

SESSION I
Friday, June 3, 2011
12 noon – 2:30 p.m.

OPENING DEVOTIONS

The opening devotions were led by Dolly Nilsen, president of the Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA. The theme of the devotions was "Called as Disciples – INVITE." The scripture read was John 1:35-42. After a refectory by Dolly, the assembly joined in singing, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light."

ORDER FOR THE OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Bishop Ralph W. Dunkin led the assembly in the Order for the Opening of the Synod Assembly.

CALL TO ORDER

Following devotions and the Order for the Opening of the Assembly, Bishop Dunkin called the 24th Synod Assembly to order.

COMMITTEE FOR CELEBRATION OF BISHOP DUNKIN'S THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION

The Rev. Craig Richter read a letter of congratulations from the ELCA Presiding Bishop, The Rev. Mark Hanson.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Pat Keller, Registration Committee Chair, reported: 34 clergy, 89 lay voting members for a total of 123. Bishop Dunkin declared a quorum present. There were also 32 visitors present.

NEW OFFICE MANAGER INTRODUCED

Barbara Higgins, who began her duties in November 2010, was introduced to the assembly.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

The bishop announced the appointment of the assembly committees and the chairs were introduced.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Marjorie Wolf, Synod Secretary, moved the adoption of Synod Council Recommendation #1 which reads:

"That the Rules of Procedure for the Twenty-Fourth Assembly of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod be adopted as presented."

VOTED

SA11.6.1 – To approve the motion that Recommendation #1 be adopted as presented.

ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Secretary Wolf moved the adoption of Synod Council Recommendation #2 which reads:

“That the proposed agenda for the 2011 Synod Assembly be approved.”

VOTED

SA11.6.2 – The proposed agenda was adopted.

WELCOME

The Rev. Craig Richter, on behalf of the Eastern and Western Deans of the Potomac Conference, welcomed those assembled for the 2011 Synod Assembly.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Marjorie Wolf gave the report of the secretary, which included Synod Council and Executive Committee actions, and a report from the Tri-Synod Archives Board.

2013 Synod Assembly

Secretary Wolf moved the adoption of Synod Council Recommendation #3 which reads:

“That the 2013 Synod Assembly, May 31 and June 1, be held at the Waterfront Hotel, Morgantown, West Virginia. The Friday night Eucharistic Worship is to be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church.”

VOTED

SA11.6.3 – Recommendation #3 was approved.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Marjorie Wolf, Secretary, moved that the nominees listed from the Nominating Committee become official nominees. The Chair called for additional nominations from the floor and there were a few persons nominated.

VOTED

SA11.6.4 – To close nominations.

SYNOD EVANGELISM AND MISSION

Helen Harms, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelism and Mission in the synod, shared what is happening in the synod. She also presented information about the document of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod: Strategic Directions for Mission, June 2011, “**Called to Bear and Share the Gift of Grace.**”

SYNOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION #9

Marjorie Wolf moved that Recommendation #9 from Synod Council be approved. The recommendation reads:

“That the strategic directions set forth in the document West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod: Strategic Directions for Mission, June 2011, ‘**Called to Bear and Share the Gift of Grace**’ be adopted.”

VOTED

SA11.6.5 – Recommendation #9 was approved.

SYNOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION #10

Secretary Wolf moved the adoption of Recommendation #10 from Synod Council which reads:

“That the Synod Council provide oversight to the development and implementation of the plan, **“Called to Bear and Share the Gift of Grace”** utilizing Synod Committees and Task Forces to address these strategic directions.”

VOTED

SA11.6.6 – Recommendation #10 was approved.

A SEED PLANTED FUND

Helen Harms, Evangelism and Mission Director, encouraged financial support to “A Seed Planted Fund.” This would raise funds as well as sharing our fruits for mission. Helen Harms and Bishop Dunkin presented a skit that emphasized “A Seed Planted Fund.”

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG

Martha Spangler, representative, thanked the synod for its continued support. She shared what is happening on campus.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Rev. Craig Richter introduced Dr. Donald Huber, Project Coordinator, “Stewards of Abundance Project,” funded by the ELCA and the Lily Endowment. This is a project which seeks to reduce seminarian student debt so that graduates are better able to flourish in first calls with modest salaries.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Pat Keller, Chair, reported 36 clergy, 93 lay voting members for a total of 129. There were also 36 visitors present.

