

**SESSION 1**  
**Friday, June 5, 2009**  
**12:00 noon – 2:30 p.m.**

**OPENING DEVOTIONS.** The Assembly Chaplain was The Rev. Dr. C. Scott Robinson. The opening devotions included Psalm 29, Isaiah 2:1-5, a reflection and closing prayers. The assembly joined in singing, “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light,” and “Lord of Light.” Musicians included The Rev. Dr. Stephen Folkemer, The Rev. Beth B. Folkemer, Lynn Grimm and The Rev. Dr. C. Scott Robinson.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> Synod Assembly to order.

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.** Donald Sincell, Registration Committee Chair, reported: 36 clergy, 96 lay voting members for a total of 132; Bishop Dunkin declared a quorum present.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSEMBLY.** The bishop announced the appointment of the assembly committees and the chairs were introduced.

**INTRODUCTIONS.** Bishop Dunkin introduced special guests and presenters.

**FIRST APPALACHIAN MINUTE.** The Rev. Wendy Richter presented a message, “Gifts of Lutheran Theology.”

**WELCOME.** The Rev. Roland E. Nairn III, Dean of the Monongahela Valley-Mountain (East) Conference, welcomed those attending.

**RULES OF PROCEDURE.** Marjorie Wolf, Synod Secretary, moved the adoption of Synod Council Recommendation #1 that reads:

“That the Rules of Procedure for the Twenty-second Assembly of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod be adopted as presented.”

**VOTED**

SA09.6.1 The Rules of Procedure for the Twenty-second Synod Assembly were adopted.

**ASSEMBLY AGENDA.** Secretary Wolf moved the adoption of Synod Council Recommendation #2 that reads:

“That the proposed agenda for the 2009 Synod Assembly be approved.”

**VOTED**

SA09.6.2 The proposed agenda was adopted.

**FIRST BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF A BISHOP.** The Rev. Dr. Sherman G. Hicks, representative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, was chair for the election of a bishop. The Rev. Hicks outlined the process and offered a prayer before the first ballot for bishop. The first ballot for election of a bishop was declared closed.

**GIFT OF APPRECIATION.** The Rev. Robert Newpher, ELCA staff for Division for Congregational Ministries and Stewardship, who worked with the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod for many years, was presented an Appalachian stole that was made by Peggy Blatt.

**PROJECT CONNECT.** The Rev. Wendy Richter shared information about Project Connect. We need to continually seek out young men and women who have gifts to serve in full-time ministries in the Church.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.** Marjorie Wolf gave the report of the secretary (pages TBD) which included Synod Council and Executive Committee actions and a report from the Tri-Synod Archives Board (page TBD).

**2011 SYNOD ASSEMBLY.** Secretary Wolf moved the adoption of Synod Council Recommendation # 3 that reads:

“That the 2011 Synod Assembly, June 3 and 4, be held at the Snowshoe Resort. The Friday night Eucharistic Worship is to be held at the Chapel at Snowshoe.”

**VOTED**

SA09.6.3 To approve Recommendation #3.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS.** The Rev. Neal Boese, spoke concerning “A Blueprint for Change.” He shared many ideas from his own experiences as a parish pastor. We must be focused on the task at hand.

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** The Report of the Nominating Committee was presented. Bishop Dunkin asked for additional nominations from the floor for the various positions and there were none.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.4 To close nominations.

**GREETINGS.** Dory Campbell, ELCMA Executive Director, addressed the Assembly.

Sarah Soltow and Sherri Schafer gave up-to-date information regarding Community Lutheran Partners. They shared what they have been doing and the new areas of ministries they hope to begin. Sherri Schafer will become the Community Lutheran Partners, Inc. Executive Director on July 1, 2009.

**SECOND APPALACHIAN MINUTE.** The Rev. Randy Nairn spoke concerning Multiple Point Parishes.

**BREAK.** The Assembly recessed from 2:35 p.m. to 3:12 p.m.

**SESSION 2**  
**Friday, June 5, 2009**  
**3:15 p.m. — 5:35 p.m.**

**COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS.** The Rev. Wendy Richter, Chair, reported on the first ballot for the election of a bishop.

Number of votes cast: 137    Number of legal votes cast: 137  
Abstentions: 1  
Number of votes needed for election on this ballot (75%): 102

Ralph W. Dunkin	113
Matthew Riegel	8
Larry Cantu	4
Wanda Childs	3
Fred Soltow	3
Scott Robinson	2
Roseann Anderson	1
Linda Bonofiglio	1
Jeff Wick	1

The Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Dunkin was declared reelected Bishop of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod for a six-year term. Bishop Dunkin accepted his election and thanked the assembly for their vote of confidence.

**LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG’S “CROSSROADS CAMPAIGN.”** The Rev. Kathleen Reed, Developmental Staff, showed a video about LTSG and talked about the “Crossroads Campaign.” The seminary has raised over \$12.5 million and the goal was raised to \$25 million. A total of \$980,000 has been raised for endowed scholarships. The Rev. William Ridenhour, Synod Chair for the campaign, spoke and stated that it was the goal of the synod committee to visit each congregation during the year to educate the members and to invite them to participate in the campaign.

**LAY VOTING MEMBERS.** After the first ballot for bishop, it was found that two more people voted than were listed as registered. Secretary Wolf read the list of registered lay voting members and two members who were properly registered had not been checked off the master list. The problem was resolved.

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.** Donald Sincell, Registration Committee Chair, reported: 36 clergy, 102 lay voting members for a total of 138.

**FIRST GENERAL BALLOT.** The Committee on Elections distributed the ballots, and after all had an opportunity to vote, Bishop Dunkin declared the polls closed.

**QUASI-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.** The Assembly went into the quasi-committee of the whole for a period of sixty minutes to discuss the proposed recommended social statement: Human

Sexuality: Gift and Trust, the proposed implementing resolutions and the four recommendations. No motions were in order. At the end of the discussion, two non-binding votes were taken. The first is whether the assembly recommends approval of the social statement; the second is whether the assembly recommends approval of the four resolutions.

The vote, by show of hands, on recommending approval of the social statement was 30 “yes” votes and 60 “no” votes. The vote on recommending approval of the four resolutions was 15 “yes” votes and about 45 “no” votes. The quasi-committee of the whole ended at 4:50 p.m.

**GREETINGS.** Merrie Nunnally, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative from Huntington, greeted the assembly and encouraged those present to visit the Thrivent display and speak with her concerning services available from Thrivent.

Barbara Carl, Regional Gift Planner of the ELCA Foundation, greeted the assembly and shared information concerning planned gifts to the ELCA Foundation.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER.** The Rev. Matthew Riegel, Treasurer, reported on the financial situation within the synod. He also reported a few observations regarding the finances.

**2009 SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFERING.** Treasurer Riegel moved Recommendation #4 from Synod Council that reads:

“That the 2009 Synod Assembly Offering be given to Community Lutheran Partners, Inc. for work in Appalachia.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.5 To adopt Recommendation #4.

**REVISED 2009 BUDGET.** The Treasurer moved Recommendation #6 from Synod Council that reads:

“That the revised 2009 Budget be adopted.”

**VOTED**

SA09.6.6 To adopt Recommendation #6.

**BUDGET for 2010.** Treasurer Riegel moved Recommendation #7 from Synod Council that reads:

“That the recommended Budget for 2010 be adopted.”

**VOTED**

SA09.6.7 To adopt the Budget for 2010.

**MISSION SUPPORT FORMULA.** Treasurer Riegel moved Recommendation #8 from Synod Council that reads:

“That the Synod Council be authorized to develop and adopt the Mission Support Formula for 2010, following the 1998 Synod Assembly action “that the suggested goals exceed the budget by 1%.”

**VOTED**

SA09.6.8 Recommendation # 8 was adopted.

**RESOLUTION: LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE**

WHEREAS, the Rev. Mark Hanson, presiding bishop for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), encourages us to be “a public church that witnesses boldly to God’s love for all that God has created;”

WHEREAS, the ELCA over the last decade has developed a nationally recognized and effective tool for bringing comfort, healing and renewal to those affected by disasters known as Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR);

WHEREAS, thousands of ELCA members have been empowered to do God’s work through their hands by being inspired, trained and deployed by LDR and its affiliates to provide life transforming ministry to those affected by disaster and offering on-going assistance to those in need well after others have left the affected area;

WHEREAS, disasters can affect anyone — but disproportionately they affect the disenfranchised due to the historic location of poorer communities in vulnerable areas, mobility restrictions and the lack of access to other resources;

WHEREAS, disaster preparedness and response offer opportunities for members of the ELCA to manifest faith in action by growing spiritually and in striving for justice;

WHEREAS, disaster preparedness and response offers opportunity for the Church to bear witness to the love of Christ through diverse efforts but coordinated response;

WHEREAS, the deficits in our nation’s response to Hurricane Katrina visibly demonstrated our need to be better prepared and that research has demonstrated that preparedness is a primary predictor of survival and recovery in disaster;

WHEREAS, professionals for local preparedness and response are integral for leadership and coordination of Lutheran congregations, agencies, institutions, volunteers and resources for best response;

WHEREAS, the national LDR office provides national coordination, but the primary preparedness and response happens through the LDR local affiliates and congregations;

WHEREAS, LDR lacks the resources to support preparedness plans that would allow the ELCA to be more effective in ministering people affected by disaster.

**THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod in assembly memorializes the ELCA in assembly to request that the Church in Society Program Unit create an advisory committee charged with crafting a clear vision for LDR to help frame the expectations and requirements of LDR affiliates throughout the country and that the committee continue to develop guidelines to help affiliates create standard preparedness and response tools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod in assembly memorializes the ELCA in assembly to reaffirm its commitment to the mission of disaster preparedness through the Church in Society Program Unit by empowering the advisory committee to work with the staff of LDR to improve its funding streams to assure sustainability of the ministry and the work of LDR and of LDR affiliates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod in assembly memorializes the ELCA in assembly to request the Conference of Bishops and the Church in Society Program Unit to collaborate in facilitating national and local conversation with ecumenical partners to create national and local coordinated service relationships in disaster response.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LDR use the technological tools available to it to develop, support and maintain a national network to connect those affiliates engaged in response with the resources (equipment, supplies and work teams) throughout the national network.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.9 To adopt the resolution concerning Lutheran Disaster Relief.

**THIRD APPALACHIAN MINUTE.** The Rev. Linda Muhly shared about “Isolation and Women in Ministry.”

**CLOSING DEVOTIONS.** Chaplain C. Scott Robinson led the closing responsive prayer, and those assembled joined in singing, “Sanctus” (Of the Land and Seasons.)

**FESTIVE SERVICE.** A Festive Eucharistic Service was held at 7:30 p.m. in St. Mark Lutheran Church, Oakland, Maryland. The Rev. Dr. C. Scott Robinson was the celebrant, Bishop Ralph Dunkin was the preacher and Muriel Franc was the organist. The choir was directed by Susan Peterson, and the hand bell choir was under the direction of Lynn Grimm. The offering totaled \$1,250, and it was given to Community Lutheran Partners, Inc. for their work in Appalachia.

A wine and cheese reception was held at “The Wisp” after the Service. The reception was sponsored by The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2009**

**SESSION 3**

**8:15 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.**

**MORNING DEVOTIONS.** The Rev. Dr. C. Scott Robinson, Chaplain, led the opening devotions, with those present participating in the responses. Chaplain Robinson read from Torah and Talmud and those assembled sang, “O Sing of God’s Great Victory” (Of the Land and Seasons.)

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGISTRATION.** Donald Sincell, Registration Chair, reported 103 lay voting members and 40 clergy for a total of 143.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINUTES.** The Rev. Sherrie Hofmann, co-chair Committee on Minutes, reported the committee had reviewed the minutes of sessions 1 and 2 and moved they be approved.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.10 To approve the minutes of sessions 1 and 2.

**COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE AND COUNCIL.** The Rev. Randy Richardson, Chair, stated that the committee had received two additional resolutions.

**COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS.** The Rev. Wendy Richter, Chair, reported on the first general ballot.

**Synod Secretary**

137 ballots cast 135 total votes 68 need to elect

Marjorie Wolf 135 votes

*Marjorie Wolf was declared elected to a four-year term.*

**Synod Council, Lay from Ohio-Kanawha Conference**

137 ballots cast 134 total votes 68 needed to elect

James Snyder 134 votes

*James Snyder was declared elected to a three-year term.*

**Synod Council, Youth**

137 ballots cast 134 total votes 68 needed to elect

Amanda Madurski 75 votes

Rachel Elliott            59 votes

*Amanda Madurski was declared elected to a two-year term.*

**Consultation Committee, Clergy**

137 ballots cast   269 total votes   plurality

The Rev. Larry Cantu	89 votes
The Rev. Wanda Childs	66 votes
The Rev. Sally Bartling	63 votes
The Rev. Randy Nairn	51 votes

*The Rev. Larry Cantu and The Rev. Wanda Childs were declared elected to a six-year term.*

**Consultation Committee, Lay**

137 ballots cast   129 total votes   65 needed to elect

George Friedline    129 votes

*George Friedline was declared elected to a six-year term.*

**Disciple Committee, Clergy**

137 ballots cast   266 total votes   plurality

The Rev. Linda Muhly	114
The Rev. William Ridenhour	80
The Rev. Brian Nunnally	72

*The Rev. Linda Muhly and The Rev. William Ridenhour were declared elected to a six-year term.*

**Discipline Committee, Lay**

137 ballots cast    3 total votes (write-ins)

Kathy Klingensmith	2
Jack Jenkins	1

*Kathy Klingensmith was declared elected to a six-year term.*

**FOURTH APPALACHIAN MINUTE.** The Rev. Wanda Childs message centered on Spirituality.

**LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG’S “CROSSROADS CAMPAIGN”** Part 2. The Rev. Kathleen Reed, Development Staff, shared more information about the campaign. Grace Lauver-Simmons, an incoming freshman, spoke about Gettysburg and introduced LTSG President Michael Cooper-White, who brought greetings and shared what is happening at the seminary. The Rev. William Ridenhour is the synod campaign chair.

**BOOK OF FAITH.** The Rev. Larry Cantu spoke about the Book of Faith initiative and encouraged more congregations and individuals to become involved.

**FIFTH APPALACHIAN MINUTE.** The Rev. Jeff Wick spoke about Pet Ministry.

**VICE PRESIDENT REPORT.** Dr. James Hansen gave his report. He encouraged more members to become involved in the life and work of the synod, specifically through serving on synod committees.

**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.

**BISHOP’S REPORT.** Bishop Ralph W. Dunkin gave an abbreviated report, introduced new pastors and new calls in the synod and recognized those pastors celebrating a significant anniversary of their ordination. Bishop Dunkin recognized the seminarians present and presented Grace Lauver-Simmons and Kara Propst each with an oversized check for \$1,300.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BISHOP’S REPORT.** The Rev. Brian Bennett, Chair of the Mutual Ministry Committee, responded to the Bishop’s report.

**REGION 8 REPORT.** Nancy E. Gable, diaconal minister and Coordinator for Ministry Leadership in Region 8 spoke. She encouraged interested persons to speak with her about the Professional Candidacy Committee as she is the ELCA representative.

**FRESH START SERVICES.** Marjorie Wolf, Secretary, moved that Recommendation #9 from Synod Council be adopted. This reads:

“That the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod contract with the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia for Fresh Start Services as the need arises with the addition of new pastors to the synod.”

**VOTED**

SA09.6.11 To adopt Recommendation #9.

**LOMBARD MENNONITE MEDIATION.** Secretary Wolf moved that Recommendation #10 from Synod Council be adopted. This reads:

“That the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod continue the Lombard Mennonite Mediation process with the addition of two lay facilitators to the team.”

**VOTED**

SA09.6.12 To adopt Recommendation #10.

**SIXTH APPALACHIAN MINUTE.** The Rev. Jaclin Ryan-Bussey had a PowerPoint presentation on “Little Church, Big Ministry.”

**CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE.** The Rev. Dr. Sherman Hicks, Director for the Multicultural Unit, showed a video in which Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson greeted those in attendance and shared information about the ELCA and its partnership in synods and congregations. Dr. Hicks thanked the people in the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod for their mission support and giving of their time and abilities to make mission and ministry happen. He shared information on the Mission Investment Fund and thanked the synod for its financial support of seminarians from the synod.

**TOUR DE REVS.** A short video from the Tour de Revs was shown as they were visiting in eastern Pennsylvania. Their message centered around “Revelation, Revolution, and Revenue.”

**BREAK.** There was a break at 11:00 a.m. for those assembled to get some refreshments and then go to a workshop.

**WORKSHOPS.** Registrants at the Assembly had the opportunity to attend one of five workshops offered from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Workshops offered: “Appalachian Music as Tradition/Value Bearer” presented by The Rev. Dr. Stephen and The Rev. Beth B. Folkemer; “Youth and Young Adult Ministry in Appalachia” led by Katy Resop, ELCA; “Fresh and Recycled Ministry Ideas Gleaned from Across the Appalachian Region” presented by Dory Campbell, ELCMA; “21<sup>st</sup> Century Appalachian Congregations” led by The Rev. Neal Boese and “Criminal Justice Issues” directed by Dr. David Ellis.

**SATURDAY, June 6**  
**SESSION 4**  
**12:20 P.M. – 12:55 P.M.**

**RESOLUTIONS.** The Rev. Randy Richardson, Chair, Committee on Reference and Counsel, moved that the resolution on dissolving the ELCA be put on the agenda now.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.13 To put on the agenda now the resolution dealing with dissolving the ELCA.

**A RESOLUTION TO MEMORIALIZE THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY TO DISSOLVE THE ELCA.**

RESOLVED, that the 2009 West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to initiate a process for the amicable and orderly dissolution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America into multiple successor judicatories; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such a process, in as much as it is practicable, respect extant regional and synodical structures, alignments and boundaries with respect to regions, synods, congregations and church-related agencies and institutions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such a process provide, in Christian charity, for the amicable and orderly transfer of congregations and rostered personnel between such judicatories as may emerge from said

dissolution and for the realignment of church-related agencies and institutions in like manner; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such a process provide, where salutary and prudent, for points of cooperation between such judicatories as may emerge from said dissolution,

The above resolution was moved and seconded. Discussion followed.

The Rev. C. Scott Robinson moved the previous question. (This means to end debate if approved by a 2/3 vote.) A division was called; 89 voted “yes” and 37 “no” votes.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.14 To end debate on the resolution.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.15 A division was called on the vote to dissolve the ELCA. With 27 “yes” votes, and 90 “no” votes, the resolution was defeated.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU.** Vice President James Hansen presented Terry Dunkin with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her being in charge of the Synod office during the Synod Assembly.

**CLOSING DEVOTIONS.** Chaplain Robinson led an order of service for noonday. Those assembled sang “Accept O Lord” (Of Land and Seasons.)

**LUNCH BREAK.** The Assembly recessed from 12:55 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6**

**Session 5**

**1:50 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGISTRATION.** Donald Sincell, Chair, reported 103 lay voting members; 40 clergy; and 37 visitors for a grand total of 180.

**SEVENTH APPALACHIAN MINUTE.** The Rev. Beth Westphal shared information about Advocacy in Appalachia. The heart of advocacy is that we must walk with those for whom we are advocating.

**COMMITTEE ON MINUTES.** The Rev. Sherrie Hofmann, co-chair reported that the minutes of the third session have been reviewed, and she moved that the minutes of the third session be approved.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.16 That the minutes of third session be approved.

**PRESENTATION BY HELEN HARMS, ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP AND DIRECTOR FOR EVANGELICAL MISSION.** Helen Harms shared information about “A Seed Planted” grants; Make it

simple —resource for stewardship, education and annual response and guiding principles for her ministry. She moved the Synod Resolution on Mission, which reads:

“Whereas God has called us in Matthew 28:19 to “Go and make disciples of all people”;  
Whereas God has given us “the ministry of Reconciliation” 2 Corinthians 5:18;

Be it resolved that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod reaffirm our baptismal covenant as individuals and as congregations to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of Christ through word and deed and to grow in sanctification;

And be it resolved that as we gather around the Eucharistic Table that we recommit ourselves to invite others [through the open door of Baptism]\* to join us in experiencing God’s love and grace.

\* added as friendly amendment.

### **VOTED**

SA09.6.17 To adopt the Synod Resolution on Mission.

Peggy Blatt moved the resolution on Mountaintop Removal Mining. It was seconded and discussion followed. There were a couple friendly amendments added.

### **RESOLUTION CONCERNING MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL MINING**

WHEREAS, since time began, the mountains of Appalachia have been one of the wonders of this area. Destroying the beauty of the mountains has been taking place for some time;

WHEREAS, mountain removal is a quick, cheap method of mining that has become a way of life for the coal companies of Appalachia, leaving approximately 470 mountaintops blasted away in order to mine relatively thin veins of coal ...(www.patchworkfilms.com/mtraudubon.htm). 12/6/06;

WHEREAS, mountain removal is devastating hundreds of square miles of Appalachia, polluting the headwaters of rivers that provide drinking water to millions of Americans and destroying a distinctly American culture that has endured for generations;

WHEREAS, sludge/slurry impoundments sit above small communities behind sometimes leaking dams, providing a continual threat of flooding and leaking toxic chemicals into the groundwater;

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s Social Statements on Caring for Creation, adopted by the 1993 Churchwide Assembly, states the “we see the despoiling of the environment as nothing less than the degradation of God’s gracious gift of creation;” therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to:

- 1) actively explore ways to raise awareness of Mountaintop Removal Mining within the national Church body,
- 2) work with the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod and other synods in the Appalachian Region, through their social service branches to provide direct aid to residents affected by flooding and contaminated drinking water caused by Mountaintop Removal Mining practices.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.18 To grant permission to Sarah Soltow, Executive Director of Community Lutheran Partners, to speak to the resolution.

There was discussion and a couple friendly amendments to the resolution.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.19 To refer the resolution on Mountaintop Removal Mining to Synod Council for them to appoint a committee to further study the resolution.

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEOLOGICAL STATEMENTS**

Whereas, Bishop James Crumley, leader of Lutheran Church in America at the time of the merger between the AELC, ALC and LCA highlighted in 1993 three articles of the ELCA Constitution which he thought “expressed sound and useful ecclesiology” but that “had not been incorporated effectively”:

“4.01: The church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God’s creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

3.02: The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service.

5.01: The church recognizes that all power and authority in the Church belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ, its head.”

Whereas, Bishop Crumley stated, “the problems that surfaced in the Commission for a New Lutheran Church still plague us.”

Therefore be it resolved, that the ELCA should seek consensus and clarity regarding the theological foundations of 1) the authority of scripture; 2) ecclesiology and 3) sanctification; and be it further

Resolved that the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod memorializes the ELCA to develop theological teaching statements on 1) the authority of scripture; 2) ecclesiology and 3) sanctification under the guidance of the Executive for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Relations of the ELCA, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and in conversation with the church at large.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.20 To approve the resolution on the development of theological statements.

**A RESOLUTION TO MEMORIALIZE THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ON INCREASED SUPPORT FOR SEMINARIES.**

WHEREAS, the churchwide expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has requested synods to increase aggregate basic synodical seminary support for constituent seminaries by 3% for FY2010; and

WHEREAS, the projections (at the time of this synod assembly) for the FY2010 budget of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America include a decrease in churchwide expression support for seminaries; and

WHEREAS, proportional share of mission support at current levels in this synod means that for every additional dollar in mission support raised to meet the recommendation of the Churchwide expression a further \$1.06 must be raised as well and remitted to the churchwide expression; and

WHEREAS, the churchwide expression plans to use those additional mission support revenues generated in the name of seminary support for something other than seminaries; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to take corrective action such that the churchwide expression increases its financial support of seminaries by the same degree it has asked of the synods, namely 3% for FY2010.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.21 To adopt the resolution on increased support for seminaries.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT.** The Treasurer moved Recommendation #5 from Synod Council that reads:

“That the Auditor’s Report for fiscal year 2008 be adopted.”

**VOTED**

SA09.6.22 To adopt the Auditor’s Report.

The Rev. Matthew Riegel moved that the vote on the resolution to increase churchwide support to seminaries be recorded as a unanimous vote. Motion was seconded.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.23 The motion was defeated.

**EIGHTH APPALACHIAN MINUTE.** The Rev. Randy Richardson spoke on Ministry as a Second Career.

**COMMITTEE ON MINUTES.** Sherrie Hofmann, co-chair, moved that the minutes of sessions 4 and 5 be referred to Secretary Wolf and Bishop Dunkin for approval.

**VOTED**

SA09.6.24 To refer the minutes of sessions 4 and 5 to Secretary Wolf and Bishop Dunkin for approval.

**COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.** Greg Bussey reported for the Committee on Resolutions:

## **RESOLUTIONS OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING.**

“The Church in Appalachia,” proud and yet humble, has gathered, centered in our Lutheran faith community. We have given thanks to God, lifted hearts and voices in worship, resolved business matters, voted, feasted, prayed and shared at Table.

It is thus resolved that we give thanks to the Lord:

- ❖ For a place to gather, The Wisp’s lovely facilities and delicious food and staff for their service.
- ❖ For St. Mark’s of Oakland and their pastor, Assembly Chaplain Rev. Scott Robinson for hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Assembly.
- ❖ For the Committee for Congregational Ministries and Appalachian Concerns who chose our theme and guest presenters.
- ❖ For the direction of Rev. Dr. Sherman Hicks on multicultural issues and overseeing the reelection of Bishop Ralph Dunkin. We look forward to Bishop Dunkin’s continued professionalism and his enthusiasm in ministering to the pastors and congregations, his administrative skills in serving the synod and his care and compassion for the people of Appalachia. To help with this ministry, we also give thanks for the installation of Helen Harms as Assistant to the Bishop.
- ❖ For Rev. Robert Newpher’s years of ministry and guidance in good stewardship. May his retirement be blessed.
- ❖ For Rev. Neal Boese giving us a blueprint for change, showing how humor and the leading of the Holy Spirit can go hand in hand. May we be enlightened and empowered to change.
- ❖ For ELCMA, ELCA Foundation, CLP, LTSG and all committee members.
- ❖ For elections and resolutions, presenters of Appalachian Minutes, workshops and workshop leaders who enlightened us on ministry to and with the people of Appalachia.
- ❖ For the guidance, direction, love and concern of the pastors of this Synod.
- ❖ For the dedication and work of all office staff, planners, administrators, volunteers, requestors, election vote counters, recorders of minutes, parliamentarians, and all support staff.
- ❖ For the musicians and their music, which move us closer to God’s rhythm of life.
- ❖ For all the children of God who gathered and all who contributed to making this a most memorable year.
- ❖ For our ability to agree to disagree, but to keep seeking God’s will as we find unity in diversity.
- ❖ For all of this, we give thanks to God the Father in the name of Jesus the Son who sends his Holy Spirit. We pray that in the power of the Spirit we may grow deeply into the word of God and that our impact here in the Heart and Soul of Appalachia, grows in width beyond our greatest hopes and dreams. May we all say, “Amen,” let it be so.

**CLOSING WORSHIP.** The Rev. Dr. Scott Robinson, Chaplain, Conducted the closing service for Christian unity. The Assembly sang, “O Lord of the Blossom” (Of the Land and Seasons.)

**THE ORDER FOR THE CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY.** There was an affirmation of the call to the reelection of The Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Dunkin Bishop as Bishop of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod. Bishop Dunkin led the Order for the Closing of the Assembly. The Assembly adjourned at 3:20 p.m.