

2014 PRELIMINARY MINUTES
Twenty-seventh Annual Assembly
Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

Registration for the twenty-seventh annual assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod opened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 5, 2014, and continued throughout the assembly until 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 7. Registration was held in the Sollenberger Sports Center of Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania. Registration was coordinated by Catherine F. Deitrich, assembly registrar, and supported by Debbie M. Clark, Linda L. Lubold, Catherine Paul, and Marty E. Shifflett, synod support staff, and Joyce E. Frigm and the Rev. Patricia Snyder, co-chairs of the Assembly Planning Committee, and Martha Boyd, seminarian. Volunteers from around the Lower Susquehanna Synod, coordinated by assembly manager, Pamela B. Drenner, welcomed assembly participants and provided information and assistance to them.

Loaves and Fishes Event

The Lower Susquehanna Synod hosted a major food-packing event, Loaves and Fishes, on Thursday, June 5, 2014, in Brubaker Auditorium on the Messiah College campus, as part of the pre-assembly activities. From 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., 1,000 volunteers from the congregations of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, working in three-hour shifts, packed 300,324 food packages with enough beans and rice in each package to feed 4 persons. In order to pay for the food packed, the congregations and faithful members of this synod donated \$75,000. The food packages were sent to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank for local distribution. Partnering in this event with the Lower Susquehanna Synod were End Hunger Now NE, which provided the supplies, the experience, and the expertise; Messiah College, which provided the working space and waived the daily guest usage fees; Thrivent Financial, which coordinated the volunteer recruitment; and the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank whose truck was donated to transport the food packages. Serving on the steering committee were Bishop James S. Dunlop; the Rev. Richard B. Geib, Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Harrisburg; and Rick Baldwin, Thrivent Financial. Pamela B. Drenner provided the coordination with Messiah College. To date this was the largest food-packing event in which End Hunger Now NE ever has been involved.

Assembly Appointments

The 2014 Assembly Planning Committee, a committee of the Synod Council, met four times throughout the year to plan for the 2014 Synod Assembly. Members of this committee were: the Rev. Patricia A. Snyder, Synod Council, co-chair; Joyce E. Frigm, Synod Council, co-chair; Pamela B. Drenner, assembly manager; the Rev. Dana J. Blouch-Hanson, Synod Council; Janet Fitch; Timothy Garnett; the Rev. Elizabeth D. George, Synod Council; Colleen M. Hoffman; Benjamin Myers; the Rev. Edward J. Robbins; Charles R. Roberts III, staff; Vanessa Storlie; April E. Trout, Synod Council; and the Rev. Gwenn L. Trout; and officers Lucinda L. Bringman, vice president, and the Rev. Thomas E. McKee, secretary.

Serving as members of the Nominating Committee for the 2014 Synod Assembly were: the Rev. Dana J. Blouch-Hanson, Synod Council, chair; Bishop James S. Dunlop; the Rev. Thomas E. McKee, secretary; the Rev. Barbara A. Barry; Linda M. Bennett; the Rev. Carol J. Bowman; the Rev. Katie R. Brantner; Bill Brookhart; the Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr.; the Rev. E. Robert Burkhart, Jr.; the Rev. David W. Clark; John G. Fuehrer II; Isaac D. Hawkins, Synod Council; the Rev. Robert J. Hoffman; the Rev. Daniel M. Long; the Rev. David J. Schreffler; Stephanie M. Strauss, Synod Council; M. Jane Wigand, Synod Council; the Rev. Patrick P. Wirick, Jr.; Alan Young; and Pamela B. Drenner, staff.

Assembly Worship Planners were: the Rev. Gwenn L. Trout, Sister Davia A. Evans, and Valerie A. Lefever Hughes, Service of Word and Sacrament; Sister Davia A. Evans and Karen Kline, Taize with Necrology; and the Rev. Traci E. B. Glover and Nancy LeFevre, Service of Morning Prayer with

Installation of Newly-elected Deans and Secretaries; the Rev. Brian A. McClinton and Chandler Carriker, associate in ministry, assembly chaplain, hymn and prayer times; Carol A. Krouse and Debbie M. Clark, bulletins; and staff, the Rev. Robert C. Blezard, the Rev. Sharron R. Blezard, and the Rev. Thomas E. McKee.

Bishop James S. Dunlop appointed the following assembly committees:

Committee of Reference and Counsel: chair, the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, ELCA Church Council; Lucinda L. Bringman, vice president; the Rev. Barbara A. Barry; the Rev. Shawn M. Berkebile; the Rev. Andrew J. Evenson; Debra Hornberger; Diane Lehrman; Leroy Zellers; and staff, Debbie M. Clark and the Rev. Thomas E. McKee.

Committee on Memorials: chair, the Rev. Beth A. Schlegel, Synod Council; the Rev. Elizabeth D. George, Synod Council; Gail W. Harker; Brenda D. Hartzell; Michelle Knight; the Rev. Kurt S. Strause, Synod Council; Carlotta (Chucki) C. Strevig; and staff, Debbie M. Clark and the Rev. Thomas E. McKee.

Committee on Elections: chair, the Rev. Mary Ann Kingsborough; Linda Bennett; Michelle Knight; Linda Long; Denise Moyer; the Rev. Edward J. Robbins; and staff, Linda L. Lubold, Catherine Paul, and the Rev. Richard E. T. Jorgensen, Jr.

Bishop Dunlop appointed the following personnel for the assembly: the Rev. Daniel O. Rift, director of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Lutheran Disaster Relief, keynoter; the Rev. Amy E. Reumann, executive director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania, Bible study leader; Chandler Carriker, associate in ministry, congregational relief specialist for Lutheran World Relief, chaplain; Joseph A. Ricci, Esquire, Trindle Spring Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, parliamentarian; the Rev. Jeffrey C. Compton, necrologist; and the Rev. Brian A. McClinton, Megan McClinton, and Katelyn McClinton, Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, York, assembly hall musicians.

The pages for this assembly were members of the Lutheran Youth Organization, young adults, and adults under the direction of Charles R. Roberts III, synod staff, and the Rev. Harold S. Fox, Trinity, Steelton.

The following individuals served as volunteers during the course of the assembly providing assistance for voting members: welcome and transportation, Donald Drenner, Philip Frigm, and Kevin Stout; bus driver, Vickie Howery; assembly communications team, the Rev. Dana J. Blouch-Hanson, Synod Council; the Rev. Joel S. B. Folkemer, the Rev. Alex Martini, the Rev. Caitlyn Glass, Marissa Molinar, Chelsea Miller, the Rev. Naomi Sease Carriker, and the Rev. Beth Martini, and staff, the Rev. Sharron R. Blezard and the Rev. Robert C. Blezard; registration table, Martha Boyd; pictorial directory, Janet Fitch, Kathleen Stump, and Irene Wegehoft; forum hospitality, Sean Titus; and hallway hospitality, Jim Guldner.

The Rev. Daniel O. Rift, director of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Lutheran Disaster Response, was the churchwide representative to this assembly. He presented the report of the ELCA Churchwide Offices and participated in a question and answer time.

Displays

Members of the assembly had opportunity to view displays in Brubaker Auditorium sponsored by the congregations, conferences, committees, agencies, and institutions of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Displays were provided by Candidacy Committee of the Lower Susquehanna Synod; Christ Lutheran, Harrisburg, Health Ministry/Team Kenya 2014; Criminal Justice Ministry of the Lower Susquehanna Synod; Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries; Gettysburg College; Global Mission Committee of the Lower Susquehanna Synod; Harrisburg Confirmation Camp; Heifer International; Hope in Haiti; Konde Diocese Committee of the Lower Susquehanna Synod; Konde Medical Needs Task Force of the Lower

Susquehanna Synod; Learning Ministries Team of Lower Susquehanna Synod; Living Water Dental Health Ministry; Lower Susquehanna Synod Malaria Campaign Task Force; Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania; Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania; Lutheran Coalition for Renewal; Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic; Lutheran Men in Mission, Lower Susquehanna Synod; Lutheran Social Services of South Central Pennsylvania; Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg; Lutheran World Relief – Baltimore; Lutheran World Relief, Lower Susquehanna Synod; LutheranHANDS; Lutherans Restoring Creation; Luthercare; Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA; Office for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, Lower Susquehanna Synod; Penn State Campus Ministry; Office of the Treasurer, Lower Susquehanna Synod; Perry Conference Diakonia Program; Reconciling Works; Resource Ministries Office, Lower Susquehanna Synod; Seafarers and International House; St. Luke Lutheran Church, Chambersburg, Outreach Ministries; St. Mark Lutheran Church (Heidlersburg), Gettysburg, Prayer Shawl Ministry; St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover; Stewardship Education and Support Table, Lower Susquehanna Synod; Stewardship of Life Institute; Tech4Tanzania; Thrivent Financial; Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, Tree4Hope; Women of the ELCA, Lower Susquehanna Synod; and World Hunger Committee of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Throughout the assembly videos produced by our congregations, committees, agencies, and institutions were shown.

FIRST ASSEMBLY MEETING Friday morning, June 6, 2014

The first assembly meeting of the twenty-seventh annual assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, began at 9:00 a.m. in the Hitchcock Arena of the Sollenberger Sports Center on the Messiah College campus. Bishop James S. Dunlop called the assembly to order. After the assembly joined in the singing of “O Sing to the Lord,” the bishop led the Order for the Opening of a Synod Assembly.

Bishop’s Opening Remarks

The Rev. James S. Dunlop, bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, began his opening remarks by reading the Scriptural story of the feeding of the 5000. He explained that he has met with many congregations and groups since he was elected bishop, studied this portion of Scripture with them, and asked them, “Where are the hungry around you and for what are they hungry?” When he was visiting Memorial Lutheran Church, Shippensburg, an eight-year old girl responded first, “They are hungry for food.” Others responded, “for community,” and “for the word of God.” Then this same girl responded again, saying, “They are hungry for homes,” and still again, “They are hungry for a mother and dad.” The bishop confessed that he did not know how to react. Here is a little eight-year old girl who knows about hunger, homelessness, and broken families. The bishop continued that he realized after last year’s assembly that most of the ministry highlights centered on feeding the hungry. He began identifying this synod as the place where the hungry are fed. All of us have a sense of what we are truly hungry for. Therefore we have begun this assembly by packing 300,324 meals during the Loaves and Fishes event. The assembly responded with applause. The bishop continued by informing the assembly that about 1,000 people helped to pack these meals and that they will be distributed locally by the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. The assembly interrupted the bishop with its applause. He announced to the assembly that the theme of this assembly is “Feeding the Hungry,” and that we will be participating in a Bible study led by the Rev. Amy Reumann, director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania; hearing a keynote from the Rev. Daniel O. Rift, director of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal; and worshipping under the liturgical leadership of the assembly chaplain, Chandler Carriker, associate in ministry.

Bishop Dunlop addressed some of the concerns that were raised at the Listening Posts that were held prior to his election as bishop. Improvements have been made in how we communicate: a new Web site; a new format for Carings and Sharings; expanded use of social media including a Facebook page and a synod Twitter account; and a printed insert in the Lutheran magazine. There have been significant

changes in the call process. We are giving multiple candidates and candidates can be in multiple processes. Synod Council has begun calling more pastors for congregations under synod administration covenants for transformation. We received five candidates approved for ordination in the assignment process, and all five have been called to serve in congregations. The assembly broke into applause. Four will be ordained during this assembly. The fifth, David Sensenig, would have been ordained today too; however, he was called up for Reserve chaplaincy training in the United States Navy. The bishop continued saying that the pastoral staff and he have been working to improve visibility. He has been in fifty-six congregations in thirty-nine weeks. He is nearly a third of the way through our congregations. The assembly applauded. We are caring for our leaders. Seventy-four percent of our eligible rostered leaders participated in the health assessment. The funds that have been given to this synod from Portico will underwrite a wellness retreat for all rostered leaders. We are working with the seminary to provide additional continuing education experiences and additional internship sites.

Bishop Dunlop proclaimed that we are rich for the sake of the Gospel. He pointed to the Loaves and Fishes event. The question is not “Can we?” but “How can we?” We are getting clear direction from the Mission Committee: Together we are sent to feed a hungry world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We do this by equipping leaders, encouraging cooperation, and engaging in new ministries. At the assembly, the Synod Council is recommending that we initiate a comprehensive campaign to raise six-million dollars over the next five years. The bishop stated that the problem is not a lack of money, but the reality that the money is still in our pockets. He challenged the assembly members to get their money out. Some have said that it is a big risk to ask for six-million dollars, but the bishop shared that it is a bigger risk not to ask for it. A lot of great things are happening in our synod; there are many bright spots. We are called to learn from one another the stories of our successes and to use that knowledge to brighten all the spots in our synod.

The bishop concluded by saying that people ask him how he is doing personally since his election as bishop. He confided with the assembly that he can't wait to get up in the morning and get started. Once again the assembly interrupted the bishop with its applause. He continued, “Especially today.” He added, “We are just getting started. We are looking for new places where mission can happen. We are going to set forward the work of the church. The Synod Council is doing extra work through long meetings; the synod staff is excitedly engaged in the new mission opportunities for this synod while continuing the ongoing work of this synod. It is like we are rebuilding an airplane while it is flying.” He thanked everyone for the great hospitality he has experienced during the past year.

Registration of a Quorum

The Rev. Thomas E. McKee, secretary of synod, reported that 548 persons were certified as voting members of the 2014 Synod Assembly. Needed for a quorum were 275. Registration at 9:00 a.m. indicated that there were present 163 ordained voting members, of which 131 were on the roll of active pastors and 32 were retired; and 269 lay voting members, including 244 voting members from congregations, four deaconesses, three diaconal ministers, seven associates in ministry, nine lay members of Synod Council, and two lay officers, making a total of 432 voting members. Bishop Dunlop declared a quorum present. The secretary reported that 48 visitors also had registered, giving a total of 480 persons in attendance.

Minutes of the 2013 Synod Assembly

The Rev. Thomas E. McKee, secretary of synod, announced that the Synod Council had reviewed and approved the minutes of the 2013 Synod Assembly and, through the bishop and secretary, certified these minutes as the official protocol of said assembly. Two copies of the 2013 Minute Book have been deposited in the Region 8 Archives as a permanent record of the 2013 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly.

Report of the Assembly Planning Committee

Bishop Dunlop called on the Rev. Patricia A. Snyder and Joyce E. Frigm, members of Synod Council and co-chairs of the Assembly Planning Committee. Pastor Snyder greeted the voting members of the assembly and guests and announced the assembly theme: *“Feeding the Hungry.”* She noted that the assembly had acted on this theme by preparing over 300,000 meals during the Loaves and Fishes event. The assembly joined in applause and shouts of Amen. She informed the assembly about the boxed lunches and forums. She announced that free coffee, tea, and water are available in the Connections Café as well as many displays and a continuous showing of the ministry highlights videos. She said that the assembly is being live-streamed and pointed out the social media screen where the Twitter feed will be displayed. She thanked the members of the Assembly Committee for their dedicated work. The assembly showed its appreciation to the Assembly Planning Committee with applause.

Joyce Frigm brought Recommendation 1 (SC14.04.19.) on behalf of the Synod Council:

ADOPTED: That the proposed agenda for the 2014 Synod Assembly be adopted. SA14.06.01.