Vita sheets were distributed for the those nominated from the floor.

FIRST GENERAL BALLOT

The first ballot was collected after discovering too many errors, and another ballot had to be printed.

TASK FORCE ON FUTURE ASSEMBLIES

The Rev. Wanda Childs reported the results of the questionnaire that was distributed. The Task Force recommends continuing in the present practice of having an annual assembly.

Recommendation #12 from Synod Council was removed from the agenda.

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

The Rev. Charles Aurand was recognized by the assembly on the occasion of his Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of ordination. He shared how ministry has changed over the years.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN PARTNERS

Sherri Schafer, Director, thanked all for their help and financial support. This is an example of preaching the gospel through actions.

FIRST GENERAL BALLOT

The ballot was distributed and after the voting body had an opportunity to vote, Bishop Dunkin declared the polls closed.

BREAK

2:55 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

SESSION II
Friday, June 3, 2011
3:45 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

ADVOCACY - A MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Rev. Lee Hudson, former ELCA Governmental Affairs for the State of Maryland, spoke to the assembly.

LYO - YOUTH GATHERING 2012

The Rev. David Westphal shared information about the 2012 Youth Gathering to be held in New Orleans and encouraged youth participation.

Marcie Woloshan informed the assembly that the 2011 West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod LYO Summer Convention would be July 15-17, in Beckley, West Virginia.

The Rev. Wanda Childs announced that St. Luke Lutheran Church, Beckley, West Virginia, was selling bean soup mix and canned coal to raise funds to repair the church roof.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Rev. Matthew Riegel, Treasurer, reported on the financial situation within the synod, and shared a few observations.

2011 SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFERING

Treasurer Matthew Riegel moved Recommendation #4 from the Synod Council which reads:

“That the 2011 Synod Assembly Offering be divided equally between the Rostered Leaders Debt Reduction Fund and the general fund for the WVU Campus Ministry Program.”

VOTED

SA11.6.7 – Recommendation #4 was approved.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Treasurer moved Recommendation #5, from Synod Council which reads:

“The Executive Committee of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Council recommends that the Auditor’s Report for fiscal year 2010 be adopted.”

VOTED

SA11.6.8 – The Auditor’s Report was adopted.

Paul Wangerin, Chair, explained the work of the synod Audit Committee.

2011 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

The Treasurer moved that Recommendation #6 be approved. This reads:

“The Executive Committee of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod recommends that the adopted 2011 Budget be adjusted and adopted.”

VOTED

SA11.6.9 – Recommendation #6 was approved.

2012 Budget

Treasurer Riegel moved that Recommendation #7 from Synod Council be approved. This reads:

“The Executive Committee of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod recommends that the proposed Budget for 2012 be adopted.”

VOTED

SA11.6.10 The Budget for 2012 was adopted.

MISSION SUPPORT FORMULA

The Treasurer moved that Recommendation #8 be approved. This reads:

“That the Synod Council be authorized to develop and adopt the Mission Support Formula for 2012, following the 2011 Synod Council action that ‘the suggested goals exceed the budget by 2%’”

VOTED

SA11.6.11 – Recommendation #8 was approved.

RECOMMENDATION #13

The Rev. Matthew Riegel, Treasurer, moved Recommendation #13 which reads:

“That the Executive Committee of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Council recommends that the Synod Council be authorized, in case of excess revenue at the end of Fiscal Year 2011, to reinstate funding of grant and program lines reduced in the mid-year 2011 budget adjustment as deemed practical and prudent.”

VOTED

SA11.6.12 – Recommendation #13 was adopted.

The Rev. Randolph Richardson, Chair, Committee on Reference and Counsel, stated that resolutions and memorials should be considered at this time.

CLERGY RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Whereas, many retired clergy, rostered lay persons, church workers, and surviving spouses who are participants in the ELCA Board of Pensions Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund were adversely affected by reductions in their annuities in 2010 and 2011, as well as by the economic recession; and

Whereas, the ELCA has a Special Needs Retirement Fund to assist those annuitants and other plan participants most in need and who meet eligibility requirements; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to encourage congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and the ELCA Board of Pensions to remember the concerns of retired rostered leaders and other retired plan members who have served this church, especially those most in need, and to hold them in prayer; and be it further

Resolved, that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to encourage synods, congregations, and individuals to give generously to the Special Needs Retirement Fund.

After the resolution was moved, The Rev. Elizabeth Westphal spoke to the resolution.

VOTED

SA11.6.13 – To approve the above resolution.

MEMORIAL FOR SOCIAL STATEMENT ON GENETICS

Whereas, the 2010 Assembly of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the ELCA instructed the Committee for Church in Society to conduct hearings on the “Draft Social Statement on genetics—for study and response;” and

Whereas, the following concerns were voiced in one or more of four hearings: 1) The ability of Scripture to speak to issues of Genetics and technology was discounted or denied throughout the document. 2) The term, “Human fault,” was used in place of “Sin” in section 2.3, and there was a lack of Confessional language throughout the document. 3) There was no use of Trinitarian language in section 5.2 (Koinonia).

Therefore, be it resolved that,

The 2011 Assembly of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod thanks the ELCA Force on Genetics for their faithful and dedicated work on “Genetics, Faith and Responsibility” and commends them for their use of Confessional and Trinitarian language throughout this final draft, especially in the re-working of sections 3.3 (Sin: pride and complacency) and 5.2 (Koinonia). We also commend the task force for its revisions throughout the document pertaining to the specific ways in which Scripture speaks to issues of genetics and technology and for its re-working of section 3.2 (God: Creator of the community of life). And, be it further

Resolved, that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod memorializes the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to affirm these revisions, commending the task force for their awareness of the importance of grounding social statements in the Biblical and Confessional witness.

After the resolution was moved, The Rev. Elizabeth Westphal spoke to her resolution.

VOTED

SA11.6.14 – The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION – STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR MISSION

Whereas, “West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Strategic Directions for Mission” document states, “the development of the Marcellus shale natural gas deposits is bringing a new kind of migrant worker to our area—those who work in development of this natural resource;”

Whereas, Marcellus shale deposits exist in at least thirty-one counties of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod;

Whereas, mining these deposits will change our social and environmental context for ministry in the near future; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Committee for congregational Ministries and Appalachian Concerns, Outreach Committee, and the Committee for Church in Society study this issue over the next year to position the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, and be it further

Resolved, that these three committees forward a report and appropriate resolutions to the 2012 West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Assembly in Flatwoods, West Virginia.

The resolution was moved by The Rev. Craig Richter, and he spoke to his resolution. There was a friendly amendment followed by discussion on the resolution.

VOTED

SA11.6.15 – The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION REGARDING LIVING INTO THE FUTURE TOGETHER (LIFT)

Whereas, “the ELCA Church Council approved a charter for the project, ‘Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA’ at its November 2009 meeting;”

Whereas, “the project task force is to study social and economic changes in the 20 years since the church was formed and ‘evaluate the organization, governance and interrelationships among this church’s expressions;”

Whereas, “the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met via telephone conference call on May 23, 2011,” to take action on the LIFT Task Force’s report and recommendations;

Whereas, the report of the ELCA Living into Future Together Task Force offers many recommendations that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod will need to address in light of the task force’s work on behalf of the ELCA;

Whereas, the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Living into the Future Together Task Force met from August 2010 to April 2011 to do similar work within our synod’s boundaries;

Therefore be it resolved, that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod in partnership with the ELCA, continue its Synod Task Force to study the recommendations of the ELCA Living into the Future Together Task Force and to make recommendations to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Council regarding this document, and be it further

Resolved that the Synod Task Force report its recommendations to the Synod Council at its annual April 2012 meeting for review, and submit implementing resolutions annually to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Assembly for approval.

The Rev. Craig Richter moved the resolution and spoke to his resolution. There was no discussion.

VOTED

SA11.6.16 – To approve the resolution.

REPORT OF THE INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT

George Friedline recognized the Synod Council members and Bishop Dunkin on the Thirty-Fifth Anniversary of his ordination. He announced that a reception honoring Bishop Dunkin would be held after worship on Friday evening. Bishop Dunkin received a financial gift in celebration of his Thirty-Fifth Anniversary of his ordination.

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

The Rev. Seminarian Jesse Hamme, Vicar of South Fork Ministries, led the devotions, “Called as Disciples to **PRAY.**” The devotions included a litany, scripture (Luke 11:1-4), a reflection, and singing “Sweet Hour of Prayer.” The devotions closed with a prayer and the benediction.

A FESTIVE EUCHARISTIC WORSHIP

The Assembly’s Celebration of Holy Communion, an Ordination, and the Thirty-Fifth Anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Dunkin’s Ordination was held at 7:00 p.m. in St. Bernard Chapel, Snowshoe. The celebrant was The Rev. Wendy Richter; Vicar Jessica Hamme assisted, and the preacher was The Rev. Reinhold Schlak; and the Ordinand was The Rev. Seminarian Neil Cadle. Music was provided by Wanetta and the Fire Balls. A reception followed the service.

SESSION III

Saturday, June 4, 2011

8:30 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

OPENING DEVOTIONS

The Rev. Craig Richter, pastor of Mountain Lutheran Parish, led the opening devotions. Following the responsive reading of Psalm 23, I Thessalonians 4:13-18 was read. Pastor Richter gave a reflection and those assembled joined in singing, “Have No Fear Little Flock.” The devotions closed with a prayer of the day and The Lord’s Prayer.

CAMP LUTHER

Mike Propst, Camp Lutheran Director, showed pictures of Bishop Dunkin at Camp Luther over the years in recognition of the Bishop’s Thirty-Fifth Anniversary of Ordination.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Pat Keller, Chair, reported 37 clergy, 93 lay voting members for a total of 130. There were also 49 visitors present.

COMMITTEE ON MINUTES

The Rev. Erik Nielson, Chair, stated that the Committee on Minutes had reviewed the minutes of sessions I and II and moved that they be approved.

VOTED

SA11.6.17 – The minutes from Sessions I and II were approved.

COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

The Rev. Jacqueline Campbell, Chair, reported on the results of the first ballot.

SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT

- ✓ 129 ballots cast
- ✓ 127 total votes
- ✓ 65 necessary to elect

- ❖ Paul Wangerin – 95 Votes
- ❖ Joseph Gratto – 32 Votes

Paul Wangerin was declared elected to a four-year term.

SYNOD TREASURER

- ✓ 129 ballots cast
- ✓ 128 total votes
- ✓ 65 necessary to elect

- ❖ The Rev. Matthew Riegel – 104 Votes
- ❖ The Rev. Brian Bennett – 24 Votes

The Rev. Matthew Riegel was declared elected to a four-year term.

SYNOD COUNCIL – CLERGY, POTOMAC CONFERENCE

- ✓ 128 ballots cast
- ✓ 122 total votes
- ✓ 62 necessary to elect

- ❖ The Rev. Craig Richter – 77 Votes
- ❖ The Rev. Sally Bartling – 30 Votes
- ❖ The Rev. P. Lee Brumback – 15 Votes

The Rev. Craig Richter was declared elected to a three-year term.

SYNOD COUNCIL – LAY, UPPER OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

- ✓ 129 ballots cast
- ✓ 124 total votes
- ✓ 63 necessary to elect

- ❖ Megan Clark – 124 Votes

Megan Clark was declared elected to a three-year term.

SYNOD COUNCIL – YOUTH

- ✓ 129 ballots cast
- ✓ 124 total votes
- ✓ 63 necessary to elect

- ❖ T. Nathaniel Ellis – 124 Votes

Nathaniel Ellis was declared elected to a two-year term.

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE – LAITY

- ✓ 129 ballots cast
- ✓ 228 total votes
- ✓ 65 necessary to elect

- ❖ Dorcas Friedline – 116 Votes
- ❖ Sarah Soltow – 112 Votes

Dorcas Friedline and Sarah Soltow were declared elected to one six-year term.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE — CLERGY

- ✓ 127 ballots cast
- ✓ 222 total votes
- ✓ 64 necessary to elect

- ❖ The Rev. Wanda Childs – 123 Votes
- ❖ The Rev. Dr. C. Scott Robinson – 99 Votes

The Rev. Wanda Childs and The Rev. Dr. C. Scott Robinson were declared elected to one six-year term.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE — LAITY

- ✓ 129 ballots cast
- ✓ 237 total votes
- ✓ 65 necessary to elect

- ❖ David T. Ellis – 122 Votes
- ❖ George Friedline – 115 Votes

David T. Ellis and George Friedline were elected to one six-year term.

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG BOARD OF DIRECTORS — CLERGY

- ✓ 129 ballots cast
- ✓ 125 total votes
- ✓ 63 necessary to elect

- ❖ The Rev. William C. Ridenhour – 88 Votes
- ❖ The Rev. Dr. C. Scott Robinson – 37 Votes

The Rev. William C. Ridenhour was elected to a four-year term.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S LAY WORSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Lt. Colonel Clem Pemberton, Retired, gave an update on the Bishop's Lay Worship Assistance Program. He noted that lay worship leaders must attend one training event per year to remain on the roster.

EVANGELISM AND MISSION

Helen Harms, Assistant to the Bishop, and Director of Evangelism and Mission in the synod, shared what is going on in the synod. She thanked the members of synod for their continued support. She encouraged participation in a Festival of Faith in September, which will be held at two places in the synod this year.

LYO — 2012 YOUTH GATHERING

Pastors Elizabeth and David Westphal presented a skit advertising the Youth Gathering.

OFFERINGS

The Treasurer announced that the Friday evening offering totaled \$1,339.20. "A Seed Planted Fund" raised \$1,038.04.

RESOLUTION #4 – THE REV. SEMINARIAN KARA PROPST PRESENTED RES #4, WHICH WAS MOVED:

RESOLUTION TO MEMORIALIZE 2011 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY REGARDING MAGISTERIAL AUTHORITY.

Whereas, "the ELCA Church Council approved a charter for the project, Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA" at its November 2009 meeting;"

Whereas, "the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met via telephone conference call on May 23, 2011, "to take action on the LIFT Task Force's report and recommendations;

Whereas, the ELCA Church Council recommended "to endorse the recommendations of the task force by the Church Council;"

Whereas, the LIFT Task Force Recommendations include that "the responsibility for this church's theological discernment be located in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, which will assist this church in better understanding its identity, recognizing the theological, relational, and educational gifts God has given this church and the power of these gifts to provide Christian faith formation, leadership and partnership in today's rapidly changing world;"

Whereas, the translated Article XXVIII of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, German text, states concerning the power of bishops, "... consequently, according to the divine right it is the office of the bishop to preach the gospel, to forgive sins, to judge doctrine and reject doctrine that is contrary to the gospel ..."

Whereas, the translated Article XXVIII of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, Latin text, states concerning the church's power, "... consequently, according to the gospel, or, as they say, by divine right, this jurisdiction belongs to the bishops as bishops (that is, to those to whom the ministry of Word and sacraments has been committed): to forgive sins, to reject teaching that opposes the gospel..."

Therefore be it resolved that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod thank the ELCA Living into the Future Task Force for its hard work in preparing this report, and be it further

Resolved that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod commend the LIFT Task Force for addressing the question of magisterial authority in its report to the ELCA Church Council and the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, and be it further

Resolved that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to direct the Office of the ELCA Presiding Bishop, the Office of the ELCA Secretary, the ELCA Conference of Bishops and the ELCA Church Council to study further the question of magisterial authority before determining where this authority resides in the church, and be it further

Resolved that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to direct of Office of the ELCA Presiding Bishop, the Office of the ELCA Secretary, the ELCA Conference of Bishops and the ELCA Council to make recommendations at the next scheduled ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

The Rev. Matthew Riegle moved an amendment by adding to the above a resolution which reads:

“Resolved that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod communicate to the Office of the ELCA Presiding Bishop, the Office of the ELCA Secretary, the ELCA Conference of Bishops, and the ELCA Church Council that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod is of the opinion that location of the church’s theological discernment in the Office of the Presiding Bishop without reference to the synodical bishops and the Conference of Bishops is, in fact, a violation of the Augsburg Confession.

VOTED

SA11.6.18 – After the initial vote, a division was called and the results were 46 for; 53 against. The amendment was lost.

It was moved and seconded that the Committee on Resolutions be asked to write a new resolution based on the original resolution and the proposed amendment.

VOTED

SA11.6.19 – The motion to ask the Committee on Resolutions to write a new resolution was approved.

CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

The Churchwide Representative was The Rev. Brenda Smith, who shared some of the positives happening in the ELCA, and also some areas where more work needs to be done. She explained the proposed ELCA Project to provide mosquito netting to families in sub-Saharan Africa to fight malaria. 800,000 people die each year from malaria.

BREAK

10:15 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.

Session IV
Saturday, June 4, 2011
10:55 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

The Rev. Craig Ritcher, Chair, explained the work of the Task Force dealing with “Living into the Future Together.” (LIFT)

RECOMMENDATION #11

Recommendation #11 was moved. It reads:

“That the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, based upon the work of the LIFT Task Force, shall develop a Mission and Evangelism Training Program for rostered and lay leaders as outlined in the document “**Operation Word and Witness**” and shall find revenue streams to fund it.

VOTED

SA11.6.20 – To approve Recommendation #11 from Synod Council.

BISHOP’S REPORT

Bishop Dunkin used his time as a teaching point. He talked about the marks of discipleship. The Bishop highlighted a few congregations that are doing some very positive ministry. The bishop introduced the seminarians that were present, as well as new pastors in the synod. He also congratulated those congregations that were celebrating a significant anniversary. The Bishop announced that Jared Lee and Tim Crummit each received \$2,500 from the “Fund for Leaders Scholarship” for the 2011-2012 school year.

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

The Rev. Wendy Richter, pastor of Mountain Lutheran Parish, led the closing devotions, “Called as Disciples to **GIVE**”. Following a responsive reading of a portion of Psalm 118, Luke 21:1-4 was read. After a reflection, those assembled joined in singing, “Take My Life That I May Be.” The devotions closed with the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.

LUNCH BREAK

The Assembly had lunch from 1:10 pm to 2:10 pm.

SESSION V
Saturday, June 4, 2011
2:10 p.m. – 3:32 p.m.

OPENING DEVOTIONS

Pat Keller, Parish Lay Leader of Mountain Lutheran Parish, led the devotions, “Called as Disciples to **SERVE**.” The devotions included a litany, scripture reading (John 13:12-17) and a reflection. The assembly joined in singing, “O Master Let Me Walk With Thee.” The devotion closed with a prayer.

The Rev. Gerald Kliner spoke regarding his position as the Ecumenical Officer for the synod.

The Rev. Elizabeth Westphal shared insights as an observer at the NALC Convention last August.

The Rev. Allen Swartz read a letter of thanks and congratulations from Dory Campbell, ELCMA Director, in celebration of Bishop Dunkin's Thirty-Fifth anniversary of his ordination.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BISHOP'S REPORT

The Rev. Brian Bennett, Chair of the Synod Council's Mutual Ministry Committee, responded to the Bishop's report.

RESOLUTION #6

The Rev. Seminarian Kara Propst, on behalf of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, moved that Resolution #6 be dealt with at the present time.

VOTED

SA11.6.21 – The recommendation was approved.

The resolution drafted by the Committee on Resolutions, as requested, was presented.

MEMORIAL REGARDING MAGISTERIAL AUTHORITY

Whereas, "the ELCA Church Council approved a charter project, 'Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA' at its November 2009 meeting."

Whereas, the LIFT Task Force Recommendations include that "the responsibility for this church's theological discernment be located in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, which will assist this church in better understanding its identity, recognizing the theological, relational and educational gifts God has given this church and the power of these gifts to provide Christian faith formation, leadership and partnership in today's rapidly changing world;"

Whereas, the translated Article XXVIII of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, German text, states concerning the power of bishops, "...consequently, according to divine right it is the office of the bishop to preach the gospel, to forgive sins, to judge doctrine and reject doctrine that is contrary to the gospel ..."

Whereas, the translated Article XXVIII of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, Latin text, states concerning the church's power, "... consequently, according to the gospel, or, as they say, by divine right, this jurisdiction belongs to the bishops as bishops (that is, to those to whom the ministry of Word and sacraments has been committed): to forgive sins, to reject teaching that opposes the gospel ..."

Therefore be it resolved that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod communicate to the Office of the ELCA Presiding Bishop, the Office of the ELCA Secretary, the ELCA Conference of Bishops and the ELCA Church Council that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod finds that location of the church's theological discernment in the Office of the Presiding Bishop without reference to the teaching authority of synodical bishops and the Conference of Bishops contravenes Article XXVIII of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

Be it further resolved that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod memorializes the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to amend the report of the LIFT Task Force, striking the recommendation which states, "the responsibility of this church's theological discernment be located in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, which will assist this church in better

understanding its identity, recognizing the theological, relational and educational gifts God has given this church and the power of these gifts to provide Christian faith formation, leadership and partnership in today's rapidly changing world.”

And be it resolved that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod memorializes the Churchwide Assembly to be mindful of the teaching of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession in further implementations of the work of the LIFT Task Force.

VOTED

SA11.6.22 – The Resolution to Memorialize the ELCA 2011 Churchwide Assembly regarding Magisterial Authority was approved as presented.

RESOLUTIONS OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

The expression of the Church known as the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the ELCA has gathered, given thanks, lifted our voices together in prayer and song. We have discussed business and shared fellowship and we have feasted at the table.

Whereas we are truly thankful:

- + For a place to gather at The Mountain Lodge, Snowshoe.
- + For the Mountain Lutheran Parish and the South Fork Ministries: Faith, Mount Hope, New Hope, St. Johns, Calvary and Mount Olive, their pastors Craig and Wendy Richter and their intern Jesse Hamme and for their amazing hospitality and direction, their faithful service and impeccable organization, and meaningful worship that has blessed our spirits.
- + For the opportunity to share in Neil's ordination and we ask God's blessing on him and the congregations of the Mason-Jackson Shared Ministry as they begin their life and work together.
- + For Barbara, our new administrative assistant, who has survived her first synod assembly and who worked so hard to organize our multi-colored document several times.
- + For the leadership of our Bishop, his good spirit and his ability to laugh at himself much like Richard Simmons.
- + For a journey to the mountain top with Dr. Donald Huber where we learned that argument is our Lutheran tradition.
- + For the words of Dr. Lee Hudson for encouraging us to advocate for the least of these.
- + For the opportunity to practice our voting before actually voting as practice makes perfect.
- + For Pastor Brenda Smith and her willingness to risk her very life on our mountainous roads to come and share with us her report from churchwide.
- + For Pigs sewing and all that ...
- + And that “when we are all tithers then we can fight about sex ...”

Therefore be it resolved that we show thanks and praise to our God who has created us, who reconciles us and who empowers us to serve God and our neighbor here in West Virginia and Western Maryland.

And may it be further resolved that we join our hearts and voices in prayer that the Spirit would blow through our mountains and fill us with wisdom, love and compassion in order that we may work together to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

The Chair called for a vote by acclamation and there was a loud round of applause.

The Rev. Wanda Childs presented Bishop Dunkin with a monetary gift and cards of congregations in honor of Bishop Dunkin's Thirty-Fifth Anniversary of his ordination.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Pat Keller, Chair, presented the final report for the Registration Committee: 37 clergy, 93 lay voting members, 52 visitors for a grand total of 182.

VOTED

SA11.6.23 – To refer the minutes from sessions III, IV, and V to Secretary Wolf and Bishop Dunkin for approval.

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

The Rev. Seminarian Kara Propst, a student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Chicago and a member of Mountain Lutheran Parish conducted the closing devotions, "Called as Disciples to **STUDY.**" The devotions included a litany, scripture reading (Matthew 28:18-20), a reflection, and singing, "Seek ye First the Kingdom of God." The devotions closed with prayer.

THE ORDER FOR THE CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Bishop Dunkin led the Order for the Closing of the Assembly. The Assembly adjourned at 3:32 p.m.