by Menno Simons: “We are people of God’s peace as a new creation. Love unites and strengthens us at this celebration. Sons and daughters of the Lord, serving one another, a new covenant of peace binds us all together.” The song reflects the new peace and cooperation.

Bishop Gafkjen presented Kathryn Johnson and Rev. Andrestoner with a gift which represented who we are. What God has meant to be. Thank God for your leadership. The Spirit is among us.

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTIONS FROM REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

At 10:16 a.m., Bishop Gafkjen invited Mike Anderson, a member of the Reference and Counsel Committee to the dais for presentation of a final resolution. It was resolution of thanks on behalf of the committee. By acclamation indicated by applause, it was

VOTED: SA/2016/15: that R-05-16, A Sending Resolution, be adopted as follows:
WHEREAS, the Indiana- Kentucky Synod has met in assembly in South Bend, IN, on June 9, June 10, and June 11, 2016; and
WHEREAS, we in the Indiana-Kentucky mission territory are a Spirit filled and Spirit sent church for the sake of the word; and
WHEREAS, we are called to empower, equip, and encourage one another to make Christ known so that every member will be a missionary, every leader a mission director, and every community of faith a mission center; therefore
BE IT RESOLVED, that we express our thanks, appreciation, and support to those who made this inspiring experience possible:
To the Reverend Heather Apel, the synod staff, and the Synod Assembly Planning Team for their dedication and hard work in making this Assembly run smoothly;
To all of the volunteers who blessed us with their generous spirit;
To those who led Spark Talks, afternoon breakout sessions, and served the greater church with LWR Personal Care kits;
To the programs, institutions, and agencies who joined us and the volunteers who joined us for Mission Fest;
To the GLOCAL Musicians for sharing their gifts and filling us with spirit filled music;
To Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) musicians from Colorado for their music, witness, and making a bunch of Lutherans dance;
To the Reverend Rudy Mueller and the Synod Assembly Worship Team for planning and leading uplifting, inspiring, Spirit filled worship;
To the staff of the Century Center for their gracious hospitality, welcoming spirit, and excellent service;
To the Rev. Dr. Willem Simarmata, Ephorus of the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) for bringing a spirit of blessing and inspiration regarding how the spirit is filling and sending the HKBP church;
To Bishop Izani Bruch, Inglesisa Evangelica Luthera en Chile (IELCH) for sharing how the spirit fills them for serving and caring for children and women in Chile;
To Reverend Chris Boerger for bringing insight and information on the ELCA and bringing greetings from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, reminding us that we are one church with three expressions, and helping us to discern how the spirit can move us swiftly through a bishop’s election;
To our cousin and brother Bishop Matthew Riegel, from West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, for ironing out the wrinkles in our domestic partnership;
To Bishop Elect Douglas Sparks for his greetings and call to our Common Mission;
To Reverend Andre Gingerich Stoner for a spirit of deepening ecumenical witness;
To our alien Bishops who have accompanied us and prayed for us;
To the Synod Council for its commitment to the mission of the synod;
To Vice President Ted Miller for a Ted Talk filled with faithful, energetic spiritual leadership, and for modeling for us the priesthood of all believers;
To Secretary Judy Bush for dedicated and detailed faithful leadership;
To Treasurer Sue Miller for all her years of mission-focused stewardship of our finances;
To Paul Trickel and the members of the Finance Committee for their discerning and proactive oversight of our synod’s finances;
To our re-called Bishop Bill Gafkjen for a spirit of humble leadership; who asks us “How is the Spirit filling us” and “Where is the Spirit sending us”; and sends us with a spirit of “Woo-Hoo”;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that together we welcome the Spirit to fill us, together we seek where the Spirit sends us, together we are Church for the World.

Bishop Gafkjen announced that the electronic voting devices may be left on the tables to be picked up.