Synod Assembly Registration		
Thursday, June 5	• Pool Lobby – Sollenberger Sports Center	9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Friday, June 6	• Pool Lobby – Sollenberger Sports Center	7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 7	• Pool Lobby – Sollenberger Sports Center	7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Loaves and Fishes Meal-Packaging Event: Thursday, June 5		
7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	• Loaves and Fishes Event Registration • Staging/training session • Meal packaging stations	Lobby - Eisenhower Center Balcony – Brubaker Aud. Brubaker Auditorium
Pictorial Directory Photo Sessions (for clergy, associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, deaconesses)		
Friday, June 6	• 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Room S125 – Pool Lobby
Saturday, June 7	• 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Room S125
Plenary Session One: Friday morning, June 6		
6:30 a.m.	• Auditorium open for display set up	Brubaker Auditorium
9:00 a.m.	• Order for the Opening of the Assembly • Bishop’s Opening Remarks • Certification of Voting Members/Report on Registration • Presentation of the Minutes of the 2013 Synod Assembly • Report of the Assembly Planning Committee ○ Adoption of the Agenda ○ Adoption of the Rules of Procedure • Committee Appointments • Introduction of Assembly Guests • Ministry Highlight – Lutheran World Relief • Report of the Nominating Committee/Floor Nominations • Synod Video • Report of the Synod Council ○ Presentation of Proposed Budget • Ministry Highlight – St. Matthew, Hanover/Ruth’s Harvest	Hitchcock Arena
10:30 a.m.	• Break	
10:45 a.m.	• Service of Word and Sacrament with Rite of Ordination	Hitchcock Arena

	and Consecration	
12:30 p.m.	• Boxed lunches	Commons Area
12:45 p.m.	• Forums	Boyer Hall

Plenary Session Two: Friday afternoon, June 6

1:55 p.m.	• Ministry Highlight – Mt. Zion, York	Hitchcock Arena
2:00 p.m.	• Hymn and Prayer	
	• Bible Study – The Rev. Amy Reumann	Hitchcock Arena
	• First Ballot	
	• Ministry Highlight -York Conference Catechetics Program	
	• Report of Synod Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation of the Resolution on the 25th Anniversary Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small group discussion ○ Minimum Salary Guidelines ○ Constitutional Amendments 	
	• Ministry Highlight - Holy Trinity, Lancaster	
	• Report of the Committee on Memorials	
	• Keynote Address – The Rev. Daniel O. Rift	
5:00 p.m.	• Hymn and Prayer	
5:15 p.m.	• Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dinner for rostered leaders new to our synod in Howe Atrium (Boyer Hall, first floor) 	Lottie Nelson Dining Room

Plenary Session Three: Friday evening, June 6

6:25 p.m.	• Ministry Highlight – St. Matthew Hanover/Lantern Hill	Hitchcock Arena
6:30 p.m.	• Hymn and Prayer with Installation of LYO Officers	
	• Bible Study – The Rev. Amy Reumann	
	• Report on First Ballot/Second Ballot	
	• Ministry Highlight – All Saints Confirmation Camp	
	• Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel	
	• Ministry Highlight – Synod Malaria Campaign	
7:45 p.m.	• Break	
8:00 p.m.	• Evening Prayer with Necrology	Recital Hall/High Performing Arts Center-Climenhaga Building

Plenary Session Four: Saturday Morning, June 7

8:00 a.m.	• Morning Prayer with Installation of Newly-Elected Secretaries and Deans	Miller Aud./Climenhaga Fine Arts Center
9:10 a.m.	• Ministry Highlight – Diakon Youth Services	Hitchcock Arena
9:15 a.m.	• Call to Order	
	• Bible Study – The Rev. Amy Reumann	
	• Report of the Second Ballot/Third Ballot	
	• Report of Bishop and Officers	
	• Report of Committees, Agencies, Institutions, Synodical Units	
	• Churchwide Report – The Rev. Daniel O. Rift	
	• Report of ELCA Church Council – The Rev. Stephen R. Herr	

- Questions/Answers – Churchwide Representatives
- Ministry Highlight – St. Stephen, New Kingstown
- Report of the Synod Council
 - Discussion about the mission of the Lower Susquehanna Synod
- Ministry Highlight – Union, York
- Unfinished Business
 - Resolution on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Campaign
- New Business
- Loaves and Fishes Video
- Installation of Newly-elected Members of Synod Council
- Order for the Closing of the Assembly
- Adjournment
- Reorganizational Meeting of Synod Council

1:00 p.m.

Room S125

Joyce Frigm moved Recommendation 2 (SC14.04.20.) from the Synod Council:

**ADOPTED: That the proposed Rules of Procedure for the 2014 Synod Assembly be adopted.
2/3 majority
SA14.06.02.**

2014 Proposed Rules of Procedure

1. All seats are within the bar of the assembly. All voting members must be seated in order to receive ballots for elections.
2. Persons eligible to vote shall be official voting members wearing voting member badges. The following persons shall have voice but not vote in the assembly:
 - a. official representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 - b. representatives of institutions and agencies having a relationship to this synod
3. Others who are not voting members may be permitted to speak on the floor of the assembly by a 2/3 vote of the assembly.
4. The microphones in the aisles shall be used when addressing the chair. Speakers shall state plainly their name and their congregation or, if rostered persons, their area of ministry or service.
5. In all business meetings, speeches from the floor shall be limited to three (3) minutes and no persons shall speak more than twice on the same question, except by consent of the assembly. This rule shall not apply to persons presenting a report nor when direct questions are posed to specific individuals for clarification.
6. No motion, other than procedural ones, may be debated on the floor until a written copy of the motion is in the hands of the chair. A triplicate form, provided by the pages, shall be used to send the copy to the bishop and the secretary.
7. When there are many pro and con statements on any motion, the chair will recognize alternately persons making a pro or con statement. To comply with this provision, voting members will use green voting cards representing a pro position and red voting cards representing a con position. Those speaking FOR shall present a GREEN card prior to speaking and those speaking

AGAINST shall present a RED card prior to speaking. To abstain or address procedural issues, voting members will use a WHITE card.

8. During legislative meetings of the assembly, no member of the assembly may express a position on any matter unless assigned the floor by the chair. During legislative meetings of the assembly, no member may call upon other members to express themselves by oral acclamation, applause, raising of hands or in any other manner, and members of the assembly may not so express themselves without being requested to do so by the chair.
9. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary law of this assembly, except as otherwise provided in these Rules of Procedure. A parliamentarian will be appointed to advise the chair on procedure.
10. One-half (1/2) of the registered voting members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum. Once a quorum has been established at the beginning of each assembly meeting, all items of business on the adopted agenda for that meeting may be completed.
11. Except for procedural motions, any motion which the chair determines is not germane to the business of the assembly then under consideration shall be referred to the Committee of Reference and Counsel to decide whether said motion shall be brought to the assembly for consideration or referred to the Synod Council for final action.
12. Any memorial or resolution which is to be presented at the Synod Assembly for consideration must be delivered in writing to the secretary of the synod no less than 40 days prior to the opening of the assembly, so that such memorial or resolution may be reviewed by the Committee on Memorials or the Committee of Reference and Counsel and by the voting members of the assembly, prior to assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has recommended the adoption of a resolution, the text of the resolution recommended for passage shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has recommended that a proposed resolution be amended, the resolution shall be the main motion before the assembly and the committee's recommendation shall be received as information/advice to the assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has recommended referral of a resolution, the committee's recommendation shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has recommended that the assembly not adopt a proposed resolution without the committee making any other recommendation related to the same or closely related subject, the resolution shall be the main motion before the assembly and the committee's recommendation shall be received as information/advice to the assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has acted to present a resolution to the assembly without recommendation, the text of the resolution shall be the main motion before the assembly.

When the Committee of Reference and Counsel has combined similar resolutions, the composite resolution shall be the question before the assembly.

Action on recommendations from the Committee on Memorials shall follow the same procedure as action on the recommendations from the Committee of Reference and Counsel.

All memorials and resolutions received less than 40 days prior to the opening of the assembly shall be automatically referred to the Committee on Memorials or the Committee of Reference and Counsel, according to the order of receipt. The appropriate committee shall review the resolutions or memorials and shall decide whether said memorial or resolution shall be forwarded to the assembly for consideration or referred to the Synod Council for final action.

13. When memorials and resolutions are brought before the assembly, the oral reading of the 'whereas clauses' shall be waived.
14. The deadline for the submission of typed biographical information of persons who will be nominated from the floor shall be 9:00 a.m., Friday, June 6, 2014.
15. According to 8.31.02.c. of the ELCA Constitution (The remaining members elected by the supporting synods, in consultation with the seminaries....) voting members desiring to nominate individuals from the floor for the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg must consult with the seminary president and seminary board chair, before making such nomination.
16. Any amendments to the proposed budget of the Lower Susquehanna Synod must be adopted within the total proposed amount.
17. The tellers' report of balloting will be reported orally to the assembly and entered in full in the minutes.

Bishop Dunlop thanked Pastor Snyder and Joyce Frigm and the members of the Assembly Planning Committee.

Bishop Dunlop announced that the following committees had been appointed for the 2014 Synod Assembly: the Assembly Planning Committee, Committee on Elections, Committee on Memorials, the Nominating Committee, the Committee of Reference and Counsel, and the Worship at Assembly Committee. The members of these committees have been listed on the first and second pages of these minutes. The names of the members of the Committee of Reference and Counsel were displayed on the assembly screen to aid assembly voting members in identifying them if their counsel and advice was needed in the course of the assembly.

Bishop Dunlop informed the assembly that he would introduce most of the assembly guests when they addressed the assembly. However, he did introduce the following: the Rev. Dr. Howard J. McCarney, retired bishop of the Central Pennsylvania Synod, Lutheran Church in America; the Rev. Guy S. Edmiston, bishop-emeritus of the Lower Susquehanna Synod; the Rev. Carol S. Hendrix, retired bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod; and the Rev. B. Penrose Hoover, retired bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod; the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, member of the ELCA Church Council and chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee at this assembly; Joseph A. Ricci, Esquire, a member of Trindle Spring Lutheran Church and parliamentarian at this assembly; Christina Von Bank, representative of Portico Benefits Services, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Sister Janet A. Stump, directing deaconess, and Sister Krista M. Anderson, director of Vocation and Education, the ELCA Deaconess Community; Susan M. Smith, ELCA missionary to Cameroon and West Africa; the Rev. Jeffrey C. Compton, synod necrologist; and the youth and young adults of the Lower Susquehanna

Synod who are serving as pages, coordinated by Charlie R. Roberts III, synod staff, and the Rev. Harold S. Fox, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Steelton. The assembly greeted them with applause.

Bishop Dunlop introduced the first ministry highlight, a video produced by Lutheran World Relief. In this video, the staff of Lutheran World Relief shared stories of success in delivering relief and development to those impacted by poverty. The video expressed appreciation that through the ELCA, the Lower Susquehanna Synod, and Lutherans across the United States God's lasting promise is more visible to communities around the world.

Report of the Synod Nominating Committee

The Rev. Dana J. Blouch-Hanson, Synod Council chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the report of the Nominating Committee.

Synod Council – clergy (three-year term): the Rev. Beth J. Costlow, the Rev. Martin H. Horn, the Rev. J. Richard Eckert (incumbent), and the Rev. Joel S. B. Folkemer. This ticket was closed.

Synod Council – lay female: M. Jane Wigand (incumbent), Colleen M. Hoffman, Brenda D. Hartzel, and Susan L. McDonald. This ticket was closed.

Synod Council – lay male: Virgil L. Gibson and Charles L. Strausbaugh. This ticket was closed.

Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Directors – lay male: Joseph A. Ricci (incumbent) and Douglas Maun. This ticket was closed.

The bishop thanked Pastor Blouch-Hanson and the members of the Nominating Committee for their work. The assembly responded with applause.

Synod Video

A new synod video was produced for this assembly. The narrator says, “We are the Lower Susquehanna Synod, one of sixty-five synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the fifth largest Protestant denomination in the United States. We are 237 congregations: large, small, urban, suburban, rural. We are some 100,000 baptized Christians in nine Pennsylvania counties, Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Fulton, Franklin, Lebanon, Lancaster, Perry, and York, organized into fourteen conferences to do God’s work with our hands. We believe God calls us into mission together. The word, “synod” means walking together. We are stronger, and we do more together than we could ever do alone.” Bishop Dunlop reports, “Our Lower Susquehanna Synod is where the hungry are fed as we have been fed by Christ. Wherever I go I hear people say they hunger. They hunger for food. They hunger for community. They hunger for a place to belong. And they hunger for the good news of Jesus, for God’s grace, mercy, and love. In Matthew’s Gospel, the fourteenth chapter, Jesus is teaching a great crowd of people. And the disciples come to him, saying, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.’ But Jesus says, ‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’ Of course, they complain and make excuses about having only five loaves of bread and two fish, but then they learn something about God’s abundance. Jesus blesses and breaks the bread. All are fed. There is plenty and then some. Our mission is simple. Together we are sent to feed a hungry world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We equip leaders: supporting seminarians; providing first call theological education for new pastors, associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses; training youth leaders; encouraging initiatives for health and well-being; offering resources, events, and programs to renew and refresh leaders in the parish; and identifying and nurturing tomorrow’s leaders today. We encourage cooperation: facilitating collaborative ministries; equipping and engaging intentional interim pastors to lead congregations through times of transition; providing opportunities for redevelopment and transformational ministry; and helping congregations find new ways to be the Body of Christ in a complex and changing world. We engage in new missions: forming synodically authorized worshipping communities (SAWCs); identifying areas for new mission plants; and entering into ecumenical partnerships for mission work. Your participation in our journey matters. Your congregation’s mission support makes our shared ministry and mission happen. Gathered

by God, baptized in water, fed at Christ's table, sent by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are the Lower Susquehanna Synod, Lutherans who are always being made new, walking together, being the place where the hungry are fed as we have been fed by Christ." The assembly showed its appreciation for the video and its message with its applause.

Report of the Synod Council

Bishop Dunlop recognized Bruce E. Seagrist, synod treasurer, and the Rev. Kurt S. Strause, Synod Council chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, to make a presentation on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Pastor Strause informed the members of the assembly that the proposed 2015 budget is based on anticipated income of \$2,918,641. For the last year that our synod has complete financial information, 2013, our actual income was \$2,915,677, and not \$2,782,611 as originally anticipated in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget. This represents an increase of 4.8%. In 2013 the Lower Susquehanna Synod sent \$1,269,006 to the ELCA for churchwide ministries; this was 43.5% of the mission support our synod received from our congregations. In 2015 we propose to send 45% of all mission support received from congregations, an anticipated amount of \$1,313,550. The budget proposed a 4.9% increase to our synod's operating expenses that include ministries of faith formation among youth and young adults, leadership support, and candidacy; communications, information technology, and Synod Assembly; and offices at Arlington Avenue and personnel. While the proposed budget anticipates ending support for social ministry organizations, there is a proposed increase of 4.6% or approximately \$20,000 in our synod's support for the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania, Region 8 of the ELCA, Pennsylvania Council of Churches, Konde Diocese, St. Barnabas Center for Ministry, Word of Life (Deaf) Lutheran Church; and Lutheran Planned Giving.

Pastor Strause moved Recommendation 3 (**SC14.04.25.**) on behalf of Synod Council.

That the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget of \$2,918,640.70 be adopted.

The Rev. Benjamin E. Leese, Trinity Lutheran Church, York Springs, asked, "Why were the social ministry organizations cut out of the budget?" Treasurer Seagrist responded that the amount of the grants given to the social ministry organizations have decreased over the years until the amount was truly insignificant in comparison to the large budgets that each of our social ministry organizations has. The grant money makes a greater impact on organizations whose funding is much less, especially organizations whose only source of funding comes from this church and its members. Each of our social ministry organizations are blessed with advancement officers whose job it is to secure private and governmental grant money and gifts from individual donors to fund its ministry. Dottie Shultz, Christ (Filey) Lutheran Church, Dillsburg, questioned the increased giving to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), especially in light of our history of not meeting our budget and our eliminating social ministry organizations from the budget. Vice President Bringman provided some background history about mission support of the ELCA. When the ELCA was formed, all synods were asked to give fifty-five percent of their budgets to the work of the ELCA. Our synod's mission support had dropped to forty-three and one-half percent. The increase proposed in this budget would increase our percentage to the ELCA to forty-five percent. The Rev. Martha B. Sheaffer, board member of LutherCare, asked if this synod is doing anything to affirm the work of its social ministry organizations. Bishop Dunlop informed Pastor Sheaffer that he meets regularly with the presidents of the social ministry organizations and serves on the board of directors of Lutheran Social Services of South Central Pennsylvania. He said that he appreciates greatly and heartily supports all of our social ministry organizations and gives thanks to God for the ministries that they do in our midst in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Recommendation 3 was before the assembly.

ADOPTED: That the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget of \$2,918,640.70 be adopted.
SA14.06.03.

	FY 2014	Proposed
	Budget	FY 2015
	Budget	Budget
Operating		
ELCA Churchwide Mission Support	1,218,000	1,313,250
Care of Rostered Persons	1,355	1,000
Psychological Services	380	500
Leadership Support	3,405	7,900
Communication	13,699	20,730
Beginning Ministry	300	800
Care of Congregations	200	150
Conference of Deans	1,350	850
Resource Ministries	166	200
Resource Center	7,719	7,119
Stewardship	950	950
Ecumenical Programs	150	150
Synodical Worship	1,188	2,500
Candidacy Committee	8,450	7,900
Faith Formation - Youth & Young Adults	10,750	16,150
Church in Society	300	500
Coordination of Relief Projects	1,140	900
Assembly Planning	9,500	7,025
Synod Council, Executive, and Standing Committees	950	200
Office Operating Cost - Officers	4,000	4,300
Occupancy	78,945	76,075
Information Technology	76,000	81,250
Insurance	15,919	11,500
Administrative Costs	35,465	31,450
Professional Services	24,050	25,000
Human Resources	792,615	802,399
General	2,500	1,000
Office of the Bishop	17,730	16,730
Office of the Treasurer	11,400	11,400
Office of the Vice President	3,000	3,000
Travel Synod Staff	16,733	21,733

Operating	<u>2,358,309</u>	<u>2,474,611</u>
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Grants

Campus Ministry	88,380	92,000
Konde Diocese	0	3,600
St. Barnabas Center	0	1,000
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA	6,750	8,750
Region 8	13,072	13,980
Gettysburg Seminary	180,000	190,000
Social Ministry Organizations	5,400	0
Lutheran Camping Corporation	72,000	76,000
Pennsylvania Council of Churches	16,200	16,200
Lutheran Planned Giving	7,500	7,500
Word of Life - Deaf Ministry	35,000	35,000

Grants	<u>424,302</u>	<u>444,030</u>
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Total	<u>2,782,611</u>	<u>2,918,641</u>
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Pastor Strause moved Recommendation 4 (SC14.04.26.)

