

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**The Elmen Center**  
**Augustana College**  
**Sioux Falls, South Dakota**  
**June 4-6, 2004**

The seventeenth annual synod assembly of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, convened at the Elmen Center, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 4-6, 2004. The assembly theme, "Making Christ Known: Let None Be Forgotten," was related by the Assembly Planning Committee and the Prairie Coteau Conference Planning Committee for worship, fellowship events and the plenary sessions.

Registration of the voting members and visitors from the congregations of the South Dakota Synod began at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, June 4. An orientation for first-time voting members was held at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 909 W 33<sup>rd</sup> St, Sioux Falls.

The 4:00 p.m. Opening Worship Service with Holy Communion was held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The Rev. David Mullen, Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod, partner synod to the South Dakota Synod, was the preacher at the service. Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, Bishop, South Dakota Synod, served as the Presiding Minister. Pastor Dan Overbo served as the Liturgist. Pastor William Olsen, Webster, served as Worship Director. Pastors and lay people from the Prairie Coteau Conference assisted with the service. Mark Levsen, Webster, served as organist for the service. The liturgy and hymns were from the Renewing Worship Songbook.

Offerings received at the synod assembly had been designated by the South Dakota Synod Council for the E-Vision of the Mission Plan, Lutheran Campus Ministry, and Companion Synod program (Nicaragua).

**Opening of the Assembly**  
**Friday June 4, 2004**

The synod assembly opened in the Elmen Center Forum at 5:30 p.m. The Global Connections Network, led by Pastor Erika Lehmann and network members, hosted the evening meal and table discussions on various ministries that enable synod members to connect with the world around them. Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl chaired a South Dakota Synod Ministries Panel in which representatives described their ministry, explained the challenges and shared future goals. Representatives included Carolyn Downs, Banquet, Sioux Falls; Pastor Larry Peterson, Lutheran Lakota Ministry; Pastor David Christenson, St. Dymas; Pastor Ed Nesselhuf, Prison Congregations of America; Pastor Joann Conroy, Woyatan Ministry, Rapid City; Angela Hyde, LSS Refugee and Immigration Services; Jason and Sarah Andera, Heartland Ephphatha Services, who shared about their ministries.

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl led the rite for the Opening of an Assembly with a hymn, “ Let Me Be Your Servant.” The Bishop introduced Dr. Richard Hanson, Academic Dean at Augustana College, who brought a greeting to voting members and guests on behalf of Dr. Bruce Halvorson, President. Dr. Hanson stated that the college, like the ELCA, is reflecting on its ministry and mission.

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl made introductions of several guests: Pastor Charles Berdahl, ELCA Board of Pensions, Sara Videa, and Katia Cortez, from the Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope of Nicaragua; Tom Madison and Andrea Oliver, Spanish translators; Bishop Emeritus Norman Eitrheim, and his wife, Clarice; the Lutheran Youth Organization; Pastor Keith Zeh, Region 3 Outreach Director; and Bishop David Mullen, Sierra Pacific Synod.

The Bishop called upon Pastor Don Hallberg, Director of the ELCA Foundation, to bring the State of the ELCA report. He brought greetings from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, who wants ELCA members to be the Body of Christ wherever they meet. Hallberg thanked the voting members for being the center of mission in their place in their life. He issued a challenge for outreach and thanked for ongoing mission support. He shared memories of Augusta Victoria Hospital on top of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, where two LWR quilts kept him warm and the 41,000 kids at the Atlanta youth gathering who organized a conga line, but at the sound of the gong formed a procession of crosses to begin worship.

He shared video greeting from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, who described ELCA health and vitality as centered in the local congregations gathered for worship and service. He spoke of the tension in the ELCA and stated that Lutherans do not define themselves by sex, but with the Gospel. He expressed the fear that he would preside over a church that would wither and die.

Hallberg closed with Scriptural reminder from Colossians about the peace from God that unites members of the Body of Christ.

Joanne Negstad, Director of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota and a troop of volunteers wearing yellow tee shirts and construction hats who had participated in the Changing Children’s Lives Campaign made their way to the stage. Bishop Emeritus Norman Eitrheim thanked congregations for the lives of children and youth who will be changed by the campaign. In the congregational phase, \$660,000 has already been committed. The South Dakota WELCA and the LSS/SD Board of Directors have exceeded their goals.

Negstad announced that in 2006, the Sioux Falls Center for Youth will be redone. She introduced Sara, a resident at Summit Oaks, who shared about her life at Summit Oaks. The LSS/SD director concluded that God is blessing this work and “won’t quit until we have built a place for kids.” She invited the assembly to sing a song about the campaign to the tune of “We are Marching in the Light of God.”

Pastor Ed Nesselhuf, Director and Founder, Prison Congregations of America, spoke about becoming involved in the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Prison Congregations of America. The PCA is a model that has been shared with other states and other denominations since its founding in 1994. He shared recorded reflections on the significance of prison ministry inmates learning about the love of God. A former prisoner, Fred, thanked the assembly in person for the ministry and support after he left prison, and another former prisoner, Jeff, provided special music.

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl next invited Sandy Middendorf, Vice President of Human Resources, Augsburg Fortress, to bring a greeting. She spoke of the energizing and exciting changes at the publishing house, especially in the last 19 months of leadership from Executive Beth Lewis. She invited assembly members to visit the store display.

Jodi Hanson spoke about Faith Builders, the lay theological education program of the synod. She asked for names of people interested in growing in faith through education. Hanson spoke about the Prayer Labyrinth that would be available again during the assembly in which participants could participate and pray their way through. She invited the assembly participants to use the prayer tool throughout the meeting.

The Bishop asked the candidates for rostered ministry present at the assembly to stand. She also introduced the seminary graduates assigned to the synod in the last year.

A Service of Dedication of the remodeled and new synod office addition was held. Neil Sorensen, Lutherans Outdoors/SD; Steve Larson, NEXT; Pastor Bruce Williams; Kate Holmquest, Augustana College; Jim Schade, Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota; were called to the stage to participate in the service. Joel Gilbertson, Bismarck, a Sturgis high school graduate, nephew of the late South Dakota District President EO Gilbertson, and son of the late Western North Dakota District President Roy Gilbertson and a former pastor at Grace Lutheran, Sturgis, accompanied the service with piano music. Photos of the construction and remodeling were shown before a prayer of dedication.

Pastor Jeff Sorenson, Assistant to the Bishop, gave announcements about two additional interest groups and the three conference caucuses that would meet in the commons immediately following the close of this session: Prairie Coteau, Siverson Lounge; Dakota Heartland, 3 in 1 Room; and Prairie Rivers, in the student street area, all in the Morrison Commons.

The Bishop introduced an arrangement of the Benediction, originally composed by Joel Gilbertson for a Gilbertson family reunion, and then dismissed the assembly for the evening.

The Partnership Party in the Morrison Commons following the session, sponsored by Luther Seminary, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Lutheran Social Services, Lutherans Outdoors, and Augustana College featured root beer floats and popcorn and music provided by Joel Gilbertson.

## **Saturday, June 5, 2004**

The Companion Synod Task Force hosted the Mission Prayer Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall of Our Savior's Lutheran Church with a breakfast buffet beginning at 6:30 a.m. Suzanne Hansen served as emcee, introducing several guests, including visitors representing the Lutheran Church of Nicaragua, and Pastor Daryl Schubert, a pastor of the synod now serving in Tanzania. The participants spent time in prayer for the global mission of the church.

### **First Plenary Session June 5, 2004, 8:30 a.m.**

Gathering Music was provided by pastor Jeff Redlin and his wife, Misty, Langford, from the Prairie Coteau Conference. Pastor Gary Westgard, Grace Lutheran, Watertown, who served as Assembly Chaplain, opened with prayer. He presented Joanne Negstad, LSS/SD with a poster of children from his congregation as part of their gift to the Changing Children's Lives Campaign. He told a story of the young bishop with a sit down and stand up division of synod assembly who sought advice from a retired bishop and learned that was the tradition in this synod. In conclusion, he read about how we walk by faith not by sight from a letter from the missionary Paul.

Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl called the assembly to order at 8:35 a.m. She acknowledged the presence and work of synod staff. She invited the voting members to turn to Page 59 and following in the preliminary report for the rules of parliamentary procedure. She explained the various rules and how she would strive for fair-handed leadership and balanced speaking during the plenary discussion.

Teressa Petersen, Tea, moved to amend the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, South Dakota Synod in Section 3.05, line 4, [page 61] by striking the words, "No further debate is allowed," and insert the words, "This motion is debatable." The motion was seconded. Peterson advocated the amendment because she believed that it would facilitate discussion.

The Bishop called for the vote on the amendment. A two-thirds majority vote is needed to change the rules of the assembly. The Bishop declared that the amendment had failed.

When there was no further speaking, the Bishop called for the vote on the Rules for the Assembly.

### **MSC to adopt the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure of the South Dakota Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as printed on pages 59-61. SA04.06.05.01.**

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl moved to the Agenda as printed on pages 7 and 8. She reported that resolutions 01 and 03 would be considered in the first plenary; resolutions 10-13 in

the second plenary; resolutions 14-17 in the third plenary; and in Sunday's plenary, resolutions 02, 18-19, and resolutions 04-09, if they are moved from the assembly floor. She explained that the order of consideration was determined by when originators of the resolution would be available.

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal, moved to amend the agenda by considering 2, and 7-9 at the third plenary session this afternoon. The amendment was seconded. Pastor Roynesdal stated that these resolutions need the largest bulk of time for consideration. The Bishop explained that Resolution 02 had been included for later because the LYO was meeting today to elect its voting member for the 2005 churchwide assembly representative because its convention had been cancelled last fall. Pastor Olaf withdrew the reference to Resolution 02 and the balance of his amendment was considered a friendly amendment. Pastor Siri Sorenson, Sioux Falls, and a member of the resolutions committee, reported that the bringer of these resolutions had scheduled a wedding today and would not be able to participate in the discussions. Pastor Greg Johnson, Tea, thought the significant resolutions should be considered today. Christine Berger-Wilkey, Watertown, said that she believe people should go to the interest groups and then consider the resolutions. Teresa Petersen, Tea, said that resolutions should be given the time to reflect their importance, and pastors should be present. Pastor Sandra Soye, Brandon, in support of the amendment, said that many of us will be gone tomorrow for various reasons. Pastor Jim Joslyn, Harrisburg, stated that the assembly needs everyone together to consider the important resolutions.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Menno, moved the previous question. The motion to end debate passed.

**MSC to close debate.  
SA04.06.05.02.**

**MSC to adopt agenda as amended.  
SA04.06.05.03.**

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl announced that Resolutions 07-09 would be considered at the beginning of the third plenary session.

The Bishop invited Frank Slagle, synod vice president, to join her for the State of the Synod address, which she described as a reflection back and projection forward. She referred to her report on page 15 of the preliminary report

To illustrate developments in the synod's ministry she called upon Pastor Jeff Sorenson to describe the development of the Woyatan Ministry, Rapid City, an outreach to Native Americans and other minorities. Sorenson described how the synod had purchased the Atonement Lutheran property with the assistance of grants and loans through the ELCA Mission Loan Investment Fund. Susan Thompson, fund representative, was invited to the assembly stage where she was presented gifts from the Native American community by Sorenson and Pastor Larry Peterson.

DeGroot-Nesdahl also called Pat Eidsness, Director of the Faith Family Style Ministry, to the platform to review the synod's ministry in the past two and a half years. Eidsness thanked the synod for its passion for Faith Family Style Ministry and referred to her report in which she declared that this synod ministry has met goals of the design team and more. She concluded with a story from the Roots and Wings retreat about an eight-year old girl teaching the Gospel message to her 18-year old brother.

The Bishop led a review of how the E-vision and synod core values developed. She stated that financial support is a stressor now. The Homosexuality Study in the ELCA is a stressor with anxiety, but congregations are learning from one another in their study of the issues of sexuality. She stated that her prayer for the church is that it stays together in dialogue. She has fear and hope for the future next year.

Vice President Slagle described the process how the mission plan is prepared. He reviewed a chart of the statements of intent and actual mission support income from 1991-2004. He also reviewed a chart of the total giving by congregations in the ELCA.

