



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Minutes of the 2022 NIS Assembly

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
JUNE 5, 12, & 17-18, 2022**

PLENARY SESSION I - SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 6:30 P.M. (VIA ZOOM)

OPENING WORSHIP

After a note of welcome, Bishop Clements invited the assembly to join in worship with the hymn “Canticle of the Turning” followed by a devotion led by the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla. The devotion focused on Acts 16 and the leading of the Spirit to change Paul’s “strategic plan.” Pastor Malpica raised the question in the devotion, “What will the Holy Spirit and Jesus say about our strategic plans?”

OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Following the devotions, the bishop led the assembly in the “The Order for the Opening of Synod Assembly.” Bishop Clements welcomed and thanked everyone for their participation as members of the Body of Christ. He gave a brief preview of the assembly, including information on how this assembly would be conducted via Zoom and in-person and explained the voting procedures.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

The bishop presented the Credentials Committee report, indicating that there were 181 Lay Voting Members (59%) and 123 Rostered Ministers (40%) in attendance. Noting that we did not have the required 60% lay participation for a quorum, the bishop asked for a few minutes to investigate and resolve the situation.

CANDIDACY COMMITTEE REPORT

While that investigation was taking place the bishop invited the assembly to watch the video report from the Candidacy Committee.

Following the video, the bishop declared that a quorum had been established with 187 Lay Voting Members (61%) and 120 Rostered Voting Members (39%). The bishop thanked the members of the Credentials Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF THE ASSEMBLY

Secretary Don Knowles, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved the adoption of the rules of the 2022 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly as found in the Bulletin of Reports. The bishop explained that no second was required as the Rules were coming from the Synod Council.

ACTION SA-22-06-01 The Rules of the Assembly were adopted.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Secretary Knowles, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved that the agenda for the Synod

Assembly, as found in the Bulletin of Reports, be adopted as the agenda for the 2022 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. No second was required.

ACTION SA-22-06-02 The motion to adopt the agenda was approved.

CERTIFICATION OF THE 2021 SYNOD ASSEMBLY MINUTES

The bishop reported that the Minutes Review Committee had reviewed the minutes of the 2021 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly and found them to be a fair and accurate representation of the assembly and moved to approve the minutes. No second needed.

- Duane Anderson (Capron, Capron) reported that his name was incorrectly recorded in the discussion regarding the constitution in the 2021 minutes. The correction will be made.

ACTION SA-22-06-03 The 2021 Synod Assembly minutes were adopted, as presented.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT.

The Congregational Life Committee video report was presented.

FIRST BALLOT FOR BISHOP

Bishop Clements introduced the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, the Churchwide Representative to the 2022 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. Following the introduction, Bishop Clements relinquished the chair of the assembly to Pastor Malpica to begin the bishop election process. Pastor Malpica reviewed the bishop election process as stipulated in the synod constitution.

- The Rev. Tammy Anderson (Bethesda, Morrison) asked what would happen if someone is nominated from outside the synod but the person nominating them does not have contact information. She was assured that the synod would track them down.
- The Rev. Jacob Gawlik (St. John's, Sterling) asked if someone would pray for the process before the balloting began. The answer was yes.

Deacon Carla Vanatta was asked to invoke the Spirit's presence as the first ballot was cast.

Fifteen minutes were provided for voting members to vote on the first ballot for bishop.

Pastor Malpica returned the chair of the assembly to the bishop.

GLOBAL MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Global Mission Committee video report was presented.

SYNOD SECRETARY'S REPORT

The synod secretary's video report was presented. The bishop offered thanks for the ministry of Secretary Knowles.

SYNOD COUNCIL REPORT

The bishop received the report of the Synod Council as provided by the synod secretary and found in the Bulletin of Reports.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS REPORT

The LSSI video report from President and CEO Mark Stutrud was presented.

PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES REPORT

The video report from Portico, with The Rev. Jeff Thiemann, Jennifer Prinz and others was presented.