That the Lower Susquehanna Synod send a one-time thank offering in the amount of \$45,000 to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to reflect the generosity of Lower Susquehanna Synod congregations during the Fiscal Year 2013.

Pastor Strause spoke in favor of this recommendation. We ended Fiscal Year 2013 with a surplus of \$250,624. A gift of \$45,000 to the ELCA will raise the percentage of our budget given to mission support to forty-five percent. The Rev. Robert Myallis, Zion Lutheran Church, Jonestown, questioned whether a surplus was anticipated for Fiscal Year 2014. He asked, "How does mission-support giving this year compare with last year?" Pastor Strause answered that so far giving in 2014 is down about two percent from 2013. Robert Walton, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lancaster, asked why the Synod Council members did not recommend giving to other agencies and institutions to make up for cuts that have been made to these areas of ministry. Pastor Strause answered that they were not approached neither did they think about this possibility. Grant Celley, a page and a voting member from Trinity Lutheran Church, York, asked, "What is the pattern for mission support over the last several years?" Pastor Strause said that there has been a decline in income in recent years, but that decline has flattened out in 2013. During these years, the synod staff practiced careful oversight and watched spending very closely in order to balance expenditures with income. Now it appears that we are in a growth pattern. Treasurer Bruce Seagrist announced that the report of the independent auditor has been posted on the Web site. The treasurer's office has a display in the Connections Café, and assembly members are invited to stop by the display and ask the treasurer any questions that they have about our finances. The Rev. Cindy Chambers stated that we tell our congregations that stewardship is not about money; it is about all of our gifts. But money is part of it. "God has blessed us with a surplus of money. We are called to share our blessings with others." The Rev. Dennis Trout, Swamp Lutheran Church, Reinholds, proclaimed that we have been doing a lot of cutting in recent years. We have cut out some important things. Was there

any thought given to returning money to these areas? Pastor Strause replied that we have begun restoring items in the budget for 2015. That is a more systemic way of supporting these ministries and restoring funds to them. What we are asking here is a one-time gift of \$45,000 to the ELCA. The Rev. Matthew Lenahan, Zion Lutheran Church, Akron, and worship leader for Peter's Porch, asked if there have been other imaginations in Synod Council about how to use the rest of the surplus. Pastor Strause replied that there has been lots of imagination but no concrete proposals. Pastor Lenahan asked how proposals can be made. Pastor Strause replied that requests could be sent to him as the chair of the Finance and Budget Committee.

The Rev. Russell Mueller, interim pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Linglestown, moved:

ADOPTED: That the previous question be called.
2/3 vote.

Recommendation 4 was before the assembly.

ADOPTED: That the Lower Susquehanna Synod send a one-time thank offering in the amount of \$45,000 to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to reflect the generosity of Lower Susquehanna Synod congregations during the Fiscal Year 2013.

Bishop Dunlop introduced the second ministry highlight produced by St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover, telling the story of Ruth's Harvest. For children who are food insecure, weekends and holidays can be times of increased stress and hunger. Ruth's Harvest, an ecumenical ministry of the Hanover Area Council of Churches, is addressing this need by sending home backpacks filled with healthy, easy-to-prepare meals and snacks for low-income children in the Hanover Area Public Schools. The idea for this ministry came from the Rev. Kathryn (Kate) A. Schroeder, pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover. After the video was shown, the bishop asked members from the congregations participating in Ruth's Harvest to stand. The assembly greeted them with applause.

Secretary McKee gave announcements relating to the Service of Word and Sacrament with Rites of Consecration and Ordination, picking up boxed lunches, attending forums, and the reconvening of the Synod Assembly.

Members of the assembly enjoyed a brief break until 10:45 a.m. while Hitchcock Arena was prepared for worship.

Service of Word and Sacrament with Rites of Consecration and Ordination

The Service of Word and Sacrament with Rites of Consecration and Ordination was held in the Hitchcock Arena. Presiding and preaching at the service was the Rev. James S. Dunlop, bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Other participants included: Lucinda L. Bringman, synod vice president, assisting minister; the Rev. Gwenn L. Trout, Zion Lutheran Church, Enola, chaplain to the bishop; Valerie A. Lefever Hughes, associate in ministry, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lititz, organist; Adam Lefever Hughes, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lititz, cantor; Eric Haupt and Virginia Border, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lancaster, lectors; Sister Janet A. Stump, directing deaconess, ELCA Deaconess Community, presenter for the Rite of Consecration; the Rev. Thomas E. McKee, synod secretary, presenter for the Rite of Ordination; Dawn Deaner and Curtis Schreffler, offertory presenters of bread and wine; newly-consecrated deaconess, newly-ordained pastors and their sponsors, and members of the West Shore Conference, communion assistants.

Newly-consecrated as a deaconess was Sister Dorothy Kay Almone, called to St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lancaster, sponsored by Sister Davia Evans. The newly-ordained pastors were the Rev. Laura Lee

Mottram Haupt, called to St. James Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, sponsored by the Rev. Stanley D. Reep, St. Paul Lutheran Church, York; the Rev. Ursula Elisabeth Schreffler, called to be pastor of Zion Lutheran Church (Union Deposit), Hershey, sponsored by the Rev. Lois K. Van Orden, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Dillsburg; the Rev. Nancy Louise Wenrich Knol, called to be pastor of St. John (Barner's) Lutheran Church, Liverpool, sponsored by the Rev. Kathleen J. Baker, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Paxtang), Harrisburg; and the Rev. Ben William Siebert, called to be pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Arendtsville, sponsored by the Rev. Ben Krey, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Philadelphia.

Forums

Boxed lunches were provided for voting members to afford them opportunity to participate in forums if they desired. These learning opportunities were offered in Boyer Hall from 12:45 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. No advance registrations were required. The following forums were offered:

- **Feeding the Hungry with Lutheran World Relief**, led by Chandler R. Carriker, associate in ministry, congregational resource specialist, Lutheran World Relief;
- **Feeding the Soul of Youth: Criminal Justice System Prevention**, led by the Rev. C. Hope Knobler, co-chair, Criminal Justice System Ministry, Lower Susquehanna Synod;
- **Feeding Spiritual and Earthly Hunger in the Central African Republic**, led by Susan M. Smith, ELCA missionary to Cameroon and West Africa;
- **Getting Earned Media for Your Program**, led by Matthew B. Best, seminarian, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg;
- **How Heifer International Feeds the Hungry**, led by Norma R. Good, volunteer coordinator of relief projects, Lower Susquehanna Synod;
- **How to Start a Weekend Backpack Program**, led by the Rev. Kathryn (Kate) A. Schroeder, pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover, and the Rev. Terrence McCarthy, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church (Broadway), Hanover;
- **Interdependent Ecclesial Feeding: The ELCA, Lower Susquehanna Synod, and You**, led by the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, and member of the ELCA Church Council;
- **Negotiating the Call Process**, led by the Rev. Robert C. Blezard, assistant to the bishop, Lower Susquehanna Synod;
- **Preparing for Detroit: A Forum on the 2015 Youth Gathering**, led by Charlie R. Roberts, director of the Office for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Lower Susquehanna Synod;
- **Turning Plastic Bags into Pallets for Homeless Veterans**, led by Lynn Dearthoff, founder and leader of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Heidlersburg, and Melissa Jacoby Thomas, a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Heidlersburg;
- **Women Clergy Leadership Colloquium: As We Feed One Another, So We Feed Those in Need**, led by the Rev. Jacquelyn H. Roderick, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, New Holland; and
- **Women & Justice – One in Christ: A Listening Event**, led by the Rev. Haley Vay Poynter, pastor of Family Faith Formation, Zion Lutheran Church, York.

Other members of the assembly enjoyed their boxed lunches at various venues on the beautiful Messiah College campus including the Falcon Express, the Eisenhower Conference Center lounges, and Hitchcock Arena. Voting members and guests had opportunity to visit the Connections Café to see the displays and the videos and to engage in conversation with old and new friends.

SECOND ASSEMBLY MEETING
Friday afternoon, June 6, 2014

Bishop James S. Dunlop called the second assembly meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 6, 2014, in Hitchcock Arena, Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania.

Prior to the beginning of the second assembly meeting, a ministry highlight produced by Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, York, was shown. Lower Susquehanna Synod Lutherans across our synod are working to reduce hunger in many ways. This video showed how the members of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, York, live out Jesus' call to love thy neighbor and to care for those on the margins of society. Bishop Dunlop recognized the Rev. Brian A. McClinton, pastor; Deborah Beaverson and M. Dale Good, voting members; and Megan McClinton, and Katelyn McClinton, members of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, York. The members of the assembly greeted them with applause.

Bishop Dunlop introduced to the assembly the chaplain, Chandler R. Carriker, associate in ministry, who serves as congregation resource specialist for Lutheran World Relief, and the assembly hall musicians, the Rev. Brian A. McClinton, hymn leader; Megan McClinton, pianist; and Katelyn McClinton, violinist. The assembly joined in singing, "Come to the Hungry Feast." Chaplain Carriker read Luke 24:28-39 and led the assembly in prayer.

Bible Study

Bishop Dunlop introduced to the assembly the Bible study leader, the Rev. Amy E. Reumann, executive director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania and a member of Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Harrisburg. Pastor Reumann is a graduate of the Philadelphia School for Girls and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Muhlenberg College, Allentown. She received her master of divinity degree from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and her master of sacred theology degree from the Institute for Christian Spirituality, General Theological Seminary in New York City. She previously served as a parish pastor in New Jersey and Wisconsin and as an assistant to the bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod. The assembly greeted Pastor Reumann with applause.

Pastor Reumann shared with the assembly the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania's byline, "Serve, Pray, and Speak," as the three general themes of her three Bible study presentations, but warned that all three are interwoven in each presentation. She read the story of Elisha feeding the one-hundred hungry persons with a "first fruit gift" as recorded in 2 Kings 4:42-44. This story is after Elisha receives the reins of prophetic authority from Elijah and comes after Elisha's gift of a jar of oil that never ran out to a poor widow and her son and Elisha's saving of a stew that had been poisoned. It was a time of famine before the existence of charities and governmental programs, and the people were hungry. A foreigner who worshiped the Canaanite god brought a food offering, a "first fruits gift" of twenty loaves of barley and a sack of grain. Elisha instructs his servant, "Give it to the people and let them eat." But his servant declares that there is not enough food to feed the hungry hundred. So Elisha speaks again, invoking the name of the Lord, "Give it to the people and let them eat, thus says the Lord." The servant distributes the food, the people eat, and there is food left. God is the giver of what we eat. God is the source of nourishment that sustains. In Psalm 104 we hear, "All look to you, O Lord, and you give them their meat in due season...." God is open-handed. God is depicted as the gardener. God is the bread giver. God is the bread sharer. God's promise to God's people is not only good food in the Promised Land, but also abundant food. God wants everyone to get a piece of his bread. God wants everyone to have enough to eat. The problem of hunger is not God's problem. It is man's problem, that man does not share. God's intention is that there is enough food for everyone. It is a distribution problem. While hunger in our setting is different from the famines in the Bible or even from the famines that ravish parts of our world, hunger is a real problem right here at home. 14.5 percent of all families suffer from food insecurity, forty-eight million people. The real experts on hunger are the mothers trying to feed their

children, forced to make difficult decisions and to see their children lacking the essentials of life. The crisis of hunger in the United States is not scarcity of food, but access to good, healthy food. Because fatty and junk foods often are cheaper than more nutritious food, hunger is more often seen as childhood obesity rather than thin stick figures seen in third world countries. When we talk about the hungry, we talk not about them, but about us. When talking about first-fruits, the best is brought back to God with praise and thanksgiving, “Blessed are you, O God...” It is a holy work. It is a generous response to a generous God who proclaims that there will be left-overs, that food will be abounding, that there will be abundance. Such ministries as our synod’s food packing event are a holy working together. It has provided for the hungry among us from our abundance. But it also has built community; we have seen the faces of our brothers and sisters as we have worked together as the body of Christ. Hunger ministry is hard. Even after we packed 300,000 meals, someone will be hungry tomorrow. Hunger continues. There is a temptation to surrender to the enormity of the problem. However, Joel Berg in his book, How Hungry is America, reminds us that malaria, yellow fever, and cholera were problems for years in America until our ancestors decided that they could do something about those problems. We can end hunger by making changes in our lifestyles and by doing plenty of work in the public sphere. The question is not “Can we do it?” but “How will we do it?” Let us serve, pray, and speak to serve God and to end hunger. The assembly responded to this Bible study with its applause.

Bishop Dunlop thanked Pastor Reumann for this first of three Bible study times and informed her that he and the assembly are anxiously anticipating her next presentation.

First Ballot for Synod Council and Board of Gettysburg Seminary

The Rev. Mary Anne Kingsborough, Concordia Lutheran Church, Columbia, chair of the Elections Committee, instructed the voting members of the assembly about how to mark their ballots for Synod Council and the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Bishop Dunlop led the assembly in prayer before the balloting process was begun. After all voting members had opportunity to mark their ballots, the bishop declared the first ballot to be closed.

Report of Synod Council

Bishop Dunlop called to the podium Lucinda L. Bringman, vice president of synod and chair of the Synod Council, to present the report of the Synod Council. Ms. Bringman is a member of St. James Lutheran Church, Gettysburg. Ms. Bringman introduced the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Campaign that was adopted by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. The ELCA’s goal was to receive \$198 million over a five-year period in order to grow our church. Not all of the \$198 million is new money. Some of the \$198 million are gifts to existing ministries or funds that the leaders of this church anticipate receiving. Other money will fund new initiatives.

The vice president called on Bishop Dunlop to present initial thoughts about how this campaign will be implemented in the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Bishop Dunlop introduced a PowerPoint presentation on the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Campaign of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the Lower Susquehanna Synod. The PowerPoint quotes Bishop Dunlop as saying, “Our world hungers for what the ELCA Lutherans offer best through our congregations, our Lower Susquehanna Synod, and our churchwide ministries. These times challenge us to go outside our comfort zones and beyond our own walls to reach God’s beloved people in Central Pennsylvania and beyond. Together we equip leaders, encourage cooperation, and engage a rapidly changing world in new and radical ways.” The PowerPoint invites others to partner with us to feed our world that hungers for the Good News of Christ, for community, for forgiveness, for hope, and yes, for food and to pour out a generous measure of themselves, their time, and their resources as together we strengthen our shared ministries and mission. The PowerPoint quotes Luke 6:38, “Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” The overall funding goals are \$2,750,000 for synod initiatives and \$2,750,000 for ELCA

initiatives. The campaign will renew congregations, build new congregations, and provide disability ministries in the ELCA and grow the Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund and provide a Lutheran Disaster Response Seed Fund in this synod. The campaign will fight hunger and poverty by providing additional funds for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and the ELCA Malaria Campaign and new money for synodical hunger initiatives. The campaign will promote leadership by adding funds to the ELCA Fund for Leaders and provide new funds for youth and young adult ministry in this synod and additional funding to complete the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania's Seeding the Future Campaign. The campaign will reach out to the global church through support of missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, global ministries, and women in international leadership. Plus the campaign will fund new initiatives in this synod. This is God's work using our hands. Our Lower Susquehanna Synod is the place where we are fed as we have been fed by Christ.