Pastor Erma Wolf, Brandon, reported for the Credentials Committee that there were 214 male voting members and 248 female lay voting members present for a total of 462 lay voting members. 166 clergy were present, as well as 11 advisory, 16 youth observers and 50 visitors.

Pastor John Sandstrom, Castlewood, Chair of the Committee for Support to Ministries, presented the Nominating Committee report. The report includes nominees for the Consultation Committee, Discipline Committee, LSS/SD Board of Directors, Chapel in the Hills Board of Directors, Support to Ministries Committee, and Candidacy Committee. Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl announced that the ballots were found on the tables. She explained that nominations would be opened and the assembly had the choice to vote now or later. There were no further nominations. She invited the voting members to review the nominations and information about the candidates.

Brett Koenecke, Pierre, chair of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 01, "Elect Synod Council Members," with the recommendation of "Do Pass."

**Resolution 01**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: Elect Synod Council Members**  
**Source: Resolutions Committee**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod elect the following conference nominees to the South Dakota Synod Council for a term of four years:**

**Prairie Coteau Conference**  
**Crossroads Conference**

**Rev. William A. Olsen, Webster**  
**Cary Wencil, Sioux Falls**

Southeastern Conference  
Southeastern Conference  
Northern Plains Conference  
Prairie Rivers Conference  
Bear Butte Conference

Alan Ferris, Yankton (2 years)  
Suzanne Hansen, Beresford  
Rev. Dennis Fonkert, Mobridge  
Brian Neugebauer, Dimock  
Delores Dexter, Lead

There was no speaking to the resolution. The Bishop called for the vote and declared that the new members of Synod Council had been elected.

**MSC to adopt Resolution 01, “Elect Synod Council Members.”  
SA.04.06.05.04.**

Next, the Bishop called for consideration of Resolution 03. The Resolutions Committee, according to Brett Koenecke, chair, recommended “Do Pass” for Resolution 03, “Bylaw Amendments for Discipline and Consultation Committees.

**Resolution 03  
Recommendation: Do Pass  
Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: Bylaw Amendments for Discipline and Consultation Committees  
Source: Synod Council Constitution Task Force**

**WHEREAS, the 1999 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted mandatory changes in the composition of the synodical Committee on Discipline and Consultation Committee; and**

**WHEREAS, these changes were implemented by the South Dakota Synod, through its executive committee, but the bylaws relating to these committees were not revised to correspond to the changes; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the bylaws relating to the Consultation Committee be amended to comply with the required changes:**

**Consultation Committee**

<b><u>S11.01.21.</u></b>	<b>The Consultation Committee shall consist of <del>12</del> <u>six</u> persons, of whom</b>
<b><u>S11.02.21.</u></b>	<b><del>five</del> <u>three</u> shall be ordained ministers, and shall be elected by the Synod Assembly for terms of six years without consecutive reelection. (ref. ELCA Chapter 20)</b>
<b><u>S11.01.22.</u></b>	<b>In the case of a vacancy the Synod Council shall appoint a</b>
<b><u>S11.02.21.</u></b>	<b>replacement to act until the next Synod Assembly at which time a new committee member shall be elected to a full term.</b>

- S11.01.23.** The Synod Bishop shall be an ex-officio member of the committee  
**S11.02.23.** except in cases where the Bishop brings charges.  
**S11.01.24.** The committee shall discharge its duties in accordance with the  
**S11.02.24.** current provisions of Chapter 20 of the constitution and the bylaws of the ELCA, and any relevant bylaws to that constitution.

And be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod bylaws relating to the Committee on Discipline be amended to comply with the required changes:

**Committee on Discipline**

- S11.01.31.** The Synod Assembly shall elect ~~three~~ six ordained ministers and ~~three~~  
**S11.03.31.** six laypersons for terms of six years without consecutive reelection as the Synod Standing Committee on Discipline. (ref. ELCA Chapter 20)
- S11.01.32.** In case of a vacancy the Synod Council shall appoint a replacement to  
**S11.03.32.** act until the next Synod Assembly at which time a new committee member shall be elected to a full term.
- S11.01.33.** The Synod Bishop shall not be a member of the Synod Standing  
**S11.03.33.** Committee on Discipline.
- S11.01.34.** The Synod Council shall designate the chair of the committee every  
**S11.03.34.** other year.
- S11.01.37.** The Committee on Discipline shall discharge its duties in accordance  
**S11.03.37.** with the current provisions of Chapter 20 of the ELCA constitution and any relevant bylaws to that constitution.

And be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the bylaws for these committees be renumbered and placed within the appropriate constitutional committee descriptions.

Again the Chair declared the assembly to be ready to vote on Resolution 03 when there was no discussion. She declared Resolution 03 had been adopted.

**MSC to adopt Resolution No. 03, “Bylaw Amendments for Discipline and Consultation Committees”  
 SA04.06.05.05.**

The assembly recessed for a coffee break. When the voting members gathered again at 9:45 a.m., the Rev. Dr. Walter Taylor, Jr., Trinity Lutheran Seminary, led Bible study on the theme, “The Bible and Same-Gender Actions: What is the Witness of the Texts?”

The second Plenary Session began at 10:30 a.m. with Chaplain Westgard inviting prayer concerns to be left on the table at the podium. Prayer was offered for Kermit Black, Synod Treasurer, who had become ill during the night.

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl called on Pastor Jeff Sorenson, Assistant to the Bishop, to substitute for Kermit Black in presenting the Treasurer's Report. He called attention to Auditor's Report in the preliminary report, pages 73-84, to the handout of the report of the congregations' 2003 mission support. Other sheets reported on gifts to world hunger appeal, missionary sponsorship, Lutheran Disaster Relief, and the congregations with investments in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

Sorenson reviewed Pages 26-27 in the preliminary report for the closeout of the 2003 mission plan with a thank you for the funds received for the wider church. He stated that significantly less income had been received than the year prior and what was budgeted had been received in 2003. He also explained the formation of Lutheran Planned Giving that reduced synod budgeting for development income through a shift in funding.

Sorenson reviewed the Adopted 2004 Mission Plan and Revised 2004 Mission Plan. He told how changes are made by Executive Committee when statements of intent come. In 2004, they were significantly lower than the prior year. Changes: The Churchwide support percentage remains the same, but the amount is lower. 42% is also the percentage for the synod's support for Region 3. In the South Dakota Partner Ministries, the first five had a 7.5% shortfall and that amount was reduced for each one. A change from support of church colleges in general to direct support for Augustana College was made by the committee. Synod Ministries total was decreased because staff salaries were rolled back to .025% rather .03%. No new car for the bishop is planned. The benefits line increases because of medical costs' increase. The amount for Support Staff salaries was reduced because of the reduction of Resource Center staff to ¼ time. Native American Ministry moved travel expenditures into the budget line of \$5000. Most expenses see a decrease. Partners in Caring was eliminated. These complete the changes in the revised 2004 mission plan.

The Executive Committee used a 2% increase in statements of intent as a starting point for the mission plan. Faith Family Style Ministry grants have ended. A number of gifts have been received for this ministry. Faith Family Style Ministry and the Rostered Ministry Coordinator positions were funded with gift funds intended to be expended. Faith Builders restricted funds from Talent Ingathering have been transferred to be used for this program. A new line item, E-vision has been increased for 2005 so gifts can be designated for synod ministry programs. Mission Support for ELCA remains at 42%. With South Dakota Partner Ministries there have been conversations about a percentage of mission support that would be allocated to them. Luther Seminary would be increased; others decreased. There are percentages to the larger partners and smaller percentages for the other ministries. As mission support comes in, those gifts are given to the partners. Woyatan ministry costs are a new line item in the mission plan. The expected upkeep and maintenance costs are projected at 15,000. In the South Dakota Ministries section projected increases for staff salaries are at 2%. The Rostered Ministry

Coordinator position is reduced to halftime. Faith Family Style Ministry is reduced to halftime. The Candidacy Committee expense line has been increased because of the increase in the number of candidates. In closing, Sorenson thanked the voting members for their mission support gifts.

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl invited questions about the 2005 Mission Plan. Pastor Jim Thvedt, Toronto, inquired about the Priority Pool Funds and the Bishop explained that this is funding for special projects that came from former committee budgets. Pastor Erma Wolf, Brandon, expressed concern that the Partners in Caring line item was deleted because there are some pastors of small parishes who need counseling but can't afford to pay for what they need. She pleaded that the program be restored as soon as possible.

The Bishop reported that the 2005 Mission Plan would be on the agenda Sunday morning.

She next called for synod elections. Pastor Sandstrom had indicated nominations earlier. The chair reviewed the options available to assembly and then called for further nominations from the floor. After asking three times without any new nominations being made, the Bishop declared nominations were closed.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Menno, moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the elections announced by Pastor Sandstrom. Seconded. The Bishop called for the vote and declared that those nominated had been elected.

**MSC that a unanimous ballot be cast for the elections announced by Pastor Sandstrom.  
SA.04.06.05.06.**

Koenecke presented Resolution 10, "Faith Builders Program," for the Resolutions Committee with the recommendation, "Do Pass."

**Resolution 10  
Recommendation: Do Pass  
Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: Faith Builders Program  
Sources: Southeastern Conference  
Prairie Coteau Conference**

**WHEREAS, the Faith Builders Program for Lay Education and Leadership was established by the South Dakota Synod Assembly in June 2000 and was supported in its first years by the Talent Ingathering of the synod; and**

**WHEREAS, the Faith Builders Program has now proven to be valuable (with an average of fifty persons attending each core course, four people entering candidacy for ordination through the influence of Faith Builders participation, five people entering candidacy for Associate in Ministry through the influence of Faith Builders**

participation, six people have or are serving as Synodically Authorized Ministers through the educational support of Faith Builders, thirteen people having been recognized in 2003 as Parish Assistants after completing three years of study, and four people to be recognized at this years assembly); and WHEREAS, there is a clear need for continued lay education to support people in their ministry in daily life and in their congregational leadership; and the funds of the Talent Ingathering money will have been spent by mid 2005; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, that congregations of the South Dakota Synod be encouraged to continue funding for Faith Builders through increased giving to the South Dakota Synod Mission Plan and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod congregations be encouraged to support an annual “Faith Builders Sunday,” by using videos and material provided by the synod to share information about the program with their members and to raise financial support for the Faith Builders ministry.**

Pastor Brad Peterson, Alcester, reported that the resolution came from the design team for Faith Builders for the purpose of creating more support the Faith Builders Program. Marion Grimes, Synodically Authorized Minister, Bradley/Crocker, spoke of her personal experience that led to her involvement with Faith Builders and her participation in the first class of parish assistants. Herman Fink, Armour, favored the resolution, noting that our budget is a 30-second ad for the super bowl.

The Bishop called for the vote on Resolution 10; she declared that the resolution had been adopted.

**MSC to adopt Resolution 10, “Faith Builders Program”  
SA04.06.05.07.**

The Resolutions Committee chair brought a recommendation of “Do Pass“ for Resolution 11, “Faith Family Style Ministry.”

Pastor Bob Hansen, Beresford, spoke of the resolution that created the program when its future was unknown. A restricted fund for this ministry had been established, and Hansen announced that he had a check to present for the Faith Family Style Restricted Fund if the resolution passes.

Pastor Greg Johnson, Tea, spoke about the E-vision line as an opportunity for congregations to contribute to the Faith Family Style Ministry.

**Resolution 11  
Recommendation: Do Pass  
Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: Faith Family Style Ministry**

**Source: Southeastern Conference**

**WHEREAS, the Faith Family Style Project, under the leadership of Pat Eidsness, has proven to be a well received and vital program of the South Dakota Synod; and WHEREAS, Faith and Family Ministry is one of our core values as a Synod; and**

**WHEREAS, the three-year Faith Family Style project will be completed in 2004; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod thank Pat Eidsness for her leadership of this ministry and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod continue the Faith Family Style program beyond the three year project and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly encourage Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl to work with the Synod Executive Committee and Synod Council to continue to include Faith Family Style ministry in the mission plan of the synod and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod establish a restricted fund for Faith Family Style ministry and encourage congregations and individuals to contribute to this fund.**

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl called for voting on the resolution and declared that it had passed. Pastor Hansen brought check for Faith Family Style Restricted Fund to the platform.

**MSC that Resolution 11, “Faith Family Ministry” be adopted.  
SA04.06.05.08.**

Resolution 12 was presented by Brett Koenecke, chair of the Resolutions Committee, with the recommendation of “Do Pass as Amended.”

