

MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Sugar Land Marriott Town Square
June 1-3, 2006

Living in God's Amazing Grace

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:

- SA06.06.01 to accept Credentials Committee Report # 1
 - SA06.06.02 to adopt the agenda and standing rules of the assembly
 - SA06.06.03 to approve two copies of the Minutes of the 2005 Synod Assembly as the official protocol to be placed in the synod archives
 - SA06.06.04 to amend S7.26 of the Constitution of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod as recommended by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly
 - SA06.06.05 to grant voice but not vote to Pr. Susan Briehl and Pr. Ruben Duran
 - SA06.06.06 to adopt Resolution #1 "Serving the Poor/Reducing Poverty Factors with minor amendment
 - SA06.06.07 to adopt Resolution #3 "Millennium Development Goals/ONE Lutheran Campaign"
 - SA06.06.08 to accept Credentials Committee Report # 2
 - SA06.06.09 to adopt the proposed General Fund Budget of \$1,718,000 and a Capital Fund Expenditures Budget of \$7,000 for the 2007 fiscal year.
 - SA06.06.10 to adopt Resolution #2 "Synodical Leadership Position for Lutheran Men in Mission" as amended
 - SA06.06.11 to adopt Resolution #4 "Resolution to Empower the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod and its Churches with Immigrant and Refugee issues"
 - SA06.06.12 to adopt Credentials Committee Report # 3
 - SA06.06.13 to adopt the proposed Compensation Guidelines
 - SA06.06.14 to adopt a Resolution of thanks to all that participated in the successful 2006 Synod Assembly
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- LH06.06.01 to elect Ms. Susan Senti, Mr. Neil Christian, Mr. David Newbauer and Mr. Lauri Tokoi to three years terms on the Lutherhill Board of Directors

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Assembly co-chair Pr. Steve Kelly introduced Sugar Land Mayor David Wallace who welcomed the assembly members.

The assembly opened at 2:00 p.m. with a Worship Celebration (music by Jazz Sunday.) Bishop Paul Blom delivered the Sermon.

Business Session One

Bishop Blom called the assembly to order and led the Opening of the Assembly Litany. The Bishop made several announcements and introduced the following persons:

Presenters:

Susan Briehl (keynote speaker),
Ruben Duran, churchwide representative and
Ray Pickett (LSPS) bible study leader

Board of Pensions Representative: Ms. Deb Sorensen

Parliamentarian: Richard Stadelmann

Guests:

Jazz Sunday – Richard Burke
Companion Synod, ELCA staff – Sandra Holloway
Bread for the World – Lew Hille
LaFrontera – Bill Bruggeman

Assembly Co-chairs: Steve Kelly and Linda Mosley,

Seminary Graduates assigned to the synod:

Steven Cauley (not present)
Amy Austin, Pacifica Seminary
Kiho (and Sunghie) Song, Pacifica Seminary
David (and Julia) Hanson, University of the South, School of Theology,
Sewanee, Tennessee
Joseph (and Martha) Winston, Luther Seminary
Lisa Burroughs just approved for ordination

Pastors new to the synod:

Amy Zeitlow
Pamela Brouker
Brad Otto

Credentials Committee Report #1

Darrell Reimer, chair, reported that at 3:38 p.m., there 295 voting members registered, of which 80 were male clergy, 22 were female clergy, 68 male lay voting members, and 125 were female voting members. The voting composition of the assembly was 65.42 percent laity and 34.58 percent clergy. There were 42 visitors registered.

Motion: by Darrell Reimer

SA06.06.01 to accept the Credentials Committee report. ADOPTED.

Motion: SA06.06.02 to adopt the agenda and standing rules for the assembly. ADOPTED

Secretary's Report:

Motion: by Pastor Akerman, Secretary

SA06.06.03 that two copies of the Minutes of the 2005 Synod Assembly of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which have been certified by the bishop and secretary, be approved as the official protocol of the assembly and be placed in the synod archives. ADOPTED

Motion: from recommendation of the Synod Council

SA06.06.04 that S7.26. of the Constitution of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod be amended to read: S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming chartered congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and the Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of the church and shall be subject to the discipline of this church. ADOPTED

(Note: This recommended amendment to the Constitutions for Synods by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly was adopted by this assembly on a majority vote at one assembly under †18.12.)