REFLECTIONS: WHERE IS THE SPIRITSENDING US

Bishop Gafkjen invited attendees to step to a microphone and share where they feel filled and sent by the Spirit. Comments were made about the Mennonite choir and their humility, a need for prayers for Mt. Pleasant in Kendallville, that the Spirit is filling our Bishop, that Hoosier Power and Light was hosting a conference seven minutes from the assembly, deep gratitude for Mennonite friends, how
wonderful to hear Mennonite friends speak today, and a challenge to congregations to increase mission support.

Bishop Gafkjen announced that video order forms are on the tables and available, do not forget to leave behind voting devices and name tags, that the Mennonite choir will be singing and joining the worship, distribution of communion on tables with instructions, and if not on table one should move to table with bread and wine.

The Assembly business having been completed, Bishop Gafkjen asked, “Is there a motion to adjourn?” There was a motion to adjourn with second and all voting to adjourn. The assembly adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

SENDING EUCHARIST

Sending worship was then held, including celebration of Holy Communion led by presiding minister Rev. Andrea Hickey with assisting minister Carey Avery. Liz Michael was cantor. Lectors were Rev. Willem Simarmata, Ephorus, Huria Kristen Batak Protestant (HKBP) Church and Rev. Andre Gingrich-Stoner, Director of Interchurch Relations and Holistic Witness, Mennonite Church USA.

Rev. Chris Boerger, Secretary of the ELCA preached on the Gospel reading of John 20: 19-23, Jesus Appears to the Disciples. He noted that we hear this story every year. Jesus shows up in the midst of their fears, “Peace be with you.” He breathed on them; disciples are reborn – go out and forgive sins. Jesus gave them authority to forgive sins. One is to take the cross of Jesus Christ in own life and out into the world. God calls you and me to forgive. We ought to be people known as forgivers. He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” As the Father sent Jesus, he sends you – forgiving and reconciling the world; that is your job. Don’t get stuck in the room with the doors locked.

The Eucharist was shared at individual tables.

Those elected to service on the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council were installed, and the entire Assembly was sent with affirmation of vocation of the baptized in the world.

Offering at the closing worship, designated for the Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA in the area of Leadership which focuses on future leaders, totaled $2,501.39.

Respectfully Submitted in His Service,

Judith A. Bush, Secretary
Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Century Center – South Bend, IN

Draft proposed agenda for adoption at assembly

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2016

9:00 a.m. Synod Council Meeting [Suites 13-14, lower level]
11:00 a.m. Mission Fest move in and set up [Galleria A/B, main level]

12:00 p.m. On-site assembly check-in/registration begins [Main Entrance Atrium]

Collect your name tag, registration packet; visit Mission Fest tables; browse through the Steeple People bookstore; greet old friends and new colleagues.

1:00 p.m. Welcome and Orientation for First Time Attendees; all voting members are invited to attend [Recital Hall, lower level]

2:00 p.m. Assembly Begins with Plenary Session I [Convention Hall A/B, main level]

Opening of Assembly with music and devotions
Opening remarks by Bishop William O. Gafkjen; Greetings and Introductions
Preliminary Credentials Report on Registration and Attendance Adoption of agenda

Keynote Presentation I – Ephorus Rev. Dr. Willem Simarmata, Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) – the Protestant Christian Batak Church, Indonesia

3:00 Check-in/registration closes [Main Atrium]

Introduction of the election process for Office of the Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod [Convention Hall A/B]

3:25 p.m. Credentials Report on Registration and Attendance

3:30 p.m. First Ballot for Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod

Nominating Committee Report

4:30 p.m. Break before dinner
Resolutions with 50 signatures due (S7.32.04c of the I-K Synod Constitution); deliver to the dais at the front of the Convention Hall

5:30 p.m. Check-in/Registration Closes (re-opens Friday, June 10, 7:30 a.m.)
6:00 p.m.  **Made New for Mission Banquet: Celebrating Leaders and Ministries of the Past, Present and Future [Convention Hall A/B]**  
*Rostered Leader Anniversaries; Congregational Anniversaries; Leaders new to the roster of the I-K Synod; Ecumenical partners and guests*

