



Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Twenty-Eighth Annual Assembly
of the
Virginia Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

BULLETIN OF REPORTS

ROANOKE COLLEGE

SALEM, VIRGINIA

JUNE 5-7, 2015



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Spring 2015

"Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be; let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love. Here 's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above."

— Evangelical Lutheran Worship 807, verse 3

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are church. As members in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we are found by and abiding in Christ; we are God's beloved people gathered around word and sacrament. Every week you gather in your congregations to hear God's word and to share in the Lord's Supper, to know Christ crucified and Christ risen. My hope and prayer is that through our spiritual practices and our worship we are drawn closer to and are more aware of the love of God shown through Jesus' death and resurrection.

As we gather in Christ's name at our synod assemblies, I invite you to pray, with me, for one another and the work we do together across this church. Remembering the words of the apostle Paul: "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (Romans 12:5).

In my international travels earlier this year, it became clear to me that the ELCA is part of the body of Christ that spans the globe and the centuries. When we consider issues such as the ecclesiology of a global church, or a unified Word and Service roster, or ministry to and with same-gender families, it is never, nor can it ever be, a conversation just among us.

This past fall, we entered the season of celebrating five years of our full communion partnership with the United Methodist Church. In late May, we join our Catholic sisters and brothers in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the U.S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue, which over the years has produced 11 substantial reports. We continue our work in strengthening all of our ecumenical and inter-religious partnerships.

We also are accompanying our brothers and sisters globally. We have visited with unaccompanied migrant children and families fleeing their homes in the Northern Triangle countries of Central America. Companions in the region have shared about their struggles, root causes of this migration and avenues for ELCA response. ELCA members, synod bishops and churchwide staff have borne witness to and talked about ELCA plans for strategic engagement.

Through The Lutheran World Federation, we work with refugees and internally displaced people in Syria, Cameroon, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Kenya, Jordan, Ukraine, Iraq and many other places. We have made significant progress in controlling malaria and treating Ebola. We are developing a social statement on the social issue of women and justice. These are just a few of the ways that we are church for the sake of the world.

This summer brings two wonderful events. Both the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit and the Worship Jubilee in Atlanta will give us an opportunity to ask: How is God calling the church

today, and what does God's work mean for our service to our community and the world? These events will be a time for rich conversation, faith formation and renewal of worship for the sake of the gospel and for the life of the world.

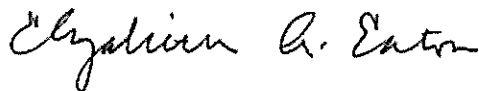
Good progress continues to be made on the ELCA's observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Two communication platforms recently debuted: www.ELCA500.org and the "ELCA Reformation 500" Facebook page. The theme for the 500th anniversary observance is "Freed and Renewed in Christ," with the tagline, "500 Years of God's Grace in Action." This will also be the theme for the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. You are invited to come to the "Grace Gathering" in New Orleans, which will be held concurrently with the Churchwide Assembly on its last four days, Aug. 10-13, 2016. The goals of the Grace Gathering are for personal renewal in faith, to be equipped for meaningful observances of the 500th anniversary, and to increase the number of ELCA members who will take part in service-learning activities in New Orleans as part of the Churchwide Assembly. Please come!

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA is off to a good start with more than \$48.4 million in generous gifts and commitments toward the campaign priorities. This year we are seeking support for new and renewed congregations in *The Campaign for the ELCA*. The impact of the campaign will go far beyond the nearly \$200 million goal. It will establish a strong culture of stewardship in which this church will be well-positioned to do God's work in Jesus' name throughout the world for decades to come. Thank you for your support and prayers for this good work.

This coming Sept. 13, we will continue our tradition of a dedicated day of service. "God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

God's blessings to you as you meet, discern, pray, vote, worship and sing together. This is a wonderful church, and I am honored to serve in it with you. Thank you for your faithful witness to the gospel.

God's peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ASSEMBLY ORIENTATION

FOR

FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES

FRIDAY, June 5, 2015

12:00 NOON

Colket - Garrett Room

Presenters

Charles Poston, Synod Vice-President

Janet Gomez, Synod Secretary

**FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES ONLY,
PLEASE**

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the faithful support of people like you, the ELCA Malaria Campaign is at work with companion churches and Lutheran partners in 13 African countries. We are listening to the priorities of each community and helping to provide comprehensive, holistic programs to end deaths from this preventable, treatable disease.



Together we have had great success.

More than **2 million community members** have been **educated** • Nearly **50,000 insecticide-treated bed nets** have been distributed • More than **10,000 people** have been **trained** in malaria prevention and treatment • More than **32,000** expectant mothers have received **preventive malaria treatment** during pregnancy • By joining global efforts to fight malaria, the ELCA Malaria Campaign has been a part of **slashing the death rate in half** in Africa since 2000 • In malaria stricken areas, there are **45 million fewer infections per year**



ELCA Malaria Campaign
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

GOD IS CALLING US INTO THE WORLD – TOGETHER

The ELCA Malaria Campaign works with companion churches and Lutheran partners in **13 African countries** by providing malaria education, prevention and treatment. We walk alongside our partners, listening to the priorities of each community and working together to end deaths from this preventable, treatable disease. This map provides just a snapshot of the comprehensive programming taking place.





RENEW AND RETREAT

A CHRISTIAN FORMATION RETREAT

Co-Partnered by Camp Caroline Furnace and
Roots and Wings a Christian Formation Committee of the VA Synod

RETREAT PRESENTER: Barbara Harner, Director of Youth and Family Ministry at
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Montgomery
Village, MD and Chair of the Youth Ministry Team,
Metro DC Synod

WORSHIP LEADER &

Self-Care Presenter: Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton, VA Synodical Minister Christian
Formation will be leading us in worship and will be with
us throughout the retreat to answer questions. She will
lead a session on Wednesday afternoon on self-care.

WHERE: Camp Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center

WHEN: TUESDAY OCTOBER 6, 4:30 PM – THURSDAY OCTOBER 8, 10:00 AM

WHO: All those **staff and volunteers** who serve full-time and part-time in Children,
Youth and Family Ministry.

COST: \$60. (Includes 2 nights and 5 meals). Day registration is \$25.00. Register online
at carolinefurnace.org. **You may also register by emailing Diane Bayer**
(bayer@muhlenbergglutheran.org) or calling Caroline Furnace 540-933-6662

WHAT: Come to Camp Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center for a
retreat which is specifically designed to support and equip both full-time and
part-time professional and volunteer Children, Youth and Family Ministry
staff. In addition to an educational component there will be ample time for
networking and resource sharing, as well as relaxation, conversation and
worship. Return to your place of ministry refreshed and renewed!

**Each participant is asked to bring at least one resource to share that they have
found helpful!** You will also need towels, a pillow and sleeping bag.

BULLETIN OF REPORTS

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Virginia Synod, ELCA
2015 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

June 5 – 7, 2015

Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia

Please Note: The cut-off time for the receipt of resolutions for consideration of the Committee of Reference and Counsel is 30 days before the first day of the Assembly (May 5, 2015)

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

ASSEMBLY PURPOSE

We are gathered at this Assembly to experience and express what it means to be called to be church together as the Body of Christ – as we care for necessary items of business, participate in and experience corporate worship, be inspired by the theme program and speakers and engage in fellowship.

ASSEMBLY THEME

For the 2015 Assembly will be **AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST; KNOWING OUR CONGREGATIONAL NEIGHBORHOODS TO DO GOD’S WILL**. The theme will allow us to continue to explore our congregational locations and develop local programming

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS and ELCA REPRESENTATIVE

Our Assembly keynote speaker is: Dr. Mary Sue Drier, a teacher of Missiology at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. The Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director - ELCA Division of Global Missions, will serve as ELCA Churchwide Representative.

ASSEMBLY OFFERINGS

Offerings are designated globally for the New Guinea Islands District (PNG) Scholarship Program for children of pastors and a designated feeding program

ASSEMBLY WORSHIP

Several opportunities for worship are built into the Assembly program, including opening processional worship with communion on Friday afternoon; a Saturday morning service; and a Sunday closing recessional service.

A Service of Holy Communion, including Ordination(s) if applicable, will be held on Saturday evening at St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Bishop Mauney will be the Presiding Minister and Preacher.

Buses will be available for round-trip transportation between the college and the church. Buses will be loaded beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the first bus reserved for service participants. Return trips to the college will begin immediately following the service. For those driving their own cars, a map showing directions to the church is found on page A-16 of this document.

Clergy are **strongly encouraged** to vest (red stole) and participate in the procession at St. Andrew – *and will be asked to make this known at registrations for seating purposes.*

ROOM AND BOARD AT ROANOKE COLLEGE

PLEASE NOTE: This year we do have access to dorm rooms on campus, and registration form allows for you to request lodging on campus ... others may prefer off –campus lodging, and a list of motels with assembly rates is available on line and in registration materials.

On arrival at the college, you are asked to park in a parking lot near your assigned dormitory, then come to the **Lobby of the Colket Student Center**, where you will pick up your room key and meal tickets.

REGISTRATION FOR THE ASSEMBLY

All lay voting members, rostered leaders, and visitors are required to pay a \$200.00 registration fee and must register for the Assembly on arrival. There is a \$25:00 discount for registrations postmarked on or before April 15, 2015. Registration will be in the **Lobby of the Colket Student Center.** Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday.

Information packets will be available through this registration process. Separate registration tables will be set up for lay voting members, rostered leaders, visitors and official visitors. **NOTE** that lunch will be served beginning at 11:00 a.m.

All persons registering for the Assembly **MUST** have completed a Roanoke College Summer Conference Health Emergency Form.

PARKING

Since the college is not in session during the time of our Assembly, you may park in any of the parking areas shown on the map sent with the confirmation letter.

VOTING MEMBER ORIENTATION

An optional orientation session for voting members will be held in Antrim Chapel on Friday, beginning at 12:00 Noon.

MEALS

As indicated previously, six meals are included in the room/meal package. Commuters may purchase a three meal package that includes Friday Dinner and Saturday Lunch and Dinner. Individual meal tickets may be purchased at the time of registration, or at the Information Table in Colket.

All meals will be served in Colket Commons, which is a part of the Student Center. Dinner on Friday evening will be a BBQ served in Colket, and participants may choose to take their plates outside to tables provided on the quad area.

Meal times will be:

Lunch.....	Friday	11:00am to 12:30 p.m.
	Saturday	11:00am to 1:00 p.m.
Dinner.....	Friday	6:00pm to 7:30 p.m.
	Saturday	5:00pm to 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL MEALS

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Lunch for friends of the Seminary will be held during the Saturday lunch time in a special reserved section of the Sutton Commons dining area.

A luncheon for Spouses of Rostered Leaders will be held during the lunch hour on Saturday. The luncheon will be held in the President's Dining Room on the second level of Colket. Tickets for the meal plan may be used, or you may purchase an individual lunch ticket at the Information Desk in Colket.

PLENARY SESSIONS

These sessions will be held in the Homer C. Bast Physical Education and Recreation Center. The floor level of the Bast Center is lower than ground level of the campus proper. Voting Members and Visitors who have problems with steps may use the elevators in the Bast Center to go to and from the plenary sessions. Access at grade to the floor of the Bast Center is possible from the west (opposite) side of the building.

WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU BRING A SWEATER TO WEAR IN BAST CENTER. IT CAN SOMETIMES BE VERY COOL.

THOSE WITH HEARING CONCERNS MAY CHOOSE TO SIT NEARER OR FURTHER FROM THE SPEAKERS – THIS IS A LARGE SPACE AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO KEEP SOUND LEVELS THE SAME IN ALL AREAS.

SEATING FOR PLENARY SESSIONS

All voting members and official visitors will be seated at tables on the floor of the Bast Center. Visitors will be required to use designated seating. Visitors are asked to honor this arrangement so that voting members will have adequate workspace at the tables and in order to facilitate distribution of ballots for the several elections and the counting of the house on calls for “division”.

VISITORS

Ample seating space for visitors is available and visitors are welcome.

DISPLAYS

Displays depicting the many ministries of the synod and its agencies and institutions will be set up in **Colket Student Center and in Pickle Room on the first floor level**. These displays will be maintained throughout the Assembly and all voting members and visitors are urged to take time to view them. There will be persons available for consultation.

EXPENSES OF VOTING MEMBERS

Voting members to the Assembly are being asked to pay a \$20.00 Travel Equalization Fee as part of the Assembly cost package. Auto mileage reimbursement will be paid at the rate of ten cents per mile for the driver and two cents per mile for each additional passenger who is a voting member or Youth Assembly attendee. Checks will be available at the end of the Sunday morning session. Living expenses at the Assembly should be cared for by the congregations. (The synod

will care for per diem expenses of retired pastors, senior seminarians, and certain others whose expenses are not covered by their agency.)

MINUTES OF SYNOD

Minutes will be mailed only to those requesting – and will be available to all on the VA Synod Web site www.vasynod.org A Directory will be mailed to all rostered leaders.

YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Lutheran Youth of the Virginia Synod will be holding their annual Assembly concurrently with the Synod Assembly. They will be joining us at various times during the weekend during major presentations or to observe the Assembly in action.

INFORMATION DESK

An information desk will be in the lobby of Colket Student Center. Messages for Assembly members will be posted on the video screens during plenary sessions.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

To reach someone attending the Assembly, you may call the synod office at **(540) 389-1000** between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. For incoming **emergency** calls outside of these hours, please use **(540) 375-2500**.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY NOTES

General

1. This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. **(Section 7.01, Synodical Constitution)**

Assembly Membership

2. Assembly Voting Members

The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60% of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:

- (a) All ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- (b) All active associates in ministry on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- (c) A minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation related to this synod, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of number of baptized members in the congregation. Additional members from each congregation shall normally be equally divided between male and female.
- (d) Voting membership shall include the Officers of this synod. **(Section 7.21)**

3. Additional Voting Members from Larger Congregations

- (a) Each congregation related to this synod having 400 or less baptized members shall be entitled to two voting lay members of the Synod Assembly, normally one of whom shall be male, and one of whom shall be female.
- (b) For each additional 200 baptized members, or a portion thereof, the congregation shall be entitled to an additional voting member.
- (c) Additional members from each congregation shall normally be equally divided between male and female.
- (d) Each congregation, upon choosing its voting lay members, shall certify to the secretary of this synod, at least ten days before the first day of the Synod Assembly, the names of the persons chosen. **(Section 7.21.01)**

4. Additional Members to Meet Inclusiveness Goal

- (a) The Synod Council shall be authorized to appoint up to 10 at-large voting members of the annual Assembly who are persons of color or whose primary language is other than English, in addition to those elected by congregations. **(Section 7.21.A89)**

5. Voting by Retired Clergy

All retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members. **(Section 7.22.01)**

6. **Voting Membership of Synod Council**

Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Council under Section 7.21, shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly. **(Section 7.27)**

7. **Persons Having Voice But Not Vote**

(a) All ordained ministers and associates in ministry, on leave from call or appointment, whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly.

(b) The bishop of the ELCA and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. **(Section 7.23)**

Quorums and Program

8. One-half of members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum. **(Section 7.14)**

9. The agenda and program proposed by the Synod Council, as adopted by the Assembly, shall be the official agenda and program; there shall be no departure therefrom except by unanimous consent or by a two-thirds vote. **(Section 7.40.16)**

Attendance and Excuses

10. Any member of the Assembly contemplating absence from an Assembly shall send to the Secretary a written excuse prior to the convening of the Assembly. The excuse shall be referred to the Committee on Official Roll, which shall determine and report to the bishop whether such absence is without good cause. Absence without good cause shall be grounds for censure to be administered by the bishop. **(Section 7.40.20)**

11. Excuses for absences from any meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be presented to the Committee on Official Roll. This committee shall pass on the acceptability of any excuse and shall assemble the composite record of attendance and report thereon at the final meeting of the Assembly. **(Section 7.40.21)**

Nominations and Elections

12. There shall be a Nominating Committee of at least eight 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 at the Synod Assembly for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee. **(Section 9.03)**

13. In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. **(Section 9.02)**

14. In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of votes, but not elected by a majority of the vote's cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. **(Section 9.08)**

15. The results of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the Assembly. **(Section 9.09)**

Reports

16. All reports and all resolutions and principal motions shall be given to the secretary in triplicate. Reports shall be typewritten. **(Section 7.40.19)**
17. If the Committee of Reference and Counsel fails to report on any resolution given it, or any matter referred to it by the Assembly, the Assembly may nevertheless by majority vote decide to consider such resolution or matter. **(Section 7.40.17)**

Financial Matters

18. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendments to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption. **(Section 10.04)**
19. No appeal to congregations of this or any other synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the raising of funds shall be conducted by congregations or organizations related to or affiliated with this synod without the consent of the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council. **(Section 15.21)**
20. When a motion calls for (a) an amendment to the budget, either increasing or decreasing the total of the budget or (b) an appropriation, or (c) a special financial appeal comes before the Assembly from any source other than the Synod Council, it shall be referred at once to the Synod Council for consideration. The Synod Council will report at the meeting immediately following the meeting at which the referral was made. Any referral made at the last meeting of the Assembly shall be reported on during that meeting. If the Synod Council fails to report, the Assembly may proceed to consider the matter referred, but adoption shall require a two-thirds vote. **(Section 10.04.01)**
21. The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its commitment to partnership funding with other synods and the churchwide organization. Unless an exception is granted upon the request of this synod by the Church Council, each budget shall include the percentage of congregational mission support assigned to it by the Churchwide Assembly. **(Section 15.12)**

Rules of Procedure

22. Unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds vote of the Assembly, all speeches in general discussion shall be limited to five minutes. **(Section 7.40.22)**
23. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, except to the extent that it is in conflict with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the ELCA or the constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions of this synod. **(Section 7.32)**
24. **Resolutions for Consideration by the Annual Assembly**
 - (a) The Assembly Committee of Reference and Counsel shall receive, consider and report to the Assembly on all resolutions submitted by congregations, conferences and delegates for consideration by the annual Assembly.
 - (b) Priority consideration will be given to resolutions received at least 30 days before the annual Synod Assembly convenes.
 - (c) A cut-off time of noon, the second day of the Assembly, is established for the receipt of resolutions for consideration of the Committee of Reference and Counsel.

- (d) Recommendations of the committee are to be distributed to members prior to the convening of the Assembly.
- (f) All resolutions will normally be considered by the committee in order of receipt.
- (g) Resolutions that cannot be adequately covered during the regular Assembly agenda time will be referred to the Synod Council. **(Section 7.30.A91)**

Bylaws, Amendments and Continuing Resolutions

- 25. Certain sections of this constitution incorporate and record therein provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this church. If such provisions are amended by this church, corresponding amendments shall be introduced at once into the constitution by the secretary of this synod upon receipt of formal certification thereof from the secretary of the ELCA. **(Section 18.11)**
- 26. Whenever the secretary of the ELCA officially informs this synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the Constitution for Synods; this constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a simple majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly.

An amendment that is identical to a provision of the Constitution for Synods shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption and the Church Council shall be given prompt notification of its adoption. **(Section 18.12)**

- 27. Other amendments to this constitution may be adopted by this synod by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly after having been moved and presented in writing at the previous regular meeting of the Synod Assembly over the signatures of at least 7 members and been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

The Synod Council may propose an amendment with notice to be sent to the congregations of this synod at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such an amendment shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly or by the Church Council. **(Section 18.13)**

- 28. This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution nor with the constitution and bylaws of this church. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the Assembly present and voting. **(Section 18.21)**
- 29. The bylaws may be suspended, or amended, at any Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of the members voting. **(Section 18.21.01)**
- 30. This synod may adopt continuing resolutions not in conflict with this constitution or its bylaws. Continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council. **(Section 18.31)**

Conduct of Debate

From Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised

- 31. All voting members shall have the privilege of the floor. Any voting member desiring to

address the Assembly should go to one of the microphones and be recognized by the chairman. When recognized, the voting member should give his/her name, parish, and organization for the secretary's record of the proceedings.

