

***MINUTES OF THE
TWENTY-THIRD REGULAR SYNOD ASSEMBLY OF THE
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA***

**May 29-31, 2014
Hilton Long Island, Melville, New York**

Assembly registration began at 9:00 am, followed by Orientation for Voting Members and lunch.

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014

PLENARY SESSION I

At 1:00 pm Bishop Rimbo led the assembled in the rite for the Opening of an Assembly, and then called the first plenary session to order.

Bishop Rimbo welcomed the voting members, spoke about the work of the assembly, and defined for the assembly the term “voting member” as it applies to the members of the assembly. He then introduced The Rev. Kathleen Koran as host for the session, The Rev. Justin Lathrop and Deacon Patty Avila as Chaplains for the Assembly, The Rev. C. Anderson James as Assembly Parliamentarian, and The Rev. Paul Johnson as Chair of the Assembly Planning Committee.

Bishop Rimbo then welcomed ELCA Vice President Carlo Pena, who will give the report of the ELCA to the Assembly and facilitate the process for the election of bishop.

Bishop Rimbo next introduced the staff of the Synod: The Rev. Percy Butiku, Assistant to the Bishop for Multicultural Mission; Mr. Branden Dicks, Administrative Assistant; Ms. Sarah Gioe, Director of Communication; The Rev. Marc Herbst, Assistant to the Bishop for Implementation of the Strategic Plan; The Rev. Jeffrey Kolbo, Candidacy Coordinator; The Rev. Kathleen Koran, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations; The Rev. Jonathan Linman, Assistant to the Bishop for Formation; Deacon Gayle Ruege, Executive Assistant to the Bishop; Ms. Kathleen Schmidt, Assistant to the Bishop for Administration and Finance; Ms. Rebekah Thornhill, Administrator to the Executive Staff; and The Rev. Lamont Wells.

Bishop Rimbo then welcomed Bishop Roy Riley of the New Jersey Synod and announced that Bishop Claire Burkat of SE Pennsylvania will join us later in the Assembly.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Minerva Melendez gave the registration report.

Rostered Leaders	183
Lay Voting Members	232
Total Voting members	<u>415</u>

Visitors
Total Attendance

65
480

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the assembly was adopted as presented.

Bishop Rimbo asked those speaking in favor of or against a matter before the assembly to do so at the appropriate microphone and noted that they will be limited to three minutes.

Thursday, May 29, 2014

9:00am	Registration and Check-In <i>Check in and receive all your materials. Please note that there is no on-site registration for voting members and no canceling or adding meal plans. Be sure to note when the registration desk is open on page A-7.</i>	Melville Room
	Display Tables Open <i>Visit with almost 40 different committees and organizations hosting display tables.</i>	Grand Ballroom Foyer
	Gathered Innovative Ministries: Chapel Installation <i>Collaborate on an art installation with Pr. Benjamin McKelahan and spend time in prayer.</i>	Mattituck Room
10:00am	Synod Assembly Orientation <i>Learn what you can expect during plenary sessions and our time together.</i>	Eisenhower Room
	Food for a Week <i>Participate in an interactive simulation to learn about hunger issues in families.</i>	Belmont Room
	Seeds of Hope <i>Engage with Lutheran Schools Association to share successes and challenges facing our schools.</i>	Banfi Room
11:00am	Synod Assembly Orientation <i>Learn what you can expect during plenary sessions and our time together.</i>	Eisenhower Room
	Caring for Caregivers <i>Find ways to care for those who are caring for others, especially elderly and family with special needs.</i>	Banfi Room
	Conversaciones sobre la Asamblea <i>Apranda sobre la Asamblea con las conversaciones en español.</i>	TBD
12:00pm	Synod Assembly Orientation <i>Learn what you can expect during plenary sessions and our time together.</i>	Eisenhower Room
	Building Communities of Faith <i>Discover how The diakonia Program transforms lives and helps leaders to grow in service.</i>	Hecksher Room
	Funded for Mission <i>Discuss best practices and ideas surrounding fundraising and stewardship in your congregation.</i>	Banfi Room
	Food for a Week <i>Participate in an interactive simulation to learn about hunger issues in families.</i>	Belmont Room
1:00pm	Claimed, Gathered and Sent: Opening of the Assembly	Grand Ballroom
1:30pm	Welcome , Bishop Robert A. Rimbo Introductions: Pr. Justin Lathrop and Dcn. Patty Avila, Chaplains Rev. C. Anderson James, Parliamentarian	Grand Ballroom

Pr. Jeanne Warfield, Chair, Reference and Counsel
Assembly Planning Committee
ELCA Representative, Mr. Carlos Peña
Synod Staff

Introduction to voting devices

Registration and Attendance, Ms. Minerva Melendez

Adoption of the Agenda, Bishop Robert A. Rimbo

Rules and Procedures, Bishop Robert A. Rimbo

Hymn, *This Is the Spirit's Entry Now*, page A-7

Claimed: "We Believe in the Holy Spirit", Rev. Lisa E. Dahill, Ph.D.

Introduction of Synod Officers and Synod Council, Bishop Robert A. Rimbo

Synod Council Report, Ms. Maria Del Toro, Vice-President

Registration and Attendance, Ms. Minerva Melendez

Explanation of 1st Ballot and Voting Procedures, Mr. Carlos Peña

Prayer, Mr. Carlos Peña

1st Ballot for Bishop, Mr. Carlos Peña

Hymn, *Gracious Spirit, Heed our Pleading*, page A-8

Report and Procedure for Nominations from Floor,

Ms. Christine Connell, Diaconal Minister & Pr. Jennifer Richards
Nominations from the floor are due by 6:00 pm. The Tellers/Page table in the Grand Ballroom can provide you will blank forms as well as collect completed forms.

Sent Moment: The Healing Center, Ms. Antonia Clemente

Report of the Treasurer, Mr. Frank Suttell

Presentation of the Proposed 2014 Revised Budget and 2015 Budget,

Mr. Edward Wagner, Chair Financial Management Committee and Mr. Frank Suttell, Treasurer
Discussion will be held at the Budget Breakfast, Saturday, May 31.

Bishop's Report, Bishop Robert A. Rimbo

Report of 1st Ballot for Bishop, Mr. Carlos Peña

ELCA Churchwide Report, Mr. Carlos Peña

Announcements, Pr. Paul Johnsen

Prayer, Pr. Justin Lathrop and Dcn. Patty Avila

6:00pm	Banquet Dinner in honor of Rev. Dr. Philip Krey <i>Tickets must have been purchased in advance through the registration page. One ticket is included in each meal plan.</i>	Savoy
8:00pm	Claimed, Gathered and Sent: Revival Eucharist Bishop Robert A. Rimbo, presiding Pr. Lamont Wells, preaching	Grand Ballroom

Friday, May 30, 2014

8:00am	Claimed, Gathered and Sent: Morning Prayer	Grand Ballroom
8:30am	Registration and Check-In <i>Check in and receive all your materials. Please note that there is no on-site registration for voting members and no canceling or adding meal plans.</i>	Melville Room

Be sure to note when the registration desk is open on page A-7.

Display Tables Open <i>Visit with almost 40 different committees and organizations hosting display tables.</i>	Grand Ballroom Foyer
Gathered Innovative Ministries: Chapel Installation <i>Collaborate on an art installation with Pr. Benjamin McKelahan and spend time in prayer.</i>	Mattituck Room
Sent: Coffee Hour with Wartburg <i>Learn more about this partner organization dedicated to health care in Mount Vernon, NY.</i>	Grand Ballroom Foyer
Breakfast on your own <i>Grab and Go breakfast available at 6:00 am. Basil Bistro opens at 6:30 am.</i>	
Seeds of Hope <i>Engage with Lutheran Schools Association to share successes and challenges facing our schools.</i>	Hecksher Room
Meet the Candidates <i>Meet the candidates on the Common Ballot and take time to complete your election worksheet.</i>	Banfi Room
Supporting Financial Well-Being <i>Portico strives to empower members to live well for life -- Learn to make informed financial decisions.</i>	Belmont Room
Sent: Health and Wellness Activities <i>Use the Hilton's facilities, walk the grounds, or engage in mutual conversation and consolation.</i>	

Plenary Session II

9:30am	Call to Order , Bishop Robert A. Rimbo	Grand Ballroom
9:32am	Prayer , Pr. Justin Lathrop and Dcn. Patty Avila	
9:34am	Hymn , <i>Spirit of Gentleness</i> , page A-10	
9:37am	Sent Moment: Wartburg , Mr. David J. Gentner	
9:45am	Strategic Plan presentation , Strategic Plan Steering Committee	
10:45am	Registration and Attendance , Ms. Minerva Melendez	
10:47am	Voting Device -- Wake Up and Test	
10:48am	Prayer , Mr. Carlos Peña	
10:50am	2nd Ballot for Bishop , Mr. Carlos Peña	
10:55am	Synod Council and Committee Elections , Ms. Christine Connell, Diaconal Minister & Pr. Jennifer Richards	
11:15am	Reference and Counsel I , Pr. Jeanne Warfield	
11:35am	Sent Moment: Wagner College , Dr. Richard Guarasci	
11:45am	Claimed: Interfaith/Ecumenical Guests , Rabbi Potaznik	
11:55am	Report of 2nd Ballot for Bishop , Mr. Carlos Peña	
11:57am	Announcements , Pr. Paul Johnsen	
11:58am	Prayer , Pr. Justin Lathrop and Dcn. Patty Avila	
12:00pm	Lunch <i>As we share a meal, we will pray for the work of missionaries around the world.</i>	Savoy

Saturday, May 31, 2014

8:00am	Claimed, Gathered and Sent: Morning Prayer	Grand Ballroom
8:30am	Registration and Check-In <i>Check in and receive all your materials. Please note that there is no on-site registration for voting members and no canceling or adding meal plans.</i>	Melville Room

Be sure to note when the registration desk is open on page A-7.

Claimed Gathered, and Sent: Display Tables Open **Grand Ballroom Foyer**
Visit with almost 40 different committees and organizations hosting display tables.

Gathered Innovative Ministries: Chapel Installation **Mattituck Room**
Collaborate on an art installation with Pr. Benjamin McKelahan and spend time in prayer.

Budget Breakfast **Savoy**
Learn and ask questions about our proposed budget. (Bring your copy from your packet.)

Breakfast on your own
Grab and Go breakfast available at 6:00 am. Basil Bistro opens at 6:30 am.

Funded for Mission **Heckscher Room**
Discuss best practices and ideas surrounding fundraising and stewardship in your congregation.

Building Communities of Faith **Banfi Room**
Discover how The diakonia Program transforms lives and helps leaders to grow in service.

Super Storm Sandy: Response, Relief and Recovery **Belmont Room**
Learn about ongoing relief and recovery efforts and insights into disaster plans.

Sent: Health and Wellness Activities
Use the Hilton's facilities, walk the grounds, or engage in mutual conversation and consolation.

9:30am **Call to Order**, Bishop Robert A. Rimbo **Grand Ballroom**

Prayer, Pr. Justin Lathrop and Dcn. Patty Avila

Sent Moment: Mission Investment Fund, Mr. Gerry Lauro

Hymn, *Christ has made a Sure Foundation*, page A-14

Questions of Nominees for Bishop, Mr. Carlos Peña

Top three nominees plus ties will answer questions previously submitted.

Registration and Attendance, Ms. Minerva Melendez

Prayer, Mr. Carlos Peña

4th Ballot for Bishop, Mr. Carlos Peña

Break

Claimed Commitment: Practice Discipleship Initiative, Dcn. Patty Avila

Synod Council and Committee Elections,

Ms. Christine Connell, Diaconal Minister & Pr. Jennifer Richards

Report of 4th Ballot, Mr. Carlos Peña

Prayer, Mr. Carlos Peña

5th Ballot for Bishop, Mr. Carlos Peña

Heart of Ministry Award Presentation, Dcn. Charlie Germain

This award honors a congregation with outstanding Children, Youth, and Family Ministries.

Sent Health and Advocacy Moment: Malaria Campaign, Pr. Elise Brown

Report of the 5th Ballot for Bishop, Mr. Carlos Peña

Announcements, Pr. Paul Johnsen

Prayer, Pr. Justin Lathrop and Dcn. Patty Avila

12:00pm **Lunch** **Savoy**

As we share a meal, we will pray for the work in 13 countries by the Malaria Campaign.

1:00pm **Claimed, Gathered and Sent: Eucharist** **Grand Ballroom**

Bishop Robert A. Rimbo, presiding and preaching

2:00pm

Call to Order, Bishop Robert A. Rimbo

Grand Ballroom

Registration and Attendance, Ms. Minerva Melendez

Sent Moment: Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education (NYC), Pr. John Flack

Brief Remarks by Bishop-Elect

Adoption of Revised 2014/Proposed 2015 Budgets, Mr. Frank Suttell

Sent Moment: World Hunger Committee, Dcn. Karen Nurmi

Reference and Counsel II, Pr. Jeanne Warfield

Announcements, Pr. Paul Johnsen

Closing of the Assembly, Bishop Robert A. Rimbo

Adoption of Rules of Procedure

Prior to the vote on the Rules of Procedure, The Rev. James Krauser moved to include an additional rule to allow Voting Members not registered in advance of the Assembly to register on site, be credentialed as Voting Members and be seated as space permits.

This motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 281 in favor, with 94 opposed.

The Rules of Procedure were then adopted.

Keynote Presentation 1

The Rev. Dr. Lisa Dahill, Associate Professor of Worship and Christian Spirituality at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH, gave her first keynote presentation, “We Believe in the Holy Spirit.”

Introduction of Synod Officers and Synod Council

Bishop Rimbo introduced the officers and council of the Synod: Ms. Maria Del Toro (Vice President), The Rev. William Baum (Executive Committee), The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite, Diaconal Minister Christine Connell, The Rev. Khader El-Yateem, Deacon Charles Germain, Ms. Hazel Goldstein, Ms. Barbara Hansen, Mr. Eugene Hiidel, The Rev. Brenda Irving (Executive Committee), Ms. Barbara Johnson (Executive Committee), Ms. Savanah Lochansingh, Dr. Carlos Lopez, Deacon John Malone, Ms. Minerva Melendez, The Rev. Paul Milholland, The Rev. Craig Miller, Deacon John Prosen, Mr. Brian Reardon, The Rev. Kit Robison, Ms. Terra Rowe, The Rev. Robert Schoepflin (Secretary), Mr. Frank Suttell (Treasurer), Ms. Abby Triebel, Mr. Christopher Vergara, and Ms. Karen Woolley.

The Assembly thanked council members and officers for their service by applause.

Vice President’s Report

Vice President Del Toro presented her report.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2014

MARIA DEL TORO

BUENAS TARDES!

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME THAT I

HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF PRESENTING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THIS ASSEMBLY. WHAT INCREDIBLE FOUR YEARS – FOR THE SYNOD AND FOR ME PERSONALLY. THANK YOU FOR HAVING GIVEN ME THE PRIVILEGE EVEN THOUGH NO ONE TOLD ME IT WOULD BE A FULL TIME JOB AND THAT THE PAY WAS LOUSY.

BUT SERIOUSLY, THESE PAST FOUR YEARS HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMATIONAL FOR ME, FOR THE SYNOD COUNCIL AND FOR THE ENTIRE SYNOD. WE THOUGHT WE WERE GOING ONE WAY AND GOD PRODDED US TO GO IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

FOUR YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS APPROACHED ABOUT BEING NOMINATED FOR VICE PRESIDENT, I THOUGHT ABOUT IT FOR SOME TIME. I WAS ABOUT TO RETIRE FROM THE YMCA AT THE END OF THE YEAR, AND NEITHER MY HUSBAND NOR I WANTED ME TO BE SO BUSY.

SO I COMPROMISED, I PROMISED MY HUSBAND THAT I WOULD ONLY SERVE FOR FOUR YEARS AND WORK WITH THE BISHOP UNTIL THE END OF HIS TERM IN 2014. BUT SO MUCH FOR THE BEST LAID PLANS. HERE I AM AGAIN.

FOUR YEARS AGO NONE OF US COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT THE SPIRIT WAS ORCHESTRATING A VISION FOR OUR SYNOD THAT WOULD GRAB THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR SYNOD AND PUT US ON THE PATH OF RENEWAL AND REVITALIZATION, INVITING US INTO THE CHALLENGING AND JOY FILLED WORK THAT CULMINATED IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN “FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.” AND IN THE PROCESS, AN INCREDIBLE TEAM OF LEADERS, BOTH CLERGY AND LAY, HAS BEEN ASSEMBLED TO CREATE THE PLAN AND FINALLY TO BEGIN ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

THE ACTIONS OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL THIS PAST YEAR HAVE BEEN THE CULMINATION OF FOUR YEARS OF MUCH PRAYER, DISCERNMENT AND PLAIN HARD WORK. THE SYNOD COUNCIL WE HAVE TODAY IS VERY DIFFERENT THAN WHAT IT WAS FOUR YEARS AGO. THE COUNCIL HAS DEVELOPED A CULTURE OF TEAM WORK, CONSENSUS AND FAITHFULNESS AND COMMITMENT TO THE WORK OF OUR SYNOD. ITS ACTIONS ARE THE RESULT OF LONG DELIBERATION AND PRAYER. OUR STRATEGIC PLAN WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO BE BOLD AND COURAGEOUS AND ANSWER THE CALL FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.

ALL OF US HERE TODAY ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF THEIR HARD WORK. PLEASE JOIN ME IN THANKING THEM. (*ASK THEM TO STAND UP AGAIN*)

IN YOUR PACKETS IS A FULL REPORT OF THE SYNCOD COUNCIL ACTIONS DURING THIS PAST YEAR. I WILL NOT GO THROUGH THEM ALL BUT WILL HIGHLIGHT THE ACTIONS TAKEN AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN IS A BOLD PLAN BUT UNLESS IT IS IMPLEMENTED, IT MIGHT AS WELL JUST SIT ON A SHELF. WELL THIS IS NOT WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH OUR PLAN. WE ARE IMPLEMENTING IT AND THE ACTIONS APPROVED BY OUR SYNOD COUNCIL THIS PAST YEAR WILL HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOU AND YOUR CONGREGATIONS.

SOME OF YOU MAY BE ASKING, “WHY DID IT TAKE TWO YEARS TO START THE IMPLEMENTATION? WHY THIS YEAR?” WELL, AS I HAVE OFTEN SAID, OUR PLAN IS A TEN YEAR OR EVEN 20 YEAR COMMITMENT THAT SEEKS TO ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHAT DOES GOD WANT OUR SYNOD TO DO NOW TO REACH FUTURE GENERATIONS IN THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK AREA WITH THE LIFE-CHANGING GOSPEL?

AND SO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PLAN MUST BE PUT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LAST THREE YEARS.

AT THE REQUEST OF THIS SYNSOD ASSEMBLY, THREE YEARS AGO THE SYNOD COUNCIL DEVELOPED A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR OUR SYNOD WHICH WAS OVERWHELMINGLY ADOPTED BY THIS ASSEMBLY. DURING THE SECOND YEAR, THE COUNCIL DEVELOPED THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION. THAT IS, WE SET UP THE COMMITTEES, APPOINTED THEIR CHAIRS, RECRUITED VOLUNTEERS AND CHARGED THEM WITH COMING UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WOULD ENABLE US, THROUGH OUR ACTIONS, TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO OUR CLERGY AND CONGREGATIONS SO THAT TOGETHER WE COULD BRING THE GOOD NEWS THAT **“MARKED BY THE CROSS OF CHRIST FOREVER, WE ARE CLAIMED, GATHERED AND SENT FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD.”**

(MARCADOS CON LA CRUZ DE CRISTO PARA SIEMPRE, RESPONDEMOS AL LLAMADO Y, REUNIDOS, SOMOS ENVIADOS PARA OBRAR POR EL BIENESTAR DEL MUNDO)

OUR PLAN’S IMPLEMENTATION REQUIRED A SHIFT OF GEARS FOR EVERYONE IN OUR SYNOD, INCLUDING THE SYNOD STAFF AND COUNCIL. ALL DECISIONS MADE ABOUT ANY NEW PROGRAMING, HOW TO HELP CONGREGATIONS IN DISTRESS, CHURCH REPURPOSING, OR MERGERS WOULD BE MADE ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR STRATEGIC PLAN. LIKEWISE, IT WOULD BE HOW WE WOULD MAKE DECISIONS ON HOW TO INVEST OUR RESOURCES IN NEW PROGRAMS OR MINISTRIES.

BUT WE WOULD HAVE TO ENSURE THAT ALL OUR RESOURCES ARE USED EFFECTIVELY AND THAT WE ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE.

THE SYNOD COUNCIL REALIZED EARLY THAT IF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR STRATEGIC PLAN WAS TO SUCCEED, WE NEEDED TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO DO THAT. WE NEEDED TO INVEST UP FRONT IN ORDER TO SAVE

LATER.

EVEN THOUGH MORE THAN 50 SISTERS AND BROTHERS, CLERGY AND STAFF CONTINUE TO WORK ON THE PLAN, WE NEEDED PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT EXPERTISE TO ASSIST US IN OUR DECISION-MAKING.

IN KEEPING WITH OUR GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE, SYNOD COUNCIL MAKES POLICY BUT IT IS THE BISHOP AND HIS OFFICE THAT IMPLEMENT IT. FOR THAT REASON, PASTOR MARC HERBST WAS CALLED AS ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN.

IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE GATHERED STRATEGY COMMITTEE, WE SECURED THE SERVICES OF EXPERTS ON PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND REAL ESTATE TO HELP CONGREGATIONS ANALYZE THEIR PRESENCE IN COMMUNITIES AND HELP US DECIDE THE BEST WAY TO FULFILL THEIR MISSION THERE.

WE SECURED THE SERVICES OF EXPERTS IN MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS TO HELP US DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS EFFORT FOR OUR SYNOD THAT WOULD INCLUDE HELPING THE CONGREGATIONS ON THEIR WEB SITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA EFFORTS.

WE APPOINTED A PASTORAL CARE TEAM TO WORK WITH CONGREGATIONS AS THEY DISCERN GOD'S WILL FOR THEM.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN IS AT ITS MOST BASIC, A PLAN FOR HELPING STRUGGLING CONGREGATIONS, ENHANCING MINISTRIES AND MAKING GOOD DECISIONS ABOUT ALL OUR RECOURSES. IT IS A PLAN TO ASSIST, CLERGY, CONGREGATIONS AND LAY LEADERS IN FULFILING OUR MISSION OF BRINGING GOD'S LOVE TO THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITIES. THAT IS, TO DO MINISTRY. YOU ARE GOD'S HANDS IN YOUR CHURCHES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN IS INVESTING OUR RESOURCES WISELY TO ASSIST YOU IN THAT MISSION.

LET ME GIVE YOU A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL TO ASSIST YOU.

MANY OF OUR CHURCHES ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF REPAIRS AND DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES. THE SYNOD WILL INVEST \$1M OVER FIVE YEARS TO HELP CONGREGATIONS MAKE UPGRADES TO THEIR PROPERTIES. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR A CHALLENGE GRANT TO GIVE YOU UP TO \$2 FOR EVERY \$1 YOUR CONGREGATION RAISES.

WE ALREADY HAVE DONE THAT WITH FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN POUGHKEEPSIE. WE PROVIDED THEM WITH \$33,000 OR TWO THIRDS OF THE COST, FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THEIR ROOF. THE CONGREGATION RAISED THE OTHER PORTION OF THE COSTS AND THEY NOW HAVE A NEW ROOF.

WELL-TRAINED LEADERS ARE CRITICAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR STRATEGIC

PLAN. OFTEN CONGREGATIONS CANNOT PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES FOR CONFERENCES OR OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN NEW SKILLS. WE HAVE CREATED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND OF \$50,000 A YEAR FOR GRANTS FOR CLERY AND LAY LEADERSTO SHARPEN THEIR SKILLS AND OR DEVELOP NEW ONES.

OUR WORLD IS RAPIDLY CHANGING. WE NEED TO FIND NEW AND INNOVATIVE WAYS OF BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S LOVE. WE NEED NEW MINISTRIES THAT SPEAK TO NEW GENERATIONS. AND WE NEED TO BE WILLING TO INVEST IN NEW IDEAS. NOT ALL WILL SUCCEED AND THAT IS FINE. BUT SOME WILL AND WE WILL ALL BENEFIT FOR IT. SO THE SYNOD HAS INVESTED \$1M OVER 5 YEARS IN THE SOWER'S PROJECT, OR 'SEED GRANTS" OF \$5,000 TO \$10,000 FOR PROMISING NEW MINISTRIES.

DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR WEBSITE AND LEARN NEW MEDIA STRATEGIES TO HELP YOU USE THE NEW COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES? WELL THE SYNOD HAS ALREAY BEGUN TO HELP. OUR COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT HAS ALREADY HELD THREE MEDIA WORKSHOPS AND PLANS ON DOING MORE. YOU WILL ALSO LATER LEARN HOW YOU CAN IMPROVE YOUR WEBSITE.

YOU HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE IMPACT OUR STRATEGIC PLAN HAS HAD ON ALL OF US. DO YOU WANT TO DO THE SAME FOR YOUR OWN CONGREGATION? WELL IF YOU DO, THEN THE SYNOD WILL ASSSIST YOU BY SUPPLYING YOU WITH GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A PLAN THAT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSES THE ISSUES OF YOUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY.

ALL OF THE INITIATIAVES I JUST TALKED ABOUT ARE IN OUR 10-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN AND THE BUDGET YOU WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE ON SATURDAY. ONCE YOU APPROVE THE BUDGET ON SATURDAY, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GO ON TO THE SYNOD WEBSITE AND APPLY FOR THESE GRANTS. FOR CLARITY LET ME REPEAT MYSELF. APPROVING THE BUDGET ON SATURDAY THAT HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY RELEASES THESE RESOURCES FOR YOUR CONGREGATION. THINK OF IT AS THROWING THE SWITCH TO PROVIDE THE POWER YOU NEED TO BETTER SHARE THE GOSPEL IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN IS NOT ABOUT MAKING A LIST OF CHURCHES THAT HAVE COMPLETED THEIR MINISTRY. IT IS ABOUT HOW WE INVEST OUR RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE SO THAT WE CAN BE A VIBRANT CHURCH THAT BRINGS GOD'S LOVE TO THE PEOPLE IN THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD IN NEW AND CREATIVE WAYS.

IS YOUR CONFERENCE WILLING TO STOP AND LOOK AROUND AND WONDER HOW YOU CAN BEST SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY? HOW CAN YOU BEST USE YOUR RESOURCES? CAN YOU ASSSIST NY CITY IN IT'S GOAL HAVE BRINGING 200,000 NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS? ARE YOU WILLING TO MERGE AND USE

THE RESOURCES TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY AND BRING THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S LOVE? DO YOU WANT TO CONSIDER NEW WAYS OF BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

IF YOU ARE, THEN THE SYNOD WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE SERVICES OF EXPERTS TO HELP YOU AND A PASTORAL TEAM TO WALK WITH YOU IN YOUR PROCESS OF DISCERNMENT. AND YOU CAN ACCESS THESE RESOURCES AT NO COST TO YOU. SEVERAL CONFERENCES ARE ALREADY AVAILING THEMSELVES OF THIS SERVICE.

IS YOUR CONGREGATION IN DISTRESS? ARE YOU HAVING DIFFICULTIES CONVENING A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OR CALLING A PASTOR, EVEN PARTTIME? ARE THERE ENOUGH LEADERS TO ELECT A COUNCIL? WHAT NEXT? ARE THESE SIGNS THAT YOUR CHURCH MAY HAVE COMPLETED ITS MINISTRY?

CAN WE FIND NEW WAYS OF CONTINUING YOUR PRESENCE IN THAT COMMUNITY? FOR EXAMPLE, EVEN THOUGH THE SAINT THOMAS COUNCIL VOTED TO CLOSE THEIR CHURCH IN THE BRONX, THE SYNOD DECIDED TO INVEST IN SAINT THOMAS HOUSE AND MAINTAIN A PRESENCE ON THE GRAND CONCOURSE.

OTHER ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL INCLUDE AFFIRMING THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS OF OUR CHURCH OUTLINING SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS OF LEADERS RELATED TO MISSION SUPPORT, RECORD-KEEPING AND ANNUAL REPORTING.

TOMORROW MORNING AT 9:30 YOU WILL HEAR IN MORE DETAIL FROM OUR CLAIM, GATHERED AND SENT STRATEGY COMMITTEES ON THE IMPACT THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR STRATEGIC PLAN WILL HAVE ON YOU AND YOUR CONGREGATIONS.

AND YOU WILL ALSO HEAR ABOUT OTHER INITIATIVES THAT WILL HELP YOU AND YOUR CONGREGATIONS SAVE TIME AND MONEY BY OFFERING CONGREGATIONS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE ON HEATING, INSURANCE AND PAYROLL PROCESSES.

BUT I DO WANT TO EMPHASIZE ONE IMPORTANT THING. OUR STRATEGIC PLAN IS BASICALLY ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. WE HAVE BEEN MARKED BY THE CROSS OF CHRIST FOREVER, CLAIMED, GATHERED AND SENT FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD. IT IS ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP.

IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT THE FIRST RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR STRATEGIC PLAN THIS PAST YEAR WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE CLAIMED STRATEGY COMMITTEE. IT CALLS FOR THE SYNOD TO JOIN IN A FIVE-YEAR INITIATIVE THAT WOULD HELP US ALL GROW DEEPER IN FAITH THROUGH JOYFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GOSPEL IN A LUTHERAN WAY.

THIS FIVE-YEAR INITIATIVE AND IT WILL BE LAUNCHED AS A DAY OF PRAYER

ON THE VIGIL OF PENTECOST, NEXT WEEK ON JUNE 7. WE HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU WILL PARTICIPATE AND REJOYCE IN PRAYER. IT IS HOW WE GROW IN FAITH.

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN HAS ENERGIZED OUR SYNOD AND PUSHED US TO THINK OUT OF THE BOX, TO BE BOLD AND CREATIVE WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR FAITH. . THE SYNOD COUNCIL HAS TAKEN THIS CHALLENGE **FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.**

LET ME SHARE WITH YOU AN EXAMPLE OF THIS BOLDNESS. AT THE SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING THIS PAST FEBRUARY WE ADOPTED THE FIRST INITIATIVES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN THAT I HAVE DISCUSSED AND THAT YOU WILL HEAR ABOUT IN MORE DETAIL TOMORROW. IT WAS A WATERSHED MOMENT. I WAS CONCERNED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD WANT MORE TIME TO DELIBERATE AND EXPLAINED THAT WE WOULD DISCUSS THE RECOMMENDED INITIATIVES BUT THAT WE COULD DEFER ACTION UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING IF THE MEMBERS FELT THEY NEEDED MORE TIME FOR DELIBERATION.

AFTER A LONG DELIBERATION A MEMBER SPOKE UP AND SAID, “WE NEED TO ACT NOW, THIS IS GOOD, THIS IS WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO.” I THEN WENT AROUND THE TABLE AND ASKED EVERY ONE TO SPEAK. IF WE WERE GOING TO VOTE ON THE INTITIAVES BEFORE US, WE ALL NEEDED TO HAVE OWNERSHIP. I WENT AROUND THE TABLE AND ASKED ANYONE WHO HAD NOT SPOKEN TO DO SO. ALL LISTENED QUIETLY AS MEMBER AFTER MEMBER SPOKE. I THEN ASKED FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE (SACRED SILENCE) AND THEN BISHOP RIMBO OFFERED A PRAYER. THEN WE VOTED. NOT ONE SINGLE MEMBER VOTED AGAINST THE INITIATIVES.

THE INITIATIVES APPROVED BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL THAT DAY PAVED THE WAY FOR **THE FIRST STEPS, ONLY THE FIRST STEPS**, IN THE BEGINNING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN. LET ME EMPHASIZE, WITH THE SPIRIT’S GUIDANCE WE HAVE STARTED THE IMPLEMENTATION BUT IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING AND MUCH, MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO OR CLERGY AND CONGREGATIONS SO THAT TOGETHER WE CAN BRING THE GOOD NEWS THAT **“MARKED BY THE CROSS OF CHRIST FOREVER, WE ARE CLAIMED, GATHERED AND SENT FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD.”**

FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, AS VICE PRESIDENT, I HAVE PROVIDED LEADERSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN AS ITS CHAIR. BUT I AM CONCERNED THAT IT IS NOW AT A FRAGILE PHASE IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND THAT IS WHY I DECIDED TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION AS VICE PRESIDENT.

THIS ASSEMBLY HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR SYNOD’S STRATEGIC PLAN. IT HAS BEEN A JOURNEY THAT WE HAVE ALL TAKEN TOGETHER AND LIKE ESTHER, WE CAN REAFFIRM THAT WE HAVE BEEN

CALLED “**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.**”

THANK YOU TO THE SYNOD COUNCIL, THE CHAIRS OF THE CLAIMED, GATHERED, AND SENT AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES. THANK YOU TO THE SYNOD STAFF, WHO HAVE BEEN INTEGRAL MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM. AND SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU, BISHOP RIMBO. YOU HAVE BEEN THE SHEPHERD OF OUR SYNOD’S PLAN. YOUR LEADERSHIP HAS MADE OUR STRATEGIC PLAN POSSIBLE. YOU HAVE NEVER TOLD US WHAT TO DO BUT INSTEAD ASKED US TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX. YOUR TRUST MADE US BOLD AND COURAGEOUS AS THE ACTIONS OF SYNOD COUNCIL THIS PAST YEAR ATTEST. THANK YOU.

AND TO ALL YOU HERE TODAY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS, THANK YOU FOR THE SERVICE YOU PROVIDE IN YOUR COMMUNITIES, FOR BEING A BEACON IN YOUR COMMUNITIES WITH THE LIFE-CHANGING GOSPEL. THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING THE CALL, **FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.**

MUCHAS GRACIAS.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Minerva Melendez gave corrected registration figures as of 2:00pm.

Rostered Leaders	182
Lay Voting Members	238
Total Voting members	<u>420</u>
Visitors	<u>65</u>
Total Attendance	485

Election of Bishop – First Ballot

Bishop Rimbo invited ELCA Vice President, Mr. Carlos Pena, to podium for the first ballot for the election of bishop.

Mr. Pena spoke about the office of Bishop and then led the Assembly in prayer.

After explaining the election process and the ecclesiastical ballot, Mr. Pena called for a period of silence and then invited Ms. Savannah Lochensingh of the Synod Council to pray.

Ballots were distributed, marked, and collected, whereupon Mr. Pena declared the first ballot closed.

The Assembly then joined in singing “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading.”

Report of Nominations and Election Committees

Bishop Rimbo invited Diaconal Minister Christine Connell and The Rev. Jennifer Richards to the podium and they gave the report of the nominations and elections committees, explained the common ballot, and indicated that nominations from the floor are due by 6:00pm.

Sent Moment – The Healing Center

Bishop Rimbo invited Ms. Antonia Clemente to address the Assembly on the ministry of the Healing Center which assists and serves families affected by violence and provides counseling and educational programs that promote safe and healthy lives.

Report of the Treasurer

Bishop Rimbo invited Mr. Frank Suttell, Synod Treasurer, to give his report to the Assembly.

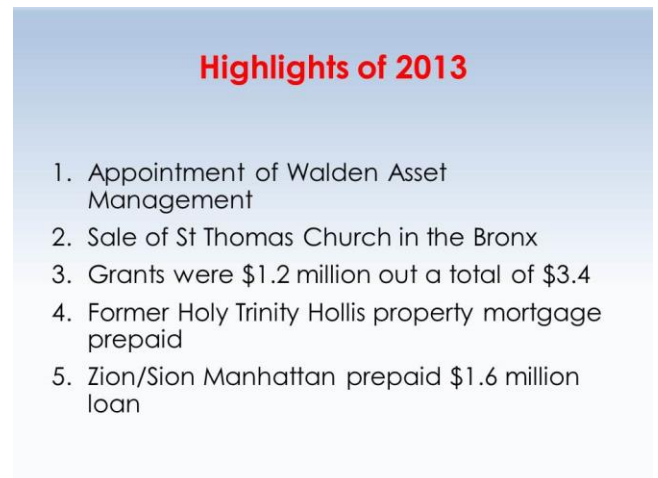
The Treasurer's report presents five topics. There will be opportunity to discuss these topics and others at the budget breakfast Saturday morning and the full assembly will debate the budget later that day.

The first topic is a brief list of financial highlights for 2013. The second topic is the purpose and the results of the audit by Tait\Weller. The third topic is a review of the current financial condition of the Synod compared to the last several years. The fourth topic is the adjusted budget for this year and the proposed budget for next year. The final topic will be the ten-year financial plan. Ed Wagner, Chair of the Financial Management Committee, will present these last two topics which are the product of extensive work by that Committee.

2013 was an extremely busy year for the Synod. In addition to the strategic plan which has been the focus, a number of other significant accomplishments took place. I will mention a few.

We appointed Walden Asset Management, a premier socially responsible investment management firm, as our investment manager. We realized that our past investment manager was not flexible enough to aid us through the financial needs of the strategic plan. A representative of Walden will be at the budget breakfast on Saturday.

A portion of the proceeds of the sale of St Thomas Church in the Bronx was used to completely renovate its parish house which we did not sell. The parish house was a



large, stately home that had very much gone to seed. Now with the renovations complete St Thomas House is a wonderful facility for interns, guests and other Synod needs.

Direct grants to congregations, organizations and rostered leaders amounted to \$1.2 million, over one-third of the Synod budget.

The NYC Muslim Center, which had purchased the former Holy Trinity Hollis property in 2010 prepaid \$208,000 of their mortgage in November 2013 and paid off the full remaining balance of \$122,000 in March of this year.

Zion/Sion in Manhattan repaid their \$1.6 million loan from the synod when they sold their property. This transaction does not appear in the annual report because it occurred a few days in to the new year, but rest assured the money is in our bank.

Tait/Weller and Baker, our Independent Auditors, have completed their work and issued their opinion.

The purpose of an audit is to determine if our books as prepared and presented by management fairly present that our assets and liabilities are fully and accurately stated, and that the changes in our assets and the cash flows for the year are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

2013 Report of the Independent Auditors

- Synod management prepares the financial statements.
- Auditors determine if statements present fairly the financial position of the Synod.
- Auditors again issued a “clean” opinion.

Once again this year our auditors have given us a “clean” opinion. The auditors have attested that our books fairly present our financial condition. I do not get terribly excited about a clean opinion. In truth, a qualified opinion is rare and usually indicates major problems with the books and/or the entity presenting the books. What I do get excited about is an audit which keeps me and the audit committee fully informed and supports our management with up-to-date accounting principles. In this respect, the audit was a success.

A complete copy of the auditors’ report will be available at the budget breakfast on Saturday and may also be found on our website. I recommend your reading it. I understand that reading audit reports is an acquired taste but there is a wealth of information there if you have the time. Some of the footnotes are fairly routine but if you review them all you can learn a great deal about how we keep track of our operations.

How are we doing? The financial strength of the Synod is determined by what we own and how well we manage those assets and how well we control our spending. In this discussion I will cover (1) our real property assets which are mostly churches whose congregations have ended their mission; (2) our monetary assets which are cash and near cash assets; (3) our recent trend in expense budgets; (4) and our recent trend in congregational mission support.

As you can see, until this year there has been a steady drop in our real property assets. The change in 2013 was mostly due to the closing of Zion Lutheran Church Brooklyn and Reformation Lutheran Brooklyn.

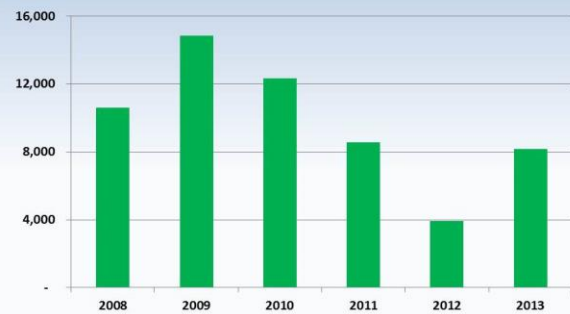
Generally it is a good sign when real property assets decrease. We receive no income while holding such assets and in fact have to expend resources for maintaining these assets. Our current policy is to repurpose or move the properties as quickly as possible.

Monetary assets are cash, receivables and investments. These assets are represented by the total column on the chart. The green bottom portion of the column is the amount that is invested with our advisors who are currently Walden Asset Management. The purple top portion of the column represents the monetary assets not invested in the fund. You should not assume that these purple assets represent only non-revenue producing assets just because they are not in the Walden fund. A significant portion of those assets are in interest bearing mortgages.

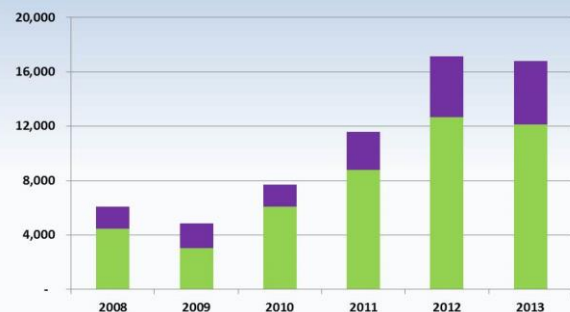
The Financial Condition of the Synod

1. Real Property Assets
2. Monetary Assets
3. Expense Budget History
4. Congregational Mission Support

Real Property (in \$000)

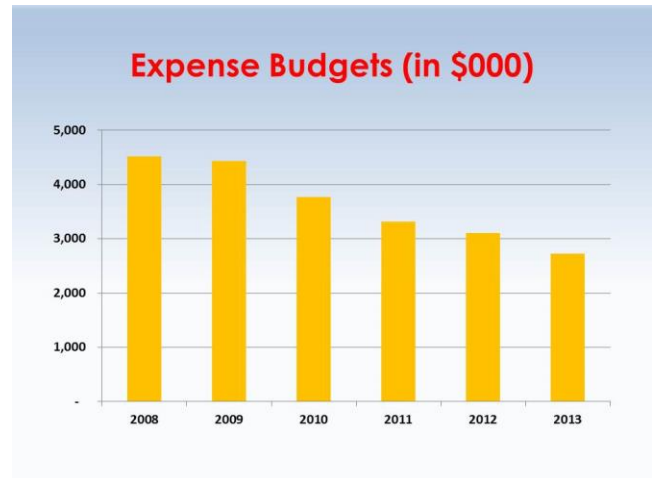


Monetary Assets (in \$000)

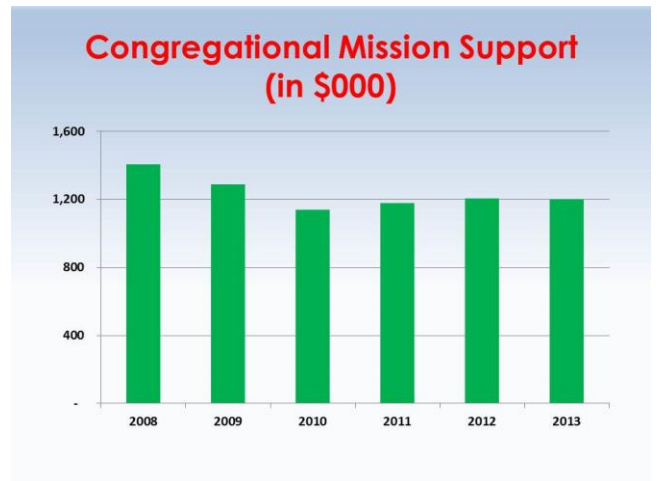


As you can see, while essentially flat from last year, our monetary assets have been growing very nicely over the last few years. Some of this growth is natural as we sell down our vacant properties and invest the proceeds. Some of this growth is due to a recovering stock market. And the past years have benefitted greatly from the expense reduction program.

As you can see, our budgeted expenses have shown a steady drop in the last few years, from \$4.5 million in 2009 to just under \$3 million in 2013. These drops have resulted from the staff making some very difficult decisions on personnel and facilities and then carrying through on those decisions. However, we all agree that more hard decisions and tight budgeting lie ahead if the Synod is to attain solid sustainability. We believe that the well thought out strategic plan will substantially strengthen the Synod.



In 2013 contributions were slightly below those of 2012 and approximately \$20 thousand below budget



We all agree that we would like to increase congregational contributions to the historic highs and beyond. We believe the strategic plan will help accomplish this goal in two ways. First by developing stronger congregations which will be in a better position to support the Synod. Second by supplying causes that are worthy of charitable support from our congregations.

This portion concludes the update on the recent and current financial situation. Ed Wagner will continue with a discussion of the budgets for 2014 and 2015 and the ten year plan.

Bishop Rimbo thanked Mr. Suttell for his report, and then invited him and Mr. Ed Wagner, Chair of the Financial Management Committee to present the Revised 2014 Budget and the Proposed 2015 Budget to the Assembly.

Presentation of Revised 2014 Budget and Proposed 2015 Budget

Mr. Suttell and Mr. Wagner presented the Revised 2014 Budget and the Proposed 2015 Budget to the Assembly. Voting on these budgets is scheduled for the fifth plenary session on Saturday afternoon.

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD				
Proposed Revised 2014 and Proposed 2015 Budgets				
Program	Component	2014 Adopted Budget	2014 Proposed Revised Budget	2015 Proposed Budget
PROGRAM BUDGET (Funds 1-6)				
REVENUE				
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONGREGATIONS				
	Undesignated Mission Support	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
	Total Contributions from Congregations	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
GRANTS, UNDESIGNATED GIFTS, & OTHER CONTRIB.				
	ELCA Grants (Congregational and Synodical Mission)	15,000	15,000	15,000
	Undesignated Gifts	25,000	100,000	50,000
	Sutter Memorial Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Total Grants & Other Contributions	41,000	118,000	68,000
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS				
	Metro New York Synod Fund	695,726	510,000	390,000
	Mission Redevelopment Fund - Partnership Grants	385,900	365,000	365,000
	Mission Redevelopment Fund - Strategic Plan Implementation	-	755,700	1,209,363
	Treasler Grants	-	5,000	5,000
	Salam Ministry Fund	-	51,000	51,000
	Wider Church Fund	-	200,000	200,000
	Tanzania Endowment Fund	-	48,000	65,000
	Transfers from Other Funds	148,500	7,500	7,500
	Total Transfers from Other Funds	1,230,126	1,842,200	2,292,863
OTHER INCOME				
	Investment Income	280,000	240,000	415,000
	Loan Interest	106,350	116,625	116,625
	Rental & Misc. Income	2,400	-	-
	Total Other Income	388,750	368,625	631,625
	TOTAL REVENUE AND FUND TRANSFERS	2,909,876	3,664,825	4,140,488
EXPENDITURES				
CLAIMED				
	Faith Formation			
	Staff *	124,293	105,538	108,342
	Total	124,293	105,538	108,342
	Family Ministries			
	Children, Youth & Family Ministries	3,500	3,500	3,500
	Staff *	3,384	3,176	3,259
	Total	6,884	6,676	6,759
	Communications			
	Website Maintenance/Social Media	4,000	7,500	7,500
	Publications - Lutheran New Yorker	9,500	9,000	9,000
	Staff *	29,315	31,720	32,511
	Total	42,815	48,220	49,011
	Strategic Plan Implementation			
	Strategic Support	7,000	10,000	10,000
	Strategic Initiatives	25,000	-	30,000
	Faith Formation Initiative	-	20,000	20,000
	Communications Enhancement Programs	-	48,000	50,000
	Website Grants to Congregations	-	20,000	20,000
	Staff *	-	12,650	12,936
	Total	32,000	110,650	142,936
	Total Claimed	206,992	271,084	307,048

*Staff cost includes salaries, benefits, travel, hospitality and continuing education. These costs are allocated to the various program areas, based on the amount of time staff spends in each area.

Program	Component	2014 Adopted Budget	2014 Proposed Revised Budget	2015 Proposed Budget
GATHERED				
Mission Resources				
	Stewardship & Mission Support Table	7,500	7,500	7,500
	Staff *	35,134	32,041	32,796
	Total	42,634	39,541	40,296
Congregational Grants				
	Partnership Grants	385,900	365,000	365,000
	Salam Ministry Fund Grant	-	51,000	51,000
	Staff *	51,194	47,027	48,187
	Total	437,094	463,027	464,187
Congregational Consultations				
	Rostered Leaders Support	1,250	-	-
	Congregation Consultations	1,500	1,500	1,500
	Staff *	354,413	249,482	256,921
	Total	357,163	250,982	258,421
Communications - Gathered				
	Staff *	22,481	25,675	26,305
	Total	22,481	25,675	26,305
Leadership Formation				
	Bishop's Retreat	9,000	9,000	9,000
	Candidacy Retreat	1,500	1,000	1,000
	Deans Retreat	5,000	3,500	3,500
	Staff Retreat	2,250	2,000	2,000
	Ministerium & Other Education Events	7,500	7,500	7,500
	Urban Leaders Institute	5,000	5,000	5,000
	Treasury Grants	-	5,000	5,000
	Candidacy Expenses	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Staff *	117,439	106,164	108,963
	Total	167,689	168,164	161,963
Education/Internship Grants				
	Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education Grant	43,370	43,370	43,370
	Lutheran Schools Association - Dues	9,800	15,525	15,525
	Student Christian Center at SUNY New Paltz Grant	13,000	13,000	13,000
	Philadelphia Seminary Grant	65,000	65,000	65,000
	Wagner College	-	25,000	25,000
	Horizon Internships	12,000	12,000	12,000
	Staff *	7,358	-	-
	Total	160,528	173,895	173,895
Strategic Plan Implementation				
	Strategic Support	45,000	45,000	45,000
	Pastoral Care	-	8,000	8,000
	Shared Ministry Initiative	-	10,000	12,000
	Innovative Ministries	-	50,000	250,000
	Leadership Development Grants to Congregations	-	20,000	50,000
	Capital Grants to Congregations	-	50,000	200,000
	Strategic Planning Grants to Congregations	-	40,000	40,000
	Risk Management Pilot	-	7,200	-
	Property Survey Pilot	-	200,000	200,000
	Congregational Financial Review Pilot	-	30,000	30,000
	Staff *	-	75,900	51,745
	Total	48,000	638,100	888,746
	Total Gathered	1,223,689	1,648,586	2,011,814

*Staff cost includes salaries, benefits, travel, hospitality and continuing education. These costs are allocated to the various program areas, based on the amount of time staff spends in each area.

Program	Component	2014 Adopted Budget	2014 Proposed Revised Budget	2015 Proposed Budget
SENT				
Companion Synods				
	Companion Synod - Tanzania (Teacher Salary)	20,000	28,000	50,000
	Companion Synod - Tanzania (Teacher Benefits/Travel)	10,000	20,000	15,000
	Travel & Hospitality (Tanzania)	7,500	7,500	7,500
	Companion Synod - Romania (Resident Pastor)	-	-	-
	Staff *	20,543	19,697	20,150
	Total	68,043	76,197	92,650
Committees/Commissions				
	Synod Committees/Commissions	7,500	7,500	7,500
	Staff *	15,387	15,630	16,000
	Total	23,887	23,130	23,600
Multicultural Ministries				
	Multicultural Ministries	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Staff *	44,470	42,571	43,558
	Total	64,470	62,671	63,658
Social Ministry Organizations				
	Wider Church Fund Grants	-	200,000	200,000
	Social Ministry Organizations (SMO) - Events	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Staff *	30,210	15,880	16,293
	Total	40,210	226,880	226,293
Communications - Sent				
	Staff *	22,957	26,261	26,905
	Total	22,957	26,261	26,905
ELCA Support				
	ELCA Mission Support	625,000	625,000	625,000
	Staff *	-	-	-
	Total	625,000	625,000	625,000
Strategic Plan Implementation				
	Strategic Support	7,000	10,000	10,000
	Strategic Initiatives	25,000	50,000	75,000
	Community Outreach Initiative	-	11,000	30,000
	Staff *	-	37,950	64,681
	Total	32,000	108,950	179,681
	Total Sent	868,688	1,138,889	1,227,686
SYNOD GOVERNANCE				
Synod Assembly				
	Synod Assembly	60,000	40,000	25,000
	Staff *	31,226	28,491	29,242
	Total	91,226	68,491	64,242
Synod Council				
	Synod Council	10,000	8,500	8,500
	Synod Council Committees	2,500	5,000	2,500
	Committee Expense (Worship/Deans/Archives)	7,500	-	-
	Archives	-	10,000	10,000
	Staff *	54,576	51,167	52,551
	Total	74,576	74,667	73,661
Synod Events				
	Region 7 Coordinating Council	7,500	7,500	7,500
	Worship Events & Ordinations	5,000	5,000	5,000
	Staff *	16,921	15,880	16,293
	Total	29,421	28,380	28,793
	Total Synod Governance	196,222	171,638	168,696

*Staff cost includes salaries, benefits, travel, hospitality and continuing education. These costs are allocated to the various program areas, based on the amount of time staff spends in each area.

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Program	Component	2014 Adopted Budget	2014 Proposed Revised Budget	2015 Proposed Budget
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION				
General Office Management				
	Telephone/Internet Access	15,000	12,500	12,500
	Professional Services - Technology	7,500	4,000	2,500
	Computers & Other Equipment	5,000	5,000	5,000
	Database Expense	15,000	20,000	20,000
	Office Supplies/Printing	6,500	6,500	5,000
	Postage & Shipping	9,000	9,000	9,000
	Other Expense	1,227	4,134	767
	Staff *	19,462	16,979	17,580
	Total	78,888	78,113	72,347
General Accounting				
	Payroll Service Fees	3,500	4,000	4,000
	Credit Card Fees	1,500	500	500
	Staff *	31,798	28,047	29,069
	Total	38,798	32,547	33,569
Facility				
	Rent & Facility Management	180,119	179,214	182,798
	Maintenance & Repairs	7,500	7,500	7,500
	Depreciation Expense	15,000	30,000	30,000
	Staff *	2,480	2,192	2,272
	Total	205,098	218,908	222,670
Audit/Legal				
	Professional Services - Audit	21,500	22,000	22,000
	Legal Fees	25,000	20,000	20,000
	Staff *	29,954	27,762	28,646
	Total	76,454	69,762	70,646
Insurance				
	Directors & Officers/Employment Practices Liability Insurance	6,500	12,825	13,500
	NYS Disability/Dishonesty Bond Insurance	2,000	1,500	1,500
	ELCA Shared Risk Assessment	1,650	1,650	1,650
	Workmen's Comp/State Unemployment Insurance	7,500	6,000	6,000
	Property & Liability Insurance	10,000	12,000	12,000
	Staff *	3,814	3,527	3,671
	Total	31,464	37,602	38,321
	Total Finance and Administration	428,604	438,830	437,464
	TOTAL EXPENSES - FUNDS 1-6	(2,909,876)	(3,654,825)	(4,140,488)
	TOTAL REVENUE AND FUND TRANSFERS - FUNDS 1-6	2,909,876	3,654,825	4,140,488
	NET INCOME (LOSS) - FUNDS 1-6	-	-	-
PROPERTIES OWNED/SYNOD ADMINISTRATION BUDGET (Fund 7)				
REVENUE				
	Synod Owned Properties - MRF (Budget Est Only)	200,000	500,000	200,000
	Synodical Admin Properties - MRF (Budget Est Only)	150,000	150,000	150,000
	TOTAL REVENUE AND FUND TRANSFERS	350,000	650,000	350,000
EXPENDITURES				
	Synod Administration/Owned Properties - TBD	147,300	478,431	174,292
	Synod Administration/Owned Properties - Staff*	202,700	171,569	175,708
	TOTAL EXPENSES	(350,000)	(650,000)	(350,000)
	TOTAL REVENUE AND FUND TRANSFERS	350,000	650,000	350,000
	NET INCOME (LOSS) - FUND 7	-	-	-
SUMMARY - ALL FUNDS				
	TOTAL EXPENSES - ALL FUNDS	(3,259,876)	(4,314,825)	(4,490,488)
	TOTAL REVENUE & FUNDS TRANSFERS - ALL FUNDS	3,259,876	4,314,825	4,490,488
	NET INCOME (LOSS) - ALL FUNDS	-	-	-

*Staff cost includes salaries, benefits, travel, hospitality and continuing education. These costs are allocated to the various program areas, based on the amount of time staff spends in each area.

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Report of the Bishop

Bishop Rimbo presented his report to the Assembly.

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.**

I want to begin this oral Report to the Assembly with my thanks for your service to this Synod and the entire Church. I am keenly aware that you are here because of your love for God and for the Church and I am grateful. The printed Bishop's Report to the Synod Assembly was at your place when you arrived, and I simply want to call your attention to parts of that Report and then add a few comments.

Central to our life as a Synod is our Strategic Plan which will be the focus of much attention these days. The extraordinary attendance at our spring Quadrant Meetings bears witness to the excitement surrounding this plan. I am grateful to all who have been involved in creating it, under the guidance of our Vice-President Maria Del Toro, our Consultant, Tom Massey, the more than fifty members of this Synod who have served on committees, and, of course, the Holy Spirit. I am convinced that the Spirit of God has been active in guiding our efforts.

The written Report serves as a look back at what we have done this past year.

It recognizes some of our partners in ministry, and I call your attention especially to Section B of the Bulletin of Reports which is available online. It calls to our minds other synods meeting during these days.

It refers to our Synod Staff, our Conference of Deans, and our Synod Council. In this oral Report I want to say particular words of thanks to Pastor Robert Schoepflin, Secretary of our Synod; Mr. Frank Suttell, Treasurer of our Synod; and, again, Ms. Maria Del Toro, Vice-President.

Reference is also made to synodically rostered Deacons who were set apart after the written Report had to go to print and calls attention to new Rostered Leaders listed in Section B.

The written Report to the Assembly concludes with a piece written in memory of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, a martyr of our own time. The memorial was written by the late Roman Catholic Bishop of Saginaw, Michigan, Kenneth Untener, and is entitled A Future Not Our Own.

It helps now and then to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of
saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession
brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives include everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing this. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

This future which is not our own is totally dependent on the grace of God. As I have repeatedly said during our remarkable strategic planning process, it's about God – God's love and grace seen in the life, death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and continually revealed to us in the power of the Holy Spirit. I hope that by now you have heard about our plans to engage in prayer together at Pentecost, the weekend of June 7-8. Resources for that are online and I know that conferences and congregations are making exciting plans to pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit for our life together.

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.**

Our life as the Metropolitan New York Synod is all about relationships. And the Claimed Committee of our Strategic Plan has offered a guideline for how we might live more fully from and into that life in the Spirit by focusing on our Lutheran Identity as proclaimed in the Means of Grace. The first of these annual themes is what Martin Luther in the Smalcald Articles called "Mutual Conversation and Consolation." I would like to point out how I see that being lived out already in our Synod and how I expect it will be lived out in the next year, because this Strategic Plan is all about relationships.

There is the amazing relationship of the Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess, three congregations working cooperatively, formed in many ways by extraordinary lay leaders and two retired pastors – LeRoy Ness and Dennis O'Rourke – and now served by a newly-ordained pastor, Will Starkweather. This is a great success story of how we can cooperate and work together.

There is the pending merger of Grace, Astoria and Augustana, Elmhurst, Queens, which will support Queens Lutheran School and strengthen ministry in these communities for years to come. Mary Leake serves as the principal of this school and Pastor Rosalind Brathwaite from Augustana will be serving together with Pastor James Klockau on a newly-configured staff as this merger comes to fruition.

There is the restorative justice in which our Synod has returned nearly half-a-million dollars to Leif Ericson School in Brooklyn, thereby placing that wonderful place of formation and education – which are, by the way, two different things – on a firm footing for the future under the remarkable leadership of Associate in Ministry Christine Hauge.

As you know, I hope, we were able to achieve our desired goal as a Synod with regard to the Portico Health Assessment. This was the result of persistent prodding work on the part of our Synod Staff. To all who participated: Congratulations! Because of your participation you and your congregation have benefitted and with the financial return the Synod will receive, we will be able to cover the cost of the annual Bishop's Retreat for all participants. Our leader for those days will be Dr. Gordon Lathrop who will guide our conversation around the theme of the Means of Grace and Mutual Conversation and Consolation. It promises to be a rich time together.

Relationship is what is at the heart of the Plan's Gathered Strategy Initiatives before this assembly:
Congregational Capital Improvement Challenge Grants

The Innovative Ministries Project – known as the Sower's Project

Leadership Development Grants to help fund continuing education and ongoing formation

The Western Nassau Pilot Project aiming toward shared ministry among congregations in that conference

The Bronx Pilot Project, helping to strengthen those congregations in their building use and their continuing witness

The Southwest Queens Pilot Project, encouraging strategic planning for mission in the future of that conference.

The Hudson Conference Pilot Project, engaging in risk assessment to determine whether congregations have adequate insurance at appropriate cost levels.

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.**

In the first 18 months of my term as your bishop I visited every church building and had one on one conversation with every rostered leader. It was a great time for me and I intend to reprise that visitation schedule should I be re-elected. My greatest hope is that I will see how the synod's Strategic Plan is being implemented in your place of ministry and how we might be able to help you with that.

One of the most challenging and, I would say, sinister issues facing the church and our Synod, is Racism. I will be appointing a committee to help us address that challenge, made up of representatives of the richly diverse communities that are this Synod. It is my hope that this committee will help us to strengthen the Strategy Enabler in our Plan which is entitled Unity and Diversity. As the plan declares and as our Synod Council has consistently practiced, we will “nurture racial, ethnic and cultural awareness and sensitivity in the hearts, minds, souls, and behavior of all of God's people in our Synod and synodical programs, policies and procedures.” It is time to move from talking about it – to doing

something about it. We need to work hard at every level, including all of our congregations, to address the racism which is always present – sometimes very visible, but most times below the surface – working to counteract God’s desire for a world and a church in which all are one.

Our Synod’s desire for unity now needs to be broadened as we work together with people of other faith communities. One of the great joys of this past year has been increasing work with our sisters and brothers in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, the Presbytery of New York, the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, the New York Board of Rabbis, and with leaders of the Islamic communities. It was my pleasure to be part of an interfaith panel hosted by NBC reflecting on the influence of Pope Frances at the time of the first anniversary of his election. I hope and pray that we will continue to foster relationships of tolerance and respect.

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
And kindle in us the fire of your love.**

The Sent Committee of the Strategic Plan has also identified five areas for attention: education, family, health, immigration, and employment, and I pray we will give energy to these in the next few months. I hope that in this next year we will reach the goal of our portion of the ELCA anti-Malaria campaign; we are doing well with that, and I am grateful, but we need to meet the challenge.

I am grateful that our ELCA Region 7, comprised of the Synods in this northeastern corner of our country and the non-geographic Slovak-Zion Synod, is working at providing seminary material and resources for Latino candidates and rostered leaders.

Relationship is also at the heart of the wonderful partnership we share with agencies and institutions represented in your Bulletin of Reports, at the display tables I hope you will visit, and in the greetings being brought to this Assembly. Lutheran Services New York Alliance is the group which regularly convenes to work at strengthening those bonds and encouraging one another in our social ministry. Two of the groups represented at the LSNYA table call for special attention from me in this Report today.

Our Synod Staff and the Gathered Strategy committee have been actively engaged in repurposing properties of churches that have closed. As one who actually left his childhood congregation and previous church body, I understand the sadness that accompanies such loss. But I am pleased to share with you the news that there is serious and thus-far successful conversation about repurposing two properties currently owned by the Synod.

We are very hopeful that the property of the former Reformation Lutheran Church on Barbey Street, Brooklyn, will be converted by Lutheran Social Services of New York to provide housing for foster children who are homeless because of immigration difficulties.

We are also very hopeful that the property of the former Zion Lutheran Church on 4th Avenue in Brooklyn will be redeveloped in partnership with Lutheran Health Care, Brooklyn, to provide a federally qualified health center, a dental clinic, three floors of affordable housing and an interfaith chapel on that site.

These are but two examples of how relationships with our ministry partners help us all to make a significant impact in the public square and, in fact, help to make Lutheran identity known.

I also believe that our place as an international synod cries out for attention to various issues. I think it is time for us to explore the continuing issues faced by Israelis and Palestinians; my heart is aching for the children of Nigeria; and the plight of Syrian orphans continues to beg for attention and care. I hope that we will work on the various issues surrounding these international concerns and, at the same time, continue to focus attention on our companion synods, the Northwest Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania.

I am also profoundly grateful for our partnership with two educational institutions in particular: Wagner College on Staten Island and The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. You will have opportunity at our banquet this evening to greet President Philip Krey and his spouse, Renee, as we mark the end of his fifteen-year tenure as President at Mount Airy. And tomorrow morning you will have the pleasure of hearing from President Richard Guarasci of Wagner College on Staten Island.

I am, again, delighted to welcome our friend, Carlos Pena, Vice-President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who represents our interdependent relationship with this amazing church. Strengthening those relationships is also important for our life together as they express the interdependent character of our church.

So much more could be said. I invite your attention to the material in the Bulletin of Reports, to all who will be with us these days as we gather in Assembly, to the leaders of our Synod who have done amazing work on behalf of the Reign of God, and to one another as we are, together, Claimed, Gathered, and Sent for such a time as this.

Thank you!

The Rev. Dr. Robert Alan Rimbo
Bishop

Report of the First Ballot for Bishop

Mr. Carlos Pena gave the results of the first ballot for bishop and declared the ballot invalid because 420 voting members were registered and 425 votes were cast. The first ballot will be taken again during the next plenary session on Friday morning.

Report of the ELCA

Mr. Carlos Pena presented the first part of his Churchwide report, which closed with a video message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

The Rev. James Krauser made a motion to challenge the decision of the chair that the first ballot for the election of a bishop was invalid. This motion was seconded and vote was taken. By a vote of 153 to 136 the ruling of the chair was sustained that the first ballot was invalid.

Bishop Rimbo invited The Rev. Paul Johnson to the podium for announcements, and then invited Chaplains Lathrop and Avila to close the plenary session with prayer, whereupon the Voting Members of the Assembly recessed for dinner and the evening's Revival Eucharist.

The voting members and guests of the Assembly gathered for Morning Prayer at 8:00 am.

The second plenary session was called to order by Bishop Rimbo at 9:35 am. He then introduced The Rev. Marc Herbst as the host for the session and invited Chaplains Lathrop and Avila to lead the Assembly in prayer.

The Assembly sang “Spirit of Gentleness” and then considered the revised agenda made necessary by invalidating the first ballot for bishop. The revised agenda was adopted.

Election of Bishop – First Ballot

Bishop Rimbo invited Mr. Carlos Pena to the podium to conduct the first ballot for bishop. Mr. Pena reviewed the work of the election committee and synod officers the night before to insure that there would be no problems with future ballots. He explained the revised procedure and requested that everyone who was not a voting member of the Assembly leave the room. Election officials then counted the persons remaining in the room.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Minerva Melendez gave updated registration figures.

Rostered Leaders	208
Lay Voting Members	276
Total Voting members	<u>484</u>
Visitors	<u>72</u>
Total Attendance	556

After comparison of the count of the persons in the room with the registration figures, Mr. Pena announced to the Assembly that the ballot could be held. He called for a moment of silence and then led the Assembly in prayer.

Ballots were distributed, marked, and collected, whereupon Mr. Pena declared the first ballot closed.

Strategic Plan Presentation

Strategic Plan Presentation Script

Synod Assembly, 2014

Friday, May 30, 9:30 – 10:30 am

Carlos: You, the leaders of the Metropolitan New York Synod – and I really mean *all* of you – have been called to help make the timeless Gospel of Jesus relevant and vibrant to people and communities in need of Good News. You are

showing others how to rise to the challenges of mission today. Your Strategic Plan is bold. It challenges all of us to lead with conviction. It reminds all of us that we are claimed, gathered and sent for the life of the world in the exciting mission of God. I look forward to seeing what will happen in this Synod as you work together.

Maria: Thank you Carlos. This morning we are very excited to share with you how resources and initiatives that have come from our strategic plan will strengthen your congregation. But before we tell you about what has been developed, I want to take a moment and recognize those who developed them. I am going to ask the members of these groups to stand as I call you and remain standing. Please hold your applause until all the groups have been introduced.

First, if you are a member of one of the three strategy committees: claimed, gathered, and sent, please stand. Next I would like the members of the Financial Management Committee to stand. Members of the Pastoral Care Team. Now if you are on a sub-committee of one of these committees, please stand. And I would like our Synod staff to please stand. Please join me in thanking all of these people for the time and talents they gave to develop this plan. [Applause]. Please be seated.

And there is another group of people who contributed to the development of this plan to ensure it reflected the grass-roots needs and assets of our congregations. Early this year we held four quadrant meetings where hundreds of lay leaders and clergy shared their ideas and insights. If you attended one of the quadrant meetings, please stand. Thank you – you may be seated.

So you see, there are hundreds of fingerprints on this plan and the implementation that we will share with you now. We are going to present

the information in the same way our plan was developed: integrated. Instead of hearing a report on each of the three strategy areas, our strategy committee leaders will present together. They will share all the ways our Synod's strategic plan can help your congregation share the love of God in new ways that are true to our faith – but relevant for your community in the years ahead.

Please welcome the four strategy committee leaders: Marsh Drege, Emily Scott, Barbara Johnson, and Bill Baum.

Marsh: Let's begin today by being honest.

Emily: It is no secret that the church is changing.

Bill: All over the country, mainline denominations, including ours, are experiencing change.

Barbara: Our society is shifting. And with it, we're seeing decreased attendance in churches across the country. Many of our ministries are struggling to remain sustainable, and some have even closed.

Marsh: Two years ago, our Synod Assembly voted to adopt a Strategic Plan, to respond to these changes in pro-active, rather than re-active ways.

Emily: As a Synod, we're seeking bold ways to respond to the changing tide.

Bill: Instead of being washed away by these changes, we're adapting our approach, while keeping the core of our Lutheran tradition securely in place.

Barbara: We're staying open to the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

Marsh: And though it will require us to change and adapt, we're imagining a church for such a time as this.

Emily: Imagine your church less burdened by the financial cost of maintaining a building.

Bill: Imagine your church well equipped to communicate online, vocal about justice issues through the press.

Barbara: Imagine your Synod working together to reduce costs for everyone.

Marsh: Imagine your church retaining a presence in neighborhoods through historical, brick and mortar buildings, but also thriving in unexpected places, like cafes or community gardens.

Emily: These are visions of our future and, as a Synod, we're beginning to get there.

Video Runs

Bill: Your Strategic Plan is designed to allow our Synod to strategize fresh, Spirit-filled ways to respond to the movement of the Spirit in a changing time. It's about strengthening our existing congregations AND imagining new ways to do ministry.

There are three parts of the plan, Claimed, Gathered, and Sent.

Emily: "Claimed" is all about helping us communicate and connect to the world around us.

Bill: "Gathered" is about sustaining and creating vital ministries for the future,

Marsh: And "Sent"

Barbara: is about networking and working for a more just world.

Marsh: We hope to show you today that the Strategic Plan is about working together for a stronger church. We're doing what you asked us to do two years ago, when this Assembly voted to approve the Strategic Plan.

Emily: We're working to make good decisions with our Synod's resources so that our presence can grow and thrive in a new time.

Bill: Perhaps you have felt worried about the changes that are effecting all churches in our country at this time. Perhaps you have felt concerned about how your congregation will respond -- IF you will be able to respond.

Barbara: The Holy Spirit is asking something different of each of our congregations. Some will strengthen their existing structures. Some will adapt and try new types of ministry. Some will discern that the lifecycle of their congregation is complete and complete their ministry. The question is: what is right for each of our congregations? How can we respond to these changes in our culture faithfully? These are questions we're asking together, and seeking to respond to as a church.

Marsh: The Strategic Plan is about giving congregations the tools we all need to access our current situation, adapt our strategies, and ultimately thrive. It's about strengthening the gifts of our Synod to free us to share God's word with the world.

Emily: Today we would like to tell you about all that's been done in just two years, as well as announce the launch of a variety of initiatives and resources that, when the budget is passed, may just impact your congregation directly. The websites for these initiatives will go live immediately after we've voted on the budget!

You can follow along in this pamphlet [holds up follow along document] that you'll find in your packet. The pamphlet will give you everything you need to connect to the initiatives we'll be speaking about.

Bill: We know that ministry is hard work. And it's even harder when you're burdened by the demands of a church building that's not always in great shape. Perhaps your church has a roof that leaks or a boiler that's always breaking down.

Barbara: The Congregational Support Grants are here to help. Our Synod is devoting 1 million dollars over the next five years to help congregations like yours make upgrades to your properties. For successful applicants, will receive up to \$2 for every \$1 your congregation raises. Special thanks to First Lutheran Poughkeepsie for piloting the Capital Improvement Project.

Marsh: We're also putting up \$50,000 every year into Leadership Development Grants for you to gain new skills for ministry in our changing world. Which conferences have you wished you could attend, but the budget seemed just a little too tight? Apply for a challenge grant and you're on your way.

Emily: And finally, we've seen how our synod's strategic plan has unleashed energy and progress, and so we're offering your congregation assistance in getting your own strategic plan off the ground.

You can apply for any of these challenge grants on our Synod's website at the end of Assembly, just as soon as we've approved the budget.

Bill: This year our Synod is launching an exciting new program to help nurture new start up ministries in our area. And anyone who has an idea for a ministry, or knows a neighborhood where a ministry could take place, or a leader who might start a ministry can be involved!

Barbara: We know that the people who best know where a ministry is needed aren't sitting in a office, but are out in the streets. You may know a place that's just yearning for an ELCA ministry in your town or neighborhood.

Marsh: Maybe you know lots of stay-at-home parents who are feeling isolated. Maybe there's a large populations of migrant workers who work nearby who don't have a church to attend. Perhaps the teenagers in your neighborhood don't have much to do after school. If you see a hunger for God in your neighborhood, the Sower's Project is one way to respond.

Emily: The Sower's Project will receive nominations and applications for possible new ministries in our Synod. Then, "seed grants" of \$5,000-\$10,000 will be awarded to promising new, grassroots ministries.

Bill: So go online and let us know what you see, what you hear! We want you to help us sow some seeds in the Synod! The short, simple application is online, and it's also in Spanish.

Barbara: There's no reason to waste good money. One church is a small client, but 50 churches is a big client! Our Synod has worked with providers to create package deals. Your congregation can choose to opt in for savings that will free up your budget for ministry, not overhead.

Marsh: Churches who opt in can save on heating, on insurance, and on payroll processing. And for congregations and conferences who want to explore new configurations for ministry, we've made available free professional real estate surveys and advice on how your congregation can make most effective use of your property.

Emily: At last year's Assembly, we began a discussion about sharing the Lutheran message with the world. A big part of that takes place online, through our churches' websites and Facebook and twitter pages. But we also heard that many congregations are feeling overwhelmed by the cost and technical know-how it takes to get online. We knew we needed to provide resources!

Bill: And so we've created a free document for church leaders, designed especially for churches who are just beginning to explore web presence through websites and social media. The booklet is available in hard copy in your folders, or online on the Synod website. This resource also includes online videos that will walk you, step by step, through starting a website, creating Facebook or twitter account, or even blogging.

Barbara: We're also providing grants to help you get online! You can apply to receive \$500 towards the cost of constructing your congregation's website, the new front door to your ministry. This way, web presence is in reach for all our congregations.

Marsh: If it was only about doing something new, that would be easy. But it's also about doing something that's deeply rooted. Part of re-imagining our Church for such a time as this is reconnecting to our faith tradition.

This year we're launching a program called "Growing Deeply in Faith: Five Years of God's Creative Grace."

Emily: This five-year exploration will focus each of the next five years on one of Luther's means of grace, giving our synod a chance to explore the keystones of our tradition together. We'll kick off the program this Pentecost with a Synod-wide celebration of the Vigil of Pentecost. And we've already heard the Dr. Gordon Lathrop will be joining us at the Bishop's Retreat this fall to speak about the first mean of grace we'll explore: mutual conversation and consolation.

You'll also find a short, one-page document in your folder that's all about communicating the Lutheran message in concise and compelling ways. Take a look, and see how you might adapt these ideas for your context.

Bill: We've selected five "lenses" for outreach in our Synod:
Family, Education, Health, Employment, and Immigration.
Your church may choose to join the efforts of wider Church in making an impact in these key areas.

And so we've created a booklet called "20/20 Vision." The goal behind the 20/20 Vision Booklet is to allow people in our Synod to network and learn from the ways our Synod's congregations are already serving our neighbors and connecting with social ministries. Want to start a soup kitchen? Or a school? Or an immigration center? The booklet will show you who's already serving in this way so you can contact them and learn from their experience. We also focus on some unique ministries that will inspire and motivate you to try your own variations in your own setting.

Barbara: We've presented a lot of information today, and we hope that much of it connects directly to your ministries!

Marsh: If you're interested in learning more about these various initiatives, there will be an opportunity to do so tonight at the Strategic Plan reception. We have breakout rooms [insert location] open from 7:30-9:00 pm. Take time to visit each room, learn more about the initiatives, and even get signed up. Oh yes, and we will even buy you a glass of wine.

Bill: Now, using your pamphlet as a guide, I'd like you to turn to your neighbors in groups of three, and share which piece of what we've presented today is has the most potential to impact your congregation positively.

[6 minutes to share]

Emily: *[Gathers everyone back with a brief song]*

Marsh: You've had a chance to think about how the work of the Strategic Plan might connect to your congregation.

Now we'd like to share a few stories of congregations and conferences in our Synod who are already thinking along these lines.

Emily: We're just beginning the process of creatively re-imagining our Synod's presence in the Metro New York area. We thought it made sense to start off with three "pilot projects," that would give us a chance to try some ideas, evaluating as we go.

Bill: So now we'd like to shift the focus from the initiatives that might reach your congregation, and look at three pilot projects that are leading the way in re-imagining ministry in our Synod.

Barbara: The first pilot project is in the Western Nassau Conference. This conference is populated by several smaller congregations in a close geographic area. The ministries are each doing well, but the Spirit is leading the clergy and laity to recognize that "business as usual" may not be the most effective way to continue sharing God's mission. The conference is working with experts to assist them in exploring shared ministry opportunities to strengthen their relationship with God through collaborative Bible Studies, Confirmation Classes, special worship services and other ministry opportunities.

Marsh: The second pilot program is in the Bronx. Home to some 1.4 million people, the Bronx population continues to surge, with the fastest growing segment being the elderly. Estimates say this area contains the highest concentration of poverty within our synod, with nearly a third living below the poverty level. In addition, 6 out of 10 residents speak a language other than English at home.

Emily: Our synod has chosen to immediately focus resources on our Bronx Conference. The Synod Council engaged a consultant to evaluate the ministry opportunities within the Bronx - with a specific eye toward partnering with our social ministry organizations. What would it look like to repurpose our church buildings in this area to hold not only a sanctuary, but also a health clinic or affordable housing? We are finding out now.

Bill: None of the cost for this service will be borne by the local congregations. Our consultant, in concert with a designated pastoral care team and Synod staff, are working collaboratively with Conference Dean Fernando Otero, and our local pastors and congregations to insure that Word and Sacrament ministry is provided in the borough of the Bronx.

Barbara: The last pilot project is in Southwest Queens. For a number of years, led by Dean Michah Stumme, the pastors and lay leaders of several congregations have been meeting to explore and dream about possibilities for the future of its ministries in the community. Like so many other areas, membership, attendance, giving and outreach has diminished since the heyday of the church of yesteryear. The conference leaders have been praying and discerning how they may best continue to proclaim the Good News. This bold conversation includes thoughts of consolidation and mergers of existing ministries and congregations, including the formation of a regional church.

Marsh: The discussions have been cooperative and objective, but the conference needed professional and technical support to collect data in its desire to reach responsible conclusions. Our synod council secured the services of experts to assist. With their help, the congregations assessed their existing properties and conducted demographic studies of the conference area to project the future composition of the community for tomorrow's ministry needs.

Emily: Last week, the conference met to consider four options for their consideration. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the Southwest Queens Conference as they consider these options:

The first option: Do nothing.

The second: Merge all participating churches into one church in one existing building.

Third: Merge all participating churches into a new church building to be built on the property of an existing congregation

And fourth: Merge all participating churches into a new church building to be built on new property to be purchased in the region.

Bill: The Spirit is at work through this project! The concept of shared ministry is quickly moving beyond the West Nassau Conference. Interest and initiatives are under way in many other conferences, including Staten Island, East Nassau, Northeast Queens and Hudson. In addition, we have two super exciting projects we are working on.

Barbara: First, we are working in partnership with Lutheran HealthCare to re-purpose the former Zion Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, property as a Family Health Clinic; also equipped with a Dental Office; and not one, not two, but three floors of Affordable Housing, and a first floor chapel.

Marsh: Second, together with Lutheran Social Services, we are re-purposing the former Reformation Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, property for use as a "Safe House" for unaccompanied minors, that is, children who have traveled into this country unaccompanied, seeking to be reunited with family who immigrated before them. This too is to include a first floor chapel.

Emily: These are new ideas, and they might feel a bit challenging at first. But we want to emphasize that this plan is about BOTH AND.

Bill: BOTH strengthening existing congregations, AND imagining ways to minister that are new.

Barbara: Imagine what our church will look like ten years from now: a beautiful BOTH AND of ministry:

Marsh: Congregations living out their ministry from well maintained historic buildings, AND a Lutheran presence through health clinics, affordable housing, and newly built chapels.

Emily: The doors of our church buildings open wide to the world AND new ministries thriving in unexpected places, like art galleries or office buildings.

Bill: Strong congregations empowered to serve AND an openness to what the spirit is doing among us.

Barbara: In your folders, you'll find a half sheet of paper. Think of this as your offering: your contribution to the Strategic Plan. Take a moment to write down how you'd like to contribute to the Strategic Plan. Then, place your paper in the basket as they come around during the hymn.

Let's stand and sing: *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

Marc: I am Pastor Marc Herbst and I have the honor of serving on your Synod staff.

This is exciting. I am moved just thinking about all the ways your congregation can join with sisters and brothers from all over the metro area to do more of God's Work.

But I am sure you have questions about how to get involved and what to do next. We want to talk with you one-on-one and in small groups so we can answer your questions.

Tonight at 7:30 pm you are invited to an informal reception where you will have the opportunity to move through the rooms listed on the screen. In each of these rooms will be people who can answer your specific questions about how your congregation can access these amazing resources. And if we can answer your questions, we will give you a ticket for a glass of wine, paid for by our sponsors, also listed on the screen. And if we can't answer your question, we will still give you a ticket for a glass of wine – so you can't lose. But you can win big by accessing these wonderful resources designed for your congregation.

Again, this is informal. You will not be sitting in rows of chairs staring at power point screens. Please spend some of your evening exploring the possibilities for the future of your congregation.

See you tonight!

Sent Moment

Bishop Rimbo invited Mr. David J. Genter to the podium to address the Assembly.

Results of First Ballot for Bishop

Ms. Mary Heller, Chair of Bishop Election Committee and Mr. Carlos Pena reported the results of the first ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:	445
Number of illegal votes cast:	0
Number of legal votes cast:	445
Needed to elect (75%)	333

Votes received:

The Rev. Dr. Robert Rimbo	166	
The Rev. J. Elise Brown	81	
The Rev. Robert Wollenburg	55	
The Rev. Paul Block	49	
The Rev. Paul Milholland	39	
The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla	28	
The Rev. James Krauser	6	
The Rev. Brenda Irving	4	
The Rev. Jonathan Linman	3	
The Rev. James Watrud	2	
The Rev. Chris Mietlowski	1	
The Rev. Paul Britton	1	
The Rev. Percy Butiku	1	
The Rev. William Baum	1	
The Rev. Emily Scott	1	
The Rev. Daniel Ward	1	
The Rev. Rodney Eberhardt	1	
The Rev. Lamont Wells	1	
The Rev. Anne Tiemeyer	1	
The Rev. Jeffrey Kolbo		1
The Rev. Dr. Evelyn Ott	1	
The Rev. Anita Hill	1	

Mr. Carlos Pena announced that there was no election, that there would be a second ballot for the election of a bishop, and explained the procedure for nominees to remove their names from consideration on the second ballot. He then returned the Chair to Bishop Rimbo.

Voting on Common Ballot

Bishop Rimbo invited Diaconal Minister Christine Connell and The Rev. Jennifer Richards to the podium to conduct the voting on the common ballot.

Reference and Counsel

The Rev. Jeanne Warfield, Chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel reviewed for the Assembly the procedure for the presentation of, discussion on, and voting on resolutions and memorials.

Pr. Warfield presented the first resolution: A Resolution to Encourage Transparent and Accountable Congregation Management.

Mr. John Litke, the maker of the resolution, moved to postpone discussion and vote on the resolution until Plenary Session Five. This motion was seconded and adopted.

Sent Moment

Bishop Rimbo welcomed Dr. Richard Guarasci, President of Wagner College, who addressed the Assembly about the work of the college.

Interfaith Guest

Bishop Rimbo welcomed Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, Executive Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis and Senior Rabbi of Congregation Mt. Sinai in Brooklyn Heights, who brought greetings to the Assembly.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Minerva Melendez gave updated registration figures.

Rostered Leaders	212
Lay Voting Members	285
Total Voting members	<u>497</u>
Visitors	<u>74</u>
Total Attendance	571

Second Ballot for Bishop

Mr. Carlos Pena announced that the second ballot for bishop would be held at the beginning of the third plenary session.

Bishop Rimbo asked The Rev. Paul Johnson, Chair of Assembly Planning to make announcements and then invited the Assembly Chaplains, Deacon Patty Avila and The Rev. Justin Lathrop to close the session with prayer.

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2014

PLENARY SESSION III

Bishop Rimbo called the Assembly to order at 1:00pm, introduced The Rev. Jonathan Linman as host for the plenary session, and asked Assembly Chaplains Avila and Lathrop to open the session with prayer.

Mr. Carlos Pena then announced that the second ballot for bishop would be held after the report of the Committee on Registration.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Minerva Melendez gave updated registration figures.

Rostered Leaders	214
Lay Voting Members	288
Total Voting members	<u>502</u>
Visitors	<u>74</u>
Total Attendance	576

Mr. Pena asked those who were not voting members to leave the assembly room, the room was counted, and after prayer, the second ballot for election of bishop was held.

Bishop Rimbo resumed the chair and invited Ms. Judy Behnke to bring greetings and reports from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Keynote Presentation 2

The Rev. Dr. Lisa Dahill then presented the second part of her keynote presentation, "...the Lord, the Giver of Life."

Mr. Carlos Pena then took the chair and invited Ms. Mary Heller to present the results of the second ballot for election of bishop.

Results of Second Ballot for Bishop

Ms. Mary Heller, Chair of Bishop Election Committee, reported the results of the second ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:	459
Number of illegal votes cast:	4
Number of legal votes cast:	455
Needed to elect (75%)	341

Votes received:

The Rev. Dr. Robert Rimbo	178
The Rev. J. Elise Brown	103
The Rev. Robert Wollenburg	64
The Rev. Paul Block	50
The Rev. Paul Milholland	27
The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla	24
The Rev. James Krauser	8
The Rev. Rodney Eberhardt	1
The Rev. Lamont Wells	1
The Rev. Dr. Evelyn Ott	0
The Rev. Anita Hill	0

Mr. Carlos Pena announced that there was no election on the second ballot and that there would be a third ballot, consisting of the following nominees: The Rev. Dr. Robert Rimbo, The Rev. J. Elise Brown, The Rev. Robert Wollenburg, The Rev. Paul Block, The Rev. Paul Milholland, The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, and The Rev. James Krauser.

After the Assembly sang "Holy God, We Praise Your Name," each of the seven nominees was allowed to make a five minute presentation to the Assembly.

Mr. Carlos Pena then announced that the third ballot for bishop would be held after the report of the Committee on Registration.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Minerva Melendez gave updated registration figures.

Rostered Leaders	214
Lay Voting Members	288
Total Voting members	<u>502</u>
Visitors	<u>74</u>
Total Attendance	576

Mr. Pena asked those who were not voting members to leave the assembly room and the room was counted. He then asked for a period of silence, after which Deacon John Malone led the Assembly in prayer. Then the third ballot for election of bishop was held.

Bishop Rimbo resumed the chair and asked Christine Connell to present the results of the voting on the common ballot.

Results of Voting on Common Ballot

Synod Vice President

Ms. Maria Del Toro	394
Unnamed	39

Synod Secretary

The Rev. Robert Schoepflin	309
The Rev. James Krauser	126

Synod Council – Northwest Queens, Clergy

The Rev. Israel Daniel Penumaka	432
Unnamed	8

Synod Council – Brooklyn Bridges, Clergy

The Rev. Amy Kienzle	426
Unnamed	8

Synod Council – Southwest Brooklyn, Clergy

The Rev. Craig Miller	298
The Rev. David Rommereim	142

Synod Council – At Large, Clergy

The Rev. Harry Schenkel	no data
The Rev. Robert Rainis	no data

Synod Council – Delaware Hudson, Lay Female

Ms. Lulu Paolini	no data
Ms. Karen Maulen	no data

Synod Council – Eastern Nassau, Lay Female

Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum	251
Ms. Anita Williams	184

Synod Council – Southwest Nassau, Lay Female

Ms. Barbara Hansen	416
Unnamed	15

Synod Council – Youth at Large (16-18)

Mr. Daquan Baker	425
Unnamed	4

Synod Council – Western Suffolk, Lay Male

Mr. John Litke	236
Mr. Steven Daniels	206

Synod Council – Bronx, Lay Male

Mr. Walter Nash	257
Mr. Peter Urban	154

Synod Council – Southeast Queens, Lay Male

Dcn. John Malone	424
Unnamed	17

Synod Council – Multicultural Male

Dr. Carlos Lopez	275
Mr. Paul Lumpkin	153

Consultation Committee, Clergy Female

The Rev. Sarah Geddada	240
The Rev. Phyllis Haynes	188

Consultation Committee, Clergy Male

The Rev. Jared Stahler	399
Unnamed	26

Consultation Committee, Lay Female

Ms. Dorothy Scholz-Beyer	422
Unnamed	10

Consultation Committee, Lay Male

Mr. Mark Goodwin	424
Unnamed	15

Discipline Committee, Clergy Female

The Rev. Stephanie Kershner	294
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The Rev. Sarah Geddada 141

Discipline Committee, Lay Female

Ms. Anita Williams 263

Ms. Dorothy Scholz-Beyer 172

Discipline Committee, Lay Male

Mr. Brian Reardon 246

Mr. Mark Goodwin 187

Those nominees receiving a majority of votes were declared elected.

SA2014.05.01

First Ballot

Vice President Ms. Maria Del Toro

Secretary Pr. Robert Schoepflin

Synod Council Pr. Israel Daniel Penumaka
Pr. Amy Kienzle
Pr. Craig Miller
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum
Ms. Barbara Hansen
Mr. Daquan Baker
Mr. John Litke
Mr. Walter Nash
Dcn. John Malone
Dcn. Carlos Lopez

Consultation Committee Pr. Sarah Geddada
Pr. Jared Stahler
Ms. Dorothy Scholz-Beyer
Mr. Mark Goodwin

Discipline Committee Pr. Stephanie Kershner
Ms. Anita Williams
Mr. Brian Reardon

A second ballot was then held for the two offices for which votes were not registered by the voting devices, Synod Council, Clergy at Large and Synod Council, Delaware Hudson, Lay Female.

Results of voting on second Common Ballot

Synod Council – At Large, Clergy

The Rev. Harry Schenkel 267

The Rev. Robert Rainis 155

Synod Council – Delaware Hudson, Lay Female

Ms. Lulu Paolini 262

Ms. Karen Maulen 146

Those nominees receiving a majority of votes were declared elected.

SA2012.05.02

Second Ballot

Synod Council Pr. Harry Schenkel
Ms. Lulu Paolini

Report of the Candidacy Committee

Bishop Rimbo invited The Rev. Jeffrey Kolbo gave the report of the Candidacy Committee.

Five applicants were approved for *Entrance to Candidacy for Rostered Ministry* in 2013:

Maritza Cruz, Holy Trinity, Manhattan

Drew Neidig, Ascension, Deer Park

Jonathan Pryer, St. Paul's, East Northport

Emmanuel Ilagan, Trinity, Middle Village

Nicolette Faison, New Hope, Valley Stream

Four candidates were *Endorsed as Candidates for Rostered Ministry* in 2013

James Miller, *Tristan Shin* and *David Wunsch* were endorsed as Candidates for Ordained Ministry.

Kathryn Lawler was endorsed as a Candidate for Diaconal Ministry.

Five Candidates were *Approved for Ordination* in 2013

David Grainson, Oceanside, Oceanside

David Hansson, Emmanuel, Pleasantville

Eric Mull, Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan

Duane Ronan, Trinity, St. Albans

Marc Stutzel, Trinity, Long Island City

Sarah Geddada, St. Paul International, Floral Park, was *Approved for Reinstatement to the ELCA Roster of Ordained Ministers*.

Conference of Deans

The Rev. Kathleen Koran, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations, introduced the deans, whose work the Assembly acknowledged with applause.

The Rev. Fernando Otero: Bronx

The Rev. Paul Egensteiner: Tappan Zee
The Rev. William Heisley: Manhattan
The Rev. Brenda Irving: Southeast Queens
The Rev. Edward Barnett: Southwest Nassau
The Rev. Jay Longan: Northwest Queens
The Rev. Richard Hill: Peconic
The Rev. Ernie Moss: Delaware Hudson
The Rev. Martin Nale: Western Nassau
The Rev. Daniel Ward: Hudson
The Rev. David Parsons: Brooklyn Bridges
The Rev. Daniel Peter: Northeast Queens
The Rev. Micah Stumme: Southwest Queens
The Rev. Gary Squire: Staten Island
The Rev. James Watrud: Western Suffolk
The Rev. David Rommereim: Southwest Brooklyn
The Rev. Kimberly Wilson: Eastern Nassau
The Rev. Harriet Wieber: South Shore Brooklyn

Pr. Koran then recognized anniversaries of ordinations and of congregations.

25 Years Ordained

The Rev. James Klockau
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
The Rev. Abraham Lu
The Rev. Paul Milholland
The Rev. Israel Daniel Peter Penumaka
The Rev. Gary Schulz
The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer
The Rev. Diane Wildow

50 Years Ordained

The Rev. Dale Lind
The Rev. Elmo Sebastian
The Rev. Frederick Schumacher

75 Years of Ministry

Dobbs Ferry, Dobbs Ferry

100 Years of Ministry

St. Philip, Brooklyn
St. Paul, Richmond Hill
St. Paul's, East Northport

125 Years of Ministry

St. Jacobi, Brooklyn

Pr. Koran then recognized pastors new to the Synod.

The Rev. David Grainson: Holy Trinity, Rockville Centre
The Rev. Alexander Kennedy: St. John's, Lynbrook
The Rev. Khader Khalilia: Redeemer-St. John's, Brooklyn
The Rev. Amy Kienzle: Messiah and St. John, Brooklyn
The Rev. William Kroeze: Calvary, Hauppauge
The Rev. William Starkweather: Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess

The Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells: Director for Evangelical Mission

Pr. Koran then recognized persons set apart as synodically rostered deacons in April, 2014,

- Dcn. Frank Ali: Eltingville, Staten Island
- Dcn. Doreen Beitter: Cross of Christ, Babylon
- Dcn. Carole Ann Brosnan: Ascension, Franklin Square
- Dcn. Charlene Drewes: St. John, Bellmore
- Dcn. Carlos Lopez: Advent, Manhattan
- Dcn. Kathleen Pucci: Abiding Presence, Fort Salonga
- Dcn. Diogenes Vazquetelles Trujillo: St. Paul's, Bronx
- Dcn. Jeanette Surita-Vazquetelles: St. Paul's, Bronx

Award of Meritorious Service Medallion

Bishop Rimbo invited The Rev. Ron Klose and Mr. Carlos Pena to assist in the presentation of the Meritorious Service Medallion to The Rev. Peter A. Rustico, Captain, U.S. Navy Reserve, for his work as a naval chaplain. Mr. Pena read a letter from The Rev. Eric Wester, Director of Federal Chaplaincies. Pr. Klose read the certificate recognizing Chaplain Rustico's service.

Bishop Rimbo presented the medallion to Chaplain Rustico.

After the Assembly thanked Chaplain Rustico for his service by applause, it joined together in singing "Eternal Father, Strong to Save."

Mr. Carlos Pena then took the chair and invited Ms. Mary Heller to present the results of the third ballot for election of bishop.

Results of Third Ballot for Bishop

Ms. Mary Heller, Chair of Bishop Election Committee, reported the results of the third ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:	463
Number of illegal votes cast:	3
Number of legal votes cast:	460
Needed to elect (2/3)	304

Votes received:

The Rev. Dr. Robert Rimbo	196
The Rev. J. Elise Brown	119
The Rev. Robert Wollenburg	47
The Rev. Paul Block	36
The Rev. Paul Milholland	31
The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla	25
The Rev. James Krauser	6

Mr. Carlos Pena announced that there was no election on the third ballot and that there would be a fourth ballot, consisting of the following nominees: The Rev. Dr. Robert Rimbo, The Rev. J. Elise Brown, and The Rev. Robert Wollenburg.

Bishop Rimbo resumed the chair and asked The Rev. Paul Johnson, Chair of Assembly Planning to make announcements and then invited the Assembly Chaplains, Deacon Patty Avila and The Rev. Justin Lathrop to close the session with prayer.

A Festival Eucharist was held in the Grand Ballroom at 4:45 pm.

After dinner, members and guests of the Assembly attended receptions, including a Strategic Plan Reception and Expo.

Prayer at the End of the Day was held in various locations at 9:00 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2014

PLENARY SESSION IV

The voting members and guests of the Assembly gathered for Morning Prayer at 8:00 am.

Bishop Rimbo called the fourth plenary session to order at 9:35 am, introduce Ms. Kathleen Schmidt as plenary host, and invited Chaplains Lathrop and Avila to lead the Assembly in prayer.

Sent Moment – Mission Investment Fund

Mr. Gerry Lauro spoke of investment opportunities available to congregations and presented a video on the work of the Mission Investment Fund.

The Assembly then sang “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation.”

The three remaining nominees for bishop were then each asked a series of questions before the Assembly. After the period of questioning, the Assembly thanked the nominees for their thoughtful responses with hearty applause.

At the suggestion of The Rev. James Krauser, Mr. Carlos Pena invited the Assembly to spend some time in prayer and silent reflection.

Mr. Pena asked persons who were not voting members to leave the room. The voting devices were tested. Mr. Pena reminded the members that a vote of 60% would be required to elect on the fourth ballot, and then asked for the registration report.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Minerva Melendez gave the updated registration report.

Clergy	206
Lay Voting Members	277
Total Voting members	<u>483</u>
Visitors	<u>74</u>
Total Attendance	557

Ms. Terra Rowe, a member of the Synod Council, led the Assembly in prayer, after which voting on the fourth ballot was held.

After a short recess, the Assembly was once again called to order.

Claimed Commitment: Practice Discipleship Initiative

Deacon Patty Avila presented a video to introduce this initiative of the ELCA.

Mr. Carlos Pena then took the chair and invited Ms. Mary Heller to present the results of the fourth ballot for election of bishop.

Results of Fourth Ballot for Bishop

Ms. Mary Heller, Chair of Bishop Election Committee, reported the results of the fourth ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:	440
Number of illegal votes cast:	0
Number of legal votes cast:	440
Needed to elect (60%)	264

Votes received:

The Rev. Dr. Robert Rimbo	194
The Rev. J. Elise Brown	158
The Rev. Robert Wollenburg	88

Mr. Carlos Pena announced that there was no election on the fourth ballot and that there would be a fifth ballot, consisting of the following nominees: The Rev. Dr. Robert Rimbo, and The Rev. J. Elise Brown, and that a simple majority would be required to elect. Mr. Pena asked the Assembly to acknowledge and thank The Rev. Robert Wollenburg by applause.

The voting devices were once again tested, and after a period of silence, Mr. Christopher Vergara, member of Synod Council, led the Assembly in prayer. The fifth ballot for the election of bishop was conducted.

Bishop Rimbo resumed the chair.

Heart of Ministry Award Presentation

Deacon Charles Germain presented the Heart of Ministry Award to representatives of St. Andrew's, Smithtown.

Sent Health and Advocacy Moment: Malaria Campaign

The Rev. Elise Brown spoke to the Assembly about the ELCA Malaria Campaign on behalf of the MNYS Malaria Committee. She reported that we have raised \$193,794.97 and are 93.4% of the way toward our goal. She then presented a video about the campaign.

Bishop Rimbo asked The Rev. Paul Johnson to come forward to make announcements.

Mr. Carlos Pena then took the chair and invited Ms. Mary Heller to present the results of the fifth ballot for election of bishop.

Results of Fifth Ballot for Bishop

Ms. Mary Heller, Chair of Bishop Election Committee, reported the results of the fifth ballot for bishop.

Number of votes cast:	441
Number of illegal votes cast:	0
Number of legal votes cast:	441
Needed to elect (majority)	221

Votes received:

The Rev. Dr. Robert Rimbo	225
The Rev. J. Elise Brown	216

Mr. Pena announced that the election was complete and that Bishop Rimbo was reelected. His reelection was acclaimed by vigorous applause from the Assembly.

SA2014.05.03 Election of Bishop

Bishop Bishop Robert A. Rimbo

Chaplains Avila and Lathrop then closed the session with prayer.

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2014

PLENARY SESSION V

Members and visitors of the Assembly gathered for the Eucharist in the Grand Ballroom at 1:00 pm.

The fifth plenary session was called to order by Bishop Rimbo at 2:40 pm.

Bishop Rimbo invited the Assembly to thank The Rev. J. Elise Brown for her candidacy by it applause. He then briefly gave thanks to the Assembly, to his staff, and to the Synod Council and officers for their support.

Sent Moment – Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education

The Rev. John Flack reported on the work of Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education.

Amended 2014 Budget and Proposed 2015 Budget

Bishop Rimbo invited Treasurer Frank Suttell and FMC Chair Ed Wagner to the podium to lead discussion on the budgets. Mr. Suttell commended the work of the FMC. After a period of discussion, Bishop Rimbo called for a vote on both budgets. Both were adopted unanimously.

Budget Resolutions Adopted

SA2014.05.04 Ratified an Adjusted Budget of \$4,314,825 for F.Y. 2014
SA2014.05.05 Adopted a Budget of \$4,490,488 for F.Y. 2015

Sent Moment: World Hunger Committee

Deacon Karen Nurmi spoke about the work of ELCA World Hunger and the synod World Hunger Committee and presented a video on the work of ELCA World Hunger.

Reference and Council

The Rev. Jeanne Warfield led the Assembly in consideration of resolutions brought to the Committee on Reference and Council.

Resolution A

To Encourage Transparent and Accountable Congregation Management

WHEREAS, Transparent and accountable management of congregational resources by the congregation council is required by model constitution provisions C12.04 and C12.05; and

WHEREAS, One component of accountability is periodic ~~full and fair~~ financial reports to the congregation; and

WHEREAS, Some congregations do not receive periodic ~~full and fair~~ financial reports; and

WHEREAS, The current model constitution does not require periodic ~~full and fair~~ financial reports to the congregation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this assembly instructs the Metropolitan New York Synod Council to request that the Church Council propose an amendment to the Model Constitution for Congregations by adding this clause to the end of C12.09:

“...including financial reports that fairly represent the financial status of the congregation.”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly direct the Metropolitan New York Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Submitted by:
John Litke, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Huntington Station

For Reference: cited segments of the current Model Constitution for Congregations -

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- d. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
- e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill, and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

C12.05. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

- a. The Congregation Council shall be the board of [trustees] [directors] of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of _____, except as otherwise provided herein.
- b. The Congregation Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of the congregation.
- c. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$ _____ for items not included in the budget.
- d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than \$ _____ in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and churchwide organization.
- e. The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies to the synodical treasurer.
- f. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.

C12.09. The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.

Reference and Counsel recommends adoption as amended

Mr. John Litke, the maker of the resolution, moved to amend by restoring “full and fair” in the three whereas clauses. This motion was seconded. Mr. Litke explained what “full and fair” means in an accounting sense. Pr. Warfield reported that Reference and Council supported the proposed amendment to restore these words to the resolution.

The Assembly voted unanimously in favor of the amendment.

The Assembly voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

**SA2014.05.06 A Resolution to Encourage Transparent and Accountable
Congregation Management**

RESOLVED, That this assembly instructs the Metropolitan New York Synod Council to request that the Church Council propose an amendment to the Model Constitution for Congregations by adding this clause to the end of C12.09:

“...including financial reports that fairly represent the financial status of the congregation.”;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly direct the Metropolitan New York Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Resolution B

Ministerium

WHEREAS American Lutheranism has at its genesis the work of Patriarch Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and his founding of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania

WHEREAS the collegial interaction of the ministerium contributes to the communion of congregations within a synod

WHEREAS the little opportunity for the ministerium to converse with their bishop on important topics relevant to mission and ministry on the territory of the synod has in recent years been limited to one hour at a retreat in which fewer than 25% of the ministerium is present

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that there be a yearly one day meeting (usually morning and afternoon) of the ministerium, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this meeting commence with prayer in the celebration of the Eucharist, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the topics for conversation be limited to practical issues relating to life within the congregations and ministries on the territory of the synod

Submitted by The Rev. Edward Barnett

The Rev. Edward Barnett spoke in favor of resolution.

The Rev. Amandus Derr made a motion to refer this resolution to the Synod Council for consideration. This motion was seconded.

Pr. Derr's motion was adopted by the Assembly and the resolution was referred to the Synod Council.

Resolution C

A Resolution to Study Diversity at the Synod Assembly

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan New York Synod Constitution S7.21 states: "The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60% of the voting membership shall be composed of lay persons, shall be constituted as follows: ...The Synod council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be female and 50 percent shall be male."; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan New York Synod Constitution S6.04.A01 states: "It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English."; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan New York Synod Constitution S6.04.B09 states: "It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal."; and

WHEREAS, "Unity and Diversity" is one of the four "Strategy Enablers" of the Strategic Plan for the Metropolitan New York Synod; be it

RESOLVED, That registration documents for the 2015 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly have optional fields for sex, ethnicity, primary language, and age bracket (<19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-59, 60+); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That reports based on the diversity of voting members of the 2015 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly be included in the final report of the 2015 Synod Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod Council examine the registration documents and diversity reports after the 2015 Synod Assembly to develop a process to track the progress of our synod's goals for diversity at synod assemblies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Assembly recommends that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council and Synod Assembly Planning Committee encourage congregations to elect voting members that increase this assembly diversity in the aforementioned categories of ethnicity, primary language, and age.

Submitted by:

Jonathan Westerlund, Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky Point, NY

Reference and Counsel recommends adoption

Mr. Jonathan Westerlund, maker of the resolution spoke in favor of the resolution.

Upon vote, the Assembly adopted the resolution.

SA2014.05.07

A Resolution to Study Diversity at the Synod Assembly

RESOLVED, That registration documents for the 2015 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly have optional fields for sex, ethnicity, primary language, and age bracket (<19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-59, 60+); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That reports based on the diversity of voting members of the 2015 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly be included in the final report of the 2015 Synod Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod Council examine the registration documents and diversity reports after the 2015 Synod Assembly to develop a process to track the progress of our synod's goals for diversity at synod assemblies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Assembly recommends that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council and Synod Assembly Planning Committee encourage congregations to elect voting members that increase this assembly diversity in the aforementioned categories of ethnicity, primary language, and age.

Constitutional Amendment

Secretary Schoepflin presented the proposed amendment to create a single committee on nominations and elections to the Assembly.

Amendments to combine the Nominating and Elections Committees

The following amendments to the governing documents of the Metropolitan New York Synod are offered for action by the Synod Assembly

The Amendment to Constitutional Provision 9.03 is offered for first reading at this assembly [2014]. If it attains a two-thirds majority vote, it will be presented at the next [2015] regular meeting of the assembly for a second vote, two-thirds majority required.

If that constitutional amendment is adopted, the assembly will be asked to adopt by a two-thirds majority vote the amendments to the bylaws and continuing resolutions presented below. No action is required on these at the 2014 assembly; they are presented here for information.

To create a single Committee on Nominations and Elections

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of no less than three nor more than nine members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee on Nominations and Elections.

S9.05. The Nominating Committee on Nominations and Elections shall nominate at least two persons for vice-president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Subsequent amendments to Bylaws and Continuing Resolution

Chapter 7 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

S7.01.05. All Synod Assembly committees shall be appointed by the bishop except:
a. The Committee on Reference and Counsel which shall be appointed by the Synod Council in consultation with the bishop; and
~~*b. The Nominating Committee which shall be appointed by the Synod Council.*~~
b. The Committee on Nominations and Elections which shall be appointed by the Synod Council in consultation with the bishop (as specified in S9.01.01).

Chapter 9 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

†S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws.

[STRIKE AND REPLACE AS INDICATED]

~~*S9.01.01 For each meeting of the Synod Assembly in which there are to be elections, the bishop shall appoint with the consent of the Synod Council a Committee on ~~Conduct of~~ Nominations and Elections. It shall consist of at least seven members.*~~

- ~~*a. The Committee shall be responsible for the distribution of ballots, supervise the counting and recording of the same, and announce the results in detail to the Assembly.*~~
- ~~*b. The process for Nominations and Elections at Synod Assemblies, except for the nomination and election of a bishop and Synod Council positions covered under S9.20.00, shall be defined within a continuing resolution.*~~

~~*S9.01.02 The Committee on Nominations and Elections principle duties shall be:*~~

- ~~*a. Receiving and reporting nominations to the Synod Council shall be sought from each conference as described in S9.20.00.*~~
- ~~*b. The Nominating Committee shall nominate for all "At Large" positions to the Synod Council and for those positions where conferences fail to nominate at least two members.*~~
- ~~*c. The Committee shall be responsible for the distribution of ballots, supervise the counting and recording of the same, and announce the results in detail to the Assembly.*~~
- ~~*d. The process for Nominations and Elections at Synod Assemblies, except for the nomination and election of a bishop and Synod Council positions covered under S9.20.00, shall be defined within a continuing resolution.*~~

S9.01.02 In all elections, voting members may be required to present their credentials before receiving a ballot to vote.

S9.01.03 In all contested elections, all votes by the Synod Assembly shall be by secret ballot unless the Synod Assembly shall by three-fourths vote decide otherwise.

S9.01.04 In addition to those offices set forth in the constitution, the Synod Assembly shall elect all members of the Synod Council, the synod's voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, the Consultation

Committee and the Discipline Committee.

[relocated to S9.01.02]

~~S9.03.02 — Unless otherwise provided in the constitution or these bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates for all offices to be elected by the Synod Assembly.
a. — Nominations to the Synod Council shall be sought from each conference as described in S9.20.00.
b. — The Nominating Committee shall nominate for all “At Large” positions to the Synod Council and for those positions where conferences fail to nominate at least two members.~~

[STRIKE AND REPLACE AS INDICATED]

~~S9.03.03~~
~~S9.01.05~~ The Report of the ~~Nominating~~ Committee on Nominations and Elections about all persons nominated for election by the Synod Assembly shall be ~~distributed~~ published in advance of the Assembly.

~~S9.03.04~~
~~S0.01.06~~ The ~~Nominating~~ Committee on Nominations and Elections shall not be dissolved upon the presentation of its report, but shall be activated to process nominees in the event of a special election. Its members shall serve until their successors are appointed in connection with the next regular election cycle.

S9.02. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

[AS ABOVE]

S9.03. ~~There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of no less than three nor more than nine members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.~~ Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee on Nominations and Elections.

[STRIKE]

~~S9.03.01 THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE SHALL BE APPOINTED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:
a. — THE DEANS OF EACH QUADRANT SELECT ONE PERSON TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FROM THEIR QUADRANT. THESE 4 SELECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETE BY THE FIRST DAY OF THE 5TH MONTH PRECEDING THE MONTH IN WHICH THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY IS HELD OR THE BISHOP SHALL SELECT TO FILL THE MISSING POSITIONS.
b. — THE BISHOP SELECTS THE CHAIR OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND 4 OTHER MEMBERS (AND ANY POSITIONS NOT SELECTED BY QUADRANTS) BY THE 15TH DAY OF THE 5TH MONTH PRECEDING THE MONTH IN WHICH THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY IS HELD, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY REPRESENTATIVENESS GOALS NOT ACHIEVED BY QUADRANT SELECTIONS.
c. — THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTION PROCESS SHOULD ENCOURAGE GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS AS WELL AS THE USUAL M/F/CLERGY/PCL REPRESENTATIVENESS GOALS.
d. — IN ACCORD WITH S9.03, THE SYNOD COUNCIL SHALL RATIFY THESE APPOINTMENTS AFTER HAVING RECEIVED THE NOMINATIONS FROM THE BISHOP AND THE DEANS.~~

~~S9.03.02 — Unless otherwise provided in the constitution or these bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates for all offices to be elected by the Synod Assembly.
a. — Nominations to the Synod Council shall be sought from each conference as described in S9.20.00.
c. — The Nominating Committee shall nominate for all “At Large” positions to the Synod Council and for those positions where conferences fail to nominate at least two members.~~

~~S9.03.03 — The Report of the Nominating Committee about all persons nominated for election by the Synod Assembly shall be distributed in advance of the Assembly.~~

~~S9.03.04 — The Nominating Committee shall not be dissolved upon the presentation of its report, but shall be activated to process nominees in the event of a special election. Its members shall serve until their successors are appointed in connection with the next regular election cycle.~~

S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

S9.05. The Nominating Committee on Nominations and Elections shall nominate at least two persons for vice-president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S9.06. The Synod Council shall nominate at least two persons for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S9.07. The Synod Council shall nominate two persons for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S9.08. In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of at least two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

S9.09. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the Assembly.

S9.11. The Synod Council shall appoint representatives to the steering committee of its region.

†S9.12. Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synodical officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.

S9.20.00 *Nomination of Candidates for Synod Council*

S9.20.01 *The eighteen (18) conferences shall serve to nominate eighteen (18) seats on the Synod Council. Each conference shall be responsible for nominations for one seat on the Synod Council.*

S9.20.02 *Two election cycles will elect one half of the Synod Council every other election year. Each of the eighteen (18) conferences will be assigned to a cycle, nine (9) to each.*

- S9.20.03 *The Synod Council shall establish a rotation schedule to designate the nominations necessary from each conference, i.e. clergy, lay female, lay male in each cycle. The rotation schedule shall ensure that each conference nominates for each category within the rotation. The synod council may restrict scheduled "At Large" Synod Council elections to multicultural candidates in order to meet the goals established under S6.04.*
- S9.20.04 *Conferences shall meet to make their nominations no later than 90 days in advance of the Synod Assembly.*
- S9.20.05 *Conferences shall nominate two (or more) candidates for the position assigned to them.*
- a. When two or more candidates are nominated by the conference, nominations for that position shall be closed.*
 - b. If the conference nominates only one candidate, additional nominations may be made from the floor.*
 - c. If the conference nominates no candidates, the ~~Nominating~~ Committee on Nominations and Elections of the synod shall make nominations for the position, and additional nominations may be made from the floor.*
- S9.20.06 *Nominations from the floor or by the ~~Nominating~~ Committee on Nominations and Elections may propose any person regardless of their conference for election to the Synod Council.*
- S9.20.07 *For the purposes of nominations only those authorized voting members of the conference (S12.01.05) may vote to designate nominees. Nominations to the Synod Council shall require the support of at least one-third of the voting members present and voting.*
 OR
For the purposes of nominations the conference may schedule an "open caucus" wherein any voting member of a congregation within the conference may nominate and vote. Nominations to the Synod Council shall require the support of at least one-half of those attending the caucus and voting. The quorum for such a caucus shall be one-third of pastors and one-third of the congregations as represented by lay delegates.
- S9.20.08 *In the event of an election to fill a vacant unexpired term on the Synod Council, nominations shall be processed through the ~~Nominating~~ Committee on Nominations and Elections. Interim vacancy appointments shall remain the responsibility of the Synod Council. Conference restrictions shall not apply to nominations to fill unexpired terms on the Synod Council by appointment or election.*

[RELOCATED AND RENUMBERED—NAME OF COMMITTEE DELETED]

~~S 9.04.04 21.00~~ Nominations and Election Process for Synod Assembly Elections
 SA2003

The following process shall be used for nominations and elections at the Synod Assembly:

- S9.21.01 A. Publication of Pending Elections
 The Synod Secretary shall prepare a list of offices to be elected and publish the list and a request for nomination suggestions in the Metroscope or its successor publication, published on or before the first week of the 4th month preceding the month in which the Synod Assembly is held. The information shall also be published on other publicly available Synodical media, such as a web site.
- S9.21.02 B. ~~Nominating~~ Committee on Nominations and Elections Pre-Assembly Process:
- 1) The ~~Nominating~~ Committee gathers the list of all open offices from the Secretary.
 - 2) The ~~Nominating~~ Committee solicits additional nominee suggestions by a request for suggestions in an advertisement in e-mails to Deans, and a posting on the Web Site. Nomination suggestions may also be submitted in response to the Secretary's notice. All suggested nominees must be persons who hold membership in a congregation in the MNYS (compatible with S8.52, S10.06, and S11.11). Suggestors need not be Voting Members of the Assembly when submitting names to the Nominating Committee.
 - 3) The ~~Nominating~~ Committee selects two persons for each office (or as prescribed by the governing documents) from nomination suggestions received and persons sought by the committee.
 - 4) The ~~Nominating~~ Committee performs its duties with the following guidance:
 - i) Select only candidates for which there is evidence that they are qualified and willing to serve. Assertions by the suggestor are a potential source of this confidence.

- ii) Use the Male/Female, Ordained/Lay and any other categories mandated by the governing documents as useful criteria to select candidates.
 - iii) Geographic location, age category, and PCL status may be used as necessary and wise to develop as representative a candidate list as possible.
 - iv) Nominate candidates such that, in a single office per ticket voting system, the representativeness goals and requirements would be met as completely as possible given the available suggested candidates.
- 5) The ~~Nominating~~ Committee shall gather at least the following information from each candidate for inclusion in the biographical information provided to the Voting Members:
- Name, Address, Telephone
 - Age bracket (< 19, 20-39, 40-59, 60+)
 - Congregation and Conference
 - Racial/Ethnic Information
 - Current Position/Employment
 - Maximum of 3 Church Leadership positions thought by the candidate to be relevant to the position
 - Maximum of 3 Community Leadership positions thought by the candidate to be relevant to the position.
 - An optional statement from the candidate (25 words or less) indicating what key qualities they would bring to this office.
- 6) The ~~Nominating~~ Committee shall organize their nominees into groups of equivalent offices, with the committee's discretion to use a PCL category or not as they deem wise, taking due consideration to the representativeness goals.
- 7) The ~~Nominating~~ Committee may develop sub-groups of equivalent offices only insofar as, in their opinion, it is necessary to reasonably ensure meeting representativeness goals. If there is more than one equivalent office, the ~~Nominating~~ Committee may not so sub-divide the equivalent offices into sub-categories so there are only two ~~Nominating~~ Committee nominees for each sub-category unless there is no other permitted category structure that will reasonably meet the representativeness goals.
- 8) The resulting categorized Nominee list shall be posted on the Web Site on or before the first day of the second month preceding the month in which the Synod Assembly is held, with e-mail notice to the Deans and any other mailing lists as appropriate. The list shall also be included in the first available Metroscope publication published on or after the release to the Web Site.
- 9) Once the nominees from the ~~Nominating~~ Committee are known, additional nominations by Voting Members may be made in writing to the ~~Nominating~~ Committee on or before one week before the Synod Assembly opening session. Such nominations must designate their nominee for a specific category among those categories published by the ~~Nominating~~ Committee and must complete the biographical information form specified by the ~~Nominating~~ Committee.
- 10) The ~~Nominating~~ Committee shall integrate the Nominations from the Voting Members with the ~~Nominating~~ Committee Nominations and prepare a consolidated nomination form and consolidated biographic document for distribution to voting members at the assembly. If a Nominee from a Voting Member nominated for a major category (e.g., Synod Council) is qualified for more than one sub-category as originally established by the ~~Nominating~~ Committee (e.g. Lay Female and Lay Female PCL) and if the nominator forbears from selecting one of those sub-categories, the ~~Nominating~~ Committee may assign that nominee to the category that, in the committee's opinion, best meets the representativeness goals.

S9.21.03

C. Elections - First Balloting Process

- 1) The first ballot shall contain the names of all nominees arranged in tickets, one ticket for each ~~Nominating~~ Committee designated sub-category of equivalent offices. Within each ticket, the names of the nominees are arranged in random order using a By-Lot procedure defined in the terms below. The candidate names are arranged in order so the first By-Lot selected candidate is listed first and so on.
- 2) The first ballot may have more than one office to be elected per ticket. If so, voters can vote for as many candidates within a ticket as there are offices.
- 3) To determine election for each ticket, the number of ballots submitted with a valid ticket marking that has at least one candidate selected for that ticket constitutes the number of voters on this balloting process for that ticket. Any candidates who receive more votes than 1/2 of the number of voters are elected.
- 4) After any candidates are declared elected, each ticket shall be examined to determine the number of offices remaining to be filled from that ticket.
- 5) The ~~Elections~~ Committee shall report those non-elected candidates in each ticket who achieved the highest number of votes plus ties such that there are at least twice the number of candidates as there are offices remaining to be filled in each ticket.

S9.21.04

D. ~~Nominating Committee~~ Process for Second Ballot

The Nominating Committee shall examine the remaining candidates within each first ballot ticket and develop additional tickets such that only one office is to be elected per ticket. Tickets on the second and subsequent ballots may include no more category restrictions than originally imposed by the Nominating Committee on the first ballot ticket.

- 1) Candidates shall be assigned to a second ballot ticket in this manner: For all second ballot tickets electing to equivalent offices with equivalent required category restrictions (e.g., Synod Council Clergy), the ticket with the fewest unassigned candidates eligible for that ticket's category restrictions and which has zero or one candidates already assigned is selected first. If there is more than one ticket with such a property, the selected ticket is chosen by lot from the set of equivalent tickets. From all remaining unassigned candidates eligible for this ticket, one is selected by lot and assigned to the ticket. The process iterates until all tickets have two assigned candidates. Then, from all available tickets, the one with the fewest assigned candidates and with 1 or more available qualified unassigned candidates is selected. If two or more tickets have the same such attributes one is selected by lot. An unassigned candidate that meets the selected ticket qualifications is selected by lot. This process iterates until all candidates are assigned to tickets.
- 2) Candidates on the second ballot shall be listed in the order in which they were assigned to the ticket in the By-Lot process described above.

S9.21.05

E. Second and Succeeding Ballot Election Process

The second ballot process shall permit voters to select only one candidate per ticket. The tickets on the second and subsequent ballots shall be labeled only by the constitutionally mandated restrictions that apply to that ticket plus a ticket number.

- 1) In the second ballot process, the total number of valid votes cast is calculated separately for each ticket. More than 1/2 of the number of valid votes cast is required for election.
- 2) If there is no election on a ticket on the second ballot, the top two candidates plus ties shall be candidates on a third ballot. The ordering of candidates on the third ballot is the same as the ordering on the previous ballot. On the third ballot, (if it is required) the Chair of the Synod Assembly seals their vote and provides it to the Elections Committee Chair. Should there be a tie on one or more tickets on the third ballot, the vote of the Chair of the Assembly shall be used to attempt to break the tie. To preserve the anonymity of the voters, the Elections Committee shall not reveal whether or not an election was decided by use of the tie breaking process.
- 3) If a Synod Assembly adjourns without completing the election process or proceeding past the second ballot, the Synod Council in office at the time of the opening of the Synod Assembly shall fill the remaining offices, electing from the tickets and candidates that remain unselected by the Synod Assembly.

S9.21.06

F. Definition of Terms:

- 1) **Office:** a position to which a person is elected, e.g., Synod Council, Discipline Committee. Offices are not identified by representativeness categories.
- 2) **Ticket:** a selection of candidates for office among which voters must choose. A ticket may elect to more than one office. For example, a ticket may have 4 candidates, two of which should be elected. Tickets may be restricted to persons meeting one or more specific category requirements.
- 3) **Category:** a criterion that restricts the nature of candidates for a particular ticket. Constitutionally required categories include Lay Male/Lay Female and Ordained/Lay. Permitted categories include PCL, Age, and Quadrant Distribution. A Category is used to differentiate persons as they are assigned to tickets. If the Nominating Committee assigns one or more Categories to a Ticket, then all persons assigned to that ticket must meet the Category(s) limitations.
- 4) **Ballot:** a listing of candidates for election by ticket. More than one ticket (in general) is on a ballot. A voter casts votes per ticket and need not vote on every ticket included on a ballot.
- 5) **By-Lot Selection:** Either a manual or an automated process is permitted and both may be used during a single election. If the process is manual, equal tokens representing the available choices shall be thoroughly mixed and one token selected in an unbiased manner. If additional selections are required, tokens are selected in an unbiased manner from the remaining unselected tokens to determine the second, third, etc choice. If the process is automated, each choice shall be assigned a random number chosen by selection without replacement from the uniform distribution in the range 0—999. The highest number is considered selected. The second highest number is the second selected, etc.

The assembly voted in favor of the amendment. This will be brought for second vote at 2015 Assembly.

Constitutional Amendment

SA2014.05.08 To create a single Committee on Nominations and Elections

S9.03 amended to read as follows:

S9.03 Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Committee on Nominations and Elections.

S9.05 amended to read as follows:

S9.05 The Committee on Nominations and Elections shall nominate at least two persons for vice-president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Closing of Assembly

The Rev. Paul Johnson, Chair of the Assembly Planning Committee, made final announcements to those present.

Bishop Rimbo expressed final words of appreciation to the Assembly Chaplains, the Synod Worship Team, the musicians, the Assembly Planning Committee, the Assembly pages and tellers, the Committee on Reference and Council, the elected officers and council of the Synod, the volunteers of St. Paul's, East Northport that assembled the packets, the parliamentarian, our Strategic Plan consultant, our photographer and audio/visual team, and the Assembly Coordinator, Rebekah Thornhill.

Bishop Rimbo then invited a motion to adjourn, which was made, seconded and passed.

The assembly concluded with the Order for the Closing of the Assembly with the Installation of Synod Council.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Robert Schoepflin
Secretary, MNYS*