6:45 p.m.  Report on results of First Ballot for Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod  
[Convention Hall A/B]

8:00 p.m.  **Gathering Worship [Discovery Ballroom, main level]**  
Service of Holy Communion, Bishop William O. Gafkjen preaching and presiding  
*The offering will support the Freed to Lead program. This ministry of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, which began in 2009 through a grant of the Lilly Endowment Inc., is being revitalized this year. This program is designed to assist rostered leaders in personal finance and stewardship education, help alleviate debt and economic challenges, and provide tools and resources relating to congregational stewardship.*

9:30 p.m.  **Reception [DoubleTree Hotel - Atrium]**  
*The DoubleTree Hotel is connected to the Century Center via a skybridge, or you can cross the street and enter the main doors: 123 N. St. Joseph Street, South Bend, IN*
FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016

7:30 a.m. Assembly check-in/registration re-opens [Main Atrium]

8:00 a.m. Plenary Session II [Convention Hall A/B]
Prayer/Devotions/Music
**Keynote Presentation II** – Bishop Izani Bruch, Iglesia Evangelica Luterana en Chile (IELCH) – the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile
Report of the Vice President of the Synod, Ted Miller
Treasurer’s Report and Mission Plan (Budget) Presentation, Sue Miller and Finance Committee Chair, Paul Trickel
ELCA Churchwide Greetings – Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, Secretary of the ELCA

9:30 a.m. Assembly check-in/registration closes [Main Atrium]

10:00 a.m. Updated Credentials Report on Registration and Attendance [Convention Hall]
**Second Ballot for Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod**, if necessary

10:15 a.m. Spark Talks [breakout rooms, lower level – see separate listing for locations]
Refreshment break

11:15 a.m. Plenary Session II – continued [Convention Hall A/B] Presentation and adoption of Compensation Standards
**Voting on general elections – synod council positions** (voting will take place in the plenary hall via electronic devices)
Presentation of Resolutions from Reference and Counsel Committee
Report of Elections Committee – synod council positions; presentation of second ballot, if necessary

12:00 p.m. Lunch: two choices – box lunch (*available in main entrance atrium area for those who purchased in advance*) or lunch on your own at local restaurants

1:00 p.m. Assembly check-in/registration closes [Main Atrium]

1:30 p.m. Plenary Session III [Convention Hall A/B]
Prayer/Devotions/Music
Report on results of Second Ballot for Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, if necessary
Updated Credentials Report on Registration and Attendance

1:45 p.m. **Third Ballot for Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod**, if necessary
Report of the Secretary of the Synod
**Voting on general elections – committee and ministry board positions** (voting will take place in the plenary hall via electronic devices)
Discussion of Resolutions from Reference and Counsel Committee
Report of Elections Committee – committee and ministry board positions; presentation of second ballot, if necessary
3:15 p.m.  Afternoon breakouts [breakout rooms, lower level – see separate listing for locations]

4:15 p.m.  Assembly check-in/registration closes [Main Atrium]

4:30 p.m.  **Plenary Session III - continued [Convention Hall A/B]**
- Report on results of Third Ballot for Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, if necessary
- Question and Answer session with Bishop Election Candidates, if necessary
- Updated Credentials Report on Registration and Attendance

**Fourth Ballot for Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod**, if necessary

**Voting on second ballots for general elections**, if necessary
- Discussion of Resolutions

5:45 p.m.  Report results of the Fourth Ballot for Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, if necessary
- Updated Credentials Report on Registration and Attendance

**Fifth Ballot for Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod**, if necessary

6:00 p.m.  Break before dinner – visit Mission Fest tables in Galleria A/B

7:15 p.m.  **Evening Banquet [Convention Hall A/B]**
- *ELCA Representative Q&A; fellowship and greetings from special guests*

7:45 p.m.  Report results of Fifth Ballot for Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, if necessary