32. In any debate, each member has the right to speak twice on the same question on the same day, but cannot make a second speech on the same question so long as any member who has not spoken on that question desires the floor. A member who has spoken twice on a particular question on the same day has exhausted his/her right to debate that question for that day. Any motion to change the limits of debate is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote for approval.
33. In cases where persons seeking the floor have opposite opinions on the question, the chair should let the floor alternate, as far as possible, between those favoring and those opposing the measure.
34. Most frequent motions, which are undebatable, include those to Adjourn, Appeal (relating to decorum), Call for Orders of Day, Close Debate (previous question), Change Limits of Debate, Lay on the Table, Objection to Consideration of Question, Reconsider an Undebatable Question, Suspend the Rules, Take from the Table, Take up a Question Out of its Proper Order, Withdrawal of a Motion.

Synod Council – 2014-15

Bishop – The Rev. James F. Mauney	(2017)
Vice President – Charles Poston	(2015)
Secretary – Janet Gomez	(2015)
Treasurer – Skip Zubrod	(2016)

Term Expiring 2015

Debbie Mintiens	Emanuel, Woodstock
Mr. Matthew Wertman	Grace, Waynesboro
The Rev. John Wertz Jr	St Michael, Blacksburg

Term Expiring 2016

Robert H. Berger	Epiphany, Richmond
Barry Proctor	Redeemer, Bristol
Blythe Scott	First, Norfolk
Jody Smiley	St. Michael, Blacksburg

Term Expiring 2017

The Rev. Chris Carr	Christ the King, Richmond
Dana Cornett	Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg
The Rev. Kelly Derrick	St. Phillip, Roanoke
The Rev. Meredith Williams	Ascension, Danville

2015 Virginia Synod Assembly

Name & Responsibility

Title or Home Congregation

Mike Agee

Financial Advisor

The Rev. David Delaney

Director for Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Ms. Nancy Delaney

Organist Saturday evening

Dr. Mary Sue Drier

Professor of Missiology, LTSS-LRU

Janet Gomez

Secretary of Synod

Dr. Gary Hollis

Parliamentarian

The Rev. Kathleen Miko

Assembly Chaplain

The Rev. Warren Lasane, Jr.

Stated Clerk Synod of the Mid-Atlantic
PC (USA)

The Rev. James F. Mauney
(Presiding Officer)

Bishop of Synod

The Rev. Rafael Malpica-Paadilla

Executive Director - ELCA Division of
Global Mission

Ms. Lavelva Stevens

Assembly Musician

The Rev. James Utt

Synod History

The Rev. Mike Ward

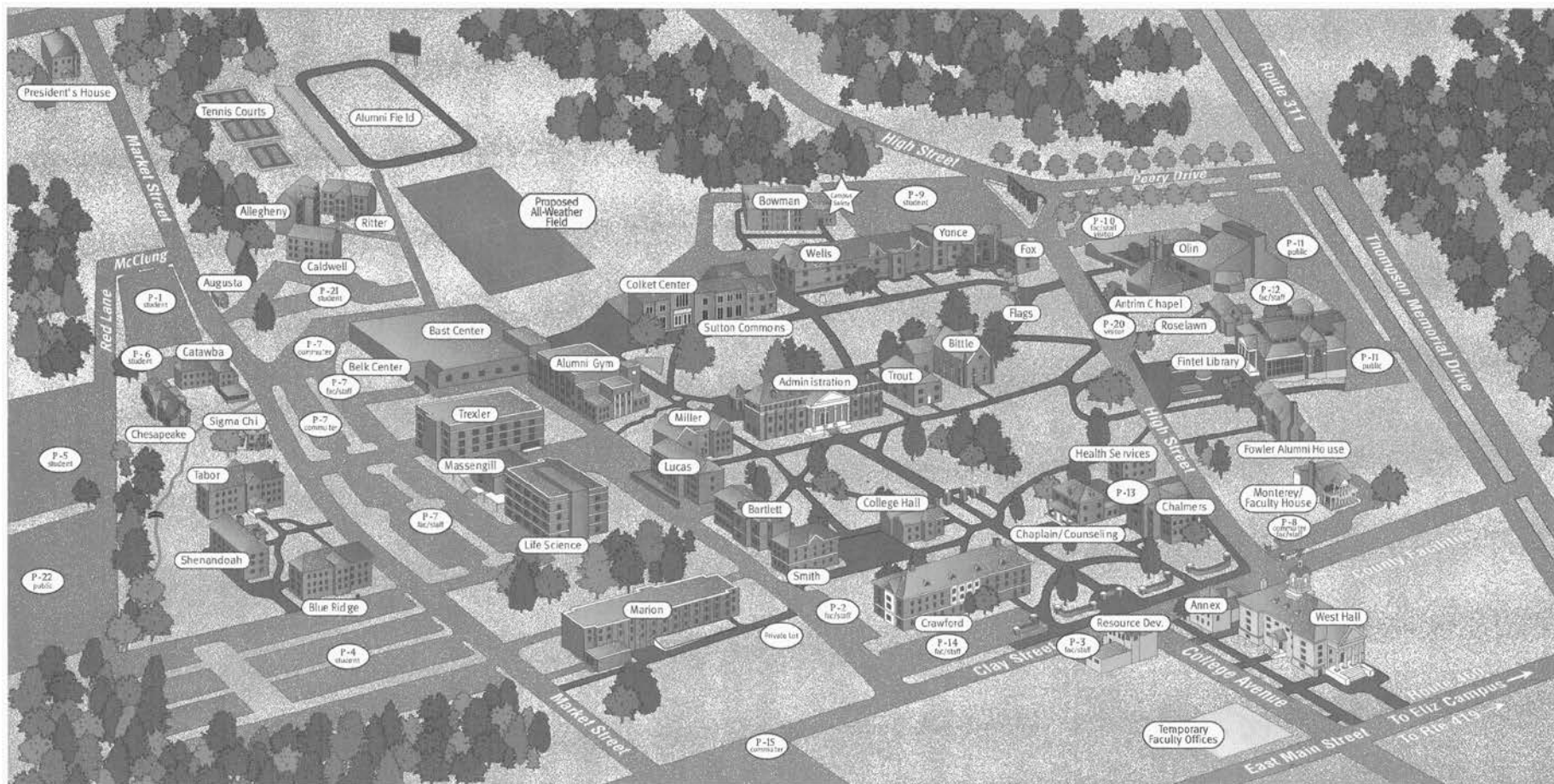
GSB Consulting

Charles Poston
(Chair, Synod Council)

Vice-President of Synod

Mr. George E. (Skip) Zubrod

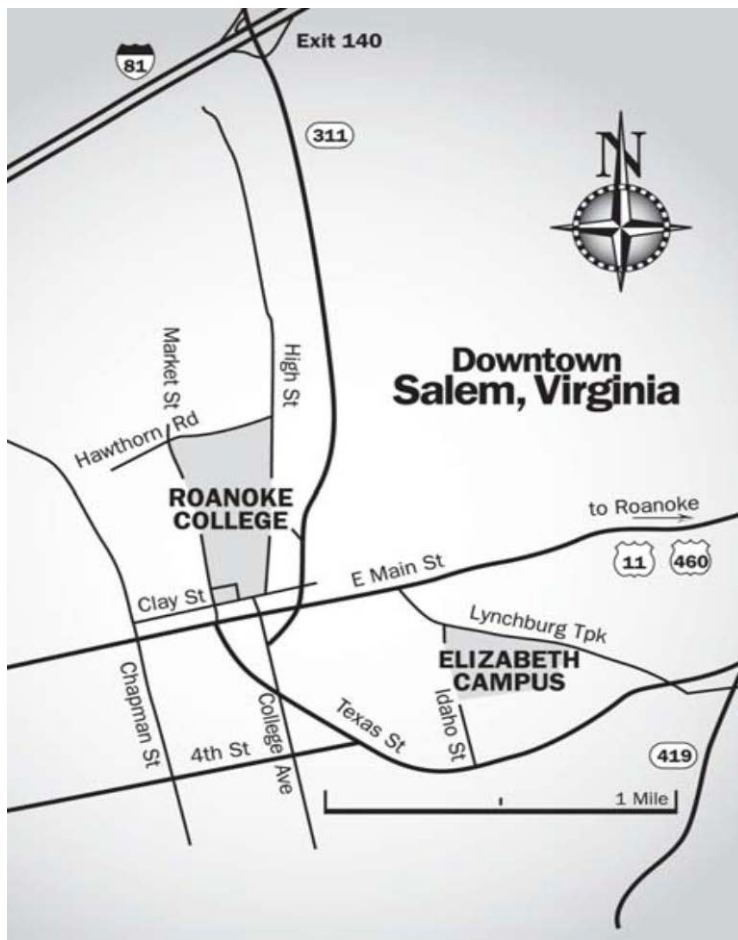
Treasurer of Synod



Where to go when you arrive at Roanoke College on Friday, June 5th

Registration will take place in the **Colket Campus Center**, located on the campus of Roanoke College (this is also where meals will be served). You are encouraged to **park in Lot P-9** for registration, located in front of Bowman Dorm (also housing the Campus Safety Office).

Directions to Roanoke College



From Central and Eastern Virginia:

Take Interstate 64 west to Staunton and travel south on Interstate 81 approximately 80 miles to Exit 140. Turn right on Rt. 311 (Thompson Memorial Drive) and on to the second traffic light (Main Street). Turn right onto Main Street and then right again onto College Avenue. The main entrance to the college will be right in front of you. From there, follow directions specific to the event you are attending. Visitor parking may be found at the top of the hill on High Street.

From Northern Virginia and Metro DC:

Interstate 66 west toward Winchester and travel south on Interstate 81 to Exit 140. Then, follow the directions provided above.

From Southwest Virginia:

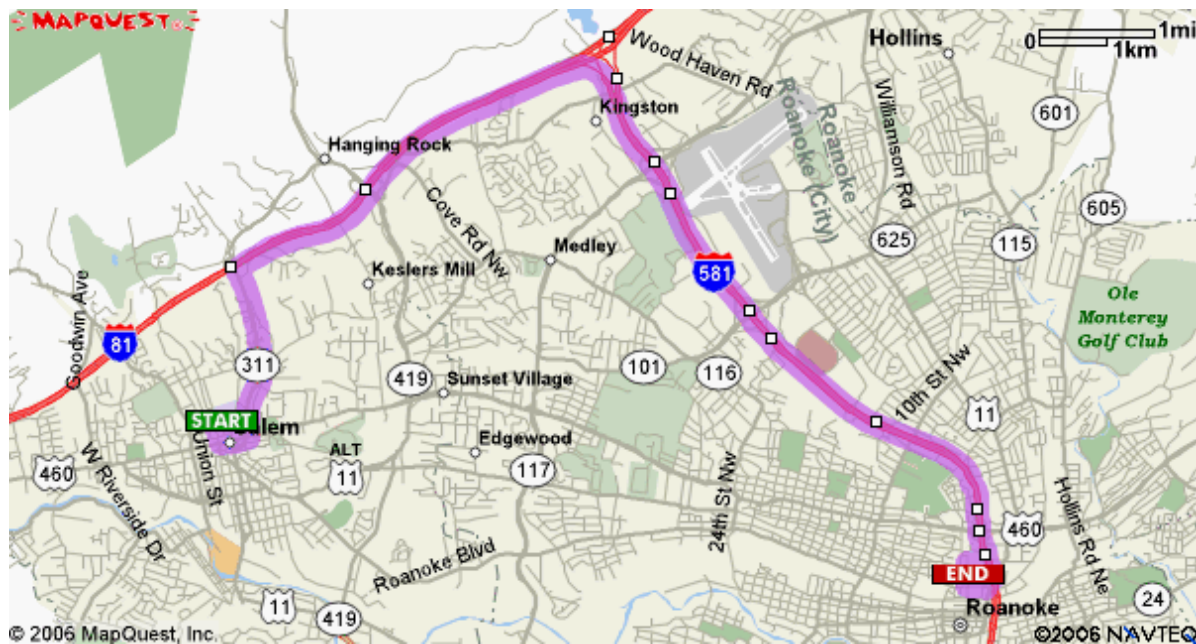
Travel on Interstate 81 north to Exit 140 and follow the directions provided above.

From Lynchburg, Danville, and Southside Virginia:

Follow either Route 220 north or Route 460 west until you intersect with Interstate 581. Travel on I-581 to Interstate 81, then travel south on I-81 for two exits to Exit 140 and follow the directions provided above.

Directions to St. Andrew's Catholic Church

- From Roanoke College parking areas, proceed to Rt. 311 N./Thompson Memorial Blvd. to Interstate 81 North.
- Travel I-81 for 3.3 miles. Merge onto Exit 143 (I-581/US 220 S).
- Travel I-581 for 5.7 miles and exit at Exit 5 toward Downtown.
- Turn right on Wells Avenue NE.
- Turn right onto North Jefferson Street.
- Church is 0.1 mile on your right.



Fee Schedule–

1. Lay or Rostered Voting Members

STAYING ON-CAMPUS (per person)

Lodging and Meals. (6 meals)..... \$130.00 Double Occupancy
155.00 Single Occupancy

Registration. 200.00

Travel Equalization. 20.00

TOTAL PACKAGE:	\$350.00	Double Occupancy
	375.00	Single Occupancy

STAYING OFF-CAMPUS (per person)

Registration..... 200.00

Meal Package (4 meals)..... 35.00

Travel Equalization..... 20.00

TOTAL PACKAGE:	\$255.00
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2. Registered Visitors (per person)

STAYING ON-CAMPUS

Lodging & Meals (6meals)..... \$130.00 Double Occupancy
155.00 Single Occupancy

Registration. 200.00

TOTAL PACKAGE:	\$330.00	Double Occupancy
	355.00	Single Occupancy

STAYING OFF-CAMPUS (per person)

Registration.....\$200.00

TOTAL PACKAGE:	\$200.00
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3. Youth Assembly Voting Members (Must stay on Campus) (per person)

Lodging & Meals..... \$105.00 Double Occupancy

Registration. 120.00

TOTAL PACKAGE:	\$225.00	Double Occupancy
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***There is a \$25.00 discount for registrations postmarked on or before April 15, 2015**

Updated 5/13/15
2015 VIRGINIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

ROANOKE COLLEGE

SALEM, VIRGINIA+

Please Note: The cut-off time for the receipt of resolutions for consideration of the committee of Reference and counsel is 30 days before the first day of the Assembly (May 5, 2015)

ASSEMBLY THEME:
AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST:
KNOWING OUR CONGREGATIONAL NEIGHBORHOODS TO DO GOD'S WILL

FRIDAY MORNING, June 5

9:00am-1:00pm	Lutheran Partners in Mission-Colket Center, Kime
10:00 am	Registration-Colket Center Lobby
11:00-12:30 p.m.	Lunch-Colket Center Dining Hall
11:15 a.m.	Luncheon for Ecumenical Guest-Private Dining Room
12:00-12:30 p m.	Orientation-New Voting Members-Colket/Garrett (2nd floor)

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, June 5

1:00 – 6:00 p.m. FIRST MEETING – BAST GYMNASIUM

1:00 p.m. PROCESSIONAL WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
(Including Order for the Opening of the Assembly)
The Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla – Preacher

2:05 p.m.	THEME PRESENTATION-Dr. Mary Sue Dreier Professor of Missiology LTSS/LRU
3:00 p.m.	BREAK – Colket Center Patio
3:30 p.m.	ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSEMBLY (a) Report of the Committee on Official Roll (Establishment of a Quorum) (b) Appointment of Assembly Committees (c) Review of Constitution & Parliamentary Notes (d) Order of Business – Approval
3:50 p.m.	REPORT OF REFERENCE & COUNSEL (Official Visitors)
4:00 p.m.	GREETINGS FROM ROANOKE COLLEGE
4:05 p.m.	INTRODUCTION OF SYNOD STAFF
4:10 p.m.	REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY NOMINATING COMMITTEE -For Synod Council -Nominations from the Floor
4:20 p.m.	REPORT OF THE OFFICERS -Vice-President -Secretary -Treasurer - Bishop
5:40 p.m.	GREETINGS FROM THE MISSION INVESTMENT FUND
5:45 p.m.	THRIVENT PRESENTATION
5:50 p.m.	ANNOUNCEMENTS
5:55 p.m.	Prayer
6:00 p.m.	RECESS/ DINNER-Colket Center Dining Hall Roots and Wings (Back Dining Hall)

FRIDAY EVENING, June 5

7:15-8:30 p.m. SECOND MEETING – BAST GYMNASIUM

7:15 p.m. GATHERING MUSIC AND WORD BY YOUTH

7:30 p.m. REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED BY COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE & COUNCIL

7:35 P.M. REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL
-Recognition of Synod Council by class

7:50 p.m. INTRODUCTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
-Rostered Leaders new to VA Synod
-Anniversaries of Commissioning, Consecrations, and Ordinations
-Retiring Rostered Leaders
-Anniversaries of Congregation

8:25 p.m. CELEBRATION OF MALARIA CAMPAIGN

8:30 p.m. SENDING PRAYER

8:35 p.m. Social /Networking Gathering - Back Quad
Refreshments and entertainment
Sponsored by National Lutheran Communities and Services

SATURDAY MORNING, June 6

8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. THIRD MEETING – BAST GYMNASIUM AND OTHER FACILITIES

- 8:00 a.m. GATHERING SONGS AND PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**
- 8:15 a.m. MORNING WORSHIP – Rev. Terri Church Preacher**
- 8:45 a.m. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINUTES**
- 8:50 a.m. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS
-1st Ballots for Synod Council, Synod Vice President, Synod Secretary and
Churchwide Assembly**
- 9:30 a.m. DEMOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION**
- 10:15 a.m. BREAK – Colket Center Patio**
- 10:45 a.m. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION Dr. Mary Sue Dreier**
- 11:45 a.m. HISTORY OF THE CHURCH Rev. James Utt**
- 12:00 – 12:45 WORKSHOP Dr. Mary Sue Dreier-Knowing your local Neighborhoods (Bast)
Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla The church in the Worldwide
Neighborhood (Antrim Chapel)
Cary Mangus Visitation (1st Workshop only – Olin)
Rev. Mike Ward - GSB Consulting Synod Campaign
(2nd and 3rd workshops - Olin)**
- 12:50 – 1:35 p.m. WORKSHOP
Repeat**
- Noon. LUNCH – Colket Center Dining Hall
Southern Seminary Luncheon -Patterson
Rostered Leaders Spouse Luncheon- PDR
All Inclusive Outreach Team Back Dining Room**

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, June 6

1:40 – 5:00 p.m. FOURTH MEETING – BAST GYMNASIUM

- 1:40 p.m. WORKSHOPS**
Repeat
- 2:30 p.m. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS**
2nd Ballots for Synod Council, Synod Vice President, Synod Secretary and Churchwide Assembly
- 3:00 p.m. REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL**
-Approval of Recommendations
- 3:15 p.m. GREETINGS FROM ELCA**
The Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla
- 3:50 p.m. PORTICO REPORT**
- 4:00 p.m. REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE & COUNSEL**
-Resolutions
- 4:45 p.m. ALL INCLUSIVE OUTREACH TEAM REPORT**
- 4:55 p.m. POWER IN THE SPIRIT PRESENTATION**
- 5:00 p.m. RECESS**
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. DINNER – Colket Center Dining Hall**
- 6:30 p.m. TRANSPORTATION TO WORSHIP SERVICE**

SATURDAY EVENING, June 6

8:00 p.m. FIFTH MEETING – ST. ANDREW’S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, ROANOKE
Service of Holy Communion – Preacher and Presiding Minister: Bishop James F. Mauney

SUNDAY MORNING, June 7

6:30 – 8:00 a.m. BREAKFAST – Colket Center Dining Hall

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 SIXTH MEETING – BAST GYMNASIUM

8:00 a.m. GATHERING HYMNS

8:15 a.m. OPENING PRAYER, WORD, AND NECROLOGY

8:30 a.m. REPORT – YOUTH ASSEMBLY

**8:45 a.m. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS
3rd Ballots for Synod Council, Synod Vice President, Synod
Secretary and Churchwide Assembly**

9:00 a.m. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINUTES

**9:05 a.m. REPORT OF SYNOD COUNCIL
-Approval of 2016 Financial Program**

**9:15 a.m. THE GLOBAL CHURCH
The Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla**

**9:45 a.m. REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE & COUNSEL
-Resolutions continued as needed**

10:00 a.m. 10 MINUTE BREAK (Coffee and Drinks available in hallway)

10:10 a.m. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10:30 a.m. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

10:35 a.m. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OFFICIAL ROLL

10:40 a.m. REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

-General Resolution

10:45 a.m.