**Resolution 12  
Recommendation: Do Pass as Amended  
Action Taken: Adopted as Amended**

**Subject: Bible Study at Synod Assembly  
Source: Southeastern Conference**

**WHEREAS, the #1 Core Value of the South Dakota Synod is: “The Bible as Our Focus”; and**

**WHEREAS, the rise of biblical illiteracy in our ELCA congregations should be alarming to us; and**

**WHEREAS, the ELCA in its 2003 Churchwide Assembly, adopted a new Evangelism Strategy with the four objectives of: 1) Calling our church to prayer, 2) Raising up evangelical leaders, 3) Teaching discipleship, and 4) Renewing and starting congregations; and**

**WHEREAS, the foundation and understanding of prayer, leadership in the church, discipleship and renewal is found in the Holy Scriptures; and**

**WHEREAS, biblical literacy creates passion for evangelism and the sharing of faith; and**

**WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod through its Faith Family Style Project in partnership with Crossways International piloted an incredible experience of intergenerational learning and sharing of the “Big Story” of God’s Divine Drama as presented in the Bible; and**

**WHEREAS, our annual Synod Assemblies in South Dakota seldom have more than an hour of Bible Study time on the agenda; therefore be it**

**~~RESOLVED, that the Synod Assembly Planning Task Force for 2005 set aside one day of the Assembly for learning and sharing the “Big Story” of God’s Divine Drama as presented in the Bible and be it further~~**

**~~RESOLVED, that the Task Force be encouraged to draw upon the relationship with Crossways International in making resources and materials available for voting members and participants to take back to their congregations and homes to help increase Biblical literacy and be it further~~**

**~~RESOLVED, that in the years after 2005, the South Dakota Synod Assembly seeks to model Biblical study and learning, as an integral part of the Agenda, thereby yearly promoting the #1 Core Value of our Synod.~~**

**RESOLVED, that the congregations of the South Dakota Synod be encouraged to offer opportunities for regular Bible study and to encourage participation in regular Bible study among members and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that Synod Assembly Planning Committees be encouraged to provide increased opportunities for Bible study as part of each Synod Assembly.**

Brett Koenecke explained that because the Resolutions Committee had considered the original resolution problematic in using only Crossways materials and in setting aside an entire day for Bible Study, it had created the amendments that it proposed to the assembly.

Pastor Brad Peterson, Alcester, author of the resolution, spoke to the resolution and described how it sought implement the number 1 core value of the Bible as Focus. “Through the Word Inviting” is the theme for next year’s synod assembly. He stated that Crossways materials are a good illustration of materials that are easily used and relate to our evangelism emphasis. He stated that the amendments are only one more “encourage.” Peterson moved to amend Resolution 12 by returning to the original resolution. The motion to amend was seconded.

Pastor David Baer, Whitewood, spoke against the amendment, saying that the original title was Biblical illiteracy and that could be better dealt with at the congregational level. Taking a whole day for Bible Study was a concern for the business nature of the assembly.

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment was defeated and the resolution was before assembly as presented and amended by the committee.

**MSC that Resolution 12, “Bible Study at Synod Assembly” be adopted as amended by the Resolutions Committee.  
SA04.06.05.09.**

Koenecke presented Resolution 13, “Millenium Development Goals,” with the Resolutions Committee recommendation of “Do Pass.”

Pastor Erika Lehman, Mission Hill, spoke to the resolution and explained that letters would be written at the assembly and that she would deliver them personally when she attended a Bread for the World meeting in Washington DC next week. Pastor Mindy Ehrke, Viborg, and Pastor Natanael Lizarazo, Sioux Falls, encouraged passage of the resolution.

**Resolution: 13  
Recommendation: Do Pass  
Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: Millennium Development Goals  
Source: Southeastern Conference**

**WHEREAS, the United States joined 188 other countries in developing and agreeing to the Millennium Development Goals to dramatically reduce hunger and poverty to improve health worldwide by 2015; and**

**WHEREAS, 840 million people worldwide are chronically undernourished, 2 billion people suffer from micro-nutrient malnutrition, and more than 1.2 billion people live with no more than \$1/day; and**

**WHEREAS, 40 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS, with 14,000 new HIV infections occurring daily (95% in developing countries); and**

**WHEREAS, a child is orphaned every 14 seconds because of AIDS with a potential for 44 million AIDS orphans by 2010 if current trends continue; and  
WHEREAS, people with inadequate nutrition are more likely to become infected with HIV, while loss of labor through death and illness (primarily from HIV/AIDS) is reducing food productivity and income thereby exacerbating hunger and poverty; and**

**WHEREAS, President Bush promised \$15 billion over 5 years for global HIV/AIDS and other health concerns (TB and malaria) and Congress agreed by authorizing \$3 billion/year for 5 years, but for 2004 only allocated \$2.4 billion; and**

**WHEREAS, the United Nations and others estimate that the U.S. fair share of needed spending for global HIV/AIDS and health is \$5.4 billion a year; and**

**WHEREAS, Bread for the World is encouraging Christians to send letters asking Congress to keep its commitment by restoring the \$.6 billion for 2004 and by providing the \$3 billion for 2005 for global HIV/AIDS/ and to provide the \$3.3 billion for the Millennium Challenge Account; and**

**WHEREAS, our prayers and advocacy in 2003 were influential in moving Congress to establish the new Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) with specific strategies to help poor countries meet the Millennium Development Goals; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly promote full achievement of the Millennium Challenge Goals by providing time for an offering of letters to Congress and prayers to God for meeting the U.S. promises for the Millennium Challenge Account funding and for health (principally HIV/AIDS) funds needed to contain the crisis.**

The assembly appeared ready to vote, so the chair called for voting on the resolution and declared that Resolution 13 had passed. The Bishop encouraged synod assembly voting members to take time to write their letters during the lunch hour.

**MSC that Resolution 13, “Millenium Development Goals,” be adopted.  
SA04.06.05.10.**

Jim Schade, Director, Lutheran Planned Giving of South Dakota, representing the South Dakota Synod Endowment Committee, announced that the Victor Larson Endowment Fund provides grants for the continuing education of pastors in rural setting. Pastor Terrill Sorensen, Britton, is the recipient this year. Schade stated that the Synod Endowment Fund has grown significantly. The first distribution from the fund was \$75; the estimated distribution for 2004, the tenth anniversary of distributions, is \$75,000.

Pastor Jeff Sorenson made announcements. The Bishop welcomed the Rev. Dr. Merton Strommen, Minneapolis, workshop leader; and the Rev. Dr. Darold and Marlene Beekmann, workshop leaders as well.

It was announced that the Resolutions Committee would meet during the noon hour. The table grace was sung. Instructions for serving the noon meal were given before she welcomed Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota to the platform to conduct their annual meeting during the noon hour.

Prairie Coteau Conference voting members offered gathering music at 1 p.m. Saturday. Pastor Gary Westgard, chaplain, led in prayer. Pastor Paul Knutson, Watertown, shared a reflection on “Let None Be Forgotten.” Chaplain Westgard closed with prayer.

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl introduced Dr. Arland Hultgren, Luther Seminary, who led in Bible Study, “Let None Be Forgotten: Taking Some Cues from Paul.” He thanked the synod for students and for its support of the seminary before he began his study.

**Saturday, June 5, 2004, 1:45 p.m.  
Third Plenary Session**

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl opened the plenary with the announcement that Resolutions 07, 08 and 09 would be dealt with first at this plenary.

Koenecke presented Resolution 07, “Congregational Ratification of Any Measures Passed at ELCA Churchwide Assemblies Allowing the Blessing of ‘Same Sex’ Unions and/or Rostering Non-celibate Gay and Lesbian Persons,” with “No Recommendation” from the Resolutions Committee. He stated that he had been informed that in 2002 the South Dakota Synod Assembly had considered and passed the resolution almost verbatim and that 2003 Churchwide Assembly had defeated it. It would have to be moved and seconded from the floor to be considered.

**Resolution: 07**  
**Recommendation: No Recommendation**  
**Action Taken: Moved and seconded to consider from the floor.**  
**Adopted as amended**

**Subject: Congregational Ratification of Any Measures Passed at ELCA Churchwide Assemblies Allowing the Blessing of “Same Sex” Unions and/or Rostering Non-celibate Gay and Lesbian Persons**

**Source: Medary Conference**

**WHEREAS, the Church is the whole people of God; and**

**WHEREAS, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly is a body of approximately 1000 members of the ELCA, a body of more than 5 million members; and**

**WHEREAS, members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly are to be regarded as “voting members” rather than representative delegates according to the ELCA’s Churchwide Constitution and Bylaws; and**

**WHEREAS, any decision approving the blessing of “same sex” unions and the rostering of non-celibate gay and lesbian persons on the ELCA Clergy Roster has the potential to have a profound impact on local congregations of the ELCA; and**

**WHEREAS, Chapter 5 of the ELCA Constitution, “Principles of Organization” states in 5.01.c “The congregations, synods, and churchwide organization of this church are interdependent partners sharing responsibility in God’s mission. In an interdependent relationship primary responsibility for particular functions will vary between partners. Whenever possible, the entity most directly affected by a decision shall be the principle party responsible for decision and implementation with the other entities facilitating and assisting...;” and**

**WHEREAS, such decisions will have their most direct impact on congregations in such realms as calling clergy to serve them, their witness to the local community, evangelism, and stewardship, among other things; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to initiate action that would call upon each congregation of the ELCA to ratify any decisions ~~approving~~ regarding the blessing of “same sex” unions and/or rostering non-celibate gay and lesbian persons that may be approved by ELCA Churchwide Assemblies, within a period of 12 months following the close of such an assembly; and that such decisions shall not take effect or be implemented unless a majority of congregations voting approve the decisions made.**

The resolution was moved and seconded from the floor. The Bishop called for speaking to the resolution to make changes in the ELCA’s polity and structure.

Pastor Greg Johnson, Tea, spoke of the action that had been narrowly defeated at the 2003 churchwide assembly.

Pastor Paul Stjernholm, Sioux Falls, asked why it had been defeated at churchwide. The Bishop responded that the resolution would have set us on a course to make changes.

Pastor Al Goldammer, Madison, would want the ELCA to reflect how we operate as congregations. The resolution is an attempt to call the church in sincerity and love to consider how we might work together with support, cooperation and involvement.

Teressa Petersen, Tea, said the resolution is a way for individual members to have their voice heard. Everybody’s opinion should be taken into consideration.

Charles Swanson, Madison, spoke against the resolution , noting that an opportunity has been provided for individuals to provide input into the sexuality study.

Neal Carlson, Lake Preston, a voting member at the last churchwide assembly, stated that the resolution is a way for grassroots to have input.

Ruth Speiser, Watertown, who had spoken against the resolution when it was considered in a previous assembly, wondered if there is an underlying fear and distrust that folks who represent us at the national level don't vote the way we want. There would be an uproar if the majority approved a position that wasn't ours.

Pastor David Lund, Yankton, asked why are we doing it for this one issue? The Chair replied that the resolution affects just the issue expressed in the resolved of the resolution. Pastor David Baer, Whitewood, said Resolution 05 would be broader in its intent.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Menno, asked how many congregations had done the sexuality study. He encouraged congregations to indicate their beliefs about the topic by participating fully in the study.

Pastor John Sandstrom, Castlewood, moved to amend the resolved by replacing the word "approving" with regarding." The motion to amend was seconded. Sandstrom spoke in favor of his amendment, saying a ratification process would be healthy and the issue would be sent back to congregations for a vote regarding any decision, including leaving the decision as is

The Chair asked for a vote on the amendment. The motion to amend carried.

**MSC to amend the resolved by replacing the word "approving" with "regarding."  
SA04.06.05.11.**

Pastor Bjoern Meinhardt, Colman, spoke against the resolution because it is limited to the topic of homosexuality. He could support efforts to increase communication between churchwide, synods and the congregations.

Judy Stadem, Tea, speaking for the resolution, said that the topic is too important an issue to be decided by a few voting members.

Pastor Don Schumacher, Badger, Lake Norden, thinking that if Resolution 05 would be passed, we wouldn't need to deal with this resolution, moved to table Resolution 07 until Resolution 05 is considered. The chair informed him that Resolution 05 was scheduled to be considered tomorrow. The motion was seconded.