8:30 p.m.  **Evening Prayer and Commemoration of the Faithful Departed [Convention Hall A/B]**
**SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2016**

8:30 a.m.  **Plenary Session IV** [Convention Hall A/B]
- Prayer/Devotions/Music
- Updated Credentials Report on Registration and Attendance
- Voting on third ballots for general elections, if necessary
- Adoption of 2017 Budget
- New Synod for a New Day Update

9:30 a.m.  **Keynote Presentation III** – Rev. Andre Gingerich Stoner, Director of Interchurch Relations and Holistic Witness for Mennonite Church, USA, and Kathryn Johnson, Director of ELCA Ecumenical and Inter-religious Relations
- Reflections: Where is the Spirit sending us?
- Report results of third general ballot, if necessary
- Discussion of Resolutions
- Final Report on Registration and Attendance

11:15 a.m.  **Sending Worship** [Convention Hall A/B, upon completion of Plenary Session IV]
- Service of Holy Communion, ELCA Secretary Wm. Chris Boerger preaching, installation of those newly elected, and a sending forth of all in attendance!
- The offering will support the *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* in the area of Leadership. This portion of the ELCA Campaign focuses on future leaders of the church by supporting youth and young adults, and those individuals who are preparing for a calling in public ministry

12:30 p.m.  Benediction and Adjournment

**Rules of the Assembly:**


2. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s representative will preside over the election process for the Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod.

3. Registration/check-in will close 30 minutes before any ballot to prepare the credentials report, and will re-open once that election time is declared closed.

4. During any ballot for the Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, all visitors and other non-voting attendees will separate themselves from voting members by moving to the perimeter of the room.

5. Nominees listed on the first (ecclesiastical) ballot for the Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod may withdraw their names using the *Request for Withdrawal from the Ballot for Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod* form. An electronic signature may be used on the form if necessary.
6. Any Request for Withdrawal from the Ballot for Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod form must be submitted by 10:00 p.m. EDT, Thursday, June 9, 2016, to the chair of the elections committee via the Information Desk.

7. All completed Biographical Information for the Office of Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod forms must be submitted by 10:00 p.m. EDT, Thursday, June 9, 2016, to the chair of the elections committee via the Information Desk.

8. If no election for the office of bishop has occurred after the second ballot, the seven persons receiving the most votes (plus ties) will be invited to stand in front of the podium and, as their names are read, step forward and wave to the assembly before the third ballot.

9. If no election for the office of bishop has occurred after the third ballot, a Question and Answer session will be facilitated by the ELCA Churchwide representative with the three persons receiving the most votes (plus ties). Each person will come forward to the podium and have four minutes to address the assembly and then respond in rotation for 90 seconds each to a series of six questions.

10. If no election for the office of bishop has occurred after the fourth ballot, the two persons receiving the most votes will move immediately to the fifth ballot.

11. All resolutions supported by a petition of at least 50 signatures of voting members of the 2016 Assembly are due to the Secretary of the Synod by 4:30 p.m., Thursday, June 9, 2016 (S7.32.04c of the I-K Synod Constitution). Petitions may be delivered to the dais at the front of the Assembly Hall.

12. Each speech from the floor on all resolutions and motions will be limited to 3 minutes.

13. Voting may be by use of voting cards, with green representing an affirmative vote and red representing a negative vote. The chair may call for affirmative and negative votes simultaneously or separately.

14. A member who has spoken on the pending question(s) may not move the previous question.

15. A motion to end debate by moving the previous question will apply only to the immediately pending question. A motion to end debate on all matters on the floor or more than the immediately pending question is not in order.

16. When a substitute motion is made, secondary amendments may be offered first to the original motion. After all secondary amendments to the original motion have been disposed of, secondary amendments to the substitute motion may be offered. When all amendments to the substitute motion have been disposed of, a vote will be taken on whether the substitute motion is to be substituted as the original motion or rejected.

17. Any recount must be ordered by a majority vote before the end of the assembly at which the voting result was announced.
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