RECESSIONAL WORSHIP

Including: Installation of Leadership

Deans, Officers, Synod Council

Closing of the Assembly

**Rev. Warren Lesane Jr. Stated Clerk Synod of the Mid-Atlantic
PC (USA) Preacher**

12:00

Go in Peace, Serve the Lord...

Conference Abbreviation Guide

CN	Central Valley
GR	Germanna
HI	Highland
NR	New River
NV	Northern Valley
PG	Page
PN	Peninsula
RI	Richmond
SO	Southern
SV	Southern Valley
TD	Tidewater

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Report of the Bishop

Our Synod Theme this year is:

Ambassadors for Christ: Knowing your Congregational Neighborhood to Do God's Mission

I believe that congregations today are centers of where the Name of Jesus is spoken among the preaching, the sacraments, and the conversations and teaching. People who come are most interested in hearing about Jesus. A pastor recently told me of his speaking to someone in a shop about Jesus as having died and having been risen from the dead. The person took him aside outside of others hearing and quietly said, "I know that Jesus died, but what is this about his being risen?" We have arrived where we are in a land that needs re-evangelizing.

We have come to a time of congregations returning to their neighborhoods as the place where they are planted by the Spirit. What is God's Mission to these who live around the congregation and how is the congregation called to speak the name of Jesus to them?

So I am asking pastors and voting members to bring ipads, personal computers, iphones, androids because we are going to look at the zipcode in which your congregation resides. Who welcomes the lonely, the despairing, the new arrivals in your neighborhood?

Our presenters will be The Rev. Dr. Mary Sue Dreier, Professor of Pastoral Care & Missional Leadership, at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, and The Rev. Dr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Director for Global Missions in the ELCA.

2014 was a year of staff transition. Ms Sue Dugas and Mr. Keith Brown retired. Ms. Billie Spencer, our bookkeeper, had an accident and needed to go on medical disability. Since June 1, we have brought on Ms Rebecca Walls, to become our office manager, Mr. Mike Agee, to serve as a financial consultant, Ms. Tammy Kasper to work as support staff and to become in time our bookkeeper. I asked Pastor Chris Price to become a 3/4 time Assistant to the Bishop to serve primarily in the east, with support for the ministerium, and as the staff person for the Candidacy Committee. We also created a new full time position for a Director for Communications and asked Ms Kayla Fuller to serve. This has been a year of building a team spirit and a coming together in new working relationships and responsibilities, but we are doing very well as a team.

THE EMPHASES IN OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE VIRGINIA SYNOD - 2011-2017

As Ambassadors for Christ, the things we are focusing on for these years:

**Tending to the Spirit of the Body of Christ Leading with excellence Treasuring Christian Formation
Caring for the most vulnerable Knowing our neighborhood to do God's Mission**

GOALS TOGETHER:

EVERY CHILD IN VIRGINIA WILL BE FED ON OCTOBER 31, 2017. The altar's bread and the food closet's bread are connected. The food pantry line and the altar rail are connected.

In 2014;

I. Tending to the Spirit of the Body:

1-In 2014, Ms. Ellen Hinlicky, and I visited with our active rostered leaders and lay leaders in all eleven conferences. We proactively sought to listen, honor, and value the combined lay and rostered leadership of this synod. The Deans asked me to talk about how I seek to share the faith of Jesus with others. In 2015, Ms. Ellen Hinlicky, The Rev. Dr. David Delaney, The Rev. Chris Price, and I are visiting all of our conferences around "Finding My Voice", the sharing of the Name of Jesus who is alive in this world and in our living.

2-The Deans of our conferences continue being the first contact for rostered leaders and congregations with questions and concerns. They have provided excellent pastoral care and wisdom, and our meetings together have spoken to the good morale in the life of the synod's ministerium. As deployed parts of the Office of the Bishop, they gather our leaders together in our conferences across the commonwealth. I want to express my deep gratitude on behalf of all of us for the excellent work of our deans!! As of May 1, our deans are: Tidewater, The Rev. Cathy Mims; Peninsula, The Rev. Andy Ballentine; Richmond, The Rev. Eric Moehring; Germanna, The Rev. Bill Stewart; Page, The Rev. Nick Eichelberger; Northern Valley, The Rev. Bob Jones; Central Valley, The Rev. Jim Baseler; Southern Valley, The Rev. Joanne Bunn; Southern, The Rev. Ken Lane; New River, The Rev. Bill King; Highlands, The Rev. Jonathan Hamman.

In our job description of the deans we have in italics the following: "Act as a confidant to rostered leaders and provide pastoral care often in consultation with the Bishop ,but providing a first line conversation that does not need to be shared beyond the conference conversation, maintaining confidentiality in all such relationships."

This reveals the important work of being a confidant and a resource for the rostered leaders and for the needs of the conference and its congregations. We are blessed by their giftedness!

3- To build up the Spirit of the Body, our rostered leaders come together in their conferences monthly and some weekly for study, prayer, planning, worship with preaching and sacrament, and conversation together.

4-We have a Ministerium Covenant that nearly all our rostered leaders have signed and a very active Ministerium Team that seeks to keep this covenant before us as a foundation for our work together and within our congregations we serve. I want to recognize Pastor David Derrick for his chairing this Team and for Christie Huffman, Jim Utt, Kathleen Miko, Cheryl Griffin, Mark Cooper, Ann Jones, Mike Maxey who are a think tank for the life and joy of our ministerium. I love that often on my ipad, I hit "ministerium" and the note comes up, 'no replacement'. I have found this to be absolutely true for me as a Virginia Synod rostered leader!

5-Our institutions:

We gave thanks for the leadership of Mr. Mike Mucha who served as Executive Director for Hungry Mother Camp and Conference Center in Marion, Va more than 9 years helping to give a vision for the camp in these days.

With joy this year, we have watched National Lutheran Services and Communities fund grants of varying sizes to 32 ministries in Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia!

Roanoke College is in the midst of its largest building project in its history, seeking to finish our Cregger Center for athletics and education in 2016. Its campaign for new buildings, scholarships, and endowed chairs has now topped \$154 million.

Lutheran Family Services now has an annual operating budget of over \$29 million expanding its ministries across the commonwealth and finding partnerships with more and more congregations. Virginia Lutheran Homes dedicated the \$8.9 million, John P. Fishwick Rehabilitation Center, February 6, 2015, that is state of the art.

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, with higher numbers in Lutheran students, announced its campaign to endow a chair in Lutheran Studies.

Caroline Furnace Camp and Conference Center had over 110 volunteers come to brighten the camp for the spring and summer seasons.

Chaplain Services of Virginia changed its name to "Grace Inside" as it continues to provide chaplains and services to the 40 state prisons within the commonwealth.

6-A Synod Call Team has sought to provide better ongoing contact with congregations in the call process. I am grateful to Pastors William Stewart, Kathleen Miko, Stephen Bohannon, Joel Neubauer, David Young, Scott Homesley for their wisdom and assistance.

7-Ecumenism-I am very grateful for the work of our Ecumenical Officer-Pastor Eric Moehring. Through his work we have become a strong partner in the ecumenical work of the commonwealth. We have a very strong team of leaders who represent us at the Virginia Council of Churches and LARCUM (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Methodist): Pastors Paul Carlson, Deanna Boynton, Brett Davis, Andrew Bansemer, Kate Costa, Eric Moehring, Karen Van Stee, Bishop Mauney. Pastor Kate Costa now serves as the Secretary of the VCC, and Pastor Van Stee serves as the Chair for the important Faith and Order Committee.

8-We inaugurated a visitation program visiting 97 of our congregations to listen to pastors and congregational councils while bringing the story of the wider church. My thanks to our visitors: Pastor Kathleen Miko, Pastor Murray Ziegenfuss, Pastor Cathy Mims, Pastor Paul Henrickson, Pastor Jim Utt, Pastor Chris Price, Pastor Jim Baseler.

9- Pastor David Delaney, and I wrote a Bible Study for Monday mornings, and we sent out readings for the Lutheran Confessions and Catechisms on Wednesday mornings.

II. Leading with Excellence

1-We have a strong Candidacy Committee and are having a surge of young inquirers interested in professional ministry.

2-The Church Vocations Conference was held in August for inquirers and candidates for ministry in the Church as a rostered leader.

3-The Gathering of the Ministerium in October's theme was, "Knowing Your People". Our facilitator and presenter for the gathering was President Michael Maxey of Roanoke College. We thank him for his partnership with us.

4-Mindy Reynolds continued her excellent work in promoting the Healthy Congregations program among our congregations and rostered leaders. We saw an increase in the number of workshops happening across the synod.

5-We held eleven conference gatherings on sharing the faith as an ambassador of Christ and had close to 700 leaders attend them. Mindy Reynolds and I introduced Ellen Hinlicky and Dr. Phyllis Milton to the

leaders of our conferences. These gatherings were for church councils of congregations, youth, and interested lay leaders.

6-A coaching group for pastors continued in the Shenandoah Valley led by The Rev. Dr. J. Balas, and a coaching group for pastors continued in Southwest Va. led by The Rev. Dr. Jim Bangle.

7-A retreat for female rostered leaders was held at Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond in May 5-6, 2015. The Rev. Leslie Richard will be the leader for this event with over 20 in attendance.

8-The luncheon for retired pastors was held at Grace Lutheran in Waynesboro in September. This annual event gathers retired pastors from across the commonwealth.

9-An orientation for new rostered leaders, interns, and their spouses was held in September at Roanoke College, Brandon Oaks, and the Minnick School.

10-A three day retreat for First Call rostered leaders and their mentors was moved to November at Massanetta Springs. The Rev. Dr. Shelby DePriest was our presenter.

11- Mindy Reynolds worked with Barbara Keller, the ELCA Resource Person in Professional Boundary Training. The all day training was held Reformation, New Market, Epiphany, Richmond, and Luther Memorial Blacksburg with over 80% of rostered leaders participating along with some lay leaders.

12-I commend Mindy Reynolds and the ministerium of our synod for completing their health assessment in 2014 and together saving every congregation in the synod 2% in health costs for the congregations. I am grateful to Portico for offering this possibility to synods.

III. Treasuring Christian Formation

1-The Rev. David Delaney has oversight of this emphasis.

2-Dr. Phyllis Milton continues to emphasize conversations in Christian Formation across the synod, to give leadership in the ACTS program, and to further develop the Roots & Wings Program. Dr. Phyl is an excellent resource for you in Christian Education, and we are blessed to have her!

3-Roots & Wings sent out excellent weekly and month publications for parents and grandparents to share their faith with their children. I am grateful for the team that meets with Dr. Milton and for Lenae Osmondson who keeps these very creative publications up to date and sent out on-line weekly! A synod wide Roots and Wings workshop will be held in October 2015.

4- ACTS - 2014 started off with our Spring Course, "Practicing the Faith: Equipping Disciples to be the Church Today" by Dr. John Herman. A total of 90 individuals (Rostered and lay) participated at Grace, Waynesboro and St. Timothy, Norfolk.

The ACTS program set a new high in enrollment as 141 participated in the course taught by Dr. Mark Powell in the fall on the Authority of Scripture.

5-I thank Elizabeth Smythe and all of the Power in the Spirit team that brought newly elected Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to be the keynote presenter as well as workshops and an informal time with her on Friday evening. In addition, the ever popular Dr. Rolf Jacobson made a back to back return as our Bible Study leader. Many workshops were offered for over 250 participants.

6-Dr. Hinlicky, Tise Professor in Lutheran Studies at Roanoke College, sent out his third year of 8 annual papers to be sent each year leading up to 2017, on the passionate faith of Martin Luther. The third eight papers were from some of the great treatises, scriptural commentaries, and introductions of Luther that have been some of my favorites. They were offered for every person in the pew to read, and were sent to every rostered leader and congregation for distribution to our people who ought to read these excellent words. I hope that our people have been able to read some of Luther's great insights into the gospel.

7-Pastor David Delaney recruited a wonderful planning group for each of our youth events. They were excellent retreats, and they continued to emphasize the growth in the ability to share one's faith with

another as an Ambassador of Christ. Pastor Delaney works with campus ministry and the 12 ministry sites or contact congregations throughout the synod.

IV. Caring for the Most Vulnerable.

1-Kayla Fuller gathered together a Task Group for Hunger in 2014. Mr. Eric Carlson was named Chairperson and several task groups have emerged in the effort to accomplish the feeding of all hungry children in Virginia. A website has been created for this Task Group. We have a very active World Hunger Team now in place with Pastor Kelly Derrick as the chairperson.

2-Through the strong work of the 2017 Task Force for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, our synod together surpassed our \$230,000 goal in August and now have topped \$250,000. Dr. Charles Hays and Mr. Eric Carlson as co-leaders are to be thanked for their leadership. We have provided a way for on-line giving, and have a first rate website for the campaign.

4-I continue to give thanks for our congregations that are deeply engaged with feeding programs, community foodbanks, summer feeding, backpack feeding across the commonwealth.

V. Knowing our neighborhoods that we might do God's Mission 1-I continue to serve as Director for Evangelical Mission for the Virginia Synod, assisted with Pastor Chris Price and Pastor Evan Davis.

2-We receive guidance from the Strategy Team for Mission with Pastor William Stewart, Charlottesville, chair, Pastor Lauren Carlson, Norfolk, Pastor Harry Griffith, Va. Beach, Dr. Jody Smiley, Blacksburg, Pastor Evan Davis, Harrisonburg, Ms Ellen Bushman. Williamsburg.

3-We have sent 20 pastors for training in mission development and redevelopment. They have returned to form Team 2017, seeking to create a language of mission for our synod. We have had five meetings over the past year and a half.

4-We continue to actively support the development of the Bedford Mission and called Pastor Jon Myers and Sister Jennie Myers to serve there beginning December 1, 2013. The Synod Council voted to provide financial support for Reformation Lutheran, Newport News.

5-The Rev. Jim Kniseley and Mr. Cary Mangus have been our Stewardship Consultants offering workshops in the new Ventures Program of the ELCA and Town Meetings among the conferences of our synods.

6-Our Stewardship Table continues with Pastor Jim Kniseley, chair, Fredericksburg, Ellen Hinlicky, Roanoke, Jackie Bourque, Strasburg, Pastor Bill Nabers, Strasburg, Cary Mangus, Roanoke. This table gives oversight and is a think tank for mission interpretation of the ELCA and Virginia Synod, stewardship training and programs for congregations, year round stewardship, planned giving.

7-The African American Outreach Team became the All Inclusive Outreach Team as they sought to emphasize getting to know ALL within the neighborhoods we serve and bringing the good news to ALL. The members this past year have been: Melinda Judd, Paul Christian, Chris Farrow, Lou Florio, Aaron Fuller, Harry Griffith, Phyllis Milton, Bill Stewart, Bill Smith, Tim Waltonen.

VI. We have been blessed by the talents and energy that Kayla Fuller has brought in the past year. She has joined with Mr. George Kegley and Pastor Dwayne Westermann in providing weekly and monthly news and stories about the life of our people, congregations, ministries, institutions and agencies. There have been picture contests from Vacation Bible Schools, reviewing of congregational websites, a wide variety of one to one interviews with youth and adults about their life as ambassadors in this synod.

I want to recognize the work of Pastor Aaron DeBenedeto and Lenae Osmundson in seeking to provide annual workshops on media and technology in Tidewater.

VI. The Office of the Bishop will fulfill its constitutional responsibilities:

Mr. Keith Brown retired in June. Mr. Skip Zubrod has continued his excellent work as a resource to congregations in matters of updating or questions about their constitution.

1-Pastor Jim Utt and Mr. George Kegley accepted the responsibility of writing a history of the first 25 years of the Virginia Synod, ELCA. They have given countless hours in interviews, research, writing, and caring for the printing and distribution of their work, Journey Together. Congregations will receive the fruit of their work at this year's assembly. I congratulate their hard work along with Pastor Jean Bozeman in producing a 388 page history complete with pictures.

2-Finances. The congregational commitments for 2014 were over \$60,000 more than in the previous year. The synodical side of the budget ended over \$46,000 in the black, due to the faithfulness of our congregations and several large personal gifts for the life of the mission of the church. A commitment of 38.2% to the ELCA was made. Our full proportionate share for the seminaries was made.

Our Vice President, Judge Charles Poston, completes two terms or eight years of service which is the synod's constitutional limit. Those who have served on the Synod Council over these eight years have enjoyed efficient and warm meetings. Judge Poston has been so important for my work as bishop often serving as a good partner, wise counselor and a good listening ear. He is a wonderful editor of documents, and he is able to make complex issues understandable. He has a strong respect for the pastoral office and has been present at every Gathering of the Ministerium in order to bring greetings and words of support for its work. He has become a very recognized and respected Vice President across the ELCA.

Janet Gomez, our synod secretary, completes two terms and will complete her service with this coming assembly. We are indebted to her for her accurate minutes through these years. She has come through the ACTS program of our synod and has a great love for the work of the gospel. We will miss her joyous presence and her ability to share the gospel with others.

Mr. Skip Zubrod is a wonderful treasurer, but he renders this synod even greater service in addition to his financial oversight. He provides the oversight of our synod assemblies. His years of service as the Vice President for Finances at Roanoke College now makes him the perfect one to continue working with the staff of Roanoke College as plans for the assembly are made. His wealth of experience and knowledge that has come from being the CEO of Virginia Lutheran Homes provides a rich resource for me daily in the synod office. He is a true gift to the health and life of our staff in Salem.

I tell you, we are one blessed synod to be led by these three fine synodical officers who serve us all so faithfully and who advise me so wisely.

We have had an active Synod Council that likes to engage in lively discussion, asking good questions, seeking transparency and the very best for the life of our synod! I want to express my deep appreciation to the dedicated service of The Rev John Wertz, who is completing six years of leadership on the council! Pastor Wertz has brought good ideas and innovation for communications, retreats, finance, stewardship, outreach, part time ministry, and strong work among our institutions and agencies. He has chaired the board of our Lutheran Partners in Mission and is currently on the National Lutheran Communities and Services Board. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Synod Council and has been a strong advocate for feeding children and seniors in the Blacksburg area. I also want to express our gratitude to Ms. Debbie Mitens and Mr. Matthew Wertman who have completed their first term of three years on the synod council. They have been two very active leaders in our synod with

Power in the Spirit and youth ministry. For the past two years we have been served by Marta Paulson as the youth representative. Danielle Bosdell has now served for three years as the young adult representative.