Recommendations from Synod Council

Lucinda L. Bringman, vice president of synod and chair of Synod Council, moved Recommendation 9 on behalf of Synod Council:

That the Lower Susquehanna Synod, meeting in assembly, adopt the Resolution on the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA in the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

Synod Council Resolution on the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA in the Lower Susquehanna Synod*

WHEREAS, God's world hungers for the Gospel of the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran emphasis on God's grace through faith, a theology of the cross, and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit speaks to this hunger; and

WHEREAS, decreased church participation and growing hunger and poverty challenge ELCA Lutherans to go outside of our comfort zones and beyond our own walls to reach God's beloved people; and

WHEREAS, the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church and as a part of the whole Christian Church we are entrusted to step forward boldly in order to seek to reach more communities and people with the good news of Jesus Christ, train more leaders who will become missionaries, pastors, and lay leaders, and contribute to the alleviation of hunger and poverty; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod, in assembly, set the following goals* for our synod's participation in the ELCA 25th Anniversary Campaign:

To raise \$2,750,000 in support of the following campaign initiatives outlined by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly

1. \$2,000,000 for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal (this represents a 20% increase of what our synod expects to receive for World Hunger over the next 5 years)
2. \$500,000 to complete this synod's goal for the ELCA Malaria Campaign
3. \$250,000 for ELCA initiatives as designated by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly

To raise \$2,750,000 in support of the following Lower Susquehanna Synod ministries:

1. \$1,000,000 for the Seeding the Future Campaign of the Lutheran Camping Corporation in order to complete this campaign

2. \$750,000 for the Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund
3. \$100,000 for Lutheran Disaster Response needs in Lower Susquehanna Synod
4. \$500,000 for hunger initiatives within the Lower Susquehanna Synod
5. \$400,000 for [the new Initiative] as designated by the 2014 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly; and further be it

RESOLVED, that this campaign encompass a five-year period from 2014 through 2019; and further be it

RESOLVED, that members, congregations, agencies, and institutions of the Lower Susquehanna Synod partner to expand our ability to feed God's world that hungers for the Good News of Christ, hungers for community, hungers for forgiveness, hungers for hope, and hungers for food.

*Unless funded through this synod's budget or other funding sources, all costs associated with fundraising for this campaign, estimated to total \$550,000 over the five-year period or approximately nine percent of the campaign proceeds, will be borne by the campaign proceeds. The \$2,750,000 for ELCA Churchwide Initiatives plus \$2,750,000 for Lower Susquehanna Synod Initiatives plus \$550,000 for campaign costs equal a campaign goal of \$6,050,000.

The vice president provided additional information about the proposed Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Campaign of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

Dr. Marcus W. Thomsen, vice chair of Synod Council, moved the following procedural motion:

ADOPTED: That action on the Synod Council Resolution on Recommendation 9, the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Campaign be postponed until the fourth assembly meeting on Saturday, June 7, 2014, to allow for discussion, discernment, and input by the assembly.

The Rev. Daniel M. Long, Zion Lutheran Church, East Petersburg, asked when the resolution will return to the floor of the assembly. Secretary McKee responded that the assembly will deal with the resolution during the time of unfinished business. The Rev. Michael T. Petresky, Halifax Parish, requested written copies of the resolution for the assembly voting members. Secretary McKee answered that copies are being made for distribution.

Ms. Bringman instructed the voting members of the assembly to arrange themselves into small groups to discuss the campaign, and specifically these two questions: "Where do you see the hunger for mission around you, and how could this campaign work to meet those needs?" "Are there specific projects that should be included in this campaign?" Each group was to appoint a scribe who would record the input of that group and provide that written information to the vice president. A task force from Synod Council will review all of the responses. The results of these small group meetings will be reported during the fourth plenary meeting on Saturday morning, June 7, during the agenda time of unfinished business.

Vice President Bringman moved Recommendation 5 (SC14.04.27.) on behalf of Synod Council.

ADOPTED: That the Lower Susquehanna Synod, in assembly, adopt the minimum base salary and housing allowance for 2015 for a pastor serving full time according to the following table and year of ordination:

**Base Salary and Housing Allowance
Should Exceed the Following Amounts in 2015***

Years of Ministerial Related Experience	Minimum Base Salary and Housing Allowance Combined (No Parsonage)			Minimum Base Salary Only (Parsonage Provided)
	Not Less Than			Not Less Than
1	46,900	-	56,289	32,650
2	47,358	-	56,852	33,100
3	47,831	-	57,421	33,563
4	48,501	-	58,110	34,235
5	49,180	-	58,807	34,919
6	49,868	-	59,512	35,617
7	50,566	-	60,227	36,330
8	51,275	-	60,950	37,057
9	51,992	-	61,681	37,798
10	52,382	-	62,081	38,176
11	52,775	-	62,485	38,558
12	53,171	-	62,891	38,944
13	53,570	-	63,300	39,332
14	53,972	-	63,712	39,726
15	54,377	-	64,126	40,123
16	54,784	-	64,543	40,525
17	55,195	-	64,962	40,930
18	55,609	-	65,384	41,339
19	55,963	-	65,746	41,690
20	56,320	-	66,109	42,044
21	56,680	-	66,474	42,402
22	57,041	-	66,842	42,763
23	57,404	-	67,211	43,126
24	57,770	-	67,582	43,493
25	58,138	-	67,955	43,862
26	58,509	-	68,331	44,235
27	58,882	-	68,708	44,611
28	59,258	-	69,088	44,990
29	59,635	-	69,470	45,373
30	60,015	-	69,853	45,758
31	60,398	-	70,240	46,147
32	60,783	-	70,628	46,540
33	61,171	-	71,018	46,936
34	61,561	-	71,410	47,335
35	61,953	-	71,805	47,736

Vice President Bringman moved Recommendation 6 (SC13.02.04.c.) on behalf of Synod Council:

ADOPTED: That the Lower Susquehanna Synod, in assembly, adopt the minimum salary for 2015 for deaconesses, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry who serve full time according to the following table and years of experience.

**For Deaconesses, Diaconal Ministers, and Associates in Ministry:
Minimum Salary Should Exceed the Following Amounts in 2015
Depending on Position Description and Qualifications**

Years Experience	Range
0 – 4	34,000 - 42,500
5 – 9	37,032 - 46,288
10 – 14	40,739 - 50,927
15+	42,778 - 53,473

The vice president introduced the chair of the Compensation and Benefits Committee, the Rev. Lois K. Van Orden, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Dillsburg, who introduced to the assembly an instrument, to be used alongside the approved salary grid, to aid pastors and congregational leaders when proposing pastoral salaries. She explained that this additional instrument takes into consideration other factors as well as years of ordination and experience. Some of these factors are years of service prior to ordination, specialized training, size of congregation, longevity in call, and regular participation in pastoral growth opportunities. This instrument invites pastors and lay leaders to engage in discussions about the pastors' salaries. The instrument and the instructions for its use have been placed on the synod Web site. Pastor Van Orden urged the voting members to use this new instrument and to provide feedback to the committee on its usefulness.

Vice President Bringman called upon Jered Hock, Synod Council chair of the Constitution Committee, to present the following recommendations.

Mr. Hock moved Recommendation 7 (SC14.04.23.a.) on behalf of the Synod Council:

ADOPTED: That the Lower Susquehanna Synod, in assembly adopt the following proposed SA14.06.07. amendment to S7.23. of this synod's Constitution, according to *S18.12.

(Additions are underlined; deletions are crossed-through.)

S7.23. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall ~~also~~ have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

Mr. Hock moved Recommendation 8 (SC14.04.23.b.and c.) on behalf of the Synod Council.

ADOPTED: That the Lower Susquehanna Synod, in assembly, approve at first reading the 2/3 VOTE following proposed amendments to S7.24. and S7.26. of this synod's Constitution SA14.06.08. according to *S18.13.

(Additions are underlined; deletions are crossed-through.)

S7.24. ~~Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have~~

~~been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the assembly.”~~

S7.24. Congregations shall elect voting members to the regular Synod Assembly prior to the conference assemblies preparing for the regular Synod Assembly.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit persons from ~~mission settings formed with the intent of becoming recognized~~ congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

The Rev. Michael T. Petresky, Halifax Parish, questioned when congregations would elect their voting members. Mr. Hock said that congregations should elect voting members of the Synod Assembly before the conference assemblies leading up to the Synod Assembly to enable these voting members to engage in pre-assembly discussions and decisions. Depending on the congregation’s constitution and parish practice, congregations elect or Congregation Councils elect or appoint voting members of the Synod Assembly.

Vice President Bringman announced that this has concluded this portion of the report of the Synod Council.

Bishop Dunlop introduced the ministry highlight produced by the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Lancaster. “And who is my neighbor?” a lawyer once asked Jesus. In reply, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. The members of Holy Trinity, Lancaster, are committed to knowing and serving their neighbors in the city, in the nation, and around the world. This video provided an overview of the various outreach ministries of this vital, downtown congregation. After the video was shown, the bishop recognized the Rev. Timothy A. Mentzer, the Rev. Tasha K. Genck Morton, and the Rev. Adam T. Morton, pastors; Augustus G. Mauro, diaconal minister; and Jesse Harrigan, voting member of Holy Trinity, Lancaster. The assembly greeted them with applause.

Report of the Committee on Memorials

Bishop Dunlop called on the Rev. Beth A. Schlegel, St. Peter Lutheran Church, York, a member of the Synod Council and chair of the Committee on Memorials, to present the report of this committee.

Pastor Schlegel reported that there were no memorials submitted to this committee.

The bishop thanked the members of this committee for their service and released them from further service at this assembly.

Keynote Address

Bishop Dunlop welcomed the Rev. Daniel O. Rift, director of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Lutheran Disaster Relief, to present the keynote address on the assembly theme, “Feeding the Hungry.” Through the World Hunger Appeal, Lutherans, their congregations, and synods, contributed nearly \$19 million for hunger-related work in the United States and around the world in 2013. Pastor Rift also works with those coordinating this church’s work through the ELCA Malaria Campaign and Lutheran Disaster Response. Pastor Rift is married to the Rev. Meg Rift, and they have three daughters, an AmeriCorps volunteer, a graduate student at the University of Louisville, and a sophomore in high school.

Pastor Rift recounted with thanksgiving the founding work over forty years ago from those congregations now in the Lower Susquehanna Synod that led to the work that is now ELCA World Hunger and has

mobilized more than \$500 million in those four decades. During that time severe hunger in the world has been cut in half. He explained that nourishing the soul and feeding the hungry are two aspects of the same ministry. He explored the image that many in the world think of the hungry as “occupiers of empty chairs” (strangers who are temporarily present) and observed how those in the church think of the hungry as brothers and sisters. He considered the teachings of Jesus and the identity of the church (as those in the world but not of it and as those who are turning the world upside down) and the ways that this informs and motivates us to work on ending hunger. He thanked this synod for its energy, imagination, and love shared toward ending hunger and for seeing the word “synod” (translated “on the way together”) as a verb.

Bishop Dunlop thanked Pastor Rift for his keynote address and told him that the assembly will see him again in the fourth assembly meeting when he gives the churchwide report. The assembly expressed its appreciation with applause.

The Rev. Robert Hoover rose for a point of personal privilege. He reminded the members of the assembly that the World Hunger Appeal began in the Central Pennsylvania Synod. The vision for the appeal came from Bishop Howard J. McCarney, who challenged the members of the synod to join him and his in eating a meatless meal once a week and in giving the money that was saved to feed the hungry of the world. The assembly responded with applause.

The bishop again called on Chandler Carriker, assembly chaplain, for hymn, scripture, and prayer to close the afternoon session. The assembly joined in singing the hymn, “For the Fruit of All Creation.” Mr. Carriker read Romans 8:18-25 and led the assembly in prayer.

Secretary McKee gave announcements about this evening’s session.

Dinner was served in the Lottie Nelson Dining Hall of the Eisenhower Conference Center. One of the options for dinner was a rice and bean meal similar to the ones packed during the Loaves and Fishes event.

Bishop Dunlop and the officers of this synod hosted a dinner in the Howe Atrium of Boyer Hall to greet rostered leaders new to this synod. Those new to the synod attending were: Sister Dottie Almoney and her husband Joseph; the Rev. Brian A. Biery and his partner Dave Hammond; the Rev. Beverly Donnella; the Rev. Michael K. Fisher; the Rev. Laura L. Haupt and her husband Eric; Valerie Lefever Hughes, associate in ministry, and her husband Adam; the Rev. Robert Ierien; the Rev. Nancy Wenrich Knol; the Rev. John Lagen; the Rev. Alex Martini and his wife, the Rev. Beth Martini; the Rev. Tina Melusky and her husband Benjamin; the Rev. Adam T. Morton; the Rev. Tasha K. Genck Morton; John Douglas Price, associate in ministry; Laura Ramsey, diaconal minister, and her husband Jesse; the Rev. Ursula Schreffler and her husband Curtis; the Rev. Nancy Schwabe-Fry and her husband, the Rev. Peter Schwabe-Fry; the Rev. George B. Scott; and the Rev. Robert Swartz and his wife Kathryn.

THIRD ASSEMBLY MEETING Friday evening, June 6, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

The third assembly meeting of the twenty-seventh annual assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, met in Hitchcock Arena of the Sollenberger Sports Center of Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Bishop Dunlop called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 6, 2014.

Prior to the opening of the third assembly meeting, a ministry highlight submitted by St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover, was shown. In the summer of 2013, 28 members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church went on a mission trip to Lantern Hill in El Zirrillo, Mexico. They taught school lessons

in the tutoring program, remodeled a house, and shared their lives with the people of Lantern Hill. All were fed in body, mind, and spirit. After the video was shown, the bishop recognized the pastors, the Rev. Daniel M. Yeiser and the Rev. Kathryn (Kate) A. Schroeder; associates in ministry, Karen L. Buckwater and Janice M. Davis; and voting members, Jessica McDaniel and Joe Thornton. The assembly greeted them with applause.

Assembly chaplain, Chandler R. Carriker, associate in ministry, invited the assembly to join in the singing of the hymn, "Come! Live in the Light!" The Rev. Brian A. McClinton led the singing of the hymn, Megan McClinton accompanied the hymn on the piano, and Katelyn McClinton, on the violin. Mr. Carriker read Matthew 5:13-16 and led the assembly in prayer.

Secretary McKee presented the following officers of this synod's Lutheran Youth Organization for installation. The newly-elected officers are: Jeannine Webb, president and director of mission; Jess Roland, Trinity Lutheran Church, Chambersburg, director of communications; and Megan Zagoric, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, director of mission. Bishop Dunlop presided at their installation and congratulated them on their election.

The bishop also recognized and thanked the interim officers who had served the Lutheran Youth Organization since January 2014. They are: Rebekah Thomas, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover, president and director of programming; Matt Loch, St. Paul Lutheran Church, New Cumberland, and Daniella Zimmerman, Quickel's Lutheran Church, York, directors of communication; and Rosie Andrews, director of mission.

Bishop Dunlop informed the assembly that in 2012 the ELCA moved to dissolve the Lutheran Youth Organization on the churchwide level, and the Lower Susquehanna Synod followed suit in an effort to be supportive. Lutheran NOW emerged in our synod as an expression of youth leadership after months of discernment and prayer. However, Lutheran NOW never was a good fit for our youth leaders, who really struggled with their identity. In January 2014, the youth felt moved to reorganize under the banner of LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization). The youth really resonated with this because it reflected who they are, the youth of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The bishop thanked the interim officers for stepping up with their servant leader hearts and modeling strong leadership to their peers.

Sister Davia Evans provided instructions to the assembly about the Taize service that concludes this assembly meeting. The assembly will process together, following the processional cross, to the High Foundation Recital Hall for the service.

Bible Study

Bishop Dunlop reintroduced the Rev. Amy E. Reumann to the assembly for her second Bible study session. Prior to entering seminary, Pastor Reumann served in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Jersey City, New Jersey, and at the Lutheran Office for World Community at the United Nations in New York City. During her seminary years, she spent time at the Kirchliche Hochschule in Leipzig, East Germany. In 2011 Pastor Reumann was named Green Faith Fellow in religious environmental leadership.

Pastor Reumann provided an overview of the first Bible study: God has a deep concern for the hungry; God provides an abundance; serving our neighbor is a holy work, the giving of our first fruits back to God. She announced that the scripture for this evening is Matthew 6:19-36, the Lord's Prayer. She asked the assembly to read it together. We as the church are to feed the hungry with prayer. This may seem to be overly simplistic to the activists in our midst, but all service, all reaching out to those in need, is rooted in and checked by a life of prayer and contemplation of holy scripture. Dr. Peter John, chaplain at Harvard University, has written that most people know scripture as a nodding acquaintance. We are familiar with it, but we do not really know it. Most of us have at least a "nodding acquaintance"

relationship with prayer and with these verses. In these verses, Jesus instructs us how to pray. He does that elsewhere in the Gospels too. But Jesus models prayer throughout the important events of his life. For Jesus, prayer is never a retreat from this world but a gathering of strength for deeper engagements to come. While St. Augustine speaks of daily bread as physical and spiritual food, Luther really concentrates on the physical aspect of daily bread, food and other important gifts to sustain our physical bodies. Luther gives his explanation of daily bread in the Small Catechism. Everyone deserves daily bread, even the evil, even the lazy, even those who seem to be undeserving, even our enemies. God gives daily bread even without prayers. It is not our task to decide to whom God wills daily bread. We need to change our conversation around hunger issues. Using communal discernment, we are able to converse about difficult things. We are able to get to know those among us who are hungry and learn their stories. Instead of talking about the hungry, we should talk about people who are poor, hungry, or food-insecure, or, better yet, about God's children who are poor, hungry, or food-insecure. The leader of Hunger Free Pennsylvania has noted that to help poor persons has been seen as a badge of honor; now it is a badge of stigma. Through all of our food ministries, we should strive intentionally to build relationships. Those who are served are not clients, but neighbors and friends. Pastor Reumann's advice was not to do more, but to do deeper, to learn the names and the stories of those we serve. Luther has said that the sacrament has no significance unless love grows daily. Receiving God's generous gifts in the sacrament changes a person so that he or she is made one with another. A good resource is Craig Neeson's book, [Give Us This Day](#). Pastor Reumann's spiritual director once said "Prayer is sometimes just sitting still and letting God take a good look at you." Let God speak to you, reminding you that you are loved and that you are God's. All of our actions flow from our own sense of gratitude stemming from our recognition of what God does for us. Our prayer becomes a prayer of justice: send us out to give our neighbor what they need. Luther believed that justice, which included daily bread for all, was the responsibility of the princes; in our day it is the responsibility of government. Luther boldly reminded the princes of their responsibility to provide bread for the people, suggesting even that their coats of arm contain a loaf of bread, as a reminder of their role in providing bread for all their people. Today we must lose our Lutheran shyness and speak up. Pastor Reumann showed a slide containing twenty-four bags. Only one of these bags represents what all the churches and other charities do to feed the hungry. The other twenty-three represent what the government does. In a list of ten things that people do to help feed the hungry, the least important is to organize a food drive, but the most important is to contact elected leaders. As important as our food ministries are and as good as our intentions are, the size of the task is enormous, and we cannot do it alone. Advocacy is another way of doing evangelism. It is to speak in uncomfortable places about justice. It is to speak about our faith in public places. Pastor Reumann encouraged us to think about this as an adventure on our baptism - to stand and speak together, because we can do no other, and to act to end hunger. The assembly expressed their gratitude for this study with their applause.

Following the Bible study session, the bishop expressed to Pastor Reumann the assembly's appreciation for her fine presentation. The members of the assembly wait in anticipation for tomorrow's Bible study session.

Report on the First Ballot for Synod Council and Gettysburg Seminary Board

The Rev. Mary Anne Kingsborough, chair of the Committee on Elections, gave the report of the first ballot.

Synod Council – clergy

Ballots cast – 485

Valid ballots – 485

Invalid ballots – 0

Needed to elect – 243

The Rev. Joel S. B. Folkemer - 307
The Rev. J. Richard Eckert - 298

The Rev. Beth J. Costlow - 212
The Rev. Martin H. Horn - 105

The bishop declared the Rev. Joel S. B. Folkemer and the Rev. J. Richard Eckert elected as members of the Synod Council in the category of clergy. This ticket was closed.

Synod Council – lay female

Ballots cast – 477
Valid ballots – 477
Invalid ballots – 0
Needed to elect – 239

M. Jane Wigand - 340
Susan L. McDonald - 236

Colleen M. Hoffman - 162
Brenda D. Hartzel - 137

Bishop Dunlop declared M. Jane Wigand elected as a member of the Synod Council in the category of lay female. The next ballot will contain the names of Susan L. McDonald and Colleen M. Hoffman.

Synod Council – lay male

Ballots cast – 472
Valid ballots – 472
Invalid ballots – 0
Needed to elect – 237

Virgil L. Gibson - 277

Charles L. Strausbaugh - 195

The bishop declared Virgil L. Gibson elected as a member of Synod Council in the category of lay male. This ticket was closed.

Gettysburg Seminary Board of Directors – lay male

Ballots cast – 478
Valid ballots – 478
Invalid ballots – 0
Needed to elect – 240

Joseph A. Ricci - 348

Douglas W. Maun - 130

Bishop Dunlop declared Joseph A. Ricci elected to the Gettysburg Seminary Board of Directors in the category of lay male. This ticket was closed.

Pastor Mary Anne Kingsborough announced that the assembly should be congratulated because there were no invalid ballots. The assembly responded with applause.

Second Ballot for Synod Council

Pastor Mary Anne Kingsborough gave instructions to the voting members about casting the second ballot. Bishop Dunlop led the assembly in prayer. The second ballot was cast, and the balloting was closed.

Bishop Dunlop introduced the fourth ministry highlight, a video about All Saints Confirmation Camp. The theme for the 2013 All Saints Confirmation Camp was “The Hunger Games.” Playing off the popular movie and book series, students explored ways that we are hungry, both physically and

spiritually, and how we can feed others. After the video was shown, the bishop asked that rostered and voting members from congregations that participate in the All Saints Confirmation Camp stand. The assembly greeted them with applause.

Report of the Committee of Reference and Counsel

Bishop Dunlop called upon the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, a member of the ELCA Church Council and the chair of the Committee of Reference and Counsel, to present the report of this committee. There were two resolutions to come before the assembly.

Pastor Herr presented the Resolution on ELCA Portico Health Assessment adopted by the Lebanon Conference, meeting in assembly on March 27, 2014:

Resolution on ELCA Portico Health Assessment

WHEREAS, if at least 65% of participating Portico Health Benefits Plan members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod take the ELCA health assessment, all congregations and organizations of this synod who use Portico Health Benefits receive a 2% discount, which would total \$48,000 in premium savings in 2014; and

WHEREAS, if at least 65% of participating Portico Health Benefits plan members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod take the ELCA health assessment, this synod will receive a 1% rebate from Portico, totaling \$24,000 in 2014; and

WHEREAS, taking the ELCA health assessment benefits plan members financially and in many healthy ways; and

WHEREAS, mission costs money and all ministries in this synod could use the Portico savings and rebate money for the building up of the kingdom of God; and

WHEREAS, this synod has never met the 65% threshold in recent years and has left thousands of dollars in potential mission money on the table; and

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul calls us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, which is our spiritual worship (Romans 12:1) so all leaders of the church should be attentive to their health; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod meeting in assembly affirm the importance that all participants of the ELCA Portico Health Benefits plan take the health assessment; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the office of the bishop appoint a volunteer task force to take the proactive approach to call plan members who have not yet taken the health assessment at least 30 days before the deadline and to encourage them to do so; and further be it

RESOLVED, if the 65% threshold is not met, that all who have not taken the health assessment by the deadline have their names inscribed publicly by the office of the secretary of the synod in the bulletin of reports at the following synod assembly, and have those names read by the secretary of the synod during the official meeting of the assembly.

Submitted by the Rev. Andrew J. Evenson

Adopted by the Lebanon Conference, in assembly, March 27, 2014

Pastor Herr moved the following amendments on behalf of the Committee of Reference and Counsel.

That the resolution be amended to read:

RESOLUTION ON ELCA PORTICO HEALTH ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, if at least 65% of participating ~~Portico~~ ELCA Health Benefits Plan members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod take the ~~ELCA~~ health assessment, all congregations and organizations of the synod who use ~~Portico~~ ELCA Health Benefits Plan receive a 2% discount, which would total \$48,000 in premium savings in 2014; and

WHEREAS, if at least 65% of participating ~~Portico~~ ELCA Health Benefits Plan members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod take the ~~ELCA~~ health assessment, the synod will receive a 1% rebate from Portico Benefits Services, a ministry of the ELCA, totaling \$24,000 in 2014; and

WHEREAS, taking the ~~ELCA~~ health assessment benefits plan members financially and in many healthy ways; and

WHEREAS, mission costs money and all ministries in the synod could use the Portico Benefits Services savings and rebate money for the building up of the kingdom of God; and

WHEREAS, the synod has never met the 65% threshold in recent years and has left thousands of dollars in potential mission money on the table; and

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul calls us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, which is our spiritual worship (Romans 12:1) so all leaders of the church should be attentive to their health; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod meeting in assembly affirm the importance that all participants of the ELCA ~~Portico~~ Health Benefits Plan take the health assessment; and further be it

~~**Be it further resolved**, that the office of the Bishop appoint a volunteer task force to take the proactive approach to call plan members who have not yet taken the health assessment at least 30 days before the deadline and to encourage them to do so; and~~

~~**Be it further resolved**, if the 65% threshold is not met, that all who have not taken the health assessment by the deadline have their names inscribed publicly by the office of the secretary of the synod in the bulletin of reports at the following synod assembly, and have those names read by the secretary of the synod during the official meeting of the assembly.~~

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council 1) engage in ongoing efforts to educate rostered leaders, other plan members, and congregations of the importance of and benefits of participating in the ELCA Health Benefits Plan's health assessment; and, 2) explore additional ways to incentivize rostered leaders and other plan members to participate in the ELCA Health Benefits Plan's health assessment.

Amended by the Committee on Reference and Counsel, May 14, 2014.

The Rev. Timothy L. Craven, Mellinger (Schoeneck) Lutheran Church, Stevens, moved:

ADOPTED: To amend the proposed amendments by deleting the word, ~~incentivize~~, and replacing it with the word, encourage.

The amendments to the resolution as further amended were before the assembly.

The Rev. Joseph A. Veres, Faith United Lutheran Church, Denver, expressed his concern that the Synod Council has other important work to do. He believes that these tasks should be shared with another group. Other leaders have the capacity to undertake these responsibilities. It is wise to build partnerships within this synod. The Rev. David L. DeLong, Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, Hanover, provided the information that retired pastors do not count toward the sixty-five percent goal. The Rev. Daniel V. Biles, III, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spring Grove, added that pastors on spouses' health care plans also are not included in those helping to meet the sixty-five percent goal. Dr. Marcus W. Thomsen, vice chair of Synod Council, questioned that thinking of Reference and Counsel in asking Synod Council to educate rostered leaders, other plan members, and congregations about the benefits of participating in the health assessment. He stated that he does not understand the role of Synod Council to be one of educating. Pastor Herr replied that the responsibilities needed to be vested somewhere; Synod Council could designate another group or committee to perform the functions specified in the second resolved clause. The Rev. Beth A. Schlegel, Synod Council and St. Peter Lutheran Church, York, stated that she was in favor of the amendments offered by the Committee of Reference and Counsel. She prefers the amendments because they reflect our theology of grace rather than shaming the ministerium into participating.

Beth Celley, Trinity Lutheran Church, York, moved

To reconsider the motion "to amend the proposed amendments by deleting the word, ~~incentivize~~, and replacing it with the word, encourage."

Ms. Celley said that she looked up the word incentivize and it is a word. She related a personal experience to the assembly and expressed her opinion developed from her experience that the word that best describes what we are asking Synod Council to do is incentivize because we need to give rostered leaders something for the inconvenience caused by participation in the assessment and in the follow-up procedures. She further stated that the Synod Council should incentivize by giving the money returned to the rostered leaders who participate in the assessment. Allen Stump, St. David Lutheran Church, Hanover, stated that it is up to each voting member to decide between two different words, incentivize or encourage. The Rev. Virginia J. Cover, Grace Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, asked the bishop to explain what action was before the assembly now. The bishop informed her that the main motion is now the adoption of the resolution as amended, and we are dealing with a motion to reconsider the use of the word "incentivize" instead of the word "encourage." Allen Stump, St. David's Lutheran Church, Hanover, asked the thought processes behind using the word "incentivize." Pastor Herr said that that word was part of the original resolution from the Lebanon Conference, and the committee honored the intent of the conference. He stated that most likely it was used because the health assessment is an incentive program. Robert Walton, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lancaster, stated that he did not think that the Synod Council could offer incentives; it is the role of Synod Council to encourage. Lucinda Bringman, synod vice president and member of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, informed the assembly that the committee did have these discussions and that the committee members intentionally chose the word, "incentivize." It is wonderful that over sixty-five percent of the eligible persons in the Lower

Susquehanna Synod took the health assessment this year, but we have to meet the goal again next year to receive the financial benefit from Portico. This year we incentivized rostered persons to take the health assessment with the promise of a rostered leaders' retreat, funded partially from the money given to this synod by Portico.

The Rev. Pamela J. Carnes moved:

ADOPTED: To call the previous question.
2/3 vote

The motion to reconsider was before the assembly:

LOST: To reconsider the motion, "to amend the proposed amendments by deleting the word, ~~incentivize~~ and replacing it with the word, encourage."

The amendments proposed by the Committee on Reference and Counsel as further amended were before the assembly.

The Rev. C. Hope Knobler explained that eligible individuals who take the health assessment receive \$150 just for filling it out, and, if they do any of the incentives, they receive another \$350. This is good money. People should not have to be taken by the hand and made to do this. It makes sense to take the health assessment.

The Rev. Patricia A. Snyder, Synod Council moved:

ADOPTED: To call the previous question.
2/3 vote

The amended resolution proposed by the Committee of Reference and Counsel as further amended was before the assembly.

ADOPTED: Resolution on ELCA Portico Health Assessment as amended

WHEREAS, if at least 65% of participating ELCA Health Benefits Plan members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod take the health assessment, all congregations and organizations of the synod who use ELCA Health Benefits Plan receive a 2% discount, which would total \$48,000 in premium savings in 2014; and

WHEREAS, if at least 65% of participating ELCA Health Benefits plan members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod take the health assessment, the synod will receive a 1% rebate from Portico Benefits Services, a ministry of the ELCA, totaling \$24,000 in 2014; and

WHEREAS, taking the health assessment benefits plan members financially and in many healthy ways; and

WHEREAS, mission costs money and all ministries in the synod could use the Portico Benefits Services savings and rebate money for the building up of the kingdom of God; and

WHEREAS, the synod has never met the 65% threshold in recent years and has left thousands of dollars in potential mission money on the table; and

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul calls us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, which is our spiritual worship (Romans 12:1) so all leaders of the church should be attentive to their health; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod meeting in assembly affirm the importance that all participants of the ELCA Health Benefits Plan take the health assessment; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council 1) engage in ongoing efforts to educate rostered leaders, other plan members, and congregations of the importance of and benefits of participating in the ELCA Health Benefits Plan's health assessment; and, 2) explore additional ways to encourage rostered leaders and other plan members to participate in the ELCA Health Benefits Plan's health assessment.

The resolution as amended was before the assembly for adoption.

ADOPTED: Resolution on ELCA Portico Health Assessment
SA14.06.09.

WHEREAS, if at least 65% of participating ELCA Health Benefits Plan members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod take the health assessment, all congregations and organizations of the synod who use ELCA Health Benefits Plan receive a 2% discount, which would total \$48,000 in premium savings in 2014; and

WHEREAS, if at least 65% of participating ELCA Health Benefits plan members of the Lower Susquehanna Synod take the health assessment, the synod will receive a 1% rebate from Portico Benefits Services, a ministry of the ELCA, totaling \$24,000 in 2014; and

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WHEREAS, mission costs money and all ministries in the synod could use the Portico Benefits Services savings and rebate money for the building up of the kingdom of God; and

WHEREAS, the synod has never met the 65% threshold in recent years and has left thousands of dollars in potential mission money on the table; and

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul calls us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, which is our spiritual worship (Romans 12:1) so all leaders of the church should be attentive to their health; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod meeting in assembly affirm the importance that all participants of the ELCA Health Benefits Plan take the health assessment; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council 1) engage in ongoing efforts to educate rostered leaders, other plan members, and congregations of the importance of and benefits of participating in the ELCA Health Benefits Plan's health assessment; and, 2) explore additional ways to encourage rostered leaders and other plan members to participate in the ELCA Health Benefits Plan's health assessment.

Pastor Herr presented Resolution #2 Regarding the Seventieth Anniversary of D-Day, submitted by voting members, the Rev. Stephen R. Herr and Linda Bell. The Committee on Reference and Counsel recommended the adoption of this resolution.

**ADOPTED: RESOLUTION ON SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY
SA14.06.10.**

RESOLVED, on this day, June 6, 2014, the seventieth anniversary of D-Day, the Lower Susquehanna Synod as it gathers in assembly, recall the significance of June 6, 1944, for this nation and the world; and further be it

RESOLVED, on this anniversary this synod encourage its congregations to:

- 1) Pray for D-Day veterans and for all those who have served or currently serve in our nation's armed forces;
- 2) Pray for all those who mourn the death of a loved one who has died in service to this nation; and
- 3) Pray for peace and an end to violence.

Bishop Dunlop introduced the fifth ministry highlight, a video on this synod's Malaria Campaign. The ultimate goal for the ELCA Malaria Campaign is \$15 million by 2015. The goal for the Lower Susquehanna Synod is \$500,000 by the end of 2015, a goal that this synod can reach by your continued efforts and generosity. This video shared the stories of our synod congregations and how they are making a positive impact on the health of the families of our companions in Africa. At the conclusion of the video, the bishop asked the members of this synod's Malaria Task Force to stand to be recognized. The assembly showed its appreciation for their work by their applause.

Secretary McKee provided instructions about tonight and tomorrow's worship services and about tomorrow's closing session. He announced that the task force on the new initiatives will meet after worship at the rear of the High Foundation Recital Hall.

Taize Service with Necrology

The assembly continued at 8:00 p.m. with a Taize worship service with Necrology, remembrance of those pastors who died since the last assembly. The service was held in the High Foundation Recital Hall of the Climenhaga Fine Arts Building. The homilist was the Rev. Jeffrey C. Compton, synod necrologist. Readers, cantors, musicians, and instrumentalists were the Rev. James S. Dunlop, bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, Sister Phyllis Enck, George May, Sister Deborah A.S. McClellan, the Rev. Brian A. McClinton, Megan McClinton, Katelyn McClinton, the Rev. Gwenn L. Trout, and the choir of Saint Matthias Lutheran Church, Carlisle Springs. Directors of the liturgy were Karen Kline, Zion Lutheran Church, Manheim, and Sister Davia A. Evans.

The following pastors were remembered during the service:

THE REV. DAVID LOWELL JOHNSON
Born September 17, 1940; Ordained May 1, 1967; Died June 20, 2013
Age 72 years, 9 months, 3 days

THE REV. ALBERT W. GIBSON, JR.
Born August 19, 1932; Ordained June 29, 1958; Died July 1, 2013

Age 80 years, 10 months, 12 days

THE REV. DR. SUSAN KAREN HEDAHL

Born October 8, 1946; Ordained June 15, 1975; Died July 7, 2013

Age 66 years, 8 months, 29 days

THE REV. J. PAUL KENNEDY

Born October 9, 1923; Ordained October 20, 1973; Died November 8, 2013

Age 90 years, 30 days

THE REV. ELIZABETH L. "BETSY" LARTZ

Born November 3, 1946; Ordained June 12, 1998; Died November 22, 2013

Age 67 years, 19 days

SHIRLEY ANNE PICKELL LEMON, ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY

Born February 12, 1933; Commissioned October 14, 1987; Died December 10, 2013

Age 80 years, 9 months, 28 days

THE REV. WILLIAM C. "BILL" KARNS, JR.

Born September 29, 1909; Ordained May 22, 1935; Died December 29, 2013

Age 104 years, 3 months

THE REV. ROBERT LOUIS BAUGHAN, JR.

Born September 6, 1919; Ordained June 12, 1981; Died January 8, 2014

Age 94 years, 4 months, 2 days

THE REV. RUSSELL LOUIS STEWART

Born July 17, 1921; Ordained May 15, 1957; Died January 17, 2014

Age 92 years, 6 months

THE REV. JOHN WILLIAM KAMMERER

Born February 11, 1921; Ordained May 15, 1946; Died February 5, 2014

Age 92 years, 11 months, 25 days

THE REV. ROSEMARIE BENEDICT

Born November 19, 1946; Ordained September 14, 2003; Died February 7, 2014

Age 67 years, 2 months, 19 days

THE REV. HENRY RICHARD EARLY

Born August 15, 1924; Ordained June 24, 1956; Died March 17, 2014

Age 89 years, 7 months, 2 days

THE REV. MARK A. HEINEY

Born April 18, 1928; Ordained May 20, 1954; Died March 25, 2014

Age 85 years, 11 months, 7 days

Fourth Assembly Meeting

Saturday morning, June 7, 2014, 8:00 a.m.

The fourth meeting of the twenty-seventh annual assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod began at 8:00 a.m. with a Service of Morning Prayer with Installation of Newly-elected Conference Deans and

Secretaries. This service was held in Miller Auditorium in the Climenhaga Fine Arts Center. The Rev. James S. Dunlop, bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, presided at this service. Serving as liturgist was the Rev. Thomas E. Darr, Flohr's Lutheran Church, McKnightstown; as chaplain to the bishop, the Rev. Martine Joseph, Simeon United Lutheran Church, Gratz; as pianist, Jennifer Noel, Union Lutheran Church, York; as directors of the liturgy, Nancy LeFevre, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lancaster, and the Reverend Traci E.B. Glover, Mt. Eden Lutheran Church, Quarryville; and as ushers, assembly voting members.

Secretary McKee presented and Bishop Dunlop installed the following conference deans and secretaries: deans, the Rev. LaDonna E. Thomas, Hanover Conference; and the Rev. Kathleen A. Kuehl, Upper Dauphin Conference; and secretaries, the Rev. Caitin M. Glass, West Shore Conference; the Rev. Janyce C. Jorgensen, York Conference; the Rev. Martine Joseph, Upper Dauphin Conference; the Rev. Benjamin E. Leese, Gettysburg Conference; the Rev. William B. Nienstedt, Chambersburg Conference; and the Rev. Stephen Verkouw, Lancaster Conference (in absentia).

As assembly members entered Hitchcock arena, the song, "Make a Difference" by Rachael Kurtz was playing. After the members entered Hitchcock Arena in the Sollenberger Sports Center, the sixth ministry highlight was shown. This video provided an overview of the ministries that Diakon Youth Services provides to serve at-risk youth on the territory of our synod. Diakon Youth Services understands and responds to issues facing youth and their family, and it delivers effective therapeutic services and interventions that work collaboratively to meet the individual needs of children, adolescents, young adults, and their families. The assembly responded to this video with its applause.

Bishop Dunlop called this assembly meeting back to order at 9:15 a.m.

Bible Study

Bishop Dunlop called the Rev. Amy Reumann back to the podium for the third Bible study session of the assembly. As director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa), Pastor Reumann works with the LAMPa Policy Council, synods, and agencies and institutions to shape and act on policy issues that impact Pennsylvania and are consistent with the theological and public policies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Pastor Reumann began by recapping her last presentation. God grants food even without prayer, even to evil people. Our calling is to go deeper in our work to be in relationship with our sisters and brothers who are hungry. Pastor Reumann lifted up the byline of the ELCA: "God's Work. Our Hands." Luther called our hands rusty tools. And yet out of these rusty tools, God is able to create miracles. Pastor Reumann announced that we are one of seven synods in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that supports Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania. She recognized two members of our synod who serve on the LAMPa Policy Council, the Rev. Matthew Lenahan, who chairs the council, and Cheryl Burns, who also chairs this synod's World Hunger Committee. Pastor Reumann said that one advantage of serving as Bible study leader at this assembly is that everyone says hello to her. She asked, "What if everyone shared the Scripture and called out to others to say hello? The Scripture reference for this Bible study is Revelation 7:13-17. This is a vision of an end to pain, hunger, and tears. All are before the throne of the Lamb singing a victory song. There on this mountain is a great feast, a banquet, plenty of good things for all. In contrast to this is the great tribulation from which they had come, a time of sorrow, oppression, and persecution. They had offered God their lament. They had named the pain that they had experienced and brought this experience to God, lifting it up as an offering. They do this with confidence that God hears our cries. Laments are woven into all of scripture. Communal lament is important. It forms people, enables them to name their suffering, and permits them to question justice. Walter Brueggemann in his book, Prophetic Imagination, writes that naming public grief chips away at the numbness that we wrap ourselves into. If we do not name the hurt, we cannot overcome it." Pastor

Reumann said that we need to take this to heart. We need to name hunger as a problem. We then can plan seeds of hope that change can occur and work to obtain those changes. The vision of Revelation redirects us to this world and the need to care for God's creation and all of God's children. Pastor Reumann lifted up a number of things that we as committed Christians need to address right here in Pennsylvania, including global climate change. After we have finished serving well through our many and varied ministries, we are called to work on changing public policy and our personal lifestyles. Dr. Timothy Wengert recently reminded those attending the LAMPa banquet that we are citizens of two kingdoms. As a citizen of the kingdom on the left, we are free to ask what shall I do this day. The answer that comes to us is that we are free to serve our neighbor. On "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday, September 7, 2014, we are able to join with other Lutheran Christians to do God's work with our hands and voices (LAMPa.) Pastor Reumann gave the example of the good that Bishop Dunlop did as a pastor in Littlestown in writing to his legislator to ask for additional funding for food banks. She would like to believe that the increase voted by the legislator was because of Bishop Dunlop's letter and the letters of other pastors and lay leaders across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Pastor Reumann stressed, "Remember the hungry, remember the hungry, remember the hungry." She urged the members of the assembly to join in a writing campaign to their legislators to increase funding for the State Food Purchase Program to \$21 million. She concluded the vision can be realized now. God has opened God's hands and provides fruit in due season. Justice is what love looks like in public. Move into the public sphere and let the hungry be fed.

After this, her final presentation at this assembly, Bishop Dunlop thanked Pastor Reumann for serving as the Bible study leader at this assembly. The bishop proclaimed that Pastor Reumann has been a blessing to us. The bishop led the assembly in prayer, thanking God for Pastor Reumann and her proclamation of God's Word and asking God to strengthen us so that all of us can make a difference with our lives. The bishop also prayed for the Allegheny Synod and the seven persons lifted up in the election process for bishop. After bishop ended the prayer, he announced to this synod that Bishop Gregory Pile, bishop of the Allegheny Synod, had announced his retirement and that Allegheny Synod was electing his successor.

Report of the Second Ballot for Synod Council

Bishop Dunlop called upon the Rev. Mary Anne Kingsborough, chair of the Committee on Elections to present the report of the second ballot for members of Synod Council in the category of lay female.

Synod Council – lay female

Ballots cast – 321
Valid ballots – 321
Invalid ballots - 0
Needed to elect – 161

Susan L. McDonald – 226

Colleen M. Hoffman - 95

The bishop declared Susan L. McDonald elected as a member of Synod Council in the category of lay female. This ticket was closed.

This concluded the work of the Committee on Elections. Bishop Dunlop thanked Pastor Kingsborough and the members of this committee for their fine work. The assembly expressed its appreciation with applause.

Congregational Updates

Bishop Dunlop announced that one of our congregations closed since last assembly. St. Samuel Lutheran Church, Newport, held its final worship service on Sunday, February 16, 2014. Its members elected to

join other congregations. The bishop gave thanks to God for the rich heritage of this congregation and entrusted its members to the care of other congregations.

Reports of the Bishop and Officers of Synod

Bishop Dunlop drew attention to his report and the reports of the officers of this synod: Lucinda L. Bringman, vice president; the Rev. Thomas E. McKee, secretary; and Bruce E. Seagrist, treasurer. There were no questions for the officers.

(Insert the Reports of the Bishops and Officers, sections 200-500)

Reports of the Committees, Agencies, Institutions, and Synod Units of Churchwide Organizations

Bishop Dunlop drew attention to these reports and asked if there were any questions on these reports. There were no questions about any of the written reports.

The following were designated as spokespersons for our committees, agencies, institutions and synod units of churchwide organizations: Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Charlie R. Roberts III; Committee of Deans, the Rev. Gwenn L. Trout; Compensation and Benefits, the Rev. Lois K. Van Orden; Constitution Committee, Jered L. Hock; Criminal Justice System Ministry, the Rev. C. Hope Knobler; ELCA Malaria Campaign, S. Christine Mummert; Global Mission Committee, the Rev. Robert L. Hoover, Jr.; Konde Diocese Committee, the Rev. Clifton D. Eshbach; Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania, the Rev. Amy E. Reumann; Learning Ministries Team, Marsha L. Roscoe, diaconal minister; Lutheran Social Services of South Central Pennsylvania, the Rev. Glenn D. Miller; Luthercare, the Rev. Roger C. Bucy; Lutheran World Relief and Heifer International, Norma R. Good; Mission Investment Fund, the Rev. Mark A. Wimmer; Resource Ministries, Pamela B. Drenner; Stewardship Education and Mission Support Table, Bruce A. Senft; and World Hunger Committee, Jered L. Hock.

(Insert pages 901-1403)

Churchwide Report and Video

Bishop Dunlop reintroduced to the assembly the Rev. Daniel O. Rift, director of the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeals and churchwide representative to this assembly, for the Churchwide Report. Prior to becoming director for the World Hunger and Disaster Appeals of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Pastor Rift worked for fifteen years coordinating church-based disaster responses and community developing work around the world, including coordinating responses to several U.S. disasters, expansion of work in Central Asia following the breakup of the Soviet Union, relief assistance in the Horn of Africa, and health work in India. He also served ten years in parish ministry in Pittsburgh and Dallas.

Pastor Rift brought greetings from the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, and expressed gratitude to this synod on behalf of the Secretary of the ELCA, the Rev. William Chris Boerger, and the Vice President of the ELCA, Carlos E. Pena. Pastor Rift built on the themes struck by Presiding Bishop Eaton at and since the last Churchwide Assembly: being church, being Lutheran, being church together, and being church for the sake of the world. A video message about being church together including greetings from Bishop Eaton was shown. Pastor Rift lifted up some of the highlights of work done together through the churchwide expression, including the work of missionaries around the world, directors of evangelical mission in synods, and the many volunteer efforts that has created opportunity to live into the challenge and joy of doing “God’s Work (with) Our Hands.”

After the conclusion of his churchwide report, Pastor Rift was joined on stage by the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, and a member of the ELCA Church Council. Pastor Herr presented a brief report of the work being done by the Church Council. Pastor Herr discussed the interdependence we share as a church between the churchwide offices, synods, and congregations, each working together to do God's work with our hands. He brought greetings from the Church Council. He thanked the following members of our synod who serve on ELCA boards: Jill Schumann, William Lloyd, Fred Bohls, and Daniel Bringman. He expressed appreciation to Bishop Dunlop and Vice President Lucinda Bringman and to all the members of this synod for the \$1.2 million given in mission support. He noted that the Church Council soon would be receiving reports about a unified Word and Service roster and about theological education. Since the ELCA is now meeting in assembly triennially, Pastor Herr commented that the Church Council has strengthened its fiduciary functions. Finally he expressed appreciation to Pastor Daniel Rift and Pastor Amy Reumann, members of the Churchwide staff, for the many contributions that they made to this assembly. The assembly thanked Pastor Herr for his service with applause.

Pastor Rift and Pastor Herr asked for questions from assembly members about the work and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. There were none.

At the conclusion of the questions and answer session, Bishop Dunlop thanked Pastor Rift for attending our assembly and for serving as both keynoter and churchwide representative. The bishop presented Pastor Rift with a weaving made by Family Heirloom Weavers, David, Carol, and Patrick Kline, members of Canadochly Lutheran Church, York, as a remembrance of his visit to the Lower Susquehanna Synod. The bishop also presented Pastor Rift with an over-sized presentation check in the amount of \$45,000, a thank offering gift to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from the Lower Susquehanna Synod. The assembly responded with applause.

The members of the assembly enjoyed a ten minute break from the business of the assembly.

The bishop introduced our seventh ministry highlight, a video highlighting a worship ministry of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, New Kingstown. Rejoicing Spirits is an innovative ministry framework designed to satisfy the hunger for God's word in an accepting, inclusive worship service. This service is designed to enrich the spiritual lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. With Rejoicing Spirits, everyone is encouraged to participate according to their abilities. After the video was shown, the bishop recognized the Rev. Caitlin M. Glass and Rose Hlavac and Lynne Immell, voting members from St. Stephen Lutheran Church, New Kingstown. The assembly greeted them with applause.

Report of the Synod Council

Bishop Dunlop called to the podium Lucinda L. Bringman, synod vice president, and Dr. Marcus W. Thomsen, vice chair of Synod Council and chair of the Mission Committee. Ms. Bringman and Dr. Thomsen made an initial presentation about the mission goals as adopted by Synod Council. They augmented their report by using a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation highlighted what this synod has done since 2012 to engage in holy listening, listening to God, to our congregations and our members, and to the communities where we are located and where we serve. From questions discussed at the 2012 Synod Assembly to the Year of Reformation with its listening posts, election of a bishop, and conversations with the bishop to identifying our synod as a synod of the ELCA where the hungry are fed as we have been fed by Christ to the adoption by the Synod Council of mission goals for this synod, we are a synod sent to feed a hungry world. The mission bylines for this synod are:

God's work. Our Hands.
Where the hungry are fed as we have been fed by Christ.
Together we are sent to feed a hungry world.

We do this by equipping leaders, encouraging cooperation, and engaging in new missions.

The assembly responded to this mission presentation with enthusiastic applause.

Ms. Bringman and Dr. Thomsen provided instructions to the assembly about dividing into small groups for discussion of these mission goals. The assembly members were to discuss three questions: “How do we listen as a synod to where God is leading us?” “What are you hearing around our synod?” “Where do you perceive God is leading us in the next 18-24 months?” Each group was to record its responses and return those responses to the Mission Committee.

Vice President Bringman informed the assembly that members of Synod Council are making an effort to visit congregations this summer. They are available to bring greetings, give temple talks, lead forums, or do whatever the congregation desires them to do. Dr. Thomsen noted that all members of the assembly should have received a business card on their tables. The Mission Committee has provided these cards. They contain the synod theme and accompanying bullet points on one side and the synod tag line and Web address on the reverse side.

Bishop Dunlop responded to a tweet which asked, “Where are our guests from the Konde Diocese?” He replied that the guests from the Konde Diocese are not here because they could not get visas from the United States Embassy in Tanzania. However, the bishop announced that he and a delegation will be leaving June 16 to go to the Konde Diocese for a two-week visit. Traveling with Bishop Dunlop will be his wife Connie, the Rev. Kathryn (Kate) A. Schroeder, and the Rev. Clifton D. Eshbach.

Bishop Dunlop introduced the final ministry highlight, a video about the Second Saturday Breakfast for the Hungry, hosted by Union Lutheran Church, York. Most of us take for granted that there will be food on the table every day. However, one out of every five Pennsylvania households with children struggle with food scarcity. Members of Union participate in this food ministry by which members and friends cook and serve breakfast to all who come. The bishop recognized the Rev. Judith A. McKee, Rachael Tracey, and Alan Young, voting members of Union Lutheran Church, York. The assembly greeted them with applause.

Unfinished Business

Lucinda L. Bringman, synod vice president, returned to the stage to report on the results of the group discussions about the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Campaign and especially on the new initiatives that the assembly members had proposed. She told the assembly that the task force reviewed 170 pages of feedback from the assembly and worked until after 11:00 p.m. to categorize all the responses. There were many hunger ministry proposals, but already part of the campaign proceeds will go to new hunger initiatives in our synod. Many spoke to the heart of mission, especially congregational development and redevelopment and migrant and Latino ministries, but part of the campaign proceeds is already earmarked for the Bishop’s Congregational Mission Fund. Some presented direct service ideas; others capacity building ideas. Two things appeared over and over: seminarian-related support and youth and young adult ministry. The task force is proposing \$250,000 for seminarian-related support and \$150,000 for youth and young adult ministry.

The Synod Council Resolution on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Campaign was before the assembly.

That the Lower Susquehanna Synod, meeting in assembly, adopt the Resolution on the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA in the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

Synod Council Resolution on the 25th Anniversary Campaign
for the ELCA in the Lower Susquehanna Synod*

WHEREAS, God's world hungers for the Gospel of the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran emphasis on God's grace through faith, a theology of the cross, and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit speaks to this hunger; and

WHEREAS, decreased church participation and growing hunger and poverty challenge ELCA Lutherans to go outside of our comfort zones and beyond our own walls to reach God's beloved people; and calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church and as a part of the whole Christian Church we are entrusted to step forward boldly in order to seek to reach more communities and people with the good news of Jesus Christ, train more leaders who will become missionaries, pastors, and lay leaders, and contribute to the alleviation of hunger and poverty; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod, in assembly, set the following goals* for our synod's participation in the ELCA 25th Anniversary Campaign:

To raise \$2,750,000 in support of the following campaign initiatives outlined by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly

1. \$2,000,000 for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal (this represents a 20% increase of what our synod expects to receive for World Hunger over the next 5 years)
2. \$500,000 to complete this synod's goal for the ELCA Malaria Campaign
3. \$250,000 for ELCA initiatives as designated by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly

To raise \$2,750,000 in support of the following Lower Susquehanna Synod ministries:

1. \$1,000,000 for the Seeding the Future Campaign of the Lutheran Camping Corporation in order to complete this campaign
2. \$750,000 for the Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund
3. \$100,000 for Lutheran Disaster Response needs in Lower Susquehanna Synod
4. \$500,000 for hunger initiatives within the Lower Susquehanna Synod
5. \$400,000 for [the new Initiative] as designated by the 2014 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly; and further be it

RESOLVED, that this campaign encompass a five-year period from 2014 through 2019; and further be it

RESOLVED, that members, congregations, agencies, and institutions of the Lower Susquehanna Synod partner to expand our ability to feed God's world that hungers for the Good News of Christ, hungers for community, hungers for forgiveness, hungers for hope, and hungers for food.

*Unless funded through this synod's budget or other funding sources, all costs associated with fundraising for this campaign, estimated to total \$550,000 over the five-year period or approximately nine percent of the campaign proceeds, will be borne by the campaign proceeds. The \$2,750,000 for ELCA Churchwide Initiatives plus \$2,750,000 for Lower Susquehanna Synod Initiatives plus \$550,000 for campaign costs equal a campaign goal of \$6,050,000.

Vice President Lucinda Bringman, moved the following amendments to the resolution on behalf of the Synod Council Task Force on New Initiatives:

Synod Council Resolution on the 25th Anniversary Campaign
for the ELCA in the Lower Susquehanna Synod*

WHEREAS, God's world hungers for the Gospel of the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran emphasis on God's grace through faith, a theology of the cross, and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit speaks to this hunger; and

WHEREAS, decreased church participation and growing hunger and poverty challenge ELCA Lutherans to go outside of our comfort zones and beyond our own walls to reach God's beloved people; and calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church and as a part of the whole Christian Church we are entrusted to step forward boldly in order to seek to reach more communities and people with the good news of Jesus Christ, train more leaders who will become missionaries, pastors, and lay leaders, and contribute to the alleviation of hunger and poverty; therefore be it

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2. \$750,000 for the Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund
3. \$100,000 for Lutheran Disaster Response needs in Lower Susquehanna Synod
4. \$500,000 for hunger initiatives within the Lower Susquehanna Synod
5. ~~\$400,000 for [the new Initiative] as designated by the 2014 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly;~~
5. \$250,000 for seminarian-related support;
6. \$150,000 for youth and young adult ministry; and further be it

RESOLVED, that this campaign encompass a five-year period from 2014 through 2019; and further be it

RESOLVED, that members, congregations, agencies, and institutions of the Lower Susquehanna Synod partner to expand our ability to feed God's world that hungers for the Good News of Christ, hungers for community, hungers for forgiveness, hungers for hope, and hungers for food.

*Unless funded through this synod's budget or other funding sources, all costs associated with fundraising for this campaign, estimated to total \$550,000 over the five-year period or approximately nine percent of the campaign proceeds, will be borne by the campaign proceeds. The \$2,750,000 for ELCA Churchwide Initiatives plus \$2,750,000 for Lower Susquehanna Synod Initiatives plus \$550,000 for campaign costs equal a campaign goal of \$6,050,000.

The Rev. Andrew J. Evenson, Lebanon Lutheran Cooperative Ministries, rose to speak against the resolution. Since he was not speaking to the amendments, the bishop called him out of order and promised to call upon him when it was time for discussion on the resolution.

The Rev. Cynthia A. Chambers asked the chair to clarify that we are talking about broad categories and not necessarily providing details about specific ways that these funds will be spent. The bishop replied that that is correct. The Rev. Glenn Miller, Lutheran Social Services of South Central Pennsylvania, asked if the \$250,000 was a direct contribution to the seminary or assistance to seminarians. The bishop replied that the discussions centered on aid to seminarians. The vice president added that the following three kinds of support were discussed: granting scholarships, sponsoring internship sites, and providing aid for living expenses for seminarians and their families. Pastor Miller responded that he served on the ELCA Task Force on Seminarian Debt and realizes that seminarian debt is a growing crisis in this church. He stated that he is in favor of this addition. The Rev. Haley Vay Poynter, Zion Lutheran Church, York, spoke in favor of the amendment, especially the inclusion of seminarian-related support. She is very familiar with the problems caused by the severe debt load many seminarians carry into their first parish. She told the assembly that she was part of the work of Region 9 writing the 2014 approval essay based on the formation of missional leaders, and the inclusion of this support will not go unnoticed.

The Rev. Daniel M. Long, Zion Lutheran Church, East Petersburg, expressed his concern that our church lacks ministry opportunities with the poor and is significantly damaged by this lack of service. He stated that we need to hear from the poor and, although he may be ruled out of order, he wondered if this concern will be addressed by any of the initiatives. The bishop answered that the \$750,000 in additional funds to the Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund will strengthen what we will be able to do in any number of potential mission fields. The bishop quipped, "But you are out of order." The Rev. Tina Melusky, Grace Lutheran Church, Red Lion, spoke in favor of the amendments. She stressed that as we are talking about feeding the poor, we want to make sure that we are not putting our future rostered leaders in the category of the poor. We need to equip leaders so that they can go out to serve.

Grant Celley, Trinity Lutheran Church, York, testified to the value of Nawakwa in preparing future leaders and the cuts in ministry that have had to be made because of high mortgage payments. The bishop interrupted to ask Grant if he was speaking to the resolution or to the amendment. Grant replied that he was speaking to the amendment. It is his contention that adding \$150,000 for youth and young adult ministry will help reduce the effects of the cut backs that the Lutheran Camping Corporation has had to make. The Rev. David W. Clark, Upper Bermudian Parish, noted that youth and young adult ministries are different. He asked how the \$150,000 will be divided, half for youth ministry and half for young adult ministry. The bishop responded that this has not been fully fleshed out yet, but we are not necessarily splitting the money in half. However, we will fund new ministry initiatives for both youth and young adults.

The Rev. Robert W. Lowden, Messiah Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, moved

ADOPTED: To call the previous question.
2/3 vote

The vote on the proposed amendments to the resolution was before the assembly.

ADOPTED: Amendments to Synod Council Resolution on the 25th Anniversary Campaign
for the ELCA in the Lower Susquehanna Synod*

WHEREAS, God's world hungers for the Gospel of the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran emphasis on God's grace through faith, a theology of the cross, and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit speaks to this hunger; and

WHEREAS, decreased church participation and growing hunger and poverty challenge ELCA Lutherans to go outside of our comfort zones and beyond our own walls to reach God's beloved people; and

calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church and as a part of the whole Christian Church we are entrusted to step forward boldly in order to seek to reach more communities and people with the good news of Jesus Christ, train more leaders who will become missionaries, pastors, and lay leaders, and contribute to the alleviation of hunger and poverty; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod, in assembly, set the following goals* for our synod's participation in the ELCA 25th Anniversary Campaign:

To raise \$2,750,000 in support of the following campaign initiatives outlined by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly

1. \$2,000,000 for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal (this represents a 20% increase of what our synod expects to receive for World Hunger over the next 5 years)
2. \$500,000 to complete this synod's goal for the ELCA Malaria Campaign
3. \$250,000 for ELCA initiatives as designated by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly

To raise \$2,750,000 in support of the following Lower Susquehanna Synod ministries:

1. \$1,000,000 for the Seeding the Future Campaign of the Lutheran Camping Corporation in order to complete this campaign
2. \$750,000 for the Bishop's Congregational Mission Fund
3. \$100,000 for Lutheran Disaster Response needs in Lower Susquehanna Synod
4. \$500,000 for hunger initiatives within the Lower Susquehanna Synod
5. ~~\$400,000 for [the new Initiative] as designated by the 2014 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly;~~
5. \$250,000 for seminarian-related support;
6. \$150,000 for youth and young adult ministry; and further be it

RESOLVED, that this campaign encompass a five-year period from 2014 through 2019; and further be it

RESOLVED, that members, congregations, agencies, and institutions of the Lower Susquehanna Synod partner to expand our ability to feed God's world that hungers for the Good News of Christ, hungers for community, hungers for forgiveness, hungers for hope, and hungers for food.

*Unless funded through this synod's budget or other funding sources, all costs associated with fundraising for this campaign, estimated to total \$550,000 over the five-year period or approximately nine percent of the campaign proceeds, will be borne by the campaign proceeds. The \$2,750,000 for ELCA Churchwide Initiatives plus \$2,750,000 for Lower Susquehanna Synod Initiatives plus \$550,000 for campaign costs equal a campaign goal of \$6,050,000.

The Rev. Andrew J. Evenson, Lebanon Lutheran Cooperative Ministry, spoke against the resolution. Pastor Evenson said that as a voting member of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, he voted against the campaign. Because the campaign was brought before the assembly with little time for debate, it seemed as if the campaign was forced upon the assembly. He admitted that he has had a distaste for the campaign since then. He stated that people are not compelled to give to a nebulous campaign to support two institutions. People are more apt to give to causes in which they believe. A better approach would be to talk about mission support in such a way that a ministry is able to tell its story. Secondly the Lutheran church has had a fine tradition of giving one-hundred percent of the donated money to the specific ministry being supported; but now in this campaign, the costs of the campaign will be borne by the proceeds of the campaign so that the ministry will not receive one-hundred percent of the gift. The Rev.

Daniel M. Long, Zion Lutheran Church, East Petersburg, related that the theme, “Making All Things New,” is very Biblical, but he questioned, “Can you make all things new at once? What is the strategy behind the campaign besides more? What is new? Or will it be just more of the old? What is the idea of the campaign? What will make a strategic difference?” Lucinda Bringman, synod vice president, responded. All the ministries that have been mentioned are good ministries. The reason that one-hundred percent of gifts can go to these ministries is that regular mission support provides the structure and administration. It is true that we could do more. However, to do more we must ask in stronger ways. We must ask to do more. For instance, we could ask to fund one development or redevelopment, but, if we build the Bishop’s Congregational Mission Fund, we can support many more development and redevelopment opportunities. We have opportunity to do much more, like to form a church without walls, but we need to have the funds to pursue these mission opportunities. The Rev. Virginia J. Cover, Grace Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, spoke against the resolution. She gave as an example the “Seeding the Future” Campaign of the Lutheran Camping Corporation. This campaign tried to raise two million dollars in six years and has not succeeded. She asked if there has been a feasibility study done. It seems to be a big leap to take on a campaign to raise over six-million dollars in five years. Pastor Cover stated that she is already asking her congregation to support new community ministries and to grow its mission support. If she asks them now to support a comprehensive campaign, something will suffer. The Rev. Kevin T. Shively, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, York, told the assembly that there will be a significant number of clergy retiring in the next ten to fifteen years. Therefore we need to support persons preparing for the ministry or there will be even more vacant congregations. Secondly he stated that campaigns scare us. But campaigns bring people together, generate enthusiasm, and produce great results. However, Pastor Shively confessed that he questions the cost of the campaign. Ten percent of the proceeds is on the high side. He asked, “What are the campaign costs?” Vice President Bringman stated that the campaign costs for the first year are anticipated to be \$150,000. The following elements contribute to that anticipated figure: \$74,000 for the fund-raising counsel; \$30,000 for materials; \$20,000 for staff support; \$8,000 for travel expenses; \$6,000 for software; \$5,000 for postage; and \$7,000 for additional costs. The Rev. Michael T. Petresky, Halifax Parish, gave thanks to God that this church has benefited from the gifts of faithful people, who have worked faithfully, given generously, and provided bequests and endowments. He stated, that being a pastor of three small congregations, he has difficulty understanding this kind of money and this big of a campaign. He asked, “How did you arrive at the \$2,750,000 figure for the churchwide organization and the \$2,750,000 amount for this synod?” Bishop Dunlop answered that he looked at the pattern of giving both to the churchwide organization and to this synod over a long period of time. Then, the bishop continued, I imagined what could happen if we asked congregations and individuals to stretch and to grow in their giving. The Rev. Glenn D. Miller, Lutheran Social Services of South Central Pennsylvania, informed the assembly that he has been privileged to be a professional fund raiser for this church for the past thirteen years. He stated that the ELCA has already taken action at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly; part of being faithful is to support this campaign. He stressed that there are many benefits to campaigns. Campaigns create energy. Campaigns do not harm but help regular giving. According to professional standards of ethics, campaign costs of eighteen cents to twenty-five cents on the dollar are acceptable. Nine percent is very conservative. The Rev. William C. Snyder, Luthercare, asked if he gave \$1,000 to seminarian-related support, would that gift be considered temporarily restricted and would one-hundred percent of that gift go to seminarian-related support? The bishop answered, “Yes.” The Rev. Craig A. Lantz, St. Paul (Dubs) Lutheran Church, Hanover, told the assembly that his salary is \$11,000 less than guidelines for a newly ordained pastor and that he is only serving there as a retired pastor because the congregation cannot afford a first-call pastor. His congregation could not support this campaign. It is not doable for them. The Rev. Edward J. Robbins, Zion Lutheran Church, Glen Rock, asked about the plans for dispersing the gifts. The vice president said that this is not fleshed out yet. The Synod Council could not figure out all the details before the resolution was passed. For many gifts, like contributions to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, it will be a pass through. For other gifts, the council may set up restricted accounts. The Rev. Michael L. Seifried, St. John Lutheran Church, Shiremanstown, offered that it is a great campaign, but he struggles with the cost. We need to find ways

to reduce the campaign costs such as having volunteers to promote the campaign. With all the enthusiasm here, all should go back to their congregations and make this campaign happen. The Rev. Michael L. Cooper-White, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, lamented that only one thing is bothering him and that is that the goal is too low. Pastors Rift and Reumann have given witness to the theology of abundance. When I proposed a ten-million dollar campaign at the seminary, the directors said that the goal was too small. They increased the goal to \$12.5 million. When the campaign was completed, the gifts almost doubled the original goal. Pastor Cooper-White continued, saying that he is sympathetic to the challenges of our smaller congregations; however, most of the gifts will come from individuals. There is an abundance, especially among our individual members. He concluded by saying that we have the right leadership and the right staff, we need to pursue this campaign, and eventually we will need to increase our goal.