Pastor Gene Fogt reported on the proposals of the Special Committee on the Election of a New Bishop.

Nominating Committee Report: Kathy Patrick, chair

The names of persons nominated for various synod positions were read:

2007 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

Synod Vice-President - position # 1

Erika Soechting

Laity – Female - position # 2

Jackie Bade

Sister Anne Hall

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

Laity – Female - position # 3

Susan Giesecke

Linda Mosley

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

Laity – Male - position # 4

Rene Garza

Ralph Martin

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

Laity – Male – position # 5

Arthur Murphy

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

Laity – Youth – position # 6

Manhal “Ryan” Akbar

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

Laity – Person of Color/Primary Language other than English position # 7

Reyna Pereira

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

Clergy – Male – position # 8

David Klak

Robert J. Groenke, Jr.

Chris Markert

Herb Palmer

Richard Baker

Mike Aus

Erich Schaefer

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

Clergy – Male – position # 9

Ron Unger

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

Clergy – Female – position # 10

Pam Werrell

Elizabeth Stein

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

MEMBERSHIP ON SYNOD COUNCIL – Three year term ending 2009

Member-At-Large – Laity – Female

Nancy Cook

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

Member-At-Large – Laity – Female

Dorothy Menke Smith

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

Member-At-Large – Laity – Male

Darrell Reimer

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

Youth Member – two year term ending 2008

Kanee Lynn Viergutz

Bishop Blom declared nominations for this position closed.

KEYNOTE – *the Rev. Susan Briehl*

“I live in the Gospel of John”

Motion: David Hollrah, Reference and Counsel chair

SA06.06.05 to grant voice but not vote to Pr. Susan Briehl and Pr. Ruben Duran

ADOPTED

Motion: David Hollrah, Reference and Counsel chair

SA06.06.06 to adopt Resolution #1 "Serving the Poor/Reducing Poverty Factors" submitted by Ben Powell, a member of Living Word, Katy, Texas, with amendment by adding words "Gulf Coast Synod" in the Resolved paragraph following the words "Texas-Louisiana". ADOPTED

The adopted Resolution reads:

WHEREAS, Members, congregations of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod have a history of serving those in need with food, housing repairs, and social services are committed to reducing the level of poverty in our area and in the world,

WHEREAS, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has committed \$105M over the next four years to work with Habitat for Humanity, International (HFHI) to reduce poverty housing in the US and globally through ThriventBuilds,

WHEREAS, Members and congregations throughout the Synod have been active with local HFHI affiliates to improve housing in their communities,

WHEREAS, The ELCA has been involved with the ONE campaign to reduce poverty. HFHI and ThriventBuilds have a similar commitment to the ONE campaign with a focus on reducing poverty housing.

WHEREAS, ThriventBuilds will build six homes in Houston, one in Baton Rouge in 2006, and has committed \$5M to rebuild and add housing in the area affected by Katrina,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod embraces ThriventBuilds and Habitat for Humanity, International as a way to make significant progress in minimizing poverty housing in our area and in the world. We encourage any and all members with a passion to improve housing to participate in the ministry to those who need a "hand up."

Motion: David Hollrah, Reference and Counsel chair

SA06.06.07 to adopt Resolution #3 "Millennium Development Goals/ONE Lutheran Campaign" submitted by Beverly Davis, a member of synod Global Mission Team and Christ the King Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas, as presented. ADOPTED

The adopted Resolution reads:

WHEREAS, "Stepping forward as a public Church" is one of the five strategic directions for this Church and advocacy ministry is central to this direction,

WHEREAS, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed a resolution declaring ending hunger to be a core mission of the Church,

WHEREAS, the Scriptures declare thematically God's concern for the poor and oppressed, and describe the ministry of Jesus as "good news for the poor", and specify the content of Jesus' judgment as our acts on behalf of "the least of these",