**MS to table Resolution No. 07 until Resolution No. 05 is considered.  
SA04.06.05.12. (376 green cards and 177 red cards on the vote to table)**

The Chair declared Resolution No. 07 tabled until tomorrow. The Chair was asking the voting members to allow leeway to go to Resolution 05 directly than on to Resolution 08

as called for in the agenda, when a Division of the House was called on the motion to table. Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl called for the assembly to vote again.

Following the completion of the vote, Pastor Mindy Ehkre, Viborg, had a point of information that these resolutions only memorialize the churchwide assembly; it doesn't mean that it will happen.

Pastor Jim Thvedt, Toronto, had a question about the two resolutions. Resolution 05 deals with constitutional amendments. Resolution 07 deals with convention actions that do not necessarily mean constitutional amendments. One deals with churchwide policy actions; the other with churchwide constitution actions.

Mavis Rogness, Resolution Committee member, stated that Thvedt was correct.

Pastor Bill Tesch, Sioux Falls, asked whether the assembly was debating, at this time, but was informed by the Bishop that nothing was on the floor, as the assembly was awaiting the results of the vote count.

Pastor Lance Lindgren, Volga, noted that the resolved spoke of a majority of congregations. Resolution 05 states 3/4s of the synods. These are two different matters.

Pastor Paul Stjernholm, Sioux Falls, asked whether ELCA constitutional amendments took a year to take effect and how would a 2005 churchwide assembly decision be affected.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Menno, announced that the Prairie Rivers Conference would meet by the screen at break time. Pastor David Bacon, Renner, shamelessly announced that his congregation's lutefisk dinner on the fourth Saturday in October.

Pastor Lloyd Stivers reported for the Elections Committee that there were 376 green cards and 177 red cards on the vote to table. The Chair declared the motion to table Resolution 07 carried.

Pastor Will Olsen, Webster, moved to remove Resolution 07 from the table. The motion was declared in order. The motion was seconded.

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl called for the vote after Pastor Olsen spoke to the motion, but was informed that the motion is not debatable. She declared the motion passed and that Resolution 07 was now on the floor.

**MSC to take Resolution 07 off the table.  
SA04.06.05.13.**

Pastor David Winterfeldt, Dimock, stated that he was in favor of the resolution, but he was troubled by the part asking churchwide assembly to have decisions ratified by the

congregations with specifying what kind of action would be used. There is no precedent in place for doing this.

A voting member moved the previous question.

**MSC to close debate.**

**SA04.06.05.14.**

The Chair declared that discussion had ceased and called for the vote on Resolution 07 as amended. She declared the resolution adopted.

**Resolution No. 07 “Congregational Ratification of Any Measures Passed at ELCA Churchwide Assemblies Allowing the Blessing of ‘Same Sex’ Unions and/or Rostering Non-celibate Gay and Lesbian Persons” as amended be adopted.**

**SA04.06.05.15**

Resolution No. 08 was considered after adoption of Resolution 07 as amended. Koenecke reported that there was “No recommendation” from the Resolutions Committee as the committee was split over the resolution.

It was moved and seconded from the floor to adopt Resolution No. 08.

The Bishop called for discussion of the resolution.

Pastor David Baer, Whitewood, author of the resolution, stated that the resolution was intended as input from the synod to reiterate what the ALC said about the distinction between orientation and behavior.

Pastor John Paulson, Wessington Springs, had a question for the author, but the Bishop ruled his question out of order, noting that the language is out of the ALC statement.

Megan Rohrer, Sioux Falls, who is in candidacy, asked for support of gay and lesbian persons in candidacy. “Lutherans don’t always do what is natural, we enjoy lutefisk.” She believes that she has a call to serve as an ordained pastor and prays that may happen in South Dakota and in the ELCA.

Paul Knecht, Pierre, moved, and it was seconded, to amend Resolution 08 by striking the third resolve of the resolution. As mover, he felt that this action would strengthen the resolution.

Pastor Larry Peterson, Pine Ridge, opposed striking the third resolve in the resolution. He hoped that we would become more sensitive to people and also would hope that we would work for justice.

Dawn Habeck, Belle Fourche, stated that the intent of the resolution resolved to recognize that homosexuality is an important topic in these days, and that it is important

that we would take a stand on homosexuality that did not involve ordaining homosexual members.

Bruce Shoemaker, Rosholt, spoke against the amendment, saying that it would be a mistake to combine the subjects of ordination and marriage of homosexuals in one resolution. Organizations have always had requirements for leadership. Homosexual adolescent students are not happy people but it is not a choice for them. What we often believe as religious truths are traditions. He spoke against the amendment because he regarded it as a wonderful statement of Christian brotherhood.

Pastor Eric Norgard, Sioux Falls, spoke against the amendment, noting that the resolve reflects language of the ALC statement. Deleting the resolve would be ducking the issue.

Pastor Karl Hester, Aberdeen, asked if the entire ALC statement on homosexuality is included in the resolution. Pastor David Baer, Whitewood, informed him that yes it was (the italic portion of the resolution).

Pastor Bill Tesch, Sioux Falls, called the question.

**MSC to cease debate.  
SA04.06.05.16.**

The Chair announced that the assembly was ready to vote on the amendment to eliminate the third resolve. She declared that the amendment failed and that the main motion to adopt the resolution was on the floor.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Menno, urged ratification of the statement made twenty years ago. He stated that the expectation of singles to be celibate is still the expectation.

Pastor Jeff Eisele, Sioux Falls, asked what effect this resolution would have in the process of the sexuality study? The resolution is directed to our own membership.

Jack Mortenson, Sioux Falls, opposed the resolution, noting its judgmental language.

It was moved and seconded to call the question.

**MSC to cease debate.  
SA04.06.05.17.**

**Resolution: 08  
Recommendation: No Recommendation  
Action Taken: Moved and Seconded from the Floor.  
Adopted (313 green cards and 224 red cards)**

**Subject: ALC Social Statement on Human Sexuality  
Source: Bear Butte Conference**

## Medary Conference

**WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the product of the merger of The American Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church in America, and Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches; and**

**WHEREAS, The American Lutheran Church adopted a Social Statement in 1980 entitled *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior*; and**

**WHEREAS, this statement may serve the ELCA in its current discussions of human sexuality and of the specific questions of whether to bless same-sex unions and whether to ordain gay and lesbian persons living in committed relationships; and**

**WHEREAS, The American Lutheran Church's Social Statement *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior* includes a section on homosexuality that reads as follows:**

- 1. We note the current consensus in the scientific community that one's preferred sexual behavior exists on a continuum from exclusively heterosexual to exclusively homosexual and that homosexual behavior takes a variety of forms. We believe it appropriate to distinguish between homosexual orientation and homosexual behavior. Persons who do not practice their homosexual erotic preference do not violate our understanding of Christian sexual behavior.*
- 2. This church regards the practice of homosexual erotic behavior as contrary to God's intent for his children. It rejects the contention that homosexual behavior is simply another form of sexual behavior equally valid with the dominant male/female pattern.*
- 3. We have reviewed the challenges to the traditional interpretations of those scripture passages that appear to proscribe homosexual behavior. We are not convinced by the evidence presented. Among passages cited as requiring interpretations different from the traditional interpretation are: Genesis 18:16-19:29; Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:10. While we see no scriptural rationale for revising the church's traditional teaching that homosexual erotic behavior violates God's intent, we nonetheless remain open to the possibility of new biblical and theological insights.*
- 4. We agree that homosexually-behaving persons need God's grace as does every human being. We all need the care and concern of the congregation. We all need opportunity to hear the Word, to receive the sacraments, to accept the forgiveness God offers, to experience the understanding and the fellowship of the community of Christ. We all need the power*

*of the Holy Spirit for ethical living sensitive to our own individual situations. So saying we nevertheless do not condone homosexual erotic behavior. Nor do we condone idolatry, pride, disrespect for parents, murder, adultery, theft, libel, gossip, or the other sins known in our circles. The sacrifice God finds acceptable from each of us is “a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart.” Then he can answer our prayer for a “clean heart . . . a new and right spirit within me.” (See Psalm 51.)*

5. *Truth, mercy, and justice should impel members of congregations of The American Lutheran Church to review their attitudes, words, and actions regarding homosexuality. Christians need to be more understanding and more sensitive to life as experience by those who are homosexual. They need to take leadership roles in changing public opinion, civil laws, and prevailing practices that deny justice and opportunity to any persons, homosexual or heterosexual. We all need recognition and acceptance as human beings known to and loved by God;” therefore be it*

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod affirms the understanding of homosexuality and homosexual behavior as articulated by The American Lutheran Church in its Social Statement *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior* and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that members of the South Dakota Synod be encouraged to study The American Lutheran Church Social Statement *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior* as a part of their deliberation on any proposed ELCA statements on sexuality and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that members of the South Dakota Synod be encouraged to review their attitudes, words, and actions regarding homosexuality: 1) to be more understanding and more sensitive to life as experienced by those who are homosexual; 2) to take leadership roles in changing public opinion, civil laws, and prevailing practices that deny justice and opportunity to any persons, homosexual or heterosexual; and 3) to recognize and accept gay and lesbian persons as human beings known to and loved by God and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod asks the Task Force for ELCA Sexuality Studies and the ELCA Church Council to affirm the understanding of homosexuality and homosexual behavior as articulated by The American Lutheran Church in its Social Statement *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior* and to adopt no changes in current ELCA policies regarding the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of gay and lesbian persons in committed relationships and be it further

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to affirm the understanding of homosexuality and homosexual behavior as articulated by The American Lutheran Church in its Social Statement *Human Sexuality and Sexual Behavior* and to adopt no changes in current ELCA policies regarding the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of gay and lesbian persons in committed relationships and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly direct the South Dakota Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Task Force for ELCA Sexuality Studies and the ELCA Church Council and that the South Dakota Synod Bishop communicate our position to the ELCA Conference of Bishops.**

**MSC that Resolution 08, “ALC Social Statement on Human Sexuality,” be adopted.  
SA04.06.05.18.**

The Chair called for a vote on adopting Resolution 08. The Chair called for a count of the votes.

The Chair has asked for consideration of Resolution No. 20, Prayer for Peace, while the vote was counted.

In the discussion, there was a question of when one should pray. It was noted that the resolution stated, “each evening.” The Bishop thought prayer twice a day would be in order and wouldn’t hurt.

A section had not received the resolution. The chair called for the vote on the resolution. The resolution vote was declared unanimous.

**Resolution: 20  
Recommendation: Do Pass  
Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: Prayer for Peace  
Origin: Prairie Rivers Conference Caucus**

**WHEREAS, in World War II, an advisor to Winston Churchill organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every day at a prescribed hour for one minute to pray for the safety of England, its people and peace; and**

**WHEREAS, a group of people are organizing a similar time of prayer here in the United States at this time; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly encourage all members of congregations of this synod to drop what they are doing at 8:00 Central Time or**

**7:00 Mountain Time each evening and devote one minute to praying for the safety of the United States, for our troops, for our citizens, for all people subject to the ravages of war and for the peace of the world.**

**MSC that Resolution 20, “Prayer for Peace,” be adopted.  
SA04.06.05.19.**

The Elections Committee provided a report on the vote on Resolution 08, “ALC Social Statement on Human Sexuality.” There were 313 green cards and 224 red cards. The resolution was declared adopted.

Pastor David Larson, Assistant to the Bishop, made announcements about the two sets of interest groups and where they would be meeting. He asked voting members to leave preliminary report binders today if they did not return for tomorrow. He said that coffee would be available here early tomorrow morning for a freewill offering. He asked that members bring their Renewing Worship Song Book here for worship tomorrow. He announced that checkout from dorms must be done before coming to worship and recommended that members travel on Kiwanis Ave to the banquet location rather than on I 29 which is under repair.

### **Saturday evening, June 5, 2004 Synod Assembly Banquet**

The synod assembly banquet was held at the Exhibit Hall of the Ramkota Convention Center. A reception hosted by the Prairie Coteau Conference preceded the banquet. Pastor Terrill Sorenson, Britton, served as Master of Ceremonies. The Lutheran Youth Organization youth present led in the table grace. Following the meal, Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl led in the invocation. Prairie Coteau Conference pastors and spouses provided special music, as did Pastor Jeff and Misty Redlin. Chrystal and Pearl Wigdahl, Langford, interpreted two songs through signing. Misty Redlin and Kris Flihs also sang.