The Office of the Bishop works as one unified team with a vision to be ambassadors of Christ for all whom we serve.

The Rev. Dr. David Delaney has served us so well in his love for our youth through Bible Study, encouraging their sharing the faith with one another, providing the oversight for the youth events and the planning groups for each. He is a well known youth leader across our whole ELCA. Being a doctor of early church patristics, he a teacher at heart. I want to especially thank him for his extra efforts to be a teacher at Power in the Spirit, ACTS classes, Bible studies through the year. As an Asst. to the Bishop, he steps in wherever he is needed. He has been a wonderful colleague in service to this synod.

Since April 1, The Rev. Chris Price has been serving as the Asst. to the Bishop in the East, staffing our Candidacy Committee, and the First Call program of our synod. He visits congregations and rostered leaders creatively seeking to help support, strengthen, and begin the ministries of the synod east of the mountains alongside lay and rostered leaders. He brings 30 years experience giving oversight to a thriving congregation, but he brings a caring ability to listen very well and to speak truth in love. He is a valued colleague and teacher for me.

Kayla Fuller joined us June 1, and she brings a love for communicating the gospel in word and deed. Her work as Director for Communications has revealed to us how important this duty to communicate IS for a synod! She has also taken the lead in staffing our hunger goal for 2017. We have loved her zeal and bright joy.

Diaconal Minister Mindy Reynolds has become a most beloved servant of our Ministerium. She has taken the leadership of our Healthy Congregations Program and provides tremendous support and resourcing for its vital help for congregations and leaders. The completion of the Health Assessment from Portico, Boundary Training, the retreat for female rostered leaders, coaching groups for rostered leaders are all undergirded by her oversight which is incredible given that she is half time! She, too, has an eye for details and for doing things thoroughly right. She serves with joy and teamwork in all she does.

Dr. Phyllis Milton is a ball of energy with a particular passion for Christian Formation. This past year she became The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton serving the synod and the congregation of Gloria Dei. With the ACTS Team she has strengthened the ACTS program with larger classes, new ideas for alumni, and intentional planning for this community of Ambassadors for Christ. The planning team for Roots & Wings and she continue to provide excellent resources to help parents and grandparents share their faith with their children.

We are blessed with the work of The Rev. William Stewart. We receive a wide variety of Mobility Papers and we need a careful reader and evaluator of these introductions to pastors across the country who have an expressed interest in the Virginia Synod. He has many years of experience in this as an Assistant to the Bishop in the old Central Penn Synod of the LCA, as well as a Dean and mission developer in the Virginia Synod. All of this experience makes him a good assessor and interviewer. This work takes many hours of reading, being on the phone, interviewing. Through his work we have identified some excellent pastors who now serve among us in this synod.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smythe, our coordinator of Power in the Spirit, provides an ongoing team of leaders that each year produces another wonderful event! A retired teacher and accomplished organist, she works with great planning groups to provide inspiring speakers and most helpful workshops and classes at this event for all who desire to learn and go deeper in the faith. This July she brings The Rev. Dr. April Larson and the Rev. Jay Gamelin to be our key presenters! You will enjoy the insights both bring for living the faith in this day.

The Rev. Jim Kniseley and joined a partnership with Mr. Cary Mangus and they began a series of Town Hall meetings around Stewardship in 2014. They are planning a stewardship visitation to nearly 100 congregations in the months of June and July.

Ms. Becky Walls became our Synod Office Manager June 1. We have created a new position around her skills. Becky brings gifts in computers, finances, clerical work, people skills, and deep faith. She has brought extensive training to the support staff, changed phone systems and email, and is working with Mike Agee and Skip Zubrod to bring a great transparency to our finances. There is a joy to her work that is creating a team among new and old staff.

Ms. Debbie Worley brings the memory to our work in the synod office. She provides support for the Candidacy Committee and will quickly complete whatever task is laid before her. She is most gracious in responding to the needs of those who call and to the synod staff who ask for one thing after another. New ways of approaching the work has happened as the best of what has worked has been combined with wise ways of new capabilities.

Ms. Lenae Osmondson is the face of the synod office especially for the Tidewater and Peninsula Conferences. Lenae is most personable and wonderful with details. She takes initiative quickly and well. I am very grateful to First Lutheran in Norfolk for offering their former library as the Eastern Office of the Bishop in early 2015. Pastor Rick Goeres and Lenae have created a team like environment of support back and forth in these early months of being present among them. She works well with Pastor Price in the work of the Richmond, Peninsula, and Tidewater conferences. Her handiwork is seen in the work of the Synod Council meetings, the scheduling of conference gatherings, the work of Roots and Wings, ACTS, and Lutheran Partners in Mission with the United Lutheran Appeal.

In July, we hired Mr. Mike Agee for 12 hours a week to help us with our finances and our financial reporting. Mike has brought new ideas for our reporting, and we hope to provide more and more transparent reports as the months continue. He is very careful in his work, but has been a willing listener and a creative team-player in wanting the best for the synod. He was a great resource for us as we considered phone systems.

In November, we hired Ms. Tammy Kasper as a full time support staff person in the Salem office. Tammy brings a quick mind, skill in computers, and is being prepared to take on some of the responsibilities of bookkeeper. She, too, is a very bright and upbeat person who will gladly take on whatever task is given to her.

Ms. Ellen Hinlicky, the Director for Lutheran Partners in Mission, is constantly seeking to find ways for our institutions and the congregations of the synod to work together in our life of faith. There are so many wonderful stories to tell about the ministries of our vibrant institutions and the excellent CEO's

and staff that provide direction for them. Ellen is a very proactive thinker and energetic leader who is so well suited for this work. She absolutely loves the church in its efforts to be the face of Christ to others.

Mr. Mark Reed continues to serve this synod year after year as our legal counsel, and we continue to need him in critical legal matters year after year! His availability to us is incredible and his legal wisdom is profound. We will never be able to fathom the amount of legal aid that has been rendered to us pro bono through these years. I thank him and his legal staff for this rare gift of service.

More personally,

I continue to serve on the Portico Board of Trustees and am a member of the Lutheran World Federation Team for North America.

In the summer of 2013, I was asked by the Presiding Bishop to serve as the Chair for a Task Force to consider our global relationships and the wording of our relationships within the ELCA Constitution. The work of that Task Force was completed in January 2015 with a recommendation for changing the wording in the third and eighth chapters of the ELCA Constitution to strengthen the wording about how we value our relationship with the Lutheran World Federation. The wording will be voted upon at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

Lynda and I give thanks for all of the opportunities that we have had serving together in this call as Bishop. We truly see the best of the church just about all the time. And in that view, we have a great hope about what the Holy Spirit is doing among us. I do give great thanks to God for such a loving and encouraging partner in ministry. She is a wonderful grandmother and mother who now spends much of her time in Charlotte, NC, helping a new family of faith to grow. I remain a very blessed husband who has been returned again and again to a more vibrant faith by observing the conduct and faith of my spouse.

Wherever we are, we are always ambassadors for Christ. May my life tell everybody about Jesus wherever I go. In all that we do together, may it all be done for the glory of God.

Bishop James F. Mauney

2015 Report of the Secretary

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY – OFFICIAL ITEMS

1. **Report of the Archivist** – Regular attention has been given to the archives of the synod. Various items have been received for deposit and inquiries for information responded to. Mr. Keith Brown, serves as treasurer of the James R. Crumley, Jr. Region 9 Archives, located at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC. The Virginia Synod Archives are now located in the Roanoke College Library.
2. **Certification of Minutes – Recommendation No. 1** – That the printed minutes of the Twenty-sixth Annual Assembly of the Virginia Synod, ELCA, held on June 7-9, 2013, as certified by the bishop and secretary, be approved as the official protocol of the Assembly, with two copies to be deposited in the archives of synod.
3. **Roster Statistical Information**

ACCESSIONS

By Ordination / Commissioning / Consecration

- Sonya Williams-Giersh accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Gravel Springs Parish near Winchester, Virginia effective June 1, 2014. She was ordained at the Synod Assembly, May 31st, 2014 at Saint Andrews Roman Catholic Church in Roanoke, Virginia.
- Phyllis Blair Milton accepted the call to serve as Associate Pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hampton, Va, August 23, 2014. She was ordained at Gloria Dei on August 23, 2014 in Hampton, Va.
- Barbara Krumm accepted the call to serve as pastor at Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Bergton, Virginia, September 16, 2014. She was ordained on September 12, 2014 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Virginia.
- Andrew Tucker accepted the call to serve as pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Radford, Virginia beginning September 1, 2014. He was ordained September 5, 2014 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Durham, NC.
- Katie Pocalyko accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Richmond, Virginia effective March 1, 2015. She was ordained February 26, 2015 at the Lutheran Church of our Saviour, Richmond, Virginia.

By Transfer

- The Rev. Jeff May, a pastor of the New Jersey Synod, accepted the call July 16, 2014 to begin service at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jerome, Virginia.

- The Rev. Joseph Bolick, a pastor of the South Carolina Synod, accepted the call as Associate Pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond, Va. effective November 16, 2014.
- The Rev. Sara Lang, a pastor of the South Carolina Synod, on leave from call, was transferred to the Virginia Synod, November 20, 2014.
- The Rev. Judy Cobb, a retired pastor of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, was transferred to the Virginia Synod
- James Cobb, a retired pastor of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, was transferred to the Virginia Synod.
- Rodney Ronneberg, a pastor of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, accepted the call as pastor of Faith, Staunton and St. Peter, Churchville, effective July 1, 2014.

DISMISSALS TO OTHER SYNODS

- The Rev. Terry Edwards resigned as pastor of Central, Burkes Garden, Virginia, and Immanuel, Bluefield, West Virginia, and accepted the call to
- The Rev. Martin Saarinen has relocated to South Carolina and was transferred to the South Carolina Synod, March 24, 2015.

RESIGNED FROM CONGREGATIONAL CALL

- Fred Hodges resigned from Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Christiansburg, August 1, 2015, and went On Leave From Call.
- The Rev. Terry Edwards resigned from Central Lutheran, Burkes Garden, Virginia and Immanuel, Bluefield, West Virginia August 18, 2014, to accept a call to Prince of Peace, Mt. Vernon, Illinois in the Southern Illinois Synod.

RETIREMENTS

- The Rev. Gary Scheit, retired from Trinity Ecumenical Parish, Moneta, Virginia, October 31, 2014.
- The Rev. Mary Louise Brown, retired from St. Luke Lutheran, Woodstock, Virginia, October 31, 2014.
- The Rev. Kenn Nilsen, retired December 31, 2014 from Bethel Lutheran Church, Hamburg, Virginia.
- The Rev. Richard Krasneck, retired from St. James Lutheran Church, Hudson Crossings, Virginia.

ACCEPTANCES

- The Rev. Chris Carr accepted a call to serve as co-pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Richmond September 1, 2015
- The Rev. Joseph Bolick accepted a call to serve as the Associate Pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond, Virginia, November 16, 2014.
- The Rev. John Ericson, accepted a call to serve as pastor of Reformation, Newport News, January 1, 2015.
- The Rev. Jeff May accepted a call to serve as the pastor of St. Paul, Jerome, Virginia, July 16, 2014.

DEATHS

6 / 25 / 2014	The Rev. Harold F. Fuller, Jr.
7 / 01 / 2014	The Rev. Aldon E. Purdham
10 / 25 / 2014	The Rev. Richard E. Boye.
10 / 27 / 2014	The Rev. Carroll L. Wessinger
12 / 26 / 2014	The Rev. Russell O. Siler
1 / 27 / 2015	The Rev. Dr. Dorothy M. Nimal
2 / 27 / 2015	The Rev. Dr. Conrad J. Christianson, Jr.
4 / 12 / 2015	The Rev. Dr. Marshall F. Mauney

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

ANNIVERSARIES

- **Rader, Timberville – The Rev. Kirk Shipley, Interim**
250th Anniversary: 1765-2015
- **St. Timothy, Norfolk**
February 6, 2015 – 60 years !
- **St. Martin, Quicksburg – The Rev. Dr. James B. Davis**
Celebrated 125th anniversary April 26th, 2015. Bishop James F. Mauney preached at the homecoming service
- **St. Paul, Edinburg – The Rev. Jeff May**
Celebrated St. Paul's 187th anniversary year.
- **St. Paul's, Timberville – The Rev. Kirk Shipley, Interim**
125th Anniversary: 1890-2015
- **Stafford, St. Peter – Pastor Paul C. Toelke**
We will be celebrating our 35th Anniversary on All Saints Sunday, November 2, 2014.
- **Trinity, Stephens City – The Rev. Cam Keyser**
Will celebrate 250 years in 2015 (1765-2015)

BEQUESTS

- **Grace, Winchester – Pastors Martha Sims & Jonathan Boyton**
Received bequest from the estate of Margaret Holliday for \$400,000 enabling the congregation to replace the roof and make structural repairs to the children's education center
- **Portsmouth, First – Pastor Larry Ugarté**
\$1,000 Education Scholarship Fund in memory of Dr. Barbara Hund
\$762 Memorial Gift in memory of Margaret Perkins for church building improvement
- **Reformation, Newport News – Pastor David Gunderlach (Vice Pastor)**
 1. Received a matching grant from MIF and other grant from a family foundation toward capital improvements. Have replaced the church roof and replaced/added guttering. Further plans include renovation of restrooms, kitchen and HVAC systems.
 2. Bequest used to purchase two kneelers for weddings, confirmation, etc.
- **St. Paul, Hampton – Pastor Chris Farrow**
A bequest from Ann Gardener was used to build a beautiful stone retaining walls around the church flower beds
- **St. Paul, Edinburg – Pastor Jeff May**
January 2015 – received a gift of \$5,001.00 in memory of Russell M. Stoneking, Sr. and Mary J Lamma Stoneking to be used for the Milestone Ministries Program

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BLESSINGS

- **Christ, Wise – Michael Samerydyke**
4 Baptisms
- **Our Saviour, Richmond – Pastor Katie Pocalyko**
Blessed by the ordination and installation of our new pastor , The Rev. Kathryn L. Pocalyco
- **St. Paul, Edinburg – Pastor Jeff May**
August 31, 2014 – Held a “Blessing of Bags” Service.
Special Recognition on March 22, 2015, during the worship service a Certificate of Achievement was presented to Elwood Funkhouser for 57 years of faithful service as a Trustee of St. Paul’s and bestowing to him the title of Trustee Emeritus.

DEDICATIONS

- **Bethlehem, Waynesboro – Pastor Karen Taylor**
Outdoor labyrinth was dedicated at Homecoming in August 2014. The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton represented the synod at the event. The Labyrinth is dedicated in memory of the Rev. Dr. Paul “Chip” Gunsten
- **Christ, Fredericksburg – Pastor Richard Carbaugh and Pastor Ann Jones -**
Cornerstone Dedication at 10:00 am on July 20, 2014 with Bishop James Mauney participating in the Worship Service. A reception followed
- **Lebanon, Walker Mountain – Pastor Harvey Atkinson**
New handicapped bathroom upstairs
- **St. Paul, Edinburg – Pastor Jeff May**
April 5, 2015 – Dedicated a new Paschal Candle given to the glory of God.
April 5, 2015 – Dedicated a new Communion Veil and Pall given to the glory of God in memory of Laco and Ellen Dellinger by the family

GROUNDBREAKINGS

MAJOR ADDITIONS

- **Stafford, St. Peter – Pastor Paul C. Toelke**
We are in the process of adding a much-needed Fellowship Hall / Emergency Center

Trinity, Stephens City – The Rev. Cam Keyser

Completion of \$2.3 million parish and education building. Restoration of 100 + year old pipe organ B-10

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THANKSGIVINGS

- **St. Paul, Edinburg –**
Installation on August 17, 2014 – Held service of Installation for The Rev. Jeffrey D. May. On May 18th, 2014 during the worship service, a Resolution of Appreciation was presented to Oma Gail Simmons for her faithful service to St. Paul's in many positions and serving as Organist since the 1960's

PARSONAGES

MISCELLANEOUS

- **St. Paul, Edinburg – Pastor Jeff May**
Participated in "God's Work-Our Hands" Sunday
Participated in Operation Christmas Child Project
Participated in Luke's Backpack Project
Sent greeting card fronts to St. Jude's Children's Hospital
Establish a Milestone Ministries program
Sent 54 pillow case dresses to little girls in Africa
Replace the carpet in the sanctuary

Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year 2015 has been a year of transition for the Synod office with the retirement of Keith Brown and Sue Dugas in June of 2014 and the departure of Billie Spencer in late summer due to a fall and health related issues. Mike Agee assumed the role of Financial Consultant last summer and Beck Walls joined the staff as Administrative Assistant to the Bishop. Both Becky and Debbie have had to take on double duties to cover the bookkeeping responsibilities until Billie's position is filled. Consequently we are somewhat behind in our work and the audit has not been completed. However, cash has been reconciled for each month and is in balance. The Roanoke firm of Kennett and Kennett, Certified Public Accountants, have been engaged to conduct the audit. Their work is ongoing at this time and will be completed by July 1, 2015. The audit will then be reviewed by the Finance Committee and made available for distribution.

Included in this report, for your review, are the unaudited Statements of Financial Position and The Statement of Activities for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2015. They are followed by the Budget Narrative and the 2016 spending plan which you will be asked to consider and hopefully adopt at the Synod Assembly.