WHEREAS, Lutheran theology sees in government structures the potential for a blessed and instrumental purpose,

WHEREAS, on behalf of the ELCA, Presiding Bishop Hanson endorsed the ONE Campaign to fight extreme poverty and global HIV/AIDS in 2005; and the ELCA Conference of Bishops identified the ONED Lutheran Campaign as one of the three priorities for the 2006 calendar year,

WHEREAS, the ELCA social statement on economic life, "*Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*," calls us to "scrutiny of how specific policies and practices affect people and nations that are the poorest, and changes to make policies of economic growth, trade, and investment more beneficial to those who are poor,"

WHEREAS, "*Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*" also calls for "support for family planning and enhanced opportunities for women so that population might be eased," (6)

WHEREAS, The ELCA social statement "*For Peace in God's World*" affirms that "our nation has responsibility to contribute a portion of its wealth to people in poorer nations through effective

economic assistance,” and that the purpose of such assistance “should be to reduce hunger and poverty in sustainable and environmentally sound ways,” (16)

WHEREAS, “*For Peace in God’s World*” also acknowledges that ““While the United States has been generous in providing humanitarian aid, our nation dramatically trails the rest of the industrialized world in providing development assistance relative to our production of wealth,” (16)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod and its congregations shall urge elected representatives to support increases in effective poverty-focused development assistance in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that synod congregations commit to studying the MDGs in order to deepen their understanding of the complex issues of poverty that must be addressed in order to achieve the goals of the ONE Campaign,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that synod congregations shall be encouraged to become ONE Lutheran congregations and to speak publicly on behalf of the ONE Campaign, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that synod congregations shall be encouraged to understand the relationship between our activities with the World Hunger Appeal, Stand With Africa, and other ELCA hunger and poverty related efforts.

Ballot # 1 was cast. Voting was closed at 6:15 p.m.

| The Assembly stood in recess until Friday morning at 8:00 a.m.

| **Friday, June 2**

Breakfast & Round Table Discussions – Sugar Land Ballroom

Devotions: *the Rev. Kathy Haueisen*

KEYNOTE: *the Rev. Susan Briehl*

Business Session Two

Credentials Committee Report #2

Darrell Reimer, chair reported that as of 7:53 a.m., there were 315 voting members registered of which there were 88 male clergy, 23 female clergy, 74 male voting members, and 130 female voting members. The composition of the Assembly was 35.24% clergy voting members and 64.76% lay voting members. There were 48 visitors registered.

Motion: Darrell Reimer, chair

SA06.06.08 to accept the Credentials Committee report. ADOPTED

Elections Committee Report on Ballot #1

Pr. Don Carlson, committee chair, announced the results.

2007 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

POSITION # 1 Synod Vice-President

Total votes cast = 259; needed to elect = 130; invalid = 1

Total votes received = 258

Bishop Blom declared Erika Soechting elected.

POSITION # 2 Laity-Female

Total votes cast = 267; needed to elect = 134; invalid = 1
Total votes received: Sister Anne Hall = 143; Jackie Bade = 123
Bishop Blom declared Sister Anne Hall elected.

POSITION # 3 Laity-Female

Total votes cast = 269; needed to elect = 135; invalid = 1
Total votes received: Susan Giesecke = 152; Linda Mosley = 116
Bishop Blom declared Susan Giesecke elected.

POSITION # 4 Laity-Male

Total votes cast = 270; needed to elect = 136; Invalid = 1
Total votes received: Rene Garza = 162; Ralph Martin = 107
Bishop Blom declared Rene Garza elected.

POSITION # 5 Laity-Male

Total votes cast = 261; needed to elect = 132; invalid = 0
Total votes received: Arthur Murphy = 261
Bishop Blom declared Arthur Murphy elected.

POSITION # 6 Laity-Youth

Total votes cast = 260; needed to elect = 131; invalid = 0
Total votes received: Manhal "Ryan" Akbar = 260
Bishop Blom declared Manhal "Ryan" Akbar elected.