The Bishop led in the recognition of pastors new to South Dakota:

Jerry D. Crow, Western Iowa Synod, retired, to Hudson Lutheran, Hudson  
William R. Greaver III, Southeastern Minnesota Synod, to Zion American  
Lutheran, Scotland, and St. Dymas, Springfield.  
John D. Hopper, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, retired, to Christ the King,  
Newcastle, Wyoming  
David E. Lund, Montana Synod, to Associate Pastor, Trinity Lutheran, Yankton  
Obed Nelson, Alaska Synod, to Associate Pastor, Peace Lutheran, Sioux Falls  
Dani Jo Ninke-Greaver, Southeastern Minnesota Synod, to Christ the King  
Lutheran, Yankton  
Daniel JM Overbo, Luther Seminary, to Bethesda/Bergen/Bristol, and Butler  
Lutheran, Butler  
Laura LA Overbo, Luther Seminary to Hope Lutheran, Summit  
Carlene K. Rhody, North American Baptist/Luther Seminary, to Bethel Lutheran,  
Astoria and Highland Lutheran, Brandt  
Mary A. Sacco, Western Iowa Synod, to Our Savior’s Lutheran, Flandreau  
Thomas L. Stenzel, Western North Dakota Synod, to Shepherd of the Hills  
Lutheran, Lead

Clara TR Wadsworth, Luther Seminary, to Wilmot Lutheran, Wilmot

Mary Wallum, Eastern North Dakota Synod, to Lake Preston/North Preston  
Lutheran, Lake Preston

Arlene K. Wiekert, Luther Seminary, to Immanuel/Brule Creek Lutheran,  
Elk Point

Janet L. Zoss, Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia, to Associate Pastor, Canton  
Lutheran, Canton

The Bishop also introduced the seminary graduates assigned to the South Dakota Synod:

Kris Brown, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

Vicki Brown, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

Mary Fast, North American Baptist/Luther Seminary

Patricia Lehrer, Luther Seminary

Benjamin Sandin, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Herb Wounded Head, Luther Seminary

Linda Jorgensen, Luther Seminary

Inga Oyan, Wartburg Seminary

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl led in the observance of ordination anniversaries. Vice President Frank Slagle assisted in the distribution of appropriate pins and certificates. The honorees and their spouses were invited to the stage.

Honored for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their ordination were Pastor Robert W. Chell, Brookings; Pastor Stanley D. Kwiecien, Pollock; Pastor Dean H. Nelson, Eureka, Pastor Bradley J. Peterson, Alcester; Pastor Bruce H. Thalacker, Rapid City; Pastor Harold A. Watrous, New Effington; and Pastor David F. Winterfeldt. Chell and Thalacker were unable to be present.

Honored for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their ordination were Pastor James E. Christopherson; Pastor J. Lee Roy Eikanger, Pastor Richard H. Gilman; Pastor Lyle J. Inglebret; Pastor Judeen O Johnson; and Pastor Dwane H. Shay. Gilman was unable to be present.

Pastor Edward A. Gilbertson and Pastor Kenneth J. Helgesen were honored upon the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their ordination. Neither was able to be present. Pastor Leo G. Moench was acknowledged upon the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. He was unable to attend.

Pastor Ron R. Beckman and Pastor Marlene A. Anderson were presented pins upon their retirement from active ministry. A third pastor, Allan D. Jackson, was not present.

The bishop acknowledged that several hundred years of pastoral service were present in the honored guests. She called upon Pastor Paul Hanson, Director, and Richard Ekstrum, General Chair of the Answer the Call Campaign, which kicked off its campaign to raise funds for seminary student scholarships, recruitment and support for the Special Needs Retirement Fund. She announced that more than \$250,000 has been raised so far to initiate the campaign among individuals and corporations. A video, "Answer the Call," was shown to describe the campaign.

Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer, led by Pastor Jeff and Misty Redlin, and Pastor Ron Brugger, concluded the evening. Chaplain Westgard led in prayers.

### **Sunday, June 6, 2004**

The fourth plenary session was preceded by Gathering Music provided by Pastor Ron Brugger and Misty Redlin. Chaplain Gary Westgard led in prayer and introduced Pastor Bob Bipes who reflected on the assembly theme. Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl introduced Pastor Victoria Cortez, president of the Iglesia Luterana de Nicaragua "Fe y Esperanza," who presented an address. Pastor Natanael Lizarazo, Sioux Falls, interpreted parts of her address.

The bishop made announcements while representatives of the Lutheran Youth Organization, Lutheran Men in Mission, and South Dakota Women of the ELCA came to the stage to bring greetings. The bishop reminded voting members of the Faithful Conversations books available for \$5.00 from the Homosexuality Task Force and announced the flyer on the Fall Theological Conference in Pierre.

WELCA representative Ruth Fink, Delmont, brought greetings for President Sheryn Ekstrum who was absent because of the death of her mother. Fink referred to the WELCA report in the preliminary report. She announced the women's synodical gathering in Watertown next weekend, in which the Bishop, the churchwide WELCA executive and a representative of the WELCA president would participate.

Dick Solum, Lutheran Men in Mission representative, stated that the organization's goal is to have every South Dakota ELCA congregation have a men's ministry. He asked that voting members please fill out the survey in their packet. LMM projects include NESODAK camp cleanup, LMM Bibles given away, forming an endowment program, and promoting resources for men's ministry. They also produce events to grow men's faith and hope to strengthen LMM to become financially self-sufficient. He asked voting members to please promote men's ministry in your congregation.

Katie Meyer and two other youth brought greetings from the LYO. The cancellation of the gathering last fall because of bad weather was a big disappointment to the youth, but they will hold their next gathering in November in Sioux Falls. Penny Kelley and Sam Jacobs led the LYO youth observers report with a skit on the theme, "Answer the Call." The group sang, "I Will Call Upon the Lord," and presented Bishop Andrea with a tee shirt.

Pastor Jeff Sorenson described the Mission Booster Green Bucks Form that provides individuals with an opportunity to contribute \$100 each year to a mission partner congregation in greatest need. The Woyatan ministry began with such contributions last year. Alan Ferris, Yankton, spoke of the redevelopment of Christ the King, Yankton, which is this year's Mission Booster Project. He spoke of its 8-yr history and the slow decline that began ten years ago. It began the transformational ministry of the congregation last summer when they had talked of closing the congregation. It now has a

\$5,000 budget for evangelism. With a new pastor, 80 are now in attendance, and they see change and growth in the congregation. Ferris concluded with thanks for the prayer support, coaching, and financial support of partner congregations.

Sorenson asked the voting members to take the mission booster buck and fill it out to make a gift for this year and place the check in the offering plate today to save postage.

Pastor Erma Wolf, Brandon, presented the final credentials committee report. She reported a total of 232 male lay voting members; 262 female lay voting members, for a total of 494 lay voting members. There were 178 clergy for a total voting membership of 672. There were also 12 advisory; 16 youth, 65 visitors.

The Bishop invited voting members to consider the adoption of the 2005 Mission Plan, printed on pages 26-27 in the preliminary report. The proposal before you is from the synod council. She invited discussion.

Pastor Jeff Sorenson, synod staff, spoke of an oversight in yesterday's presentation on the proposed budget. He reported that in the report of the 2004 Faith Family Style income, he failed to note that the synod does not have the \$47,000, in hand to complete the ministry. One-fourth of it is unknown at this time. Unless the money comes in from some source, Faith Family Style Ministry cannot continue fulltime through this year.

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal, Sioux Falls, moved "to amend the 2005 Mission Plan by reducing Churchwide by \$75,481, from \$842,481 to \$750,000 and secondly, to restore the Rostered Ministry Coordinator and Faith Family Style and Support staff to the adopted 2004 levels with appropriate salary increases."

The amendment was seconded. The Bishop called for discussion of the amendment.

Pastor Roynesdal stated that his logic was to do what most congregations do in redirecting money. He said that we have a moral obligation to continue the positions at fulltime level because of the important work that is done. The amendment is simply redirecting where money will be spent for mission.

Pastor Natanael Lizarazo, Sioux Falls, spoke against the amendment, noting that the problem is a spiritual one when we do not respond with generous hearts when we hear the needs of our global brothers and sisters.

Pastor John Paulson, Wessington Springs, spoke how Faith Family Style Ministry has benefited our synod congregations and our commitment to continuing support of churchwide, even if there is disagreement with decisions made.

Jack Mortenson, Sioux Falls, spoke against the amendment out of his experience with the companion synod program. He said that our benevolence works with global missions and that there are significant cuts in Cameroon and other ministries. He urged continued support for the ELCA and has great faith that the funds will be found in the synod for these ministries.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Menno, moved “to amend the amendment by deleting the reduction of churchwide but restore the Faith Family Style Ministry and Rostered Ministry Coordinator position and support staff to 2004 levels with increases in congregation support.”

The amendment was seconded. The Bishop asked him to speak to the amendment to the amendment.

Pastor Bjoern Meinhardt, Colman, questioned the impact of the amendment on the 42% for designated for mission support.

Pastor Roynesdal had a point of order, asking if the amendment doesn't raise the budget by \$125,000 in cong mission support. If money doesn't come how does the synod deal with shortfall? The Bishop explained the usual process of synod council responding to shortfall in mission support.

Pastor Danielson spoke of the “disconnect” that many parishes feel with churchwide. He also stated that Faith Family Style Ministry is too important to cut for it is changing how ministry is done.

Paul Wentzlaff, Sioux Falls, and a synod council member, commented when the money isn't there, it isn't fun to cut and this assembly is sharing in the pain felt by synod council members. He stated that he is against the amendment to the amendment unless there is a plan to get the money there.

Keith Hanson, Synodically Authorized Minister, Scandinavia/Bethany, Aberdeen, admitted that his life was simple but questioned how all this is going happen. It isn't going to happen by watching a black mink run across the parsonage yard as he has seen.

Gene Siebert, Sioux Falls, described how his congregation, East Side had voted to cut their mission budget. They weren't an enthusiastic church, and had a chance to sell their church building, but declined. They now have a big mortgage that is not part of their budget and they are at a higher level of enthusiasm. He said that the South Dakota Synod can support these ministries.

The Bishop asked Pastor Tony Haglund, Aberdeen, to time speakers at two minutes.

Patrick Culver, Watertown, called the question.

A query came from the floor about who moved and seconded the mission plan that was on the floor. It was explained that the mission plan was a proposal from the synod council and did not need a second.

**MSC to cease debate.**  
**SA04.06.06.20.**

Pastor Paulson asked for clarification about the effect of the amendment to the amendment.

Paul Erickson, visitor, was ruled out of order in attempting to speak.

The Bishop declared that the assembly had voted to vote. The effect of the amendment to the amendment would restore the 2005 churchwide level and also restore Faith Family Style Ministry and Rostered Ministry Coordinator and support staff to 04 levels. She declared that the amendment required a two-thirds vote, but was reminded that an amendment to an amendment needed only a simple majority. She asked for the vote on the amendment to the amendment, declared that it had passed. The voting members agreed with her that they would like a count, so the vote was repeated.

Pastor Mindy Ehrke query whether the assembly could proceed with another motion while waiting for the count. The Bishop thought it would complicate the actions, for there is unfinished business on the floor. Even though there are 11 resolutions left to consider, she appreciated the concern about time.

The Elections Committee reported the vote: 246 green and 191 red. The chair declared that the amendment to the amendment passed. The amendment would now need a two-thirds vote to pass.

**MSC to amend the amendment by deleting the reduction of churchwide but restore the Faith Family Style Ministry and Rostered Ministry Coordinator position and support staff to 2004 levels with increases in congregation support.**

**SA04.06.06.21.**

Pastor Jeff Sorenson, Assistant to the Bishop, asked for clarification, "What are we really voting on in the changed amendment?" \$80,000 was a number mentioned, but the number is \$220,000 if this includes the percentage for churchwide and partners? To get \$80,000 for positions would require that congregation giving would need to be increased by \$220,000. The effect would be to bump the budget by ten percent. In response to a query from the Bishop, the effect would be to increase the budget by ten percent and \$220,000, unless the \$80,000 was designated for the positions.