REPORT OF THE FIRST BALLOT

The bishop relinquished the chair of the assembly to Pastor Malpica for the report of the first ballot. Nancy Lillevold, chair of the Elections Committee, reported the results as follows:

Report of the First Ballot

1st ballot votes (legal)	283
Not legal	0
Total votes cast	283
Needed for election on the 1st ballot (75%)	213

No.	Name	Votes	%
1	Fidlar, Stacie	52	18.4
2	Hunt, Janet	42	14.8
3	Erickson, Gary	18	6.4
4	Esker, Pat	10	3.5
5	Beamsley, Jen (Jennifer)	10	3.5
6	Schock, Twila	9	3.2
7	Thomas, Mike (Michael)	9	3.2
8	Daharsh, Cathy (Catherine)	8	2.8
9	Wilson, Sarah	8	2.8
10	Clements, Bishop Jeff (H. Jeffrey)	7	2.5
11	Bitner, Denver	5	1.8
12	Hanson, Marilyn	5	1.8
13	Ehrler, Josh (Josh)	4	1.4
14	Marolla, Pam (Pamela)	4	1.4
15	Marolla, Vince (Vince)	3	1.1
16	Clark, Mike (Michel)	3	1.1
17	Boster, Mark	3	1.1
18	Langholf, Frank	3	1.1
19	Alsop, Joy	3	1.1
20	Fields, Preston	3	1.1
21	Pedersen, Jon	3	1.1
22	James, Rob (Robert)	3	1.1
23	Lee, Chris (Christopher)	2	0.7

24	Dahlberg, Bill (William)	2	0.7
25	Knowles, Don (Don)	2	0.7
26	Schmidt, Scott	2	0.7
27	Haugen, Brad (Bradley)	2	0.7
28	Seraphine, John	2	0.7
29	Stolberg, Scott	2	0.7
30	Ingelson, Ben (Benjamin)	2	0.7
31	Swanstrom, Nord	2	0.7
32	Cantrell, Lu (Luanne)	2	0.7
33	Cannon, Paul	2	0.7
34	Ballenger, Carrie	2	0.7
35	Caldwell, Robin	2	0.7
36	Truax, Bree	2	0.7
37	Wollersheim, Gary	2	0.7
38	Pedersen, Reed	2	0.7
39	Townsend De Lopez, Michelle	2	0.7
40	Frambach, Nathan	2	0.7
41	Lemonholm, Eric	1	0.4
42	Liston, Doug (Douglas)	1	0.4
43	Knutson, Woody (Norwood)	1	0.4
44	Kinnear, Rob (Robert C.)	1	0.4
45	Hill, Susie	1	0.4
46	Hedlin, Dave (David)	1	0.4
47	Kayes, Andrew	1	0.4
48	Priggie, Richard	1	0.4
49	Schade, Leah	1	0.4
50	Sefrhans-Murphy, Gwen	1	0.4
51	Wold, Janet	1	0.4
52	Bullock, Wyvetta	1	0.4
53	Vidler, David (C. David)	1	0.4
54	Strug, Cordell	1	0.4
55	Soderholm, Carol	1	0.4
56	Splichal Larson, Renee	1	0.4
57	Schlesinger, Jeff	1	0.4
58	Robb, Joe (Joseph)	1	0.4
59	Nordby, Kurt	1	0.4
60	Nease, Julane	1	0.4
61	Martin, Elizabeth	1	0.4
62	Adrian, Joanne	1	0.4
63	Severain, Kyle	1	0.4
64	Gibson, Ken (Kenneth)	1	0.4
65	Hansen, Bob (Robert)	1	0.4

66	Chu, Joe (Joseph)	1	0.4
67	Gawlik, Jacob	1	0.4
68	Dahlseng, Brent	1	0.4
69	Gallagher, Katie (Katie)	1	0.4
70	Benolkin, Scott	1	0.4
71	Ekstrand, Tom (Thomas)	1	0.4
72	Black, Jonathan	1	0.4

Pastor Malpica, after reviewing the next steps for those nominated, returned the chair to the bishop.

Bill Callister (St. Paul, Streator) asked if he had heard Nathan Frambach’s name read twice with one vote each time. The bishop said they will look into that and make any necessary corrections.