VIRGINIA SYNOD, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JANUARY 31, 2015

ASSETS

	<u>Operating Funds</u>	<u>Plant Funds</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total All Funds</u>
Current Assets:				
Cash - checking	\$ 1,353,956.61	\$ -	\$ 159,275.52	\$ 1,513,232.13
Certificate of deposit Wells Fargo	50,902.65			50,902.65
Broker Certificates of deposit Wells Fargo	<u>87,000.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,000.00</u>	<u>100,000.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,491,859.26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>172,275.52</u>	<u>1,664,134.78</u>
Fixed Assets:				
Furniture and equipment at cost less accumulated depreciation of \$124,534.42		13,047.78		13,047.78
Automobiles at cost less accumulated Depreciation of \$26,286.93	<u>-</u>	<u>39,006.86</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,006.86</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>-</u>	<u>52,054.64</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,054.64</u>
Investments - at market value:				
AAL Annuity			72,000.00	72,000.00
Thrivent Money Market Account			99,000.00	99,000.00
ELCA Mission Investment Funds			62,700.00	62,700.00
Certificates of Deposit			10,000.00	10,000.00
ELCA Foundation Time Deposit			31,780.31	31,780.31
Thrivent Mutual Funds			892,947.95	892,947.95
ELCA Endowment Pooled trust - Tusing			298,838.22	298,838.22
ELCA Endowment Pooled trust - Mission			76,989.95	76,989.95
ELCA Endowment Pooled trust - Copenhagen			280,161.64	280,161.64
ELCA Endowment Pooled trust - Small Congregation	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,043.44</u>	<u>18,043.44</u>
Total Investments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,842,461.51</u>	<u>1,842,461.51</u>
Other Assets				
Repayable Student Loans			5,650.00	5,650.00
Church Development Loans	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,158.44</u>	<u>8,158.44</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,808.44</u>	<u>13,808.44</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,491,859.26</u>	<u>\$ 52,054.64</u>	<u>\$ 2,028,545.47</u>	<u>\$ 3,572,459.37</u>

<u>Plant Fund</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds Year Ended 1/31/2015</u>
\$ -	\$ 40,743.34	\$ 1,708,872.18
	-	1,600.77
	-	(2,964.15)
	33,316.60	33,316.60
	-	-
	14,199.08	14,199.08
		-
		617,386.02
<u>-</u>	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>4,500.00</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>92,759.02</u>	<u>2,376,910.50</u>
		400,910.37
		446,062.82
		86,492.79
		106,322.85
		88,078.54
		30,050.89
		26,772.00
		66,268.42
		-
		6,327.00
		303,065.03
		12,913.05
		-
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>730,291.16</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,303,554.92</u>
-	92,759.02	73,355.58
<u>52,054.64</u>	<u>1,935,786.45</u>	<u>3,499,731.76</u>
<u>\$ 52,054.64</u>	<u>\$ 2,028,545.47</u>	<u>\$ 3,573,087.34</u>

VIRGINIA SYNOD, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2015

	<u>Operating Funds</u>		
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Support and Revenue:			
Income from congregations (benevolence remittances)	\$ 1,668,128.84	\$ -	\$ 1,668,128.84
Investment income	1,600.77		1,600.77
Other income	(2,964.15)		(2,964.15)
Capital Gains Reinvested			
Realized Gain (Loss) on Sales of Investments			
Unrealized gain (Loss) on investments			
Special benevolences and other designated receipts (Schedule A-1)		617,386.02	617,386.02
Trust fund income	-	-	-
 Total Support and Revenue	<u>1,666,765.46</u>	<u>617,386.02</u>	<u>2,284,151.48</u>
Expenses:			
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, apportionment	400,910.37		400,910.37
Virginia Synod Causes:			
Office of Bishop	446,062.82		446,062.82
Programming and communications	86,492.79		86,492.79
Educational institutions and agencies	106,322.85		106,322.85
Campus ministry	88,078.54		88,078.54
Social ministry organization and agencies	30,050.89		30,050.89
Outdoor ministries	26,772.00		26,772.00
Synodical council activities	66,268.42		66,268.42
Synod assembly	-		-
Regional Center for Missions	6,327.00		6,327.00
Synod Office	303,065.03		303,065.03
Contingency and other	12,913.05		12,913.05
Depreciation & Loss on Disposition of Old Assets	-		-
Remittances of special benevolences and other designated receipts expenses	-	730,291.16	730,291.16
 Total Expenses	<u>1,573,263.76</u>	<u>730,291.16</u>	<u>2,303,554.92</u>
 Increase (decrease) in net assets	93,501.70	(112,905.14)	(19,403.44)
Net Assets January 31, 2014	<u>51,000.00</u>	<u>1,460,890.67</u>	<u>1,511,890.67</u>
 <u>Net Assets January 31, 2015</u>	<u>\$ 144,501.70</u>	<u>\$ 1,347,985.53</u>	<u>\$ 1,492,487.23</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	<u>Operating Funds</u>	<u>Plant Funds</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total All Funds</u>
Current Liabilities:				
Payroll taxes and withholdings	\$ (627.97)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (627.97)
				-
Total Current Liabilities	(627.97)	-	-	(627.97)
Long term liabilities:				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Less Current Portion	-	-	-	-
Total Long Term Liabilities	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	(627.97)	-	-	(627.97)
Net Assets:				
Unrestricted	144,501.70			144,501.70
Designated	1,347,985.53			1,347,985.53
Plant Fund		52,054.64		52,054.64
Permanently restricted	-	-	2,028,545.47	2,028,545.47
Total Net Assets	1,492,487.23	52,054.64	2,028,545.47	3,573,087.34
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,491,859.26	\$ 52,054.64	\$ 2,028,545.47	\$ 3,572,459.37

REPORT OF SYNOD COUNCIL

Meetings and Areas of Responsibility

Meetings – A special meeting of the Council was held on June 1, 2014, following the Synod Assembly. Regular meetings of the Synod Council were held; September 18-20, 2014; January 16-17, 2015; March 20-21, 2015; June 4, 2015.

Areas of Responsibilities – The Synod Council is served by five Standing Committees as follows: Executive Committee, Consultation Committee, Committee on Discipline, Finance and Budget Committee and Mutual Ministry Committee. Also reporting to the Council is the Coordinating Cabinet for Outreach and Congregational Life, the Candidacy Committee, the Leadership Support Committee, the Ecumenical Relations Committee, and the Lutheran Partners in Ministry

The President of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization, Women of the ELCA, the President of the Virginia Lutheran Men in Mission, and those who chair the Candidacy Committee and the Ministerium Team serve as advisory members of Council.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

2015 Assembly – Arrangements were made by the Council for the Assembly to be held on the campus of Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia, June 5-7, 2015. The theme of the Assembly, *"Ambassadors for Christ, Knowing Our Congregational Neighborhoods To Do God's Will."*

The Synod Council designated the 2015 Assembly offerings to be divided evenly between the PNG Companion Synod (Islands District) Scholarship Program for Children of Pastors; and a designated feeding program.

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Ratification of Appointment of Deans - The Council ratified the following persons as deans of the conferences noted below:

Tidewater	Cathy Mims
Peninsula	Andy Ballentine
Germanna	William Stewart
Northern Valley	Robert Jones
Central Valley	James Baseler
Page	Nick Eichelberger
Southern	Ken Lane
New River	Bill King
Highland	Jonathan Hamman
Richmond	Eric Moehring
Southern Valley	JoAnn Bunn

3. Hungry Mother Camp – ratify the appointment Board Members: Bill Huber and Chad Barr
4. Lutheran Family Services of Virginia – ratified the follow Board Members: The Rev. Debra K. Dukes, Judith N. Green Ph.D., The Rev. Douglas Smith, Mrs. Kathy Kanter
5. Carolina Furnace Lutheran Camp-ratified the appointment of Board Member The Rev. Heidi David-Young

ITEMS FROM SYNOD COUNCIL COMMITTEES

1. Pulpit Supply

We recommend the following compensation for pulpit supply:

One Service \$ 125.00 - \$150.00

Each Additional Service \$30.00

Plus the IRS rate for the ROUND TRIP mileage

2. The adoption of the Statement of Policy and protocol regarding Sexual Misconduct by Rostered Leaders
3. Council authorized a Feasibility Study for a Capital Campaign. Retained the firm of Gronlund Sayther Brunkow to assist the Virginia Synod with the formation of a capital campaign focusing on Youth/Christian formation.
4. Minimum Compensation Recommendations for 2015

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

That the 2016 minimum compensation base salary of a pastor serving in the Virginia Synod be set at \$41,732 for a pastor with parsonage and \$52,628 for a pastor with housing allowance (reflects a 1.7 % increase and includes 100% Social Security); and the minimum salary of a rostered lay person serving in the Virginia synod be set at \$37,784 for a person with a Bachelor's Degree and \$40,327 for a person with a Master's Degree

E. ROSTERED LEADERS

ACCESSIONS

By Ordination / Commissioning / Consecration

- Sonya Williams-Giersh accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Gravel Springs Parish near Winchester, Virginia effective June 1, 2014. She was ordained at the Synod Assembly, May 31st, 2014 at Saint Andrews Roman Catholic Church in Roanoke, Virginia.
- Phyllis Blair Milton accepted the call to serve as Associate Pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hampton, Va, August 23, 2014. She was ordained at Gloria Dei on August 23, 2014 in Hampton, Va.
- Barbara Krumm accepted the call to serve as pastor at Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Bergton, Virginia, September 16, 2014. She was ordained on September 12, 2014 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Virginia.
- Andrew Tucker accepted the call to serve as pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Radford, Virginia beginning September 1, 2014. He was ordained September 5, 2014 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Durham, NC.
- Katie Pocalyko accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Richmond, Virginia effective March 1, 2015. She was ordained February 26, 2015 at the Lutheran Church of our Saviour, Richmond, Virginia.

By Transfer

- The Rev. Jeff May, a pastor of the New Jersey Synod, accepted the call July 16, 2014 to begin service at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jerome, Virginia.
- The Rev. Joseph Bolick, a pastor of the South Carolina Synod, accepted the call as Associate Pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond, Va. effective November 16, 2014.
- The Rev. Sara Lang, a pastor of the South Carolina Synod, on leave from call, was transferred to the Virginia Synod, November 20, 2014.
- The Rev. Judy Cobb, a retired pastor of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, was transferred to the Virginia Synod
- James Cobb, a retired pastor of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, was transferred to the Virginia Synod.
- Rodney Ronneberg, a pastor of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, accepted the call as pastor of Faith, Staunton and St. Peter, Churchville, effective July 1, 2014.

DISMISSALS TO OTHER SYNODS

- The Rev. Terry Edwards resigned as pastor of Central, Burkes Garden, Virginia, and Immanuel, Bluefield, West Virginia, and accepted the call to
- The Rev. Martin Saarinen has relocated to South Carolina and was transferred to the South Carolina Synod, March 24, 2015.

RESIGNED FROM CONGREGATIONAL CALL

- Fred Hodges resigned from Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Christiansburg, August 1, 2015, and went On Leave From Call.
- The Rev. Terry Edwards resigned from Central Lutheran, Burkes Garden, Virginia and Immanuel, Bluefield, West Virginia August 18, 2014, to accept a call to Prince of Peace, Mt. Vernon, Illinois in the Southern Illinois Synod.

RETIREMENTS

- The Rev. Gary Scheit, retired from Trinity Ecumenical Parish, Moneta, Virginia, October 31, 2014.
- The Rev. Mary Louise Brown, retired from St. Luke Lutheran, Woodstock, Virginia, October 31, 2014.
- The Rev. Kenn Nilsen, retired December 31, 2014 from Bethel Lutheran Church, Hamburg, Virginia.
- The Rev. Richard Krasneck, retired from St. James Lutheran Church, Hudson Crossings, Virginia.

ACCEPTANCES

- The Rev. Chris Carr accepted a call to serve as co-pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Richmond September 1, 2015
- The Rev. Joseph Bolick accepted a call to serve as the Associate Pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond, Virginia, November 16, 2014.
- The Rev. John Ericson, accepted a call to serve as pastor of Reformation, Newport News, January 1, 2015.
- The Rev. Jeff May accepted a call to serve as the pastor of St. Paul, Jerome, Virginia, July 16, 2014.

DEATHS

6 / 25 / 2014	The Rev. Harold F. Fuller, Jr.
7 / 01 / 2014	The Rev. Aldon E. Purdham
10 / 25 / 2014	The Rev. Richard E. Boye.
10 / 27 / 2014	The Rev. Carroll L. Wessinger
12 / 26 / 2014	The Rev. Russell O. Siler
1 / 27 / 2015	The Rev. Dr. Dorothy M. Nimal
2 / 27 / 2015	The Rev. Dr. Conrad J. Christianson, Jr.
4 / 12 / 2015	The Rev. Dr. Marshall F. Mauney

F. FINANCES

1. **Regular Review of the Financial Program** – Since the Budget of Disbursements reflects the program of the synod for mission and ministry and sets certain priorities, the Synod Council, especially through the counsel of its Finance and Budget Committee and the Treasurer of Synod, regularly reviewed the current financial position of synod, and made adjustments as seemed warranted.
2. **Audits** – The Synod Council has made arrangements with the Roanoke firm of Kennett and Kennett, Certified Public Accountants, to secure an unqualified audit of the treasurer's books. The audit will be completed by July 1, 2015
3. **Investments** – The Synod Council's Finance and Budget Committee regularly reviews synodical funds available for investment. Investments are made in accordance with the Investment Policy adopted by the Synod Council at its March 2015 meeting.
4. **Spending Program for 2016** – The proposed 2016 budget is based on anticipated income from congregations and supports the mission and ministry of the synod and churchwide organization. The budget will be reviewed by the Synod Council after the level of congregational support is more accurately determined by receipt of Statements of Intent for the year of 2016. Details of the 2016 Budget are found on the following page.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

That the 2016 Financial Program be given general approval.

Virginia Synod, ELCA

2016 Narrative Budget



Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Revenue Projections

Spending Plan

Designated Accounts

Overview

The 2016 budget plan for the Virginia synod of the ELCA was constructed with essentially three objectives:

1. Reduce and/or eliminate deficit spending.
2. Increase the benevolences generated to the national church
3. Generate an expense plan that more accurately reflects the total operations of the synod, is transparent, and provides a tool by which those operations can be better managed.

This plan achieves all three of those objectives.

Based upon existing projections with revenues of \$1,924,703 and expenses of \$1,913,017 the budget as submitted will result in a surplus \$11,686 for 2016.

The expense plan calls for a total of \$657,068 as our apportionment to the ELCA. This represents a net increase of \$36,015 from our apportionment in 2015 and increases the percentage of the synod's giving from 38.3% in 2015 to 39% in 2016. The plan also represents an increase of 2% in salaries and benefits for all staff members. The overall 2016 expense plan is \$54,226 higher than the 2015 plan. As indicated above the majority of that increase is for increased benevolences. The remainder is the increase in staff compensation.

It is important to note that the 2016 budget is the first functional budget that represents the incorporation of 12 former "designated" or "restricted" accounts representing annual expenditures of over \$154,518 into the overall spending plan. This results in a plan that truly represents the ongoing financial operations of the Synod and reduces the overall number of designated, or "restricted" accounts by 45%.

Introduction

The 2016 narrative budget of the Virginia Synod of the ELCA was prepared in three parts:

1. Revenue projections for the fiscal year. These projections are a compilation of the various revenue streams that feed the Synod. The largest of these are projections of mission support from the 155 congregations that make up the Synod. Projections for these revenues are based upon:
 - Projected pledges in 2016 from the 62 congregations that submitted a pledge for 2015.
 - Actual 2014 donations from the 93 congregations that did not pledge in 2015.
 - Projected income from various investments.
 - Revenues from the ELCA itself.
 - Revenues from Portico.

Overall revenue projections for 2016 represent an increase of \$100,226 (4.5%) over 2015. This increase is the result of two factors: 1. An increase in giving from the congregations of \$63249 (3.9%), and 2. Better stewardship of the monies that have been given to the Synod, increasing the revenues from investments by \$36,985.

2. A spending plan that outlines expenses that are expected to be generated in the normal day-to-day operation of the synod. The spending plan for 2016 builds upon increases that were first seen in the 2015 plan. Specifically, expenses that were previously covered by funds from designated accounts are now incorporated into the general spending plan. Beyond this change, specific increases are due to: 1. An increase in Churchwide Support from 38.3% of revenues to 39%, 2. An increase in staff compensation of 2%, 3. An increase in

staff benefits as a result of rising healthcare costs from Portico, and 4. The addition of funding for some new expenses such as the establishment of an escrow account to plan for future capital purchases.

3. A breakdown of existing designated, or “restricted” accounts, including the funds that are presently associated with each. These accounts are generally of two types:
 - a. Funds that are collected and spent generally on an annual basis for programs that are run by the Synod. These programs are self-funding and include the Synod Assembly, Youth Activities, ACTS, Day of the Ministerium, etc.,
 - b. Funds that are collected, held, and then distributed for some specific purpose (World Hunger, Papua New Guinea, Memorial gifts and Endowments, etc.).

It is important to note that funds associated with these accounts ARE NOT reflected in the overall revenue or spending plans. For this reason, all funds not associated with annual programs should be viewed with the intent of utilizing the monies annually for the purposes that they are designated.

Together, the revenue projections, the expense plan, and the designated account structure achieve the overall objectives of the budget as outlined. These included increasing our benevolences to the ELCA, maintaining a positive cash flow, and making the financial operation of the Synod more transparent and “user friendly”. Considering this, as well as the total value of Synod investments (>\$4.3 million), the overall financial condition of the Synod is very healthy. The Synod Assembly as well as the Council should carefully examine all programs and spending areas to determine where increases and decreases could best serve the ongoing vision, stewardship, and witness of our Virginia Synod and it’s supporting congregations.

Va. Synod of ELCA

	2015 Plan	2016 Plan
I. Administrative		
1. Apportionment to ELCA (2016 =39%)	\$ 621,053.00	\$ 657,068.13
2. Ofc. of Bishop		
a. Compensation	\$ 89,298.02	\$ 91,083.98
b. Benefits	\$ 34,640.00	\$ 35,332.80
c. Continuing Education	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
d. Travel costs	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
3. Staff expenses		
a. Compensation (five support staff)	\$ 141,771.00	\$ 144,606.42
b. Benefits (five support staff)	\$ 56,601.12	\$ 57,733.14
c. Travel costs (All except Bishop, Delaney, Price)	\$ 6,953.00	\$ 6,953.00
d. Social Security (All)	\$ 14,106.10	\$ 14,388.22
4. Office expenses		
a. Salem		
1. Rent (including utilities)	\$ 29,000.00	\$ 29,000.00
2. Postage/mail	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
3. Office supplies	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00
4. Office Equipment/leasing	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
5. Computers/Electronic equip.	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
6. Telecom/cellphones/internet	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
7. Temporary help	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
8. Bank/Vanco charges	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
9. Escrow for Cap. Improvement	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
b. Office East (rent, utilities, ofc. op.)	\$ 10,844.47	\$ 10,844.47
c. Office Waynesboro (rent, utilites, ofc. op.)	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
5. Synod Council Expenses		
a. Expenses	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
b. Finance and budget	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
c. Endowment committee	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
d. Insurance	\$ 16,752.00	\$ 16,752.00
e. Legal fees	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
f. Audit support	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
g. Archives	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total	\$ 496,665.71	\$ 508,394.03
	2015 Plan	2016 Plan

II. Tending To The Spirit			
1. Ass.t to Bishop			
a. Compensation	\$ 57,269.00		\$ 58,414.38
b. Benefits	\$ 26,048.00		\$ 26,568.96
c. Travel costs	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
d. Continuing education	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
2. Conference of Deans	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000.00
3. Mission Strategy Team			
a. Mission 17	\$ 12,000.00		\$ 12,000.00
b. Va. Missions			
4. Lutheran Partners in Mission			
a. Synod contribution	\$ 30,706.00		\$ 31,320.12
b. United Lutheran Appeal	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
5. Agency support			
a. Va. Interfaith Center (VICCP)	\$ 2,550.00		\$ 2,550.00
b. Grace Inside	\$ 9,180.00		\$ 9,180.00
c. Luth. Family Services	\$ 14,280.00		\$ 14,280.00
d. Nat. Lutheran Communities and Services	\$ 1,360.00		\$ 1,360.00
e. Va. Lutheran Homes	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 8,000.00
f. Caroline Furnace	\$ 19,455.00		\$ 19,455.00
g. Hungry Mother	\$ 8,250.00		\$ 8,250.00
h. Regional Ctr. For Mission	\$ 8,436.00		\$ 8,436.00
i. Grant-Southern Seminary	\$ 106,456.00		\$ 106,456.00
j. Grant-Roanoke College	\$ 12,240.00		\$ 12,240.00
6. Parish visitation	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$ 356,230.00		\$ 358,510.46
III. Treasuring the Chrisitan Tradition			
1. Youth Events			
a. Asst. to Bishop Compensation	\$ 75,825.00		\$ 77,341.50
b. Benefits	\$ 32,808.00		\$ 33,464.16
c. Travel and Living	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
d. Continuing Education	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
e. Planning	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
f. Materials	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
2. Campus Ministries	\$ 90,000.00		\$ 90,000.00
3. Synodical Minister for Christian Form.			
a. Contribution/Compensation	\$ 20,378.00		\$ 20,785.56
b. Benefits	\$ 3,338.72		\$ 3,405.49
c. Continuing Education	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Total	\$ 229,849.72		\$ 232,496.71

	2015 Plan	2016 Plan
IV. Excellence in Leadership		
1. Synodical Min. for Healthy Ldrs.		
a. Compensation	\$ 31,277.00	\$ 31,902.54
b. Benefits	\$ 5,082.72	\$ 5,184.28
c. Continuing Education	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
2. Healthy Cong. Workshops	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00
3. Ministerium team and gathering	\$ 11,200.00	\$ 11,200.00
4. Candidacy Committee	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 34,000.00
Total	\$ 84,859.72	\$ 85,586.82
V. Communications		
1. Director of communications comp.	\$ 31,734.00	\$ 32,368.68
a. Benefits	\$ 9,649.44	\$ 9,842.42
b. Continuing Education	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
2. Social Media	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
4. Website/Materials	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
5. Honoraria/Va. Lutheran	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total	\$ 45,133.44	\$ 45,961.10
VI. Caring for the Most Vulnerable		
1. Global Missions/Papua New Guinea	1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
2. Hunger Task Group	1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total	2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
VII Stewardship		
1. Mission Table	500	\$ 500.00
2. Region 9	500	\$ 500.00
3. Honoraria	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00
Total	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 23,000.00
(5/13/15)		
Synod Total	\$ 1,858,791.59	\$ 1,913,017.25

D- 1

Report of the Assembly Committee on Nominations

The Assembly Committee on Nominations for the 2015 Synod Assembly, chaired by The Rev. Dr. Ken Lane met on D-1, and reviewed all positions to be filled and attempted, where possible to present more than one nominee for each position to be filled in a particular category. The committee presents the following slate of nominees for:

Synod Council (4) to be elected

1 Lay Female

- Debbie Mintiens (*)

Lay Male (1) to be elected

- John Nicholson
- Matt Wertman (*)

Clergy (2) to be elected

- The Rev. Evan Davis
- The Rev. Cheryl Griffin
- The Rev. Linda Miller Motley
- The Rev. Andrew Tucker
- The Rev. David Young

Synod Vice President

- Charles Downs Jr.