Pastor Craig Werling, Milbank, stated that it has not been easy to make these decisions. The synod council has operated with historic numbers of the statements of intent and has struggled with how to increase giving. It is irresponsible for us to say we are going to do this and then in six months half to make cuts.

Gene Siebert, Sioux Falls, said that we discovered at East Side we can live by faith and come through with a mission budget without a solid foundation.

Pastor Donald Schumacher, Badger, moved the previous question.

**MSC to cease debate.  
SA04.06.06.22.**

Pastor Greg Johnson, Tea queried about just exactly on what the assembly was voting. The Bishop summarized that the effect of increasing the positions by \$80,000, would have the effect of adding \$220,000 to the budget because of the percentages for churchwide and partners.

Pam Fauth, Leola, queried what would happen if the amendment doesn't pass? The Bishop replied that the assembly would be back to the original mission plan for 2005. Pastor Bob Waite, Sturgis, asked if the assembly was indeed voting on adding \$220,000 to the budget. Pastor Brad Danielson, Menno, asked why we couldn't just vote on adding \$80,000 to the budget and was told that it would be possible later and was not in order at this time. Dale Carlson, Lake Preston, who had had a conversation with Pastor Jeff Sorenson, reviewed why the \$80,000 grew to \$220,000 because of the percentages. Pastor Randy Fett, Spearfish, called the question but was informed that had been already done.

The Bishop called for the vote on the amendment. The chair ruled that the amendment as amended had failed. The assembly was back to consideration of the mission plan as originally proposed.

Pastor Paul Hanson, Brookings, called the previous question.

**MSC to cease debate on whole of mission plan.  
SA04.06.06.23.**

The chair called for the vote on Mission Plan as originally proposed. The Mission Plan was declared adopted.

**MSC to adopted the proposed Mission Plan for 2005.  
SA04.06.06.24.**

The Bishop thanked the assembly for patiently working through the difficult decisions on the Mission Plan. Pastor Al Goldammer, Madison, commented that if Brad's amendment had been ruled a substitute motion, the procedure would have been simpler.

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl asked the assembly to turn to the consideration of resolutions and identified Resolution 09, "Response to ELCA Sexuality Studies."

Brett Koenecke, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, read the resolves of Resolution 09 and reported that the committee had "No Recommendation." The resolution would need to be moved and seconded from the floor for consideration by the assembly. It was moved and seconded from the floor for consideration.

Pastor David Baer, Whitewood, the author of the resolution, explained what the resolution does. The resolution basically affirms the current practice and policy of the ELCA.

Pastor Jim Thvedt, Toronto, asked that the resolution, and all of the resolutions, be corrected in the minutes to reflect “South Dakota Synod Assembly” or “South Dakota Synod in assembly,” not the “South Dakota Synod,” as the assembly speaks for itself.

Pastor David Winterfeldt, Dimock, moved to amend “our position” in the final resolved in the next to last line to “the numerical vote.” It was seconded. After brief speaking, the vote on the amendment was held. The amendment failed.

The original resolution was before the assembly.

Megan Rohrer, Augustana College Congregation, expressed the hope that the assembly would be voting, not on sex, but on integrity and urged a vote against the resolution.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Menno, asked how this resolution relates to the resolution passed yesterday. The author stated that this resolution affirms the current practice of the ELCA; the other suggests some alternatives from a predecessor body.

Charles Swanson, Madison, said that he saw condemnation in the resolution and didn’t know that we wanted to maintain the current standard.

Steve Hofland, Elk Point, stated that Christians need to discern right and wrong, and referred to Dr. Taylor’s Bible study yesterday. He would oppose any changes to current practice.

Pastor Will Olsen, Webster, called the question.

**MSC to close debate on Resolution 09.  
SA04.06.06.25.**

A Division of the House was called. While the Elections Committee organized for the vote count, Bishop Andrea thanked the members of this committee for their work, describing this committee as a hard-working committee for which volunteers are often turned away!

**Resolution 09**  
**Recommendation: No Recommendation**  
**Moved and Seconded from the Floor**  
**Action Taken: Adopted. (Vote 299 green; 100 red)**

**Subject: Response to ELCA Sexuality Studies**

Source: Bear Butte Conference  
Medary Conference

**WHEREAS**, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is constitutionally committed to the Holy Scriptures as “the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life;” and **WHEREAS**, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s current standards of conduct for ordained ministers are enumerated in *Visions and Expectations: Ordained Ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* which includes the following statement regarding the sexual conduct of ordained ministers:

*“The expectations of this church regarding the sexual conduct of its ordained ministers are grounded in the understanding that human sexuality is a gift from God and that ordained ministers are to live in such a way as to honor this gift. Ordained ministers are expected to reject sexual promiscuity, the manipulation of others for purposes of sexual gratification, and all attempts of sexual seduction and sexual harassment, including taking physical or emotional advantage of others. Single ordained ministers are expected to live a chaste life. Married ordained ministers are expected to live in fidelity to their spouses, giving expression to sexual intimacy within a marriage relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful. Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships;”* and

**WHEREAS**, the ELCA Conference of Bishops has affirmed that “*There is basis neither in Scripture nor tradition for the establishment of an official ceremony by this church for the blessing of a homosexual relationship. We, therefore, do not approve such a ceremony as an official action of this church’s ministry*” (1993 Statement); and

**WHEREAS**, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is involved in a study of human sexuality and exploring the specific issues of blessing same-sex unions and ordaining gay and lesbian persons living in committed relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals, congregations and synods have been asked to provide responses regarding the appropriate action for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to take in 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, this will be the last opportunity of the South Dakota Synod to provide a formal response to the Task Force for ELCA Sexuality Studies prior to its formation of recommendations for the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod in assembly affirms and endorses the current standards of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America regarding the

sexual conduct of its ordained ministers as articulated in *Visions and Expectations: Ordained Ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod in assembly affirms and endorses the 1993 statement of the ELCA Conference of Bishops regarding the question of blessing same-sex unions and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod in assembly asks the Task Force for ELCA Sexuality Studies and the ELCA Church Council to affirm the current ELCA policies regarding the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of gay and lesbian persons in committed relationships as articulated in *Visions and Expectations: Ordained Ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in the 1993 statement of the ELCA Conference of Bishops and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to formally adopt and affirm the current ELCA policies regarding the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of gay and lesbian persons in committed relationships as articulated in *Visions and Expectations: Ordained Ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in the 1993 statement of the ELCA Conference of Bishops and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly direct the South Dakota Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Task Force for ELCA Sexuality Studies and the ELCA Church Council and that the South Dakota Synod Bishop communicate our position to the ELCA Conference of Bishops.

**MSC to adopt Resolution 09, “Response to ELCA Sexuality Studies.”  
SA04.06.06.26.**

The vote was taken. While the votes were being tallied, the Bishop called upon Brett Koenecke, Resolutions Committee, to present Resolution 02, “Elect Churchwide Assembly Voting Members.” He reported a “Do Pass” recommendation from the committee.

Pastor Brad Danielson, Menno, was called to the stage to report the Prairie Rivers alternate nominees: himself as the clergy, and Herman Fink, lay voting member. Koenecke announced that Culynn Curtis had been nominated by the Lutheran Youth Organization.

**Resolution 02  
Recommendation: Do Pass  
Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: Elect the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members**

Source: Resolutions Committee

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod elect the following voting members and alternates to the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly nominated by conferences and the Synod Council:

**PRAIRIE COTEAU CONFERENCE** – one clergy, one lay female

**Nominees:** Rev. Janine Rew-Werling, Milbank  
Julaine Busch, Butler

**Alternates:** Rev. William A. Olsen, Webster  
Linda Anderson, Milbank

**MEDARY CONFERENCE** – one clergy, one lay female, one lay male

**Nominees:** Rev. Albert Goldammer, Madison  
Karen Lindgren, Volga  
Paul Nelson, Hetland

**Alternates:** Rev. Lance Lindgren, Volga  
Beth Abraham, Ramona  
Perry Killion, Madison

**CROSSROADS CONFERENCE** – one clergy, two lay female, two lay male

**Nominees:** Rev. Olaf Roynesdal, Sioux Falls  
Susan Edwardson, Hartford  
Pam Wentzlaff, Sioux Falls  
Paul Erickson, Sioux Falls  
Paul Wentzlaff, Sioux Falls

**Alternates:** Rev. Leonard Halvorson, Sioux Falls  
Carla Borchardt, Sioux Falls  
Marcy Edwardson, Hartford  
John Ostraat, Canton  
\_\_\_\_\_ (lay male)

**SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE** – one clergy, one lay female

**Nominees:** Rev. Nate Haaland, Gayville  
Tanja Haaland, Gayville

**Alternates:** Rev. Elizabeth Johnson, Vermillion  
Jody Ysbrand, Beresford

**NORTHERN PLAINS CONFERENCE** – one clergy, one lay male

**Nominees:** Rev. Anthony Haglund, Aberdeen  
Dale Hamre, Mobridge

**Alternates:** Rev. Robin Wanner-Schaunaman, Bowdle  
Keith Hanson, Aberdeen

**DAKOTA HEARTLAND CONFERENCE** – one clergy, one lay male

**Nominees:** Rev. David Zellmer, Pierre  
John Mooney, Wolsey

**Alternates:** Rev. Ruth Ann Loughry, Pierre  
Paul Knecht, Pierre

**PRAIRIE RIVERS CONFERENCE** - one clergy, one lay male

**Nominees:** Rev. David Winterfeldt, Dimock  
Dan Daum, Platte

**Alternates:** Brad Danielson (clergy)  
Herman Fink (lay male)

**BEAR BUTTE CONFERENCE** – one clergy, one lay female, one lay male

**Nominees:** Rev. Bruce Thalacker, Rapid City  
Carol Mapa, Rapid City  
Gary Johnson, Buffalo

**Alternates:** Rev. Robert Waite, Sturgis  
Pat Walz, Whitewood  
Marv Hankel, Whitewood

**NOMINATED BY THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD COUNCIL**

Culynn Curtis (Youth)  
Frank Slagle, Synod Vice President  
Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, Bishop

There was no speaking to the resolution. The vote was called for and Resolution 02, “Elect 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members was declared adopted.

**MSC to adopt Resolution 02, “Elect 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members.”**  
**SA04.06.06.27.**

Brett Koenecke presented Resolution 16, “2005 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff,” with the Resolutions Committee’s recommendation of “Do Pass.”

**Resolution 16**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: 2005 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff**  
**Source: Committee for Support to Ministries and its Compensation Task**  
**Force from Prairie Rivers Conference**

**RESOLVED, that the “2005 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy” and “2005 Compensation for Lay Staff,” prepared by a task force of the Prairie Rivers Conference for the Committee for Support to Ministries and recommended by the committee for adoption, be adopted as the policy of the South Dakota Synod by the 2004 South Dakota Synod Assembly.**

The Bishop called for discussion of the resolution. Pastor John Sandstrom, Chair of the Committee for Support to Ministries, urged adoption of the compensation guidelines. He noted that the compensation increase is less this year. A synod council member, Larry Haaland, Hayti, expressed concern for campus pastor compensation at synod guideline levels even though the campus ministry budget has a lower level of funding. He urged that the synod council adhere to the guidelines for campus pastors that are called by synod council.

The Chair recognized Lloyd Stivers, from the Elections Committee, who acknowledged that it has been getting good exercise this assembly and that they needed replacements because several members are elderly. He reported the vote on Resolution 09 as 299 green cards and 100 red cards. Resolution 09 was declared adopted.

When there was no more speaking, the vote on the resolution was called. Resolution 16 was declared adopted.

**MSC to adopt Resolution 16, “2005 Compensation and Guidelines for Clergy and Lay Staff.”**  
**SA04.06.06.28.**

Resolution 18, “Conference Realignment,” was presented by Brett Koenecke with the Resolutions Committee’s recommendation of “Do Pass.” The Bishop invited speaking to the resolution.

Andrew Kightlinger, Pierre, an eighteen-year old voting member from Lutheran Memorial, a congregation of the Dakota Heartland Conference, encouraged passage of the resolution. Tom Tveit, Pierre, also reported that his congregation, Resurrection Lutheran, supported the resolution.