The bishop closed Plenary Session I with prayer at 8:15 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION II - SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 6:30 P.M. (VIA ZOOM)

OPENING HYMN AND DEVOTION

Following a greeting by the bishop, including thanks to Pastor Jay Quinn and Deacon Jean Anderson for their hymn submission, the hymn “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” was presented. Following the hymn, a video devotion by Deacon Shari Trotter was offered. The focus of the devotion was on the story of Dorcas from Acts 9. Deacon Trotter concluded her comments by encouraging assembly participants to be like Dorcas in reaching out in service to those on the margins. She concluded the devotions with prayer.

Following devotions Bishop Clements reviewed the procedures for voting using Slido and worked through a few concerns from individuals.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bishop Clements reported the results from the Credentials Committee for Plenary Session II as follows.

Total Voting Members: 336
 Lay Voting Members: 213 (63%)
 Rostered Voting Members: 123 (37%)

The bishop declared that a quorum was established.

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

The video report of the Social Ministry Committee was presented.

SECOND BALLOT FOR BISHOP

Bishop Clements introduced Victoria Flood, Executive Director for Mission Support of the ELCA and the Churchwide Representative for Plenary Session II. (Pastor Malpica was unable to attend Plenary Session II.) The bishop then relinquished the chair to Executive Director Flood to conduct the second ballot for bishop.

Director Flood reviewed the process for voting on the second ballot. She then called on Jim Spring to invoke the Spirit's presence prior to casting the ballot.

Before the results of the second ballot were reported several people reported problems in receiving and/or casting their ballots. They were referred to the Tech Support people.

While some of the technical difficulties were being addressed the **Youth Gathering Video** was presented.

Although a few people were not able to cast a ballot because of technical problems, it was determined by results of ballots already counted that the few missing ballots would not affect the process moving forward.

Director Flood called on Nancy Lillevold, chair of the Elections Committee, to read the results. They were as follows:

Pastor Janet Hunt	168
Pastor Stacie Fidler	106
Pastor Josh Ehrler	20
Pastor Eric Lemonholm	11
Pastor Reed Pederson	10
Pastor Jacob Gawlik	5
Pastor Joanne Adrian	1

All seven candidates will move on to the third ballot.

Director Flood returned the chair of the assembly to Bishop Clements.

- Christina King (First, Galesburg) asked that in reporting names that the title "Dr." be acknowledged. The bishop said that would be taken under advisement.
- Harlan Johnson (Emmanuel, Rockford) reported that he was unable to vote due to technical difficulties.

MINISTRY SUPPORT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Ministry Support Committee video report was presented. The bishop offered thanks to the committee for their work.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The video report of Vice President Minnette Willard was presented. The bishop offered thanks to Vice President Willard for her work and received the report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Following her video report, Treasurer Tammie Farley shared the budget results from FY 2021 and reported on the clean audit received by the synod. The bishop received the report with thanks to the treasurer.

CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Victoria Flood recognized the shared mission and vision of the synod and the ELCA, emphasizing that we are walking together in mission for the sake of the world. Bishop Eaton's video report was then presented to the assembly.

Before the closing prayer the bishop reminded assembly members of forums that would be held during the week.

Bishop Clements closed Plenary Session II with prayer.

PLENARY SESSION III -FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022 (AT AUGUSTANA COLLEGE)

The bishop welcomed voting members to Augustana with the acknowledgement that where the meeting was taking place is located on traditional Lands of the Kikaapoi (Kickapoo), Peoria, Sauk and Meskwaki, Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), Myaamia (Miami), and Oceti Sakowin (Sioux). These people, along with others before them, have stewarded this land at different times throughout history.

The assembly was invited to sing the opening hymn, *Soli Deo Gloria*, accompanied by Deacon Jean Anderson, followed by prayer led by Pastor Makayla Dahleen.

The bishop introduced the people at the head table: Deacon Cheryl Erdmann (Assistant to the Bishop), Pastor Don Knowles (Synod Secretary), Ms. Tammie Farley (Synod Treasurer), Ms. Minnette Willard (Synod Vice President). The Parliamentarian, Pastor Andrew Kayes, was in the front row.

The bishop reviewed procedures for coming to the microphones and for voting using Slido.

A video greeting from Steve Bahls, President of Augustana College, was presented.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Pastor Chris Lee presented the credentials report as follows:

Total Voting Member	359
Lay Voting Members	233 (65%)
Rostered Voting Members	126 (35%)

The bishop declared a quorum was established.

ADOPTION OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD 2023 SALARY GUIDELINES

Secretary Knowles, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved the adoption of the 2023 Rostered Minister Salary Guidelines as presented in the Bulletin of Reports. The Guidelines were adopted.

ACTION SA-22-06-04 The 2023 Rostered Minister Salary Guidelines for the Northern Illinois Synod were adopted.

THIRD BALLOT FOR BISHOP

The bishop relinquished the chair of the assembly to Vice President Willard for the third ballot. (Pastor Malpica was unable to attend Plenary Sessions III and IV due to travel complications.)

Vice President Willard reviewed the process for balloting.

- Jerry Johansen, (St. James, Rock Island), raised a concern about the stability of the WiFi and asked that voting on the third ballot not be concluded until the issues were resolved.

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In response to the concern raised, another trial vote was conducted to ensure everyone could vote.

Following the trial vote, Pastor Janet Wold invoked the Spirit prior to casting the third ballot.

The Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center video report was presented while the votes were tabulated.

Nancy Lillevold, Chair of the Election Committee, was invited to the podium to give the results of the third ballot as follows:

Pastor Janet Hunt	182
Pastor Stacie Fidler	114
Pastor Josh Ehrler	9
Pastor Eric Lemonholm	8
Pastor Reed Pederson	8
Pastor Jacob Gawlik	5
Pastor Joanne Adrian	3

With no one receiving the required number of votes to be elected, the top three candidates, Pastor Hunt, Pastor Fidler, and Pastor Ehrler, moved on to the fourth ballot.

Vice President Willard returned the chair to Bishop Clements.

2023 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Bishop Clements called on Treasurer Tammie Farley to present the proposed 2023 Northern Illinois Synod Budget.

Treasurer Farley presented information about the 2023 proposed budget.

GENERAL BALLOT FOR SYNOD COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

The General Ballot was conducted using Slido. The nominees for each position were named followed by the opportunity for nominations from the floor. The vote took place immediately following the presentation of the nominees for each position with the results immediately announced. The bishop recognized Pastor John Cunningham, Chair of the Nominating Committee to read the nominees.

The bishop offered prayer before the voting on the general ballot.

The following people were elected:

Synod Secretary

- The Rev. Julie Monnard

Synod Council (3-year terms)

- Ms. Janice Forrest
- Mr. George Sanchez
- The Rev. Shellie Knight
- The Rev. Frank Langholf

Synod Council Youth Representative (1-year term)

- Mr. Luke Snyder

Congregational Life Committee (3-year terms)

- Ms. Melissa Rojas
- Deacon Laura Gorton
- The Rev. David Efflandt

Global Mission Committee (3-year term)

- The Rev. Tammy Anderson
- The Rev. Jose Cortes

Ministry Support Committee (3-year term)

- Ms. Marianne Barstow
- The Rev. Sharon Rogers

Outreach Committee (3-year term)

- Ms. Sharon Beksell
- Mr. Don Kinney
- Mr. Dave Musser
- The Rev. Bob Stark

Social Ministry Committee (3-year term)

- Ms. Carol Wahlstrom
- The Rev. Chuck Olson

The bishop thanked Pastor Cunningham. The assembly offered appreciation by applause for all those who stood for nomination.

Bishop Clements also acknowledged and voiced appreciation for the four pastors who were nominated for bishop and were not moving on to the fourth ballot.