POSITION # 7 Laity-Person of color/primary language other than English

Total votes cast = 260; needed to elect = 131; invalid = 0
Total votes received: Reyna Pereira = 260
Bishop Blom declared Reyna Pereira elected.

POSITION # 8 Clergy-Male

Total votes cast = 275; needed to elect = 138; invalid = 2
Total votes received:
Pr. Mike Aus = 79
Pr. Herb Palmer = 63
Pr. Robert J. Groenke, Jr. = 32
Pr. Chris Markert = 32
Pr. Erich Schaefer = 31
Pr. Richard Baker = 23
Pr. David Klak = 13

*Bishop Blom announced that a second ballot would be needed for this position.
It will contain the names of Pr. Mike Aus and Pr. Herb Palmer.*

POSITION # 9 Clergy-Male

Total votes cast = 258; needed to elect = 130; invalid = 0
Total votes received: Pr. Ron Unger = 258
Bishop Blom declared Pr. Ron Unger elected.

POSITION # 10 Clergy-Female

Total votes cast = 268; needed to elect = 135; invalid = 2
Total votes received: Pr. Pam Werrell = 164; Pr. Elizabeth Stein = 102
Bishop Blom declared Pr. Pam Werrell elected.

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS– Three tear terms ending 2009

MEMBER-AT-LARGE Laity-Female

Total votes cast = 263; needed to elect = 132; invalid = 0

Total votes received: Nancy Cook = 263

Bishop Blom declared Nancy Cook elected.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE Laity-Female

Total votes cast = 262; needed to elect = 132; invalid = 0

Total votes received: Dorothy Menke Smith = 262

Bishop Blom declared Dorothy Menke Smith elected

MEMBER-AT-LARGE Laity-Male

Total votes cast = 266; needed to elect = 134; invalid = 1

Total votes received: Darrell Reimer = 265

Bishop Blom declared Darrell Reimer elected.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE Laity-Youth (two year term ending 2008

Total votes cast = 265; needed to elect = 133; invalid = 0

Total votes received: Karee Lynn Viergutz = 265

Bishop Blom declared Karee Lynn Viergutz elected.

Second Ballot (POSITION # 8 - Voting Members of Churchwide Assembly; Clergy-Male)

Mission Moment: Video: "Audience With God"

Staff/Budget Report

Bishop Blom reminded the Assembly members that we are The TELLing Synod:

T=Transformational; E= Evangelical; L=Leadership; and L=Lutheran people.

The past year was dominated by response to the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita – (energy and time of staff consumed; great ELCA response 1.3 million dollars to help support leaders and families concern for emotional and spiritual needs of leaders.)

Members of the Office of Bishop Management Team made presentations concerning the scope of their work: (Dave Morrell – Call Process; George Bement – Leadership; Peggy Contos Hahn and Rozella White – partnership for youth and family ministry; Rob Moore's 7th report featured a video "Faith in the midst of the Storm" prepared by Pr. John McCullough Bade and a Partners in Mission video "What Are You Called to Do?")

The Synod Council has appointed a Transition Team for the coming "Year of Transition" One of the questions to be considered by synod members is "What is the mission of Synod in next 6 years?" What gifts of leadership will be needed to fulfill that mission? Bishop Blom asked the assembly members to practice for 5 minutes how to discuss things together. The test question was "What role should this synod have as its mission in responding to the stranger, the immigrant?"

The proposed 2007 synod budget was presented by Nancy Froelich of the Management Team.

Motion: by Nancy Froelich

SA06.06.09 that the Assembly adopt a General Fund Budget of \$1,718,000 and a Capital Expenditures Budget of \$7,000 for the 2007 fiscal year. **ADOPTED**

Elections Committee Report on Ballot 2

Pr. Don Carlson, committee chair announced the results

2007 CHURCHWIDE ASSMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

POSITION # 8 – Clergy – male

Total votes cast = 264; needed to elect – 133; no invalid ballots

Total votes received: Pr. Michael Aus = 164; Pr. Herb Palmer = 100

Bishop Blom declared Pr. Michael Aus elected to this position.

Various Workshops were available to the assembly members:

Business Session Three

Devotions: Pr. Pete Lopez

Pr. Bill Bruggeman spoke of the ministry of LaFrontena.

Churchwide Report, part one: the Rev. Ruben Duran (a video greeting from ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson was a part of this report.)

Texas Lutheran University presented Church Service Awards to Peggy Contos Hahn and Pr. John McCullough Bade

The following Ministry Milestones were recognized:

Congregation Anniversaries

50 – Christ the King, Kenner, LA

75 – St. John, Santa Fe, TX

150 – Salem, Brenham, TX

Newly Ordained: Brad Wayne Otto – July 16, 2005, Pamela M. Brouker – November 5, 2005

Ordination Anniversaries

25 Years: Brian K. Giguee, Debra R. Grant

30 Years: Richard E. Brunk, Jr., Don M. Carlson, Boyd Q. Faust

35 Years: Robert J. Groenke, Jr., Stephen J. Kelly

40 years: Norman H. Albertson, V. George Brookover, William F. Derrick, Walton H. Ehrhardt

45 years: James A. Boyd, Arlyn J. Hausmann, Lawrence R. Juull

50 years: Robert C. Berry, Paul G. Mathre

55 years: Luther M. Schliesser

65 years: Erwin H. Knitt,

Retired

William R. Derrick – December 1, 2005 (40 years)

Stephen Quill – April 1, 2006 (34 years)

Virgil Y. Pecht – May 1, 2006 (47 years)

Deaths:

Alan R. Krabbe – April 2, 2006

Kornel J. Tessenyi – August 2, 2005

William Gaskamp (AIM) – December 28, 2005

Associates in Ministry – Anniversaries:

40 years - Olga Holton

Synod Council members who completed terms:

Nancy Cook, Darrell Reimer, Dorothy Menke Smith, Ashlea Herrmann

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Arwin Strehlow.

Mission /Moment – video featuring Thrivent/Habitat

BIBLE STUDY – Dr. Ray Pickett

Various workshops were again available for the assembly members to attend.

Churchwide Report, part two: the Rev. Ruben Duran

Motion: David Hollrah, chair moved the adoption of Resolution #2 “Synodical Leadership Position for Lutheran Men in Mission” presented by Pr. Brian Gige of New Life Lutheran Church in Pearland.

SA06.06.10. to adopt Resolution #2 as amended by the Reference and Counsel Committee.

ADOPTED. The amended Resolution # 2 as adopted reads:

WHEREAS, the largest nonchurched population in the USA is young men ages 19-35, and WHEREAS, the ELCA's Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) is reaching out to these young men through local congregational, synodical and regional events, and

WHEREAS, ELCA leaders such as Dr. Rollie Martinson, Dr. Paul Hill and others by their efforts continue the strengthening of our youth networks encouraging a continued outreach to this male population and as this population continues to age, and

WHEREAS, current finding indicate that part of the strength of any 21st century congregation is reflected the strength of its local men's ministry, and

WHEREAS, Gulf Coast Synod congregations seek to strength their ministry efforts to this population, and

WHEREAS, the Gulf Coast Synod currently maintains synod level position for the Call Process, Leadership, Multi-cultural ministry, etc, and

WHEREAS, there is no current position at the synod level designated for oversight for ministry to men, and

WHEREAS, there is a genuine need for the development and strengthening of a synodical network for men's ministry,

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2006 Assembly of the TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod direct the Synod Council through the Management Team, to create a leadership position for men's ministry in the synod under the oversight of the Youth and Family ministry, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this position be filled with the utmost sense of urgency.

Motion: David Hollrah, chair moved the adoption of Resolution #4 “Resolution to Empower the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod to Engage the Synod and its Churches with Immigrant and Refugee issues” presented by John C. Wenger and Susan Giesecke without amendment.

SA06.06.11. to adopt Resolution #4 as presented. ADOPTED

The adopted Resolution reads:

WHEREAS, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted to welcome and encourage task forces in our synods to “empower this church in its engagement with refugee and immigrant issues;

WHEREAS, it is consistent with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible that the Church and its members offer aid and assistance to those who are in need of such, including refugees and immigrants;

WHEREAS, the needs and conditions of refugees and immigrants are topics that the Synod and its Churches could educate its members about in the context of the teachings of Jesus;
WHEREAS, members of this Synod should be encouraged to address the issues surrounding immigrations based upon the application of the teachings of Jesus,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS SYNOD THAT:

1. At the direction of the Bishop, the Synod constitute and organize an Immigration and Refugee Task Force composed of members of this Synod;
2. The Task Force be charged with developing a program to educate Congregations in this Synod about the conditions of immigrants in our synod and nation, the various approaches to immigration being advocated by lawmakers, the needs of immigrants in our communities and how our Synod can help immigrants and refugees address these needs,
3. The Task Force shall make specific recommendation to the Bishop for the Synod to assist immigrants and refugees in this Synod.
4. The Task Force shall seek advice and assistance from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in performing its duties.

The Assembly was recessed until Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.

LUTHERHILL CORPORATION MEETING

Pr. Kevin Meyer, Board of Directors Chair called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

Pr. Meyer and Evan M. Moilan, Lutherhill Executive Director spoke of the 50 years of outdoor ministry at Lutherhill. They shared details of a completed Master Plan for new and improved facilities at Lutherhill.

Motion: Pr. Meyer presented the slate of nominees to serve three year terms on the Lutherhill Board of Directors.

LH06.06.01 to elect Ms. Susan Senti, Mr. Neil Christian, Mr. David Newbauer, and Mr. Lauri Tokoi to three years terms on the Lutherhill Board of Directors. ADOPTED

The Lutherhill Corporation Meeting was adjourned.

Saturday, June 3

Devotions: the Rev. J. C. Pan and the Choir of Chinese Lutheran Church, Houston Texas,

Business Session Four

Final Report of Credentials Committee

Darrell Reimer, chair, reported that at 7:58 a.m., there were 323 voting members registered, of which 90 were male clergy, 24 were female clergy, 75 male lay voting members, and 134 were female voting members. The voting composition of the assembly was 64.71 percent laity and 35.29 percent were clergy. There were 49 visitors registered.

Motion: by Darrell Reimer

SA06.06.12. to adopt the Credentials Committee report. ADOPTED

Dr. Wayne Menking of the Lutheran Seminary Program of the Southwest addressed the Assembly. There will be Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod participation in the LSPSW funds appeal. Information about how to participate will be shared in mid-2007.

Bible Study led by Dr. Ray Pickett

Mission Moment: A video *"With Hands Uplifted"* produced by Pr. John McCullough Bade

Pr. David Roschke addressed the assembly concerning the Mission Investment Fund.

Synodical WELCA President, Pat Swavely brought greetings.

Judy Biffle, a synod member serving on the ELCA Church Council talked about Churchwide matters.

Erika Soechting, Synod Vice-President reported on Synod Council matters.

Pr. George Bement presented the recommended Compensation Guidelines for 2007.

Motion: by Pr. Bement

SA06.06.13. to adopt the proposed Compensation Guidelines. ADOPTED

Mission Moment: A video produced by the LaCrosse Synod "Being Good Stewards"

Reference and Counsel

Motion: David Hollrah presented a Resolution of thanks

SA06.06.14 "Resolved, that the 2006 Assembly of the TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod of the ELCA hereby offers the utmost in thanks and adulation to the enablers and all who contributed to the success of the only Assembly ever to finish on time." ADOPTED by applause.

Bishop Blom conducted the Service of Installation for newly elected Synod Council members – Manual "Ryan" Akbar; Nancy Cook; Darrell Reimer; and Dorothy Menke Smith.

Bishop Blom led the Assembly in a Closing Litany and declared the Nineteenth Synod Assembly adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pr. H. Eldon Akerman "Cliff"
Synod Secretary