**Resolution 18**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**

**Subject: Conference Realignment**  
**Source: Resolutions Committee**

**WHEREAS, the 2003 South Dakota Synod Assembly voted to adopt Resolution No. 20, “Conference Realignment,” directing the synod council “to establish a task force to examine the current conference alignments in detail, gather opinions and information, and report back with possible geographical conference realignments to the spring conference assemblies and to the 2004 South Dakota Synod Assembly”; and**

**WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod Council established a task force which examined the current conference alignment and sought opinions and information from pastors and congregations throughout the synod, and recommended to the synod council that the number of conferences be reduced from eight to seven through the merger of the Dakota Heartland Conference with another conference to become effective at the beginning of 2005 to provide time for changes to representative synod boards and committees; and**

**WHEREAS, the Dakota Heartland Conference voted at its 2004 conference assembly to recommend that its merger with another conference become effective at the beginning of 2006; and**

**WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod Council voted at its meeting March 12-13, 2004, to recommend to the 2004 Synod Assembly that the task force’s recommendation be adopted to reduce the number of conferences from eight to seven through the merger of the Dakota Heartland Conference with another conference, to have the realignment become effective at the beginning of 2006 to provide time for changes to representative synod boards and committees, and to ask the Resolutions Committee to resolve differences in timeline and to author a resolution including the necessary bylaw changes; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the 2004 South Dakota Synod Assembly adopt the recommendation to reduce the number of conferences from eight to seven through the merger of the Dakota Heartland Conference with the Northern Plains Conference; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that if congregations in the Dakota Heartland Conference wish to join a conference other than the Northern Plains Conference, or if congregations in other conferences wish to change their conference affiliation, that those requests be made through the Synod Bishop per S12.01.12.; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that congregation representation at the spring 2005 conference assemblies and the 2005 conference elections for the synod council and synod boards and committees reflect these conference realignments; and that membership on the**

**synod council and synod boards and committees change to reflect these realignments after the 2005 synod assembly when members are seated; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the following bylaws be amended to accomplish these actions, to become effective after the 2005 South Dakota Synod Assembly:**

**S9.01.10a. The Synod Assembly shall elect the ~~24~~ 21 members of the Synod Council upon nomination from the conferences for four-year terms with no consecutive reelection, providing for one ordained minister, one lay woman and one lay man from each conference.**

**S10.01.10 The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of this Synod, ~~24~~ 21 other members and two youth. The provisions of +S6.04. shall apply.**

**S11.01.41. This synod shall establish a Candidacy Committee composed of the Bishop or the Bishop's designate, the seminary representative appointed by the Division for Ministry, three at-large members appointed by the Bishop, and one representative elected from each of the ~~eight~~ seven conferences of this synod....(balance of bylaw unchanged.)**

**S12.01.10. There shall be ~~eight~~ seven conferences which shall be geographically located as shown on the map adopted by the Synod Assembly.**

The Chair called for the vote on Resolution 18 and declared that the resolution had been adopted.

**MSC that Resolution No. 18, "Conference Realignment," be adopted.  
SA04.06.06.29.**

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl called for consideration of Resolution 04. Brett Koenecke, chair of the Resolutions Committee, presented 04A as a substitute resolution that had been written by the resolutions committee with the support of one of the authors of the resolution during this assembly. Koenecke presented 04A with a committee recommendation of "Do Pass."

Pastor Siri Sorenson, Sioux Falls, and a member of the Resolutions Committee, stated that the original resolution could have been ruled out of order because it violates the ELCA constitution. She also stated that the issue is being discussed in the church, and that we as a synod want to say that we do this in good order.

Pastor Bjoern Meinhardt, Colman, spoke in favor of the substitute resolution, and moved to amend the resolution by adding in the second whereas, "into ministry through baptism"

but the chair ruled that this could be considered an editorial change. He stated that we become priests through our baptism.

Pastor Fred Rosin, Bryant, thanked the committee for the substitute and stated we as a synod need to go on record in supporting lay presidency. Pam Fauth, Leola, endorsed the resolution, sharing her congregation's experience during a long pastoral vacancy. She expressed appreciation for the bishop's support and authorization

Mike Edwardson, Hartford, questioned who would bless Holy Communion. The Bishop explained that this resolution would authorize lay people to preside at the institution of the elements in Holy Communion. He responded with his belief that the words of institution need to be said by a pastor.

Dan Daum, Synodically Authorized Minister, Platte, inquired how the original resolution 04 was unconstitutional. The Bishop explained that constitutionally oversight is reserved for the office of bishop. The original speaks of congregational decision.

Ella Loon, Mitchell asked if it is an okay thing for lay people from other churches to receive communion. The Bishop responded that the resolution speaks to authorization of lay persons to preside at Holy Communion. She can only authorize members of ELCA South Dakota congregations.

The vote was taken and the chair declared that Resolution 04A had been adopted.

**Resolution 04A**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: Lay Presidency**  
**Origin: Substitute Resolution offered by the Resolutions Committee**

**WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church has historically affirmed the biblical understanding of the priesthood of all believers and the giftedness of each congregational member; and**

**WHEREAS, the Holy Spirit calls people, both lay and clergy, into ministry through baptism, and that call is affirmed by the whole Church and by individual congregations; and**

**WHEREAS, circumstances arise when an ordained pastor is not available to preside at the Sacrament of Holy Communion in congregations; and**

**WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod from its inception has had provisions and a process for authorizing lay people to preside at public celebrations of Holy Communion in congregations when an ordained pastor is not available; and**

**WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod’s Faith Builders and Synodically Authorized Ministry programs have proven to be effective means of providing training and authorization for lay people to preside at public celebrations of Holy Communion, as evidenced by the growth of these programs; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod express its desire to continue to authorize lay people to preside at public celebrations of Holy Communion; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod recognizes and affirms congregations which identify individuals within their faith community to be trained and appointed by the South Dakota Synod Bishop to preside at public celebrations of Holy Communion when an ordained pastor is not available, following the normal procedure for Synodically Authorized Ministers.**

**MSC that Resolution 04A, “Lay Presidency,” be adopted.  
SA04.06.06.30.**

Pastor Mindy Ehrke, Viborg, noted that the agenda time for a coffee break had been reached and moved to amend the agenda by allowing 15 minutes for agenda consideration of resolutions. The motion was seconded.

**MSC that the agenda be amended by allowing 15 additional minutes for consideration of resolutions.  
SA04.06.06.31.**

Koenecke introduced Resolution 14, “Support for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal Youth Challenge,” with the recommendation from the committee of “Do Pass.

Adam Peterson, Lutheran Youth Organization, spoke in favor of the resolution, noting that much of the goal has already been raised. Pastor David Winterfeldt, Dimock, asked where are the wheelbarrows that had received the quarter offerings? It was reported that they were in the racquetball courts. The Bishop asked that they be prepared for the donations to this cause.

The chair called for the vote on the resolution and declared that the resolution had been adopted.

**Resolution 14  
Recommendation: Do Pass  
Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: Support for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal Youth Challenge  
Source: South Dakota Lutheran Youth Organization Committee**

**WHEREAS, The Atlanta Gathering (TAG) of 2003 brought youth from all over the ELCA who carried almost three million quarters (\$720,000) as an offering for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and the Hunger Appeal’s “second mile” *Stand With Africa* campaign in response to the Youth Challenge; and**

**WHEREAS, the TAG Youth Challenge goal was one million dollars; and**

**WHEREAS, youth of the ELCA are still being challenged “to take Ubuntu (Do Life!) off their T-shirts and into the world” by continuing to collect quarters for the Youth Challenge to reach and exceed its one million dollar goal; therefore be it RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly encourage all South Dakota Synod congregations to support the efforts of their youth to complete this Youth Challenge for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.**

**MSC to adopt Resolution 14, “Support for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal Youth Challenge.  
SA04.06.06.32.**

Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl declared that Resolution 15A, “Diversity,” would be considered next. Brett Koenecke presented the resolution with the recommendation of “Do Pass as Amended” by the committee. There was no speaking to the resolution. The Bishop called for the vote and declared that the resolution had been adopted.

**Resolution: 15A  
Recommendation: Do Pass as Amended  
Action Taken: Adopted**

**Subject: Diversity  
Source: South Dakota Lutheran Youth Organization Committee**

**WHEREAS, the national Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization (BLYO) has been strengthened in its mission by including a Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) and a Definitely-Abled Advisory Committee (DAC) which both meet along side the BLYO; and**

**WHEREAS, the South Dakota Lutheran Youth Organization Committee in 2002 voted to amend their constitution to include a Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) youth position and a Definitely-Abled Advisory Committee (DAC) youth position; and**

**WHEREAS, the South Dakota Synod Council and many of the committees and task forces of the South Dakota Synod lack multicultural and/or definitely-abled members; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to take whatever steps possible to increase achieve multicultural and definitely-abled representation on committees and task forces of the synod.**

**MSC that Resolution 15A, “Diversity,” as amended be adopted.  
SA04.06.06.33.**

The Bishop declared that Resolutions 05 and 06 would be considered next, and, as time allows, Resolutions 17 and 19.

Brett Koenecke introduced Resolution 05 and reported “No recommendation” from the committee. He reported that this resolution failed last year almost in verbatim form and would need to be moved from the floor. The resolution was moved and seconded from the floor.

Pastor Fred Rosin, who introduced the resolution in the Medary Conference Assembly, came to the microphone to speak about the resolution. Bishop Andrea announced that he was retiring tomorrow and thanked him for his ministry career. The assembly responded with applause. Pastor Rosin said that this is time for us to speak our minds to the church through this resolution and engender trust between congregations and churchwide.

Pastor Don Schumacher, Badger, said that the sense of ownership needs to be restored in the church.

Pastor David Winterfeldt, spoke against the resolution as it is not a well-advised way of going about letting our leaders know where we stand. For every decision to be ratified by congregations is a cumbersome process.

Charles Swanson, Madison, had a question of the footnote reference to Word Alone Network at the bottom of the resolution. The Bishop responded that the source has been noted in several resolutions when it has not been authored by a member of a synod congregation. Swanson also queried, “What is Word Alone network?” The Bishop briefly explained what it is.

Pastor Jim Thvedt, Toronto, spoke in favor of the resolution, stating that if the constitution of the ELCA had to be approved by congregations of the ALC, then amendments to the constitution should be ratified by the congregations of the ELCA.

Teressa Petersen, Tea, spoke for the resolution using the analogy of the states ratifying amendments to the national constitution as a way to have voice in amending the church constitution.

Pastor Bjoern Meinhardt, Colman, raised a point of order.

Dan Etrheim, Brandon, opposed the resolution because the resolution gives power to the minority.

Neil Carlson, Lake Preston, stated that if this resolution goes forward, the source noted should be the South Dakota Synod

Roberta Olson, Brookings, moved to close debate.

**MSC to close debate.  
SA04.06.06.34.**

The Bishop called for the vote on Resolution 05 and declared that the resolution had failed.

A division of the house was called. A moment of confusion arose when it was questioned if the vote was on closing debate or on the resolution. A vote of green cards affirmed the Bishop's understanding that the assembly had voted to close debate and then voted on Resolution 05.

The assembly voted again on Resolution 05 with the Elections Committee counting the votes.

The chair announced that Resolutions 06, 17 and 19 remain for consideration. She suggested that the assembly next consider Resolution 06.

Lloyd Gunvaldson, Flandreau, suggested that the assembly proceed with resolutions until 11 a.m. Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl took the suggestion as a friendly amendment to the agenda.