Lucretia Crum, Zion Lutheran Church, Dauphin, moved:

LOST **To call the previous question.**
2/3 vote
242 yes
128 no

Debate continued on the Synod Council's Recommendation 9, the Resolution on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Campaign. David Martin, Brickerville United Lutheran Church, Lititz, thanked the assembly for adding the \$250,000 for seminarian-related support to the resolution. The Lutheran Church sent his father to Muhlenberg College and to Mt. Airy Seminary. He related that, if that had not occurred, he would not be here; he would be Methodist. Alan Young, Union Lutheran Church, York, asked whether we are asking for new money over and above what is expected, but not completely over and above what is expected. The bishop answered, "Correct." The vice president responded, that depends on what you mean by over and above and not completely over and above what is expected. Mr. Young responded that we are not looking for entirely new money. We are not expecting \$2.75 million over what we are already receiving. The vice president assured him that that is correct. For instance we normally receive about \$1.6 million for world hunger. We are looking to increase that amount by twenty percent. The Rev. Bradley H. Dayett, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stoverstown, spoke in favor of the campaign, using imagery from his experience as a weight lifter. He had gotten out of the practice of weight lifting, and his performance diminished to the point where he sustained an injury while doing an easy task. He began lifting again, and now he is able to do things that he has not been able to do for years. This is analogous to the body of Christ. We must push ourselves to live up to our potential. As a church, we have not lived up to our potential. He asked the assembly, "Are you tired of not doing what you could do?" Bruce Seagrist, synod treasurer, informed the assembly that besides direct costs there are indirect costs associated with this fund-raising campaign. One of the indirect costs is staff time. The cost of that staff time will appear on the audit, and the treasurer wanted the assembly to know that the costs for five years will be above \$550,000. The Rev. Robert W. Lowden, Messiah Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, admitted to the assembly that with such fine causes benefitting from this campaign, he is surprised to find himself at a microphone with a red card. He believes it is a morale issue. He suggested focusing on finishing the Seeding the Future Campaign for the Lutheran Camping Corporation, completing our goal for the Malaria Campaign, and sustaining world hunger gifts at the present level, and only then engaging in fund-raising for some of the other causes. The Rev. Janyce C. Jorgensen, Zion Lutheran Church, York, confided to the assembly that she appreciates gracious asks. When asked to give to a certain cause, she must decide. Even if she decides not to give, she appreciates being asked. This resolution provides such a gracious ask to our members. This ask will speak to the hearts of some, and others may decide they have other priorities. But this will not happen without us asking. Bob Lemanski, Trinity Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, stated, if we believe that this initiative is worthwhile, then we lift it to the Lord and let the Lord lead us. The Rev. Brian A. Biery, Christ Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, said that this

resolution is not about the past, but about the future into which God is leading us. Doing the math, he offered that to reach the goal of this campaign congregations only have to give \$391.00 per month. The Rev. Judith A. McKee, Union Lutheran Church, York, stated that she is confused with moneys that are already anticipated and new money. Vice President Bringman admitted that it is confusing. We are following the lead of the ELCA that co-mingled anticipated existing funds and new money into the campaign. When we receive gifts, we cannot ask if this is part of the anticipated existing funds or is this new money. We understand that we must spend money to make money. It is important that we raise these funds, so that we can move forward in mission and ministry, doing some of the exciting new initiatives that the bishop is proposing. The Rev. Naomi Sease Carriker, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, asked how will we prioritize what is spent. "Do we pass this resolution and then make another motion to propose the method of distributing what is received?" The bishop offered that he would prefer that the assembly vote on the resolution and then let us as the church work through the details later. Sister Davia Evans noted that there has been a lot of discussion on what we are going to do and what are we going to give. She lifted up the excellent Bible studies conducted by Pastor Reumann and reminded the assembly that we need to change our life-styles. Everyone has some disposable income. She stated that she appreciates all the business aspects of this campaign and supposes we need them, but we need to set our own priorities and ask ourselves, "What can we do to make this happen?" The Rev. Glenn D. Miller, Lutheran Social Services of South Central Pennsylvania, spoke as a professional fundraiser for this church. He stated that he is sympathetic to those who are confused by rolling new money into old money. This is typical in a comprehensive campaign and different from a capital campaign. A comprehensive campaign shines a spotlight on a ministry that already exists in order to increase resources for this ministry. A comprehensive campaign makes sense in this case; it is the right way to go. Secondly he commented on how the money will be distributed. That answer is very simple; it is prorated, with the exception of restricted gifts, in accord with the amounts stated in the resolution. Cheryl Burns, Trindle Spring Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, testified that, when you do things collaboratively, you get noticed. This collaborative campaign will be noticed by our members, and they will find excitement and hope in it. This will increase the engagement of lay leaders as well as rostered leaders in the campaign. The Rev. Beth J. Costlow, St. John Lutheran Church, Columbia, agreed that the amounts in the resolution do indicate how the funds should be distributed. She suggested that percentages be used to lessen the confusion.

Lucretia Crum, Zion Lutheran Church, Dauphin, moved

ADOPTED: To call the previous question.
2/3 vote

Recommendation 9 from Synod Council was before the assembly.

Dr. Marcus W. Thomsen, vice chair of Synod Council, requested that the vote be conducted by division of the house.

ADOPTED: That the Lower Susquehanna Synod, meeting in assembly, adopt the Resolution on SA14.06.11. the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA in the Lower Susquehanna Synod.
304 yes
50 no

Synod Council Resolution on the 25th Anniversary Campaign
for the ELCA in the Lower Susquehanna Synod*

WHEREAS, God's world hungers for the Gospel of the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran emphasis on God's grace through faith, a theology of the cross, and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit speaks to this hunger; and

WHEREAS, decreased church participation and growing hunger and poverty challenge ELCA Lutherans to go outside of our comfort zones and beyond our own walls to reach God's beloved people; and calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church and as a part of the whole Christian Church we are entrusted to step forward boldly in order to seek to reach more communities and people with the good news of Jesus Christ, train more leaders who will become missionaries, pastors, and lay leaders, and contribute to the alleviation of hunger and poverty; therefore be it

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4. \$500,000 for hunger initiatives within the Lower Susquehanna Synod
5. \$250,000 for seminarian-related support;
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RESOLVED, that this campaign encompass a five-year period from 2014 through 2019; and further be it

RESOLVED, that members, congregations, agencies, and institutions of the Lower Susquehanna Synod partner to expand our ability to feed God's world that hungers for the Good News of Christ, hungers for community, hungers for forgiveness, hungers for hope, and hungers for food.

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Vice President Lucinda Bringman announced that this ends the report of the Synod Council. Bishop Dunlop thanked the vice president and the members of the Synod Council for their diligent work. The assembly responded with applause.

Bishop Dunlop welcomed to the stage Marlene Landis, voting member from St. John (Barner's) Lutheran Church, Liverpool. Ms. Landis identified St. John (Barner's) Lutheran Church as the "Apple Butter Boil Church" and exclaimed that this church is alive with a heart for the Malaria Campaign. They have been working faithfully to raise money for this campaign. Ms. Landis presented Bishop Dunlop with a

presentation check in the amount of \$4,483.00 for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. The bishop noted that this is the first gift to this synod's Twenty-fifth Anniversary Campaign, and will be designated toward our goal to complete our \$500,000 goal for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. He thanked the congregation for this gift and remarked to the assembly that this church, small in numbers, is mighty in spirit and mighty in its generosity. The assembly showed its appreciation for this generous gift with its applause.

New Business

The Rev. Virginia J. Cover, Grace Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, moved:

That within the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Campaign of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, any undesignated gifts be designated first to the paying the "Seeding the Future" debt incurred by the Lutheran Camping Corporation.

Pastor Cover expressed her opinion that our camps are vital places of ministry and extremely important in developing leaders for this church. This synod promised to support the Camping Corporation when it undertook this debt to purchase new land, and the debt still exists. Our first priority should be repaying this debt. The Rev. Glenn D. Miller, Lutheran Social Services of South Central Pennsylvania, informed the assembly that he must respectfully speak against the motion. All donors, congregations or individuals, can decide where they would like to designate their gift according to their own priorities. It is much cleaner to allow it to stand as it is.

LOST: **That within the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Campaign of the Lower Susquehanna SA14.06.12. Synod, any undesignated gifts be designed first to the paying the "Seeding the Future" debt incurred by the Lutheran Camping Corporation.**

The Rev. Andrew J. Evenson, Lebanon Lutheran Cooperative Ministry, moved:

Because of the annual financial cost for Synod Assembly that totals \$116,000 for congregations, in addition to \$7,025 for our synod budget, in addition to the many hours of human resources from synod staff and committees, that **S7.11.01.**, a bylaw within our synod's constitution which reads, "The regular assembly of this synod shall be held annually during the month of June as the Synod Council shall designate, be stricken from the constitution, and the Synod Council be designated to come up with a workable schedule for Synod Assemblies within the parameters of **S7.11.**, which reads, "A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least biennially."

Pastor Evenson said that he is not opposed for us to get together for fellowship and communion. In fact, we just got together for a good event, CTIM. He proposed that we get together for more of these types of events some years rather than meeting in assembly. It is a better use of our time and resources.

Dr. Marcus Thomsen, vice chair of Synod Council, moved:

To refer to Synod Council.

Dr. Thomsen stated that this issue will take time and discussion.

The Rev. Benjamin E. Leese, Trinity Lutheran Church, York Springs, spoke against the motion to refer. He said that, because this matter involves an amendment to the constitution, it must receive action at two Synod Assemblies. The bishop responded that the amendment would be to a bylaw, which can be done at one assembly.

The Rev. Virginia L. Cover, moved to amend the motion to refer:

ADOPTED: To add to the motion to refer the clause, “for report back to the 2015 Synod Assembly.”

The motion to refer as amended was before the assembly.

ADOPTED: To refer to Synod Council for report back to the 2015 Synod Assembly.
SA14.06.13.

The Rev. Beth A. Schlegel, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, York, and chair of the Konde Medical Needs Task Force, asked for permission to tell Sarah’s story to the assembly. Sarah was a doll that Pastor Schlegel carried to call attention to the health care and medical needs of our brothers and sisters in the Konde Diocese. Several years ago an earthquake hit the area around Itete and destroyed the children’s and maternity wards of Itete Hospital, one of two Konde Diocese hospitals. These wards still have not been rebuilt. These structures are desperately needed so that the hospital can serve our brothers and sisters. Pastor Schlegel reminded the assembly that we made a commitment to help fund the rebuilding of these wards, and we have not fulfilled that commitment. Baby Sarah, Pastor Schlegel, and all the members of the Konde Medical Needs Task Force invite our congregations and individual members to contribute to Itete Hospital Earthquake Relief. Pastor Schlegel invited the members of the task force to stand. The assembly welcomed them with its applause.

Loaves and Fishes Video

The video that was produced at the Loaves and Fishes Event on Thursday, June 5, was shown. The video told the story of this event: how Pastor Richard Geib, Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, came to Bishop Dunlop with an idea of a major synod food packing event; how this synod, Thrivent, Messiah College, End Hunger Now, NE, and Central Pennsylvania Food Bank partnered together to plan this event; how over a thousand people came together over a twelve hour period to pack over 300,000 meals; what went into each food packet; how the food will be distributed; and, perhaps most importantly, what participating in this one-day event has meant to our members. We are the synod where the hungry are fed as we have been fed by Jesus Christ. The assembly showed its appreciation for this video with its applause. This video may be downloaded from our Web site, or a DVD of it may be borrowed from this synod’s Resource Center.

Installation of Newly Elected Members of the Synod Council

The secretary of synod read the names of newly elected members of Synod Council: the Rev. Joel S. B. Folkemer, Susan L. McDonald, and Virgil L. Gibson.

They came forward. Bishop Dunlop installed them as members of Synod Council.

Bishop Dunlop expressed this synod’s appreciation to the retiring members of Synod Council: the Rev. Patricia A. Snyder, April E. Trout, and Dr. Marcus W. Thomsen.

Prayers for Sending

Bishop Dunlop asked the other members of our delegation to the Konde Diocese to come forward and join him on stage: The Rev. Clifton D. Eshbach, the Rev. Kathryn (Kate) A. Schroeder, and Connie Dunlop. The assembly chaplain, Chandler Carriker, associate in ministry, led the assembly in a blessing and God-speed for this delegation. As the chaplain prayed, members of the assembly placed their hands on our representatives in blessing or raised their hands toward them in blessing.

Report of the Assembly Offering

Bishop Dunlop reported that the offerings given at this assembly amounted to \$2,945.11. The offering was designated one half for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and one half for student scholarships at Manow Lutheran Secondary School in the Konde Diocese.

Words of Appreciation

Bishop Dunlop thanked the members of the assembly for the fine way that they conducted the business of this assembly, participated in worship and educational opportunities, and engaged in fellowship. The members of this assembly have been a blessing to us. He urged all voting members to make a report to their congregation when they return home. The bishop said that he has felt a wonderful spirit moving among us during this assembly. It is God's Spirit, alive and among us. He charged the voting members to go forth and feed the hungry.

The bishop also extended his appreciation to Joseph A. Ricci, parliamentarian; Chandler R. Carriker, associate in ministry, chaplain; the Rev. Jeffrey C. Compton, necrologist; the Rev. Daniel O. Rift, keynoter and churchwide representative; the Rev. Amy E. Reumann, Bible study leader; Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman, the members of Synod Council, and the members of the assembly committees; the pages; and the assembly volunteers. He also expressed the thanks of this synod to Charlotte Knudsen and the staff at Messiah College for making our assembly so comfortable. The assembly responded with applause.

The secretary presented a personalized coverlet to Bishop Dunlop in honor of his first year as bishop of this synod. The coverlet was made by Family Heirloom Weavers of Red Lion, Pennsylvania. The coverlet was a gift of the owners, David, Carol, and Patrick Kline, members of Canadochly Lutheran Church, York, Pennsylvania. The design for the weaving in this coverlet is attributed to Andrew Seifert (1820-1900) and his brother Henry Seifert (1823-1903) who were born in York County, PA, and operated a weaving business in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Henry Seifert stopped weaving when he completed his studies at the Pennsylvania College and Seminary at Gettysburg (1856) and became a Lutheran minister. The assembly responded to the presentation of this gift with applause and a standing ovation.

Closing of the Assembly

Bishop Dunlop led the Order for the Closing of the Assembly. Pamela B. Drenner led the assembly in the closing hymn, "On Our Way Rejoicing." Adjournment was at 1:05 p.m.

The Synod Council met in Sollenberger Room 125 for a reorganizational meeting. At this meeting members of the Executive Committee for 2014-2015 were elected. Elected to the Executive Committee were: the Rev. Beth A. Schlegel, Jered L. Hock, and the Rev. Kurt S. Strause. Elected as vice chair of the Synod Council was the Rev. Kurt S. Strause.

Report on Attendance

Ordained voting members	243
(including 52 retired ordained ministers)	
Lay voting members	327
(including 21 lay rostered voting members, two officers, and eleven lay members of Synod Council)	
<u>Total Voting Members</u>	570
Visitors	81
<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>651

Approved by:

James S. Dunlop, bishop

Thomas E. McKee, secretary

6/19/14

DRAFT