Synod Secretary

- Blythe Scott

Churchwide Assembly 2016

Lay Female (3) to be elected

- Elizabeth Franz
- Ann Hess
- Jody Smiley

Lay Male (3) to be elected

- John Hess

Clergy Female (1) to be elected

- The Rev. Cheryl Griffin
- The Rev. Linda Miller Motley
- The Rev. Judy Tavela

Clergy Male (1) to be elected

- The Rev. Jonathan Boynton
- The Rev. Bill Nabers

(*) – Eligible for re-election

Youth Representative from LYO Board

Synod Council – LAY FEMALE (1 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **SYNOD COUNCIL – LAY FEMALE**

2. Name: **Deb Mintiens**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: **X** Clergy: Male: Female: **X**

3. Mailing Address: **4040 Jadwyn Rd.**

City State, Zip: **Woodstock VA 22664**

4. Telephone (H) **540-294-5001** Telephone (W)

5. Congregation Membership: **Emanuel Lutheran Church** Parish: **Woodstock** Conference : **CN**

6. Occupation: **Transportation Engineer - Retired**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

a. **Have served for the past two years on Synod Council**

b. **Currently a 7 year member of Power in the Spirit committee; Past member of ACTS committee & Synod Christian Formation Committee**

c. **Adult advisor for Synod youth events**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **A voting member of the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, Florida**

b. **Served as a volunteer at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburg, PA**

c. **Served for many years as a member of my congregations Church Council**

List current or past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **American Red Cross Disaster Services Volunteer for 13 years, both local and national disasters (served in Alabama during Hurricane Katrina, in Texas during Hurricane Ike)**

b. **Served in several officer positions on PTA/PTO boards over a 12 year period**

c. **Served as treasurer and president of the High School Band Boosters and was “band Mom” to many**

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self nomination: **NO**

Your Name: **Debbie Mintiens**

Your Congregation: **Emanuel, Woodstock**

Synod Council – LAY MALE (1 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **SYNOD COUNCIL – LAY MALE**

2. Name: **John Nicholson**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes:

No: **X**

Lay: **X**

Clergy:

Male: **X**

Female:

3. Mailing Address: **117 Stonehouse Drive**

City State, Zip: **Lynchburg VA 24502**

4. Telephone (H) **434-239-7756** Telephone (W)

5. Congregation Membership: **Bethlehem** Parish: **Lynchburg** Conference : **SO**

6. Occupation: **Retired Soil Scientist**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

a. **Retired with 43 years' experience as an environmental project leader w/USDA**

b. **Past supervisor (team Leader)**

c. **Past secretary-treasurer of the VA. Association of Professional Soil Scientists**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Current President of Bethlehem Congregational Council**

b. **Served as chair as chair of worship and Music Committee**

c. **Served as the coordinator of Christian Ministry in Danville**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Technical advisor for the VA Environmental for High school students**

b. **Served on the local Thrivent Board for 3 years**

c.

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self nomination: **NO**

Your Name: **The Rev. Hank Boschen**

Your Congregation: **Trinity, Moneta**

Synod Council – LAY MALE (1 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **SYNOD COUNCIL – LAY MALE**

2. Name: **C. Matthew Wertman**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: **X** Clergy: Male: **X** Female:

3. Mailing Address: **962 Old Brook Rd.**

City State, Zip: **Charlottesville, VA 22664**

4. Telephone (H) **540-447-0682** Telephone (W) **434-202-7289**

5. Congregation Membership: **Grace Lutheran Church** Parish: **Waynesboro** Conference : **SV**

6. Occupation: **Project Administrator**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

- a. **I work in an administrative role within a small business, working w/ budgets & other financial matters**
- b. **Have served in many paid/unpaid positions that require large-scale fundraising efforts**
- c. **Grew up in the Synod, attended all the youth events, & attended the '11 & '13 Churchwide Assemblies**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

- 8. a. **Have served on Synod Council as Youth Rep from '10-'11 and Lay Male from '12 to present**
- b. **VA Synod LYO from '05-'10 (President from "09-'10); ELCA LYO from '09-'12 (President from '10 -'12)**
- c. **Numerous Synodical Committees, including Malaria Task Force, PNG Task Force, & Youth Ministry Committee**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

- 9. a. **Have participated in the annual local Relay for Life for the last several years**
- b. **Have volunteered on a number of political campaigns & for many political organizations over the years**
- c. **Helped kickstart the preliminary design for a Student Memorial Garden during my time at UVA**

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self nomination: **YES**

Your Name: **C. Matthew Wertman**

Your Congregation: **Grace, Waynesboro**

Synod Council – Clergy (2 to be elected) (Male or Female)

1. Nominee for: **SYNOD COUNCIL - CLERGY**

2. Name: **The Rev. Evan Davis**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **x**

Lay: Clergy: **x** Male: **x** Female:

3. Mailing Address: **3555 Spaders Church**

City State, Zip: **Mt. Crawford VA 22841**

4. Telephone (H) **540-435-4582**

Telephone (W) **540-435-4582**

5. Congregation Membership: **St. Jacob's -Spaders** Parish: **Harrisonburg** Conference : **SV**

6. Occupation: **Pastor – St. Jacob's –Spaders and Trinity, Keezletown**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

- a. **I see great possibilities for the Synod to equip congregations for mission**
- b. **I serve two small but vibrant congregations & can bring this perspective**
- c. **I understand and care about the administrative process of the Synod and ELCA**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Serve on Virginia Synod Mission Strategy Team**
b. **Have received ELCA mission redeveloper training**
c. **Assist Bishop Mauney with new start/redevelopment forms & process**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Serve on Organizing Committee for Faith in Action in Harrisburg**
b. **(Faith in Action is a congregation-based community organizing coalition)**
c.

Will serve if elected: **Yes**

This is a self nomination:

Nominated by: **The Rev. David Derrick**

Your Name: **The Rev. Evan Davis**

Your Congregation: **St. Jacob's – Spaders, Harrisonburg**

Synod Council – Clergy (2 to be elected) (Male or Female)

1. Nominee for: **SYNOD COUNCIL - CLERGY**

2. Name: **Cheryl Griffin**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: Clergy: **X** Male: Female: **X**

3. Mailing Address: 3 Mile Course
City State, Zip: Williamsburg VA 23185

4. Telephone (H) **757-876-6371** Telephone (W) **757-229-6688**

5. Congregation Membership: **St. Stephen Lutheran Church** Parish: **Williamsburg** Conference : **PN**

6. Occupation: **Pastor**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):
- a. **Served several times on the VA Synod Assembly committee of Reference & Council**
 - b. **Serve with the VA Interfaith Center for Public Policy**
 - c. **Served as board member and committee chair for Peninsula Pastoral Counsel**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **I am a Healthy Congregations Facilitator and a Stephen Ministry Leader**
b. **Serve on the VA Synod Ministerium Team**
c. **Supervised youth at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans twice**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Volunteer chaplain at dementia unit in a care facility**
b. **Serve at homeless shelters**
c. **Chaplain at Synod Youth Retreats**

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self nomination: **YES**

Your Name: **Cheryl Griffin**

Your Congregation: **St. Stephen, Williamsburg**

SYNOD COUNCIL – CLERGY (2 TO BE Elected)

1. Nominee for: **SYNOD COUNCIL - CLERGY**

2. Name: **The Rev. Linda Mitchell Motley**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: Clergy: **X** Male: Female: **X**

3. Mailing Address: **512 Oak Hill Drive**

City State, Zip: **Floyd VA 24091**

4. Telephone (H) **540-475-5671**

5. Congregation Membership: **Floyd-Willis Lutheran Parish**

Parish: **Floyd-Willis**

Conference : **NR**

6. Occupation: **Pastor – Floyd-Willis Parish**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

a. **Variety of service in the ELCA: Parish ministry, campus ministry, interim ministry, seminary development**

b. **Interest in Social Ministry and outreach programs of the ELCA**

c. **Desire to bring churchwide vision to my current work as parish pastor in rural community and to synod**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Lengthy experience in synod youth ministry**

b. **Served on Virginia Synod Council and various committees in Virginia and South Carolina synods**

c. **25 Years of ministry in ELCA**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Parish Organizer and volunteer for Plenty! Food sharing program**

b. **Past board member of Women'**

c. **RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest national Network) Speakers' Bureau**

Will serve if elected: **Yes**

This is a self nomination: **Yes**

Nominated by:

Your Name: **The Rev. Linda Mitchel Motley**

Your Congregation: **Floyd-Willis Parish**

Synod Council – Clergy (2 to be elected) (Male or Female)

1. Nominee for: **SYNOD COUNCIL - CLERGY**

2. Name: **The Rev. Andrew Tucker**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **x**

Lay: Clergy: **x** Male: **x** Female:

3. Mailing Address: **1302 4th St.**

City State, Zip: **Radford VA 24141**

4. Telephone (H) **919-370-0177**

Telephone (W) **540-639-2671**

5. Congregation Membership: **Christ Lutheran Church**

Parish: **Radford**

Conference : **NR**

6. Occupation: **Pastor – Christ Lutheran Church in Radford, VA**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

a. **Lay Voting Member 2006 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly**

b. **Class representative Duke Divinity School Class of 2012**

c. **Currently a part of the ELCA Mission Redeveloper training process**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Virginia Council of Churches Young Clergy Conference Planning Team**

b. **2015-2016 Appalachian Ministry Leadership Team**

c. **ELCA Region 9 Campus Ministry Staff Retreat Coordinating Team**

List current or past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Mission Trip Leader (most recently to St. Croix, USVI; Agua Preta, MX; and New Orleans)**

b. **Adopt-a-Trail at Camp Agape (as a part of Duke Lutherans**

c. **Food collection for Beans and Rice, Inc.**

Will serve if elected: **Yes**

This is a self nomination: **Only somewhat; I applied at the behest of The Rev. Bill King our NRV conference dean who sought our participation in the process**

Nominated by:

Your Name: **The Rev. Andrew Tucker**

Your Congregation: **Christ Lutheran, Radford, VA**

Synod Council – Clergy (2 to be elected) (Male or Female)

1. Nominee for: **SYNOD COUNCIL -CLERGY**

2. Name: **The Rev. Dr. David Young**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: Clergy: **X** Male: **X** Female:

3. Mailing Address: **202 Fairway Circle**

City State, Zip: **Cross Junction, VA 22625**

4. Telephone (H) **540-888-6170**

Telephone (W) **540-662-3245**

5. Congregation Membership: **Bethel**

Parish: **Winchester**

Conference : **NV**

6. Occupation: Pastor – **Bethel Lutheran Church in Winchester VA**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

- a. **President – Cincinnati Conference (Southern Ohio Synod)**
- b. **Voting Member – 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly**
- c. **18 years – Parish ministry (Cincinnati, OH & Winchester VA)**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Working with three congregations currently as part of VA Synod Call Process Team**
b. **Ministry Partner/ Mentor for Deanna Boynton (2012-14)**
c. **Consultation Committee – Virginia Synod (current)**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Chairperson – Cincinnati Westside Crop Walk**
b. **Chairperson – Volunteer of American Church Partnership Program**
c. **Youth Baseball & Basketball Coach**

Will serve if elected: **Yes**

This is a self nomination: **Yes**

Nominated by:

Your Name: **The Rev. Dr. David Young**

Your Congregation: **Bethel, Winchester**

Synod Council – VICE PRESIDENT (1 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **SYNOD COUNCIL – VICE PRESIDENT**

2. Name: **Charles L. Downs, Jr.**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**
Lay: **X** Clergy: Male: **X** Female:

3. Mailing Address: **3922 Belle Aire, Circle**

City State, Zip: **Roanoke VA 24018**

4. Telephone (H) **540-344-1927** Telephone (W) **540-510-3045**

5. Congregation Membership: **Christ Lutheran Church** Parish: **Roanoke** Conference : **SO**

6. Occupation: **Attorney**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

- a. **Member of Synod Council for VA Synod**
- b. **Chair of Reference & Council Committee**
- c. **Attorney by training**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Church Council – Christ Lutheran Roanoke**
b. **Synod Council – VA Synod**
c. **Chair of Reference & Council on two occasions**

List current or past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Vice chairman Virginia Lutheran Homes**
b. **Roanoke Bar Association**
c.

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self nomination:

Your Name: **Charles C. Downs Jr.**

Your Congregation: **Christ, Roanoke**

Synod Council – SECRETARY (1 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **SYNOD COUNCIL – SECRETARY**

2. Name: **Blythe Ann Scott**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: **X** Clergy: Male: Female: **X**

3. Mailing Address: **4012 Newport Ave.**

City State, Zip: **Norfolk, VA 23508**

4. Telephone (H) **757-321-0853** Telephone (W) **757-519-9300 ex: 13366**

5. Congregation Membership: **First Lutheran Church** Parish: **Norfolk** Conference : **TD**

6. Occupation: **Attorney**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

- a. **Vice Chair of Norfolk Airport Authority**
- b. **Member, Board of Zoning Appeals, City of Norfolk**
- c. **Licensed attorney since 1998**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Member, First Lutheran, Norfolk**

- b.
- c.

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Volunteer at YWCA of South Hampton Roads**
- b. **Member, The Williams School Board of Directors**
 - c.

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self nomination:

Your Name: **Blythe A. Scott**

Your Congregation: **First, Norfolk**

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER (3 LAY FEMALES)

1. Nominee for: **CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY– LAY FEMALE**

2. Name: **Elizabeth (Lizzie) Franz**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: **X** Clergy: Male: Female: **X**

3. Mailing Address: **3233 Woodland Dr. SW**

City State, Zip: **Roanoke VA 24015**

4. Telephone (H) **804-387-4925** Telephone (W)

5. Congregation Membership: **St. Philip Lutheran Church** Parish: **Roanoke** Conference : **SO**

6. Occupation: **Teacher**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

a. **Voting member, Synod Assembly 2007,2012**

b. **Voting member, Churchwide Assembly 2012**

c.

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Church Council, Christ Lutheran Richmond 2007-2008**

b. **Youth Ministry intern , summer 2011**

c. **Youth group advisor, St. Philip, Roanoke 2012-present**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Regular volunteer at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp**

b. **Regular Volunteer at Feeding America with youth group**

c.

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self nomination: **NO : Nominated by The Rev. Eric Moehring, Christ, Richmond**
The Rev. Kelly Derrick seconds the nomination

Your Name: **Lizzie Franz**

Your Congregation: **St. Philip, Roanoke**

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – LAY FEMALE (1 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – LAY MALE**

2. Name: **Ann Hess**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: **X** Clergy: Male: Female: **X**

3. Mailing Address: **70 Crescent Dr.**

City State, Zip: **Christiansburg, VA 24073**

4. Telephone (H) **540-382-8235** Telephone (W)

5. Congregation Membership: **Luther Memorial Lutheran Church** Parish: **Blacksburg** Conference : **NR**

6. Occupation: **Potter, Self employed**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

- a. **Lifelong Lutheran, active in aspects of ministry & management**
- b. **Lifelong volunteer; volunteer manager, collaborating efforts between groups**
- c. **Lifelong learner, BS &MS degrees in Chemistry, continuing ed, thru ACTS, Power in the Spirit, numerous workshops, extensive reading**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Leading strategic planning at Luther Memorial – currently**
b. **At Our Saviour Lutheran, treasurer, adult teacher, evangelism, council chair**
c. **Collaborated with synod worship leaders to make and donate chalices to the synod**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Current: manage and maintain more than 5000 name customer list for Blue Ridge Potters Guild**
b. **Board of Supervisors, Montgomery County 1983-1991**
c. **Montgomery County Dept. of Social Services Board NRV Community Action Board**

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self-nomination: **Yes**

Your Name: **Ann Hess**

Your Congregation: **Luther Memorial, Blacksburg**

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – LAY FEMALE (1 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – LAY FEMALE**

2. Name: **Jody Smiley**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: **X** Clergy: Male: Female: **X**

3. Mailing Address: **901 Brattle Lane**

City State, Zip: **Blacksburg VA 24060**

4. Telephone (H) **540-250-6149** Telephone (W) **540-231-6024**

5. Congregation Membership: **St. Michael** Parish: **Blacksburg** Conference : **NR**

6. Occupation: **Analytical Chemist**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

a. **I am active in my congregation and feel this gives a view into congregational issues**

b. **As part of synod council I see issues related to the synodical expression**

c. **As a VP of women of the ELCA I have the opportunity to visit synods across the country and talk about their joys and concerns**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **I currently serve on the VA Synod Council**

b. **I am the Mission Interpreter Coordinator for the VA Synod**

c. **I am currently the Vice President of Women of the ELCA**

List current or past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Financial Director of the SW VA Chapter of Thrivent**

b. **Volunteer with Micah's Caring Initiative Soup for Seniors program**

c. **Work with high school students on science fair projects and do judging at science competitions**

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self nomination: **YES**

Your Name: **Jody Smiley**

Your Congregation: **St. Michael, Blacksburg**

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – LAY FEMALE (1 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – LAY MALE**

2. Name: **John Hess**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: **X** Clergy: Male: **X** Female:

3. Mailing Address: **70 Crescent Dr.**

City State, Zip: **Christiansburg, VA 24073**

4. Telephone (H) **540-382-8235** Telephone (W)

5. Congregation Membership: **Luther Memorial Lutheran Church** Parish: **Blacksburg** Conference : **NR**

6. Occupation: **Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

- a. **As associate dean, worked with various stake holders to make decisions**
- b. **Objective review of proposals, data and manuscripts**
- c. **Need to explore and be open to alternative solutions and strategies**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