**Resolution: 05  
Recommendation: Do Not Pass  
Action Taken: Moved and Seconded from the Floor  
Adopted (Vote 224 green; 180 red)**

**Subject: Requiring the Ratification of Constitutional Amendments  
Source: Medary Conference**

**WHEREAS, the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recognizes the importance of the relationship between congregations, synods, and the Churchwide Organization, and further recognizes the interdependent nature of those relationships (ELCA Constitution paragraph 8.11); and**

**WHEREAS, the constitutions of our predecessor bodies recognized the fundamental representative nature of congregations and its members when gathered as the larger church body (ALC Constitution, 503.1, 503.5; LCA Constitution Article X paragraph 5; ULCA Article VIII, paragraph 4; AELC Article VIII, paragraph 3; ELC Chapter 7, 33); and**

**WHEREAS, such representation by constituent congregations was implicit when making changes to the constitution that would impact those congregations; and**

**WHEREAS, requiring ratification by synod assemblies or congregations of amendments to the ELCA Constitution would promote better communication and better relationships between congregations, synods, and the Churchwide Assembly; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2005 Churchwide Assembly to amend Chapter 22 of the ELCA Constitution to add the following provision:**

**22.12. Any amendment to the ELCA Constitution, in addition to approval by a regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly, as required by the ELCA Constitution, must be ratified by three-fourths of ELCA synods at duly called synod assemblies or a majority of ELCA congregations within one calendar year of the final approval by the Churchwide Assembly;**

**And to amend 22.11 by deleting “The constitution of this church may be amended only through either of the following procedures:” and substituting for it, “Any amendment to the constitution of this church shall be amended in accordance with 22.12 of this constitution and through the following procedures:”**

**Note: this resolution’s origin is the Word Alone Network**

**MSC that Resolution 05, “Requiring the ratification of Constitutional Amendments,” be adopted.  
SA04.06.06.35.**

Brett Koenecke introduced Resolution 06, “Ordination with Integrity,”. He reported that the committee was unable to come to a decision about the resolution so it needed to be moved and seconded from the floor for consideration.

Resolution 06 was moved and seconded from the floor.

Pastor Fred Rosin, Bryant, spoke for resolution with the hope that the policy on ordination now in place with the ecumenical agreements would be honored.

Dawn Huber, Irene, had a question about the record of a homosexual person, but was informed that this resolution doesn’t deal with sexuality.

Pastor Mary Wallum, Lake Preston, stated that the Word Alone network has often been perceived as divisive and should be named in the resolutions as a source.

Pastor Lloyd Stivers brought a report from the Elections Committee on Resolution 05. There were 224 green cards and 180 red cards. The chair declared that the resolution had passed.

The chair called for continued discussion on Resolution 06.

Pastor Craig Werling, Milbank, identified himself as a member of Word Alone, and stated that the resolution would enable seminarians to follow their conscience. He urged its passage.

Pastor David Winterfeldt, Dimock, said that there was problematic language in the resolution.

Pastor Donald Schumacher, Badger, stated that if the resolution is passed, it becomes the synod's resolution. Wiggle room needs to be guarded in the ELCA.

Pastor Will Olsen, Webster, moved the question. The Bishop called for the vote on closing debate.

**MSC that debate be closed.  
SA04.06.06.36.**

The chair called for the vote on Resolution 06 and asked for a count of the vote. The vote was taken again and counted by the Elections Committee.

**Resolution 06  
Recommendation: No Recommendation  
Action Taken: Adopted  
(Vote 217 green; 194 red)**

**Subject: Ordination with Integrity  
Source: Medary Conference**

**WHEREAS, the 2001 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA approved of a Bylaw Amendment to the ELCA Constitution, 7.31.17, Ordination in Unusual Circumstances, providing that prospective ordinands may be ordained by a pastor other than a bishop, following a process of approval; and**

**WHEREAS, some seminary students report that some bishops or synod staff members have tried to discourage students from exercising their constitutional right to request that someone other than a bishop shall ordain them; and**

**WHEREAS, some students report that they have been told that such a request would delay their ordination significantly or would compromise their future options in certain synods; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly request the Conference of Bishops to reaffirm its reported commitment to honor this "exceptions" bylaw, and to ensure that students who request such an exception be treated respectfully, and that such requests be dealt with in a timely way and be it further**

**REOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly request the seminary presidents to invite persons who advocate ordination outside the historic episcopate to meet with seminarians as they consider their Confessional convictions and their constitutional options and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly request the Secretary of the ELCA and each synodical bishop to make no distinctions in rosters or records to differentiate between pastors who have been ordained into the historic episcopate and those who have not.**

**Note: this resolution's origin is the Word Alone Network**

**MSC that Resolution 06, "Ordination with Integrity," be adopted.  
SA04.06.06.37. (green 217; and red 194)**

While the count was being tallied by the Elections Committee, Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl announced that because of the importance of the content of Resolution 17, "Caring for Creation," the chair would entertain a motion to refer the resolution to the boards of the three synod auxiliaries, as well as the synod council.

**Resolution: 17**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken: Referred to Synod Council, LMM, LYO and SD WELCA**

**Subject: Caring For Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice**  
**Source: Rural Life Task Force**

WHEREAS, a Social Statement on *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*, was adopted by a more than two-thirds majority vote at the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 28, 1993, at Kansas City, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the Social Statement on *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*

- Recognizes the severity of our current environmental crisis;
- Acknowledges humanity's separation from God and from the rest of creation as the central cause of the environmental crises;
- Provides a solid biblical and theological rationale for caring for God's creation, offering a vision of God's intention for creation and for humanity as creation's caregivers; and
- Expresses hope, calling on the ELCA to effective, responsive action for environmental integrity; and

WHEREAS, social statements are only effective if they are studied, prayerfully reflected on, discussed and acted upon; and

WHEREAS, a churchwide ELCA consultation convened in November 2003, (the tenth anniversary of the statement's adoption) urged that the ELCA strengthen its capacity to implement the "Caring for Creation" Statement; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations, schools, organizations, and agencies of the South Dakota Synod, together with the synodical office, be encouraged to take steps to model and to appropriate total-life stewardship of God's creation by:

- A. Revisiting the commitments set forth in the "Caring for Creation" Statement, and incorporating those commitments into their own long-range planning and programming to include plans for:
  1. Calculating, and progressively reducing, their environmental "footprint" in energy conservation and efficiency, recycling, procurement policies, resource consumption reduction, etc.,
  2. Incorporating the incentives of the ELCA Mission Investment Fund that encourage environmentally responsible design, construction and siting of new congregations; and that offer incentives to rebuild (when church relief efforts assist communities in the wake of natural disasters) in ways that are more environmentally appropriate and less vulnerable to similar events in the future,
  3. Modeling environmental responsibility at Synod Assemblies by recycling, energy conservation, etc. (using the Lutherans Outdoors environmental centers ministry as models),
  4. Affirming the importance of special worship services focused on creation, in seasons and in ways appropriate to each congregation's context, whether urban or rural, by weaving creation care themes into worship materials.
- B. Strengthening mechanisms for implementing the ELCA's commitments for "Caring for Creation" by:
  1. Asking the Bishop of the South Dakota Synod to invite congregations, institutions and agencies of the Synod to study, to reflect upon, to prayerfully discuss the "Caring for Creation" Statement implications on local economic life, and to look for ways to reduce environmental resource consumption by adopting an "environmental tithe," which would include reducing energy usage and waste generation (paper, plastics, glass, ink, etc.) by at least 10%.
  2. Promoting the formation of synodical, congregational, institutional, and agency task forces or committees to address and to monitor the Synod's progress in implementing its commitments for "Caring for Creation."
  3. Developing a network of individuals within the Synod to serve as points of contact for promoting environmental education, action, and advocacy within the Synod.
- C. Creating programs and events to motivate, educate, and engage in creation care by:
  1. Conducting workshops and presentations at Synod Assemblies.
  2. Providing "Caring for Creation" leadership training events for clergy, Synod staff and lay leaders, as well as leadership training in environmental advocacy.
  3. Offering opportunities for in-depth education for the laity on the "Caring for

- Creation” Statement, such as lay schools of theology.
4. Offering educational events and programs within the Synod, such as with the LYO, Outdoor Ministries programs, and at Augustana College and other South Dakota colleges where there is a Lutheran Campus Ministry.
  5. Promoting the understanding of “environmental tithe” described in B.1. above.
  6. Encouraging congregations, institutions and agencies to be places where questions can be raised and deliberation can take place that can lead to decisions to engage, as a community, in public policy advocacy for care of the environment.
  7. Raising awareness to increase visibility of the “Caring for Creation” Statement, calling attention to the issues and work that is being done in the ELCA through regular columns in church media including the Synod and congregation newsletters.
- D. Engaging in strong local and regional advocacy efforts that are critical for carrying forward the commitments made in the “Caring for Creation” Statement, encouraging members of congregations, institutions, and agencies of the Synod, to seek out and to become involved with other civic groups that are engaged in similar environmental issues in ways that are responsible and in accord with the values and principles set forth in the “Caring for Creation” Statement.
- E. Giving the “Caring for Creation” Statement the priority, resources, and support needed to move the work of this resolution forward by appointing qualified persons to lead in “Caring for Creation” efforts within the South Dakota Synod, and in cooperation with Region III.

And be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Synod Assembly memorialize the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to encourage churchwide staff, including the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs, to support both environmental education and advocacy.

Note: this resolution’s origin is the Caring for Creation Consultation, ELCA Division for Church in Society, 2003

**MSC to refer Resolution 17, “Caring for Creation,” to the boards of the three synod auxiliaries as well as the synod council for consideration and action.  
SA04.06.06.38.**

The Chair invited Brett Koenecke of the Resolutions Committee to present Resolution 19, “Thank You and Appreciation.” The Resolutions Committee recommended “Do Pass” and applause broke out before he completed the reading of the resolved.

**Resolution 19**  
**Recommendation: Do Pass**  
**Action Taken: Adopted by Applause**

**Subject: Thank You and Appreciation**  
**Source: Resolutions Committee**

RESOLVED, that the 2004 South Dakota Synod Assembly express gratitude and thanksgiving to the following:

**To guests who have informed, inspired, and blessed us during this synod assembly: Bishop David Mullen, Rev. Donald Hallberg, Rev. Dr. Walter Taylor, Jr., Rev. Dr. Arland Hultgren, Rev. Victoria Cortez, Rev. Dr. Merton Strommen, Rev. Darold and Marlene Beekmann; and**

**To all who have prepared, led and participated in our worship and interest groups; and**

**To members of the committees and task forces who planned the Assembly, especially the Prairie Coteau Conference Planning Committee, those who coordinated and conducted the elections, the Credentials Committee, the Resolutions Committee, the Mission Prayer Breakfast Planning Task Force and all other volunteers; and**

**To the synod support staff, who enable the work of the synod and have worked long and hard to prepare for and facilitate the Assembly; and**

**To Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, the Assistants to the Bishop and other synod staff for their faithful service; and**

**To Augustana College and to the staff who prepared our rooms for rest, provided food, and maintained and welcomed us to this wonderful facility; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that we show our appreciation to all of the above with our applause.**

The resolution was declared adopted.

**MSC to adopt Resolution No. 19, “Thank You and Appreciation.”**  
**SA04.06.06.39.**

The Elections Committee reported the vote on Resolution 06: green 217; and red 194. The Resolution No. 06, “Ordination with Integrity,” was declared adopted.

Pastor Jeff Sorenson, Assistant to the Bishop, made announcements inviting voting members to assist with the cleaning up the assembly area by leaving their assembly binders and name tags. He reminded voting members to complete the evaluation forms

and the vouchers for travel reimbursement. Copies of the Luther quotation from Dr. Hultgren were available at the assembly office.

With no further business before the assembly, the Chair invited a motion for adjournment.

**MSC to adjourn the 2004 South Dakota Synod Assembly.  
SA04.06.06.40.**

The synod assembly voting members reconvened for the closing worship service. The Rev. Victoria Cortez, President of the Iglesia Luterana de Nicaragua “Fe y Esperanza,” presided. Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl preached. Pastor Dan Overbo, Bristol, served as Assisting Minister, and Pastor William Hamill, Watertown, served as Worship Coordinator. Pastor Ron Brugger, Sisseton, served as organist. Prairie Coteau Conference pastors and youth observers assisted with Holy Communion.

During the service, six persons who had completed the Faith Builders’ Parish Assistance course of study were recognized in a ceremony led by Bishop DeGroot-Nesdahl and Pastor Brad Peterson, a member of the Faith Builders’ Design Team. The honorees included Cherie Rans, Huron; Dodie Noordermeer, Pierre; Kay Neubauer, Mitchell; Marion Hammer, Flandreau; Misty Redlin, Langford; Sheila Pohl, Rosholt (in absentia); and Pearl Hanson, Benson, Minnesota.

At the conclusion of the service, the Bishop led in the Closing of the Assembly ritual.

As of June 24, 2004, the Synod Assembly offering receipts totaled \$10,977.51. The “quarter offering” for Stand With Africa totaled \$2,616.45.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor James B. Olson  
South Dakota Synod Secretary