Following announcements by Assistant to the Bishop Marilyn Hanson, the bishop closed Plenary Session III with a prayer of remembrance for those pastors of the synod who loved and served God on earth and now rest from their labors:

- The Rev. Orlyn Huwe,
- The Rev. Dr. Robert Linstrom
- The Rev. Dennis Hill
- The Rev. Amy Nyman
- The Rev. Robert Peterson
- The Rev. Henry Grishkowsky
- The Rev. Phillip Laurin
- The Rev. Dr. Roger Helgren.

PLENARY SESSION IV – JUNE 18, 2022 (AT AUGUSTANA COLLEGE)

Pastor Marilyn Hanson introduced the opening hymn, *All Are Welcome*, accompanied by Deacon Jean Anderson. Following the hymn, Pastor Mack Patrick offered prayer.

Bishop Clements welcomed voting members back for Plenary Session IV. He introduced Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. The bishop reviewed the agenda for the morning and did a practice vote on Slido.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

The bishop invited Pastor Chris Lee to read the credentials committee report.

Lay Voting Members	216 (64%)
Rostered Voting Members	120 (36%)
Total Voting Members	336

The bishop declared that a quorum had been established.

QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION FOR BISHOP NOMINEES

Bishop Clements relinquished the chair of the assembly to Vice President Willard for the question-and-answer session for the Bishop Nominees; Pastor Josh Ehrlar, Pastor Janet Hunt and Pastor Stacie Fidler.

FOURTH BALLOT FOR BISHOP

Prior to voting on the fourth ballot, Ryan Mackey led the assembly in prayer.

While the voting results were being tabulated, the Mission Investment Fund video report was presented.

Nancy Lillevold was invited to the podium to read the results of the fourth ballot.

Pastor Stacie Fidler 181

Pastor Janet Hunt 127
Pastor Josh Ehrler 21

Since no candidate received 60% of the legal votes cast, Pastor Fidler and Pastor Hunt would move on to a fifth ballot.

BISHOP'S REPORT

Bishop Clements' video report was presented to the assembly. At the conclusion of the report the assembly expressed their gratitude for the ministry of Bishop Clements with a standing ovation.

Vice President Willard returned the chair of the assembly to Bishop Clements.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The bishop called on the Brent Olson, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, to present the resolutions.

R1 A Call to Celebrate and Support Lutheran Campus Ministry in the Northern Illinois Synod

Mr. Olson read the resolves of R1 as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod, which has been a supporter of Lutheran Campus Ministry, encourage its congregations and individuals to support the mission of Grace Place Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University and designates the third Sunday in May as Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Grace Place Campus Ministry and its Board of Directors provide education materials and information about its ministry to congregations and individuals within the synod in order to create partnerships that would strengthen the ministry of Grace Place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday congregations are encouraged to lift up Lutheran Campus Ministry in their prayers and to encourage their young adults and recent graduates to engage in Lutheran Campus Ministry wherever they attend college or university; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday congregations are encouraged to receive a special offering to be sent to the synod to support Lutheran Campus Ministry in the synod.

The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption of the resolution.

- Pastor Mack Patrick (Grace Place Campus Ministry, DeKalb) spoke in favor of the resolution.

With no further discussion, R1 was adopted.

ACTION SA-22-06-05 R1 A Call to Celebrate and Support Lutheran Campus Ministry in the Northern Illinois Synod was adopted.

R2 A Memorial to Uphold the Dignity of the Office of Ministry

Mr. Olson read the resolves for R2 as follows:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod memorialize the Churchwide Assembly and Conference of Bishops to suspend removal from the roster due to anything other than formal disciplinary reasons (i.e., no removal for exceeding maximum time periods for on-leave from call status, serving in ministry positions that don't offer a formal Letter of Call, or missing communication deadlines); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod memorialize the Churchwide Assembly and Conference of Bishops to create a task force to establish national guidelines for handling interim/ transition/bridge calls, specialized ministry calls, other non-parish based or innovative calls (with increased attention to calls for our deacons), on-leave-from-call status, removal from call protocols, removal from roster protocols, and communication protocols; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said task force establish a process for the clergy to challenge their removal from call and/or roster outside of the synod involved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said task force include members who are currently (or have recently been) involved in specialized ministries (interim/transition ministry, campus ministry, outdoor ministry, college or seminary professors, chaplains of all sorts, etc.), as well as those currently On Leave from Call for a variety of reasons (family, personal, disability, between-calls, study, etc.), and to include a minimum of two deacons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this task force present a report and recommendations for policy changes to the ELCA Church Council and Conference of Bishops prior to the fall of 2024 meeting of the Conference of Bishops for evaluation before being presented for consideration for adoption at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

The Resolutions Committee forwarded the resolution to the assembly without recommendation.

- Pastor Karen Tews (On Leave from Call, serving as interim at St. James, Forreston and St. Mark, Polo) spoke to the resolution as its author. She noted that a similar resolution is being presented at other synod assemblies.

With no other discussion Bishop Clements offered prayer and then called for the vote. The resolution was adopted.

ACTION SA-22-06-06 R2 A Memorial to Uphold the Dignity of the Office of Ministry was adopted.

FIFTH BALLOT FOR BISHOP

Bishop Clements relinquished the chair of the assembly to Vice President Willard for the fifth ballot for bishop.

Vice President Willard invited Pastor Andy Tyrrell to invoke the Spirit's presence prior to casting the ballot.

While the votes were being counted the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service video report was presented.

Nancy Lillevold was invited to the podium to read the results of the fifth ballot as follows:

Pastor Stacie Fidler	219
Pastor Janet Hunt	111

Having received a majority of the legal votes cast, Pastor Stacie Fidler was pronounced elected as Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod. Pastor Fidler's election was acknowledged with applause by the assembly.

Vice President Willard returned the chair to Bishop Clements. Bishop Clements then invited Bishop-Elect Fidler to greet the assembly.

ADOPTION OF THE 2023 NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD BUDGET

Secretary Knowles, on behalf of the Synod Council, moved that the budget prepared by the Finance Committee and adopted by the Synod Council, as it appears in the Bulletin of Reports, be adopted as the budget for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Northern Illinois Synod.

Treasurer Farley was invited to the podium to make comments and be available to respond to questions regarding the budget.

- Pastor JoAnna Patterson (Faith, South Beloit) proposed an amendment to the budget that would stipulate any surplus in the 2023 budget be used to reinvest in the agencies and institutions of the synod. The motion received a second.
- Pastor Sarah Wilson (St. Barnabas, Cary) asked what the current practice is regarding surpluses. Treasurer Farley reported any budget surplus goes into the synod reserves.

After a discussion with the parliamentarian, the bishop ruled that the amendment was out of order. The bishop indicated he would try to find a way for Pastor Patterson's proposal to be addressed. Bishop Clements, later in the assembly, suggested that Pastor Patterson request action by the Synod Council for any surplus in the 2022 budget and to bring a resolution to the 2023 Synod Assembly for the 2023 budget.

- Pastor Paul Carlson (Bethlehem, Joliet) said that he was pained by the reduction of mission support to the ELCA to 52.5%.
- Pastor Tom Rogers (Shepherd of the Hills, McHenry) spoke in favor of the proposed budget, noting the importance of being able to meet salary guidelines for the new synod staff.

- Pastor Tammy Anderson (Bethesda, Morrison) spoke against the budget, in particular the reduction of mission support to the ELCA. She wondered how to respond to a congregation that says that if the synod can reduce mission support to balance a budget, why can't the congregation?
- Bishop Clements noted that the reduction of mission support to the ELCA came after a consultation process with churchwide.
- Pastor Zach Baer (Living Waters, Crystal Lake) suggested that the reduction in mission support to the ELCA was not enough and that a further reduction would allow more funds to be invested in synod ministries.
- Jan Watson (Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Rockford) wondered if the \$88,000 included in the income side of the budget that had previously been an offset in the expense side of the budget would not make the proposed 52.5% mission support equal to what had been done in past budgets. Treasurer Farley responded that only mission support from congregations is used to calculate the mission support to the ELCA, so the \$88,000 does not factor into the synod's mission support to the ELCA.

With no further discussion the bishop offered prayer before calling for the vote on the proposed budget.

The budget was adopted.

ACTION SA-22-06-07 The 2023 Northern Illinois Synod Budget was adopted as proposed.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT CONTINUED

R3 Calling for A Just Transition to 50% Reduction in US Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030

Brent Olson read the resolves for R3 as follows:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that the ELCA Churchwide Organization continues to call upon the leadership of the United States of America to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030, generate 100% of its power from clean renewable sources by 2035, and achieve net zero emissions by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ELCA Churchwide Organization will continue to equip and encourage congregations, synods, and associated ministries to advocate that the United States of America reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030, generate 100% of its power from clean renewable sources by 2035, and achieve net zero emissions by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ELCA Churchwide Organization encourages congregations and synods to advocate for a just transition away from greenhouse gasses where at least 40% of the funding goes towards projects that directly benefit communities

made up of Indigenous, Black, People of Color, and those impacted by poverty, who bear a disproportionate cost of pollution and climate change already; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ELCA Churchwide Organization will support these actions through investments in staff, education, tools, and resources that equip congregations, synods, and associated ministries to accomplish this goal and leverage knowledge, skills, and experience across the church; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that congregants, rostered ministers, and bishops be encouraged to further educate themselves to the urgency of the climate emergency both locally and globally as well as to the local and global opportunities a just transition will create; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that rostered ministers and bishops will be encouraged to lift up loving our neighbor in response to the climate emergency through their preaching at least once a month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northern Illinois Synod and the ELCA Churchwide Organization will encourage and cooperate with Lutherans Restoring Creation and other faith-based and secular organizations that share our commitment to the protection and restoration of the natural world while doing justice for all.

The Resolutions Committee forwarded the resolution without recommendation.

- Pastor Jeff Schlesinger (Heart of Illinois Parish, Compton & Lee) spoke to the resolution saying that it was a call to be attentive to the environment. He noted that 30 other synods are proposing similar resolutions to be memorialized to the Churchwide Assembly.

With no further discussion, Bishop Clements offered prayer and then called for the vote.

R3 was adopted.

ACTION SA-22-06-08 R3 Calling for A Just Transition to 50% Reduction in US Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030 was adopted.

R4 Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery

Brent Olson read the resolves for R4 as follows:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Illinois Synod repudiate explicitly and clearly the European-derived Doctrine of Discovery as an example of the “improper mixing of the power of the church and the power of the sword” (Augsburg Confession Article XXVIII, Latin text), and acknowledge and repent from this church’s complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas, which continue to harm tribal governments and individual tribal members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northern Illinois Synod request that the Racial Justice subcommittee of the synod help promote advocacy for treaty and other rights of Indigenous Peoples within the synod territory and foster relationships between our communities; and work to further understand and appreciate the history, heritage, culture and spirituality of our Indigenous neighbors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northern Illinois Synod affirm with the ELCA that this church will eliminate the Doctrine of Discovery from its contemporary rhetoric and programs, electing to practice accompaniment with native peoples instead of a missionary endeavor to them, allowing these partnerships to mutually enrich Indigenous communities and the ministries of the church.

The Resolutions Committee recommended the adoption of the resolution.

- Pastor Robin Caldwell (St. John's, Joliet), speaking in favor of the resolution, noted that the ELCA, in 2016 repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery. The resolution acknowledges our regrets for what we have done in removing indigenous people from their lands. She said this was a first step.
- Paul Lockwood (Grace, Woodstock) moved the following amendment:
To add "with the help of tribal members, if possible" in the second resolve following "Racial Justice subcommittee." The motion received a second. Mr. Lockwood said he believes we should include tribal members in the discussion whenever possible.
- Pastor John Cunningham (Bethany, Crystal Lake) suggested a friendly edit to the amendment, suggesting that the addition should follow "of the synod." The suggestion was acceptable to Mr. Lockwood.
- Pastor Robin Caldwell (St. John's, Joliet) spoke in favor of the amendment, saying that the inclusion of tribal members is at the heart of the resolution which seeks to be in relationship with indigenous people.
- Pastor Julane Neese (United, Rockford) also spoke in favor of the amendment, saying that it helps avoid "white savior" syndrome.

With no further discussion the bishop called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment was adopted.

With no further discussion on the resolution the bishop led the assembly in prayer before voting on R4. Resolution R4 was adopted as amended.

ACTION SA-22-06-09 R4 Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery was adopted as amended.

RECOGNITIONS AND ANNIVERSARIES

50th Anniversary of Ordination

Bishop Clements called on Assistant to the Bishop Marilyn Hanson for the recognition of three rostered ministers of the synod who are celebrating 50 years of ordination:

- The Rev. Gary Heedum
- The Rev. Dr. Tom Hanson
- The Rev. Dr. Rick Meier

The bishop invited Pastor Meier to share a few words.

Other Milestone Anniversaries

A video recognizing other rostered ministers celebrating milestone anniversaries was presented.

Retired Roster Ministers

Bishop Clements recognized those rostered ministers who have retired since the last assembly:

- The Rev. Wayne Derber
- The Rev. Keith Forni
- The Rev. Eugene Vincent
- The Rev. Dr. Thomas Schattauer
- The Rev. Wendy Popp
- The Rev. Theresa Wilder

Rostered Ministers New to the Synod

The bishop recognized the rostered ministers who are new to the synod:

- The Rev. Phillip Potaczek (Trinity, Ottawa)
- The Rev. David Russell (Scenic Hills Parish)
- The Rev. Chrissy Salser (Christ, Stockton)
- The Rev. Amanda Dahlseng-Monroe (Grace, Loves Park)

The bishop also noted we have two first-call candidates awaiting call in our synod: Ryan Mackey and Hope Johnson.

Recognition of Retiring Synod Council Members

Bishop Clements recognized those synod council members completing their terms and presented them with a gift.

- Mr. George Sanchez
- Deacon Carla Vanatta
- The Rev. Janet Wold

Recognition of Synod Staff

Bishop Clements recognized the members of the synod staff, noting their number of years of service, presenting them with a gift, and thanking them for their dedicated ministry to the synod.

- Deacon Cheryl Erdmann
- The Rev. Gary Erickson
- The Rev. Pat Esker
- Deacon K Graddy
- The Rev. Marilyn Hanson
- The Rev. Denver Bitner
- The Rev. Michel Clark
- Ms. Anke Fronz

- Ms. Julie Lewis

Recognition of the Synod Secretary

The bishop recognized the Rev. Donald Knowles, retiring secretary of the synod, and presented him with a gift.

COURTESY COMMITTEE REPORT

Bishop Clements invited Deacon Judy Rooney and Pastor Zach Baer to the podium to give the Courtesy Committee Report.

Bishop Clements gave thanks to Augustana College for hosting the assembly, to the synod staff for their hard work in preparing for the assembly, for all the volunteers and all who were a part of making the assembly a reality.

There was a motion and second to adjourn the assembly. The motion passed.

The assembly adjourned at noon.

The assembly concluded with the Order for Closing of the Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Donald Knowles
Secretary of the Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA

- ACTION SA-22-06-01 The Rules of the Assembly were adopted.**
- ACTION SA-22-06-02 The motion to adopt the agenda was approved.**
- ACTION SA-22-06-03 The 2021 Synod Assembly minutes were adopted, as presented.**
- ACTION SA-22-06-04 The 2023 Rostered Minister Salary Guidelines for the Northern Illinois Synod were adopted.**
- ACTION SA-22-06-05 R1 A Call to Celebrate and Support Lutheran Campus Ministry in the Northern Illinois Synod was adopted.**
- ACTION SA-22-06-06 R2 A Memorial to Uphold the Dignity of the Office of Ministry was adopted.**
- ACTION SA-22-06-07 The 2023 Northern Illinois Synod Budget was adopted as proposed.**
- ACTION SA-22-06-08 R3 Calling for A Just Transition to 50% Reduction in US Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030 was adopted.**
- ACTION SA-22-06-09 R4 Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery was adopted as amended.**