- 8.
- a. **Synodical Candidacy Committee**
 - b. **President congregation councils at LMLC and OSLC**
 - c. **Voting member synodical assembly – served on committee for Reference & Council**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

- 9.
- a. **Director, Virginia Junior Academy of Science; President of VA Academy of Science**
 - b. **Coordinated visits to Juvenile detention home, NRV**
 - c. **Tutor for Literacy Volunteers, NRV**

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self-nomination: **Yes**

Your Name: **John Hess**

Your Congregation: **Luther Memorial, Blacksburg**

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – CLERGY FEMALE (1 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY – CLERGY FEMALE**

2. Name: **The Rev. Cheryl Griffin**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: Clergy: **X** Male: Female: **X**

3. Mailing Address: **3 Mile Course**

City State, Zip: **Williamsburg VA 23185**

4. Telephone (H) **757-876-6371** Telephone (W) **757-229-6688**

5. Congregation Membership: **St. Stephen** Parish: **Williamsburg** Conference : **PN**

6. Occupation: **Pastor**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

- a. **Served several times on the VA Synod Assembly committee of Reference & Council**
- b. **Serve with the VA Interfaith Center for Public Policy**
- c. **Served as board member and committee chair for Peninsula Pastoral Counsel**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

- 8. a. **I am a Healthy Congregations Facilitator and a Stephen Ministry Leader**
- b. **Serve on the VA Synod Ministerium Team**
- c. **Supervised youth at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans twice**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

- 9. a. **Volunteer chaplain at dementia unit in a care facility**
- b. **Serve at homeless shelters**
- c. **Chaplain at Synod Youth Retreats**

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self nomination: **YES**

Your Name: **Cheryl Griffin**

Your Congregation: **St. Stephen, Williamsburg**

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – CLERGY FEMALE (1 TO BE Elected)

1. Nominee for: **SYNOD COUNCIL - CLERGY**

2. Name: **The Rev. Linda Mitchell Motley**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: Clergy: **X** Male: Female: **X**

3. Mailing Address: **512 Oak Hill Drive**

City State, Zip: **Floyd VA 24091**

4. Telephone (H) **540-475-5671**

5. Congregation Membership: **Floyd-Willis Lutheran Parish**

Parish: **Floyd-Willis**

Conference : **NR**

6. Occupation: **Pastor – Floyd-Willis Parish**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

a. **Variety of service in the ELCA: Parish ministry, campus ministry, interim ministry, seminary development**

b. **Interest in Social Ministry and outreach programs of the ELCA**

c. **Desire to bring churchwide vision to my current work as parish pastor in rural community and to synod**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Lengthy experience in synod youth ministry**

b. **Served on Virginia Synod Council and various committees in Virginia and South Carolina synods**

c. **25 Years of ministry in ELCA**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Parish Organizer and volunteer for Plenty! Food sharing program**

b. **Past board member of Women'**

c. **RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest national Network) Speakers' Bureau**

Will serve if elected: **Yes**

This is a self nomination: **Yes**

Nominated by:

Your Name: **The Rev. Linda Mitchel Motley**

Your Congregation: **Christ Lutheran, Radford, VA**

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – CLERGY FEMALE (1 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY – CLERGY FEMALE**

2. Name: **The Rev. Judy Tavela**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: Clergy: **X** Male: Female: **X**

3. Mailing Address: **1217 Mountain View Rd.**

City State, Zip: **Vinton VA 24179**

4. Telephone (H) **540-345-2023** Telephone (W) **540-797-7400**

5. Congregation Membership: **St. Timothy** Parish: **Vinton** Conference : **SO**

6. Occupation: **Pastor**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

a. **Fill in delegate last assembly**

b. **President of local social service association in former work life**

c. **Interested in the future of our church**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Pastor 9 years of local congregations**

b. **Served on Mission 17 task force**

c.

List current or past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Treasurer Vinton Women's club**

b. **Current VP, past president of LUCOM**

c. **Chaplain of Thursday morning music club**

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self-nomination: **YES**

Your Name: **The Rev. Judy Tavela**

Your Congregation: **St. Timothy, Vinton**

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – CLERGY MALE (2 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – CLERGY MALE**

2. Name: **The Rev. Jonathan M. Boynton**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: **X** Clergy: Male: **X** Female:

3. Mailing Address: **431 Westmoreland Dr.**

City State, Zip: **Stephens City, VA 22655**

4. Telephone (H) **704-305-4211** Telephone (W) **540-663-6678**

5. Congregation Membership: **Grace** Parish: **Winchester** Conference : **NV**

6. Occupation: **Pastor**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

- a. **Served as pastor in multiple types of settings, this helps in working with the diversity of the VA Synod, and ELCA**
- b. **Supported cooperative ministry with Shenandoah Valley Lutheran Ministries, worship leadership and social ministry through feeding programs.**
- c. **Strong organizational skill and a dedication to clear communication and understanding of varieties of perspectives across the ELCA**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Mission Redevelopment/Renewal Training (ELCA)**
b. **Planning Team for Ministerial Gathering 2015 (Virginia Synod)**
c. **Served as pastor in both small town/rural multi-point parish and now small city congregation**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **Board Member for the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce**
b. **Chaplain for the Toms Brook Fire Department**
c. **Member of Ruritan International in previous call**

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self nomination: **YES**

Your Name: **The Rev. Jonathan Boynton**

Your Congregation: **Grace, Winchester**

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – CLERGY MALE (2 TO BE ELECTED)

1. Nominee for: **CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY DELEGATE – CLERGY MALE**

2. Name: **The Rev. G. William (Bill) Nabers**

Person of color/primary language other than English: Yes: No: **X**

Lay: **X** Clergy: Male: **X** Female:

3. Mailing Address: **P.O. Box 73**

City State, Zip: **Basye VA 22810**

4. Telephone (H) **540-856-3243** Telephone (W) **540-331-3213**

5. Congregation Membership: **St. Paul Parish** Parish: **Strasburg** Conference : **CN**

6. Occupation: **Pastor**

7. List Experiences or factors that you believe have prepared you for service in this position (up to three):

- a. **Ordained pastor at various sized congregations**
- b. **Work with Bowen Family Systems Theory and Healthy Congregations since 2001**
- c. **Experience working with Synodical and ELCA ministries from both an Ordained and Lay perspective**

List current or past congregational, synodical or churchwide activities related to qualification for this position

8. a. **Virginia Synod Council 2003-2008; 2012-14**
b. **Dean, Central Valley Conference – 1999-2007**
c. **Voting member at 2001 and 2007 Churchwide Assemblies**

List current of past community-related service activities (up to three)

9. a. **National Ski Patrol (2000-present)**
b. **Lions Club (1992-present) & Charter President Club 1992-1993**
c. **Religion columnist for the Mountain Courier (1996-present)**

Will serve if elected: **YES**

This is a self nomination: **Yes**

Your Name: **The Rev. Bill Nabers**

Your Congregation: **St. Paul Parish, Strasburg**

RESOLUTION ON OFFICIAL VISITORS 2015

BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly recognize the following official visitors and that they be given the privilege of voice on the floor of this Assembly (if not otherwise a voting member):

As Official Representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Assembly:

Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla

As Representatives of Institutions, Agencies or Auxiliaries related to this synod:

Dr. Mike Maxey

Ms. Julie E. Swanson

Ms. Heather L. Neff

Mr. Larry Bradshaw

Ginger Barfield

Mr. Chris Stevens

Mr. Reuben Todd

The Rev. Randy Myers

Ms. LuAnn Ferguson

Stephanie Leiser

President, Roanoke College

Executive Director, Lutheran Family Services
of Virginia

President and CEO, Virginia Lutheran Homes

National Lutheran Communities & Services

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Directors, Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat
Center

Executive Director, Carolina Furnace Lutheran
Camp and Retreat Center

Grace Inside

Mission Investment Fund

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

As Assembly Musician:

Ms. Nancy Delaney

Ms. Lavelva Stevens

Organist Saturday evening

Assembly Musician

As Assembly Parliamentarian:

Dr. Gary Hollis

Parliamentarian

As Lay Leaders with Special Responsibilities:

Mr. Mike Agee

Ms. Mindy Reynolds

Ms Elizabeth Smythe

Ms. Debbie Mintiens

Maren Corliss

Financial Advisor

Synodical Minister for Healthy Leaders and
Wellness

Power in the Spirit Coordinator

Synod Assembly Assistant

President, Virginia Synod Youth

As guest Presenters/Preachers

Dr. Mary Sue Dreier
Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla

Rev. Terry Church
Rev. Warren Lesane Jr.
Rev. Mike Ward
Mr. Cary Mangus
Rev. James Utt

Professor of Missiology LTSS/LRU
Executive Director ELCA Division of Global
Missions and ELCA representative
Our Saviour, Warrenton
Stated Clerk Synod of the Mid-Atlantic PC (USA)
GSB Consulting
VA Synod Stewardship Advisor
Synod History

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly recognize the following ecumenical representatives and that these persons be introduced to the Assembly at the appropriate time:

As Ecumenical Guests:

The Rev. Christopher Agnew
The Rev. Jonathan Barton
Mr. Rick Caporali

The Rev. Monsignor Joseph Lehman
The rev. Stephen R. Stanley

Episcopal Diocese of Virginia
General Minister VA. Council of Churches
Executive Assistant, Ecumenical Interreligious
Affairs, Arlington Diocese, Roman Catholic Church
Richmond Diocese, Roman Catholic Church
Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly grant the privilege of voice and vote in the Synod Assembly to The Rev. Larry Ugarte, a pastor of First, Portsmouth, Virginia, Ms. Susan Lance, Lay Minister, Solomon, Mt. Jackson, Michael Samerdyke, Lay Minister, Christ, Wise, The Rev. Cathy Fanslau, Pastor Mary Lou Mannschreck, Central Burke's Garden, The Rev. Sidney Nelson and Pastors serving as appointed Interims of congregations on the territory of the VA Synod, ELCA..

(End of Resolution)

The Committee of Reference and Counsel recommends adoption of this resolution.

RESOLUTION ON DEFENDING OUR FAITH 2015 VIRGINIA SYNOD

WHEREAS, the United States Declaration of Independence closes with: *"With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine providence; we mutually pledge to each other our lives, fortunes, and our sacred honor."*; and

WHEREAS, the cultural mandate established by God underlies all human society and assumes that Christian justice demands that the lives of non-Christians must be watched over and their welfare protected, regardless of unbelief, because every person is made in the image of God; and

WHEREAS, in the Great Commission, Jesus commands us to put our faith in action to further the Kingdom of God through evangelism, discipleship and cross-cultural missions work; and

WHEREAS, our current society places ever-greater emphasis on material and monetary gain, while Christian influence, values and presence in leadership in all levels is in steady decline; and

WHEREAS, our current society places ever-greater emphasis on promoting "non-religion" or the notion that all religions are the same, undermining the basis of all moral and ethical behavior; and

WHEREAS, Christians become equipped to defend our faith through study and prayer, in order to gain an ability and willingness to respond to challenges regarding the authenticity of the resurrection, the Triune God, and the Bible;

Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the people of the Virginia Synod respond to those public and social actions or statements that demean our faith, and do so in a Christian manner with firmness, kindness and patience;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Virginia Synod encourage its congregations to establish a *Civic/Cultural Concerns Ministry* (or similar title) as a forum to share information and support members in responding to specific local issues.

Signature of individual submitting the resolution

Virginia Synod ELCA Congregation and location: *Bethel Lutheran Church, Winchester, VA*

Signature of pastor or congregational president

Date 4/30/2015


Rev. Dr. David W. Young

RESOLUTION SUBMITTAL FORM VIRGINIA SYNOD

Please type or legibly write your resolution in the space below. If you have more than one resolution to submit, please copy this form. Only one resolution should be included per form.

Sign the form at the bottom of the page, indicate the name and location of your congregation, and include the signature of your pastor or the president of your congregation (this signature is requested to certify that you are a participating member of an ELCA congregation in the Virginia Synod).

A resolution concerning the election of the bishop of the Virginia Synod:

WHEREAS, we, the Virginia Synod, anticipate a bishop election in 2017, and the Virginia Synod Combined Constitution outlines (S9.04) the procedure for the election of a bishop by ecclesiastical ballot at synod assembly, but does enumerate any process for preparation; and

WHEREAS, several synods have created a process by which the synod prepares for the election of a bishop with two goals: 1) Study and discernment of the needs and mission context of the synod (as a congregation would do in a period of vacancy); and 2) Identifying possible candidates for election/call as bishop in a manner that is transparent, open to participation among the whole synod, and may provide voting members of the assembly with such information. The development and implementation of such a process preserves the ecclesiastical ballot and does not necessitate any amendment to synod constitution/bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Office of the Secretary has developed resources, namely the "Toolkit for Synod Bishop Elections" which offers a variety of models and detailed options for such a process, as well as other synod resources and reflections are available; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that by adopting this resolution, the synod council is charged to create such a process that will:

- provide a detailed plan for study, discernment, and identifying possible candidates,
- meet the two goals enumerated under the second section above,
- provide opportunity for participation and preparation on the congregational, conference, and synod levels, and

be presented and affirmed by the 2016 Virginia Synod Assembly, and implemented for the anticipated 2017 bishop election.

Signature of individual submitting the resolution

Pastor Brett M. Davis

Virginia Synod ELCA Congregation and location

Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg

Signature of pastor or congregational president

Date:

5/5/15

Return to: Assembly Coordinator, Virginia Synod, ELCA, P.O. Box 70, Salem, VA 24153

GENERAL RESOLUTION 2015

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Virginia Synod in Assembly return grateful thanks to Almighty God that we have been enlightened through the Assembly theme Ambassadors for Christ, Knowing Our Congregational Neighborhoods to do God's will.

RESOLVED, that special recognition and appreciation be accorded the following through whom Christ has shared His joy:

- Our dear Bishop James F. Mauney, D.D., for his faithful, steadfast ministry among us as our spiritual leader, for bringing the word of God with him everywhere he goes and for his faithful chairing of this Assembly. And to The Honorable Charles Poston for his gifted and gracious leadership in his chairing of the assembly.
- The Rev. Chris Price, The Reverend Dr. Dave Delaney, Mindy Reynolds, Dr. Phyllis Milton, Mike Agee, Debbie Mintiens and Elizabeth Smyth Assembly Assistants, and the entire synodical staff for their gracious and untiring assistance in providing a smooth-running Assembly.
- The Honorable Charles Poston, Janet Gomez, Skip Zubrod, and members of the Synod Council for their leadership and direction in the planning and implementation of this Assembly.
- Jean Rosendahl, Celi Stoutamier, Janet Uhl, Bob Yates, LuAnn Yates, Norma Reed, Karen Zubrod, Randy Agee and all volunteers and members of the Local Arrangements Committee.
- Members and Chairs of all committees.
- 2014-2015 Virginia Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Board:
12th grade representative: Maren Corliss – St. Timothy, Norfolk (President):
11th grade representative: Wyatt Gretka – Gloria Dei, Hampton
10th grade representative: Michael Loving – Mt. Zion, New Market
9th grade representative: Isaac Wilson – Christ, Frederickburg
8th grade representative: Sabrina Gerald - Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg
Multi-cultural representative: Chi-Chi Ugochukwu – St. Mark, Roanoke
Definitely-abled representative: Piper Sattva – St. Peter, Shenandoah
Chaplain: Pastor Bill Nabers – St. Paul, Strasburg
Advisor: Paul Lockhart – Our Saviour, Warrenton
Advisor: Sandra Larson – Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg
- Dr. Michael Maxey, President of Roanoke College, and members of the College Staff for their gracious hospitality and delicious meals.
- The Reverend Kathleen Miko for serving as the Assembly Chaplain and for his able assistance in handling campus arrangements
- The Reverend John McCandlish, Assembly Worship Coordinator, and all worship assistants who lifted our spirit in worship.

Ecumenical Guests:

- The Rev. Christopher Agnew Episcopal Diocese of Virginia
- The Rev. Jonathan Barton General Minister VA. Council of Churches
- Mr. Rick Caporali Executive Assistant, Ecumenical Interreligious
Affairs, Arlington Diocese, Roman Catholic Church
- Monsignor Joseph Lehman Richmond Diocese, Roman Catholic Church
- The Rev. Stephen R. Stanley Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we especially recognize:

- Dr. Mary Sue Drier for her inspirational thoughts, insights and guidance as we
- Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Rev. Terri Church and Rev. Warren Lesane Jr. who gifted us with their proclamation of the gospel
- Ms. Nancy Delaney and Ms. Lavelva Stevens who re-presented Christ and led us and fed us with their gifts of music.
- Kayla Fuller whose foresight has freed us all from the tedious task of writing a bulletin insert or newsletter article so that we may fondly reminisce about our time at Synod Assembly to our congregations. The summary of the Synod Assembly will be available on <http://www.vasynod.org> web site at noon on Wednesday.
- Last, and most importantly, to every member of the Virginia Synod Assembly – for your loyalty and faithfulness in responding to the call to serve as voting members and visitors. We pray that you are lifted up by serving God, the ELCA, our Synod, and your congregation as Ambassadors for Christ. God’s continued blessings to and through you as you return to your vocational call to family and daily work.

(End of Resolution)

The Committee of Reference and Counsel recommends adoption of this resolution.

SYNODICAL COMMITTEES

CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

The Candidacy Committee of the Virginia Synod seeks to support, encourage and counsel any baptized member of this Synod who would undertake the preparation needed for rostered ministry in the ELCA. Our purpose is to be a constructive and critical resource in helping the candidate to discern his or her sense of call, gifts for ministry, and readiness for service. At the same time, our charge also includes that of serving as an advocate for the needs and hopes of the whole church, and to exercise, on behalf of the church, our best discernment of a candidate's readiness for particular area of call or rostered service.

Although we may oversee the candidacy process, we do not overlook the vital participation of the home congregation and pastor(s), the seminary community, and the mentors and friends in Christ—all of whom have important ministries to, and interactions with a candidate. Home pastors are specifically invited to our August Vocations Conference, so that our committee may share with them the church's candidacy process and develop an early working relationship with them. Either in person or through regular written reports, a seminary informs us of a candidate's progress in classes, clinical pastoral education, and internship. Every candidate is matched with a committee member who serves as a contact person for regular communication of a candidate's concerns, questions, discoveries and struggles.

The candidacy process in our church now stipulates that our committee makes three decisions during candidacy:

1. The **Entrance** decision indicates our judgment concerning a person's readiness for seminary work and study, and should normally be made by June of the year prior to entrance into seminary.
2. The **Endorsement** decision is a crucial step in the candidate's progress through the Candidacy process. Members of the Candidacy Committee meet with the candidate's seminary advisor to discuss theological and personal growth and readiness for an internship. This panel is usually held on the campus where the seminarian attends, and the recommendation of the panel is made to the Committee for its approval. It comes in the first semester of a candidate's second year at seminary, usually following a unit of clinical pastoral education (CPE).
3. The **Approval** decision indicates our judgment concerning a candidate's readiness for rostered ministry and is contingent upon graduation from seminary and receipt and acceptance of a call.

These decisions apply not only to candidates for Ordained Ministry, but Diaconal Ministry, Associates in Ministry, and persons seeking ordination via alternate routes (Special Situations). The candidates who fall into these categories are also listed on the Roll of Church Vocations Candidates.

The Committee meets three times during the year: December, March/April and August for entrance, endorsement and approval decisions.

The August meeting is centered around our annual Church Vocations Conference. This is an event which all candidates are encouraged to attend; especially "inquirers" who may desire to learn more about

rostered ministry and further discern their call to service in the church. For those candidates who are already in the process, it is a time for sharing their sense of call with others who are at various stages of the candidacy process. It was especially rewarding to interact with inquirers who are considering entering seminary and church vocations immediately after completing undergraduate education.

Candidacy Committee members travel to ELCA seminaries for Endorsement Panels as well as visiting candidates on site during the year of internship. These visits have been well received by the seminary faculty, candidates, supervisors and internship committees. These connections are invaluable resources to the committee in preparation for endorsement and approval decisions.

We are very pleased to report that two candidates were approved for ordination, pending a call: Mark D. Molter and David H. Walters. There were two positive endorsement decisions and five positive entrance decisions. Three VA Synod candidates are on internship this year, serving churches in Delaware, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania.

Our prayers continue to go with those candidates who have been approved for service in the church and the many gifts that they bring to the ELCA. We continue to work with inquirers and candidates at various stages in the candidacy formation.

The Virginia Synod Seminary Scholarship fund, established under the umbrella of the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission to support Virginia candidates as rostered leaders in the church, continues to receive support from churches and individuals within the Virginia Synod.

It is truly a blessing and a rare privilege to serve with a committee of dedicated, talented, and capable pastors and lay persons from throughout this Synod who freely offer their many gifts in support of candidates for rostered ministries in the church. We continue to be blessed as the power of the Spirit leads and works through the members of the Candidacy Committee and in the lives of our candidates.

William C. Solomon, Chair

Companion Synod Program with New Guinea Islands (NGI) District of Papua New Guinea (PNG)

During the 2014 Virginia Synod Assembly, the newly formed PNG Partnership Task Force met for the first time. The chair, Diane Giessler (also Coordinator of the Companion Synod Program) gave the members a broad historical overview of the Synod's 25 year partnership. The Rev. Wynemah Hinlicky, Rev. Michael Church, Matt Wertman, Pat Hunter, Ann Mitchell and Tom Teigeler serve on the Task Force.

On October 17-18, 2014, The PNG Partnership Task Force met at Grace Lutheran in Waynesboro. At this meeting information was shared about the NGI District Meeting where the Rev. Bobby Eleasar was re-elected President of NGI. His term will end in November 2018. Also the task force learned details about the Mt. Tavurvur eruption and how it interrupted not only the district meeting but made travel very difficult afterwards. We learned that many NGI District Congregations will have a pastoral change occur in early 2015. Also, 3 more recent seminary graduates will be assigned congregations and ordained as soon as arrangements can be made with the ELC-PNG Head Bishop..

The PNG Partnership Task Force also identified needs and made recommendations to:

- Continue sponsorship fund raising to support NGI Pastor's children school fees.
- Entertain Funding for Construction of the NGI District Lutheran Center
- Increase Visible Communication by sharing Videos with one another 4 x year.
- Possibly establish a communications coordinator position in NGI.
- Improve Internet capabilities for NGI Pastors
- Equip PNG Pastors with more Educational Resources

Due to weather restrictions, the PNG Partnership Task Force canceled their meeting in February. Diane Giessler sent members a short up-date on NGI instead. Key points were:

- New pastor assignments happening slowly
- School fees being paid late
- Two seminarians and one evangelist being supported in 2015
- Pastor Bobby wants to wait on appointing a Communications Ass't until District Center completed.
- Pastor Bobby plans to arrange a week-long computer/internet training program.
- Covenant between VA Synod and NGI District still needs drafting and signing.
- Missionary Support – Rev. Ann Klavano assigned to ELC-PNG being helpful.

January and February were especially difficult in the NGI District. Severe flooding has washed roads and bridges away and destroyed crops. Schools closed for some time. Many meetings and planned travel canceled by President Eleasar.

May 2015, The VA Synod kicked off Campaign to combat Malaria in our Companion Synod in NGI District of PNG. The goal is to provide them 5,000 treated mosquito nets by January 2016.

Respectfully submitted by: Diane Giessler

Ecumenical Relations Committee and The Synodical Ecumenical Representative

The calling to ecumenical work has multiple layers and many participants.

I am grateful to Bishop Mauney who whole heartedly embraces the ecumenical spirit by working with leaders and organizations of other traditions. He has completed his second term as president of the Virginia Council of Churches, and in significant ways continues to build personal ties and develop advocacy for the good of all, including his efforts to end childhood hunger in Virginia by 2017. Bishop Mauney hosts a well-attended ecumenical luncheon just before our synod assembly as a way of emphasizing these continuing partnerships.

Our committee is working with three Episcopal dioceses and the Metro-DC Synod to hold a conference on May 16-18, 2016 at Shrinemont for all rostered leaders of our two traditions. It will contain opportunities for networking, worship, and conversations to strengthen our understanding of each other as full communion partners and our ability to work together.

Grassroots ecumenical community involvement is evident and thriving across the state; and Lutherans are significant partners. Abingdon Ecumenical Faith in Action (St. John Lutheran Church) in southwestern Virginia is one example of a Christian mission outreach, serving those in poverty or crisis with volunteer home care, a clothes closet, financial assistance, medical assistance and the Stone Soup Food Pantry. They received the 2015 Faith in Action Award from the Virginia Council of Churches. Congratulations to them and thanks to all of you who, with other traditions, actively serve your sisters and brothers in need.

I had the honor to represent Bishop Mauney at the Episcopal annual councils of the Diocese of Virginia and the Diocese of Southern Virginia. My presence allows those of another tradition see a face of the Church beyond their own assembly's agenda. I am always warmly welcomed and able to have conversations with pastors and delegates. Over the years I have seen the transformation from "strictly business" to what might be called a missional format, not unlike that of our own synod assembly. Truly we are working from the same page.

I attended the National Workshop on Christian Unity this year in Charlotte, NC. I was impressed with the sessions on "The Church and the Poor," offered by Rev. Dr. Tex Sample, author of the book, "Blue Collar Ministry," worship at Little Rock AME Zion church, and the Bible studies led by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University, an orthodox Jew who offered us a new perspective on the parables and challenged our use of language and assumptions about the Hebrew people and faith. Her view of Jesus in a Jewish context is worth exploring; her books are worth picking up. There was a strong interreligious component to the workshop as well as time spent discussing our witness to the newest generation of adults. The Lutheran Network of Ecumenists (LEIRN) met to discuss the ELCA's initiative of helping congregations and synods with the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation (www.elca500.org) and look at the new Lutheran/Roman Catholic document, "The Church towards a Common Vision," that serves as a continuing dialogue beyond the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.

I continue to be amazed at the work of the Holy Spirit through the number and variety of intentional ecumenical connections that span the territory of our Virginia Synod. Everything from Lenten experiences to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to social ministry cooperation like the one mentioned above to sharing facilities to Bible studies, youth groups and evangelism abound. Thank you for making Christian unity visible and effective in your neighborhoods.

Finally, it is significant to make note of the death of the Rev. Conrad Christianson on February 27, 2015. He assisted many of us in our ecumenical development as he served as the synod's Ecumenical Representative from 1988 to 1998.

Here are the members of the Ecumenical Relations Committee. They can be resources for you in your place. I hope you connect with them; they are willing and able to work with you. Notice that we have only pastors. I am especially hopeful that we can include others on this committee. Please contact me, lay or clergy, if you would like to be a part of this effort.

The Rev. Eric J. Moehring: Christ Church, Richmond, pastor@christlutheran.org

The Rev. Glynn Bell: King's Chapel Presbyterian Church, Doswell, rev-glynn@juno.com

The Rev. Marcus Engdahl: Virginia Beach, MEngdahl@cox.net

The Rev. Viktoria Halmagyi Parvin: Charlottesville, viktoriaparvin@gmail.com

The Rev. Fred Marcoux: St. Luke, Richmond, pastorstluke@comcast.net

The Rev. Keith Olivier: St. John, Norfolk, pastor@stjohnnorfolk.org

The Rev. Katie Pocalyko: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Richmond, pastorkatie@lcosva.org

The Rev. Karen Van Stee: St. Mary, Mt. Jackson, kvanstee@shentel.net

The Rev. Sandra Wisco: St. Mark, Charlottesville, pastorWisco@stmarklutheran.org

Pastor Eric Moehring

Ecumenical Representative, VA Synod

2015 LARCUM Conference: December 4 & 5 in Sterling, VA

The topic will contain a "Church Reforming" theme.

***(Forms will be available in September through your pastor,
the VA Synod office or by emailing me.)***



THE MINISTERIUM TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2015

The Ministerium Team of the Virginia Synod exists to lift up, strengthen, support and care for the ministerium of rostered leaders throughout the Commonwealth. By strengthening collegial relationships and sharing ministry thoughts and ideas, the church can reach both deeper and wider in its mission focus.

Since the 2014 synod assembly, the Ministerium Team held in-person meetings in August, November, and April. The focus of our time has been to continue to nurture strong, healthy leaders. We continue to use the Ministerium Covenant (see separate document) to help give direction to our efforts.

The Ministerium Covenant has been used to shape the annual Gathering of the Ministerium in Virginia Beach, Virginia in October. The Ministerium Covenant also is used as a part of the report pastors make to the bishop of the Virginia Synod. Focusing on strong, healthy leadership has led to some specific points of ministry since the last Assembly. Since Assembly 2014:

1. ***Orientation for Rostered Leaders, Interns, and Seminarians New to the Virginia Synod*** was held September 8-9 at Roanoke College. Ten (10) leaders and spouses joined the synod staff, extended staff, and leaders of our various Lutheran agencies and institutions. This gathering is a great opportunity to not only learn about our synod and build relationships, but also intentionally celebrate the great partnerships we have with these organizations.
2. The ***Annual Retired Rostered Leaders, Spouses, and Guests Luncheon*** was held at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waynesboro on September 12th. Forty-one (41) persons registered and thirty-one (31) were present. Bishop Mauney spoke to the attendees, who also enjoyed an offering of music by Jonathan Greer and Laney Riley from Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Staunton.
3. President Mike Maxey of Roanoke College was the facilitator for this year's ***Gathering of the Ministerium***, attended by one-hundred (100) rostered leaders. Our theme was "Knowing Your People". In preparation for our event, a newly formed planning committee reviewed the content and format of this

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II Corinthians 5:20

event. Several new additions and rethought adaptations were incorporated into the 2014 Gathering.

The Ministerium also welcomed The Reverend Paul Aebischer, Region 9 Portico Benefit Services representative, who provided attendees with an update on health care changes slated for 2015.

In early February 2015 another planning committee was created for this year's Gathering, consisting of David Derrick, Aaron DeBenedetto, Jonathan Boynton, Lauren Miller, and Mindy Reynolds, along with Bishop Mauney.

4. Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, Harrisonburg, was the location for our ***First Call Rostered Leaders Retreat***, held November 10-11. The theme for the retreat was "Communicating in an Age of Anxiety." The Reverend Shelby DePriest, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Fort Valley and a licensed professional counselor, facilitated three of the four educational sessions for twenty-two (22) clergy and ministry partners. The Reverend Paul Aebischer, Portico Benefit Services representative for regions 4 and 9, led the fourth session.
5. A comprehensive evaluation of our two regional ***Basic Pastoral Leadership Consulting Groups*** was conducted in late December. Two facilitators, The Reverend Dr. J. Paul Balas and The Reverend James Bangle, along with Mindy Reynolds, Synodical Minister for Healthy Leadership and Wellness and coordinator of the groups, participated. The purpose of the groups is to deepen participants' theological and behavioral understanding of, and capacity for, leadership as it pertains to the pastoral office through a combination of didactic instruction and case study presentations.

Taking into consideration participant evaluations, the overall consensus was to maintain the current syllabus, incorporate an additional three-hour introductory session, and modify the concluding session. Dr. Balas and Reverend Bangle will be collaborating on the details of these curriculum changes.

6. The ***Mayo Clinic Health Assessment*** is one wellness activity offered by Portico Benefit Services to assist our rostered leaders and their spouses. This program helps eligible health plan participants identify personal health strengths and risks, along with steps that can be taken to improve one's health. ELCA-Primary health plan members also can earn personal wellness account credits to help pay for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses. Additionally, completing the assessment helps employers in our synod earn an annual 2% discount on

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ELCA health contributions. If a 65% participation rate is achieved by April 30, our synod receives an additional 1% discount.

The number of participants who have completed the Mayo Health Assessment has fluctuated greatly over the past three years. Everyone who is eligible is strongly encouraged to complete the assessment for the sake of good health and for the practice of faithful stewardship.

7. The biennial ***Women Rostered Leaders Retreat*** is planned for May 5-6, 2015 at the Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn in Richmond. Guest facilitator will be The Reverend Leslie Richard, MA, Spiritual Director and Convener of the Faith Formation Team of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. The theme is “Bearing the Light: Squinting at the Glory of God.”
8. Ms. Barbara Keller, ELCA Consultant for the Prevention of Misconduct, will be returning in June 2015 to conduct a second round of ***Boundary Training Workshops*** in our synod. The two hosts will be: Epiphany Lutheran in Richmond on June 3rd and Roanoke College on June 4th.

In 2014, a total of 131 rostered and lay leaders attended Boundary Training workshops conducted by Barbara Keller, hosted by three churches: Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond (40), Reformation Lutheran Church in New Market (51), and Luther Memorial Lutheran Church (40).

Workshops address issues such as power and vulnerability, friendships, dating, dual relationships, gifts, boundary issues in the pulpit, hugs and touch, transference, sexual intimacy, work-life balance, and appropriate use of social media.

9. Several ***Mission Tables*** were formed across the state to grow mission and to begin the forming of extended networks related to mission focus.
10. ***Continuing Education and Sabbatical Leave*** are key ingredients to the mutual health of congregations and rostered leaders. Congregations are encouraged to have intentional conversation with rostered staff about plans for both continuing education and sabbatical renewal including conversation identifying appropriate resources. Congregations who plan for both of these components of ministry realize increased vitality not only for the clergy person (rostered leader), but for the whole community (Journeying Toward Renewal by Melissa Bane Sevier).

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II Corinthians 5:20

Conversation continues in order that the Ministerium Team might best equip and support rostered leaders in a culture that shifts quickly and unpredictably.

I give great thanks for the gifts, devotion, and faithfulness of the members serving on the Ministerium Team that include: Jim Mauney, Mindy Reynolds, Mike Maxey, Kathleen Miko, Mark Cooper, Cheryl Griffin, Jim Utt, Christy Huffman, and Anne Jones.

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Derrick
Chairperson of the Ministerium Team

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II Corinthians 5:20

Vision for VA Synod Ministerium

**As the Ministerium of the VA Synod, ELCA,
we are rooted in the Gospel, affirm and cherish our call to
Word and Sacrament and Service, and honor one another.**

As a community of rostered leaders we covenant with each other to:

- 1. care and support one another**
- 2. view our ministry context as part of the wider church**
- 3. care for family and self in healthy ways**
- 4. engage in professional development (i.e. continuing education, mentoring, consultation)**
- 5. to meet regularly with other rostered leaders for prayer, support, study, and fellowship**
- 6. live and serve in accordance with Vision and Expectations**
- 7. renew this covenant annually**

Values:

- Christ centered**
- Grounded in Scripture and Confessions – open to the Holy Spirit**
- Discovering and valuing our giftedness and places of ministry**
- Passionate Proclaimers**
- Sent into the world for witness and service**
- Agents of reconciliation , revelation, and transformation**

SYNODICAL AGENCYS & INSTITUTIONS

Lutheran Partners in Mission

www.lutheranpartners.net

Report to the Virginia Synod Assembly June 2015

Lutheran Partners in Mission (LPM) was created in 2012 to encourage philanthropy and volunteerism among Virginia Lutherans.

The eight organizations which financially support Lutheran Partners in Mission are:

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center
GraceInside (formerly Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia)
Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center
Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
National Lutheran Communities and Services
Roanoke College
Virginia Lutheran Homes

Lutheran Partners in Mission also receives substantial financial and logistical support from the Virginia synod.

The Board of Advisors of LPM is comprised of the following members:

Rev. John Wertz, St. Michael Lutheran Church, Blacksburg; Chairperson
Ms. Kathryn Baerwald, National Lutheran Communities and Services; Vice-Chair
Rev. Ken Lane, Trinity Lutheran Church, Roanoke; Secretary
Ms. Ellen Bushman, Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
Rev. Rick Goeres, First Lutheran Church, Norfolk
Ms. Emily Rudolph, Virginia Lutheran Homes
Mr. Reuben Todd, Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center

Ellen I. Hinlicky is Director of Lutheran Partners in Mission and **Lenae Osmondson** provides administrative support.

In the past year, Lutheran Partners in Mission has accomplished the following:

- Raised over \$75,000 through the United Lutheran Appeal for the Synod's Mission Partners
- Coordinated the Synodical Week of Service, which connected more than 75 congregations to volunteer opportunities with the Synod's Mission Partners
- Collaborated with the Synod's Director of Communications to increase understanding of the mission and purpose of the Synod's Mission Partners
- Promoted the Synod's Mission Partners through personal, print and online outreach to congregations, pastors and laypeople throughout the Virginia Synod
- Provided fundraising consulting assistance to several of the Mission Partners' staff members
- Educated Virginia Synod pastors and church leaders on best practices in philanthropy and fundraising, through individual consultations and presentations to church groups and congregation councils
- Encouraged Virginia Synod congregations to consider establishing mission endowments, bequest policies and online giving options
- Hosted a meeting of all development and church relations staff of the Synod's Mission Partners to brainstorm ways to collaborate and learn from each other, and best practices for reaching out to the congregations and members of the Virginia Synod.

Ellen I. Hinlicky

Director, Lutheran Partners in Mission

March 2015



Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center

You Are Welcome Here

The past year has been all about relationship at Caroline Furnace. With a new Executive Director (Reuben Todd marked his first anniversary at CFLC on 2-1-15), comes an automatic time of transition. We were purposeful about that transition, focusing our energy and resources on relationships.

Some relationships were strong and we sought to affirm them. Some relationships needed care and we sought to strengthen them. Some relationships did not yet exist and we sought to form them. We worked to create, improve, and celebrate our ties to our supporting synods, congregations, and communities. In the midst of working on all these relationships with people, we kept at the forefront our purpose: supporting individuals as they nurture their relationship with God. We are a place to be quiet, to play, to rest, to worship, to study, to fellowship, to learn, to listen, and most of all, to seek God's presence in our daily lives.

We seized the opportunity of being new and having "fresh eyes" to look around and discover all that works well at camp, as well as being open to change when things could be done better. Our goal has been to work smarter, not harder, and we're utilizing some new technology to do that.

We celebrate the successes of the past year, achieved because of your partnership and help. We are excited about renewed facilities, thanks to record attendance at work weekends and other service events to care for our property. We lift up the amazing summer staff who worked with our campers and the volunteers who enriched the weeks when they served. We are enriched by the stories shared by retreat groups of the impact their time with us made on their group. We are continually renewed by the enthusiasm of our campers as they grow in their relationship with Jesus and experience our intentional Christian community.

One of our biggest goals was, and continues to be, to communicate more with those who we could serve, as well as those who could help us to serve others. Our new website is the centerpiece of that effort. We hope you will visit us at CarolineFurnace.org and learn more. There is a place for you at Caroline Furnace! Join us!

Shot at point blank range in the face with a sawed-off shotgun, it is a miracle that Robert Ball survived. But what happens next is a testimony to the power of grace received. As a young man, left for dead, Robert Ball became a Corrections Officer intent on finding the man who had all but killed him. Twenty-five years later, he retired as a Captain from Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland, Virginia – never having found his perpetrator but having found forgiveness. Called into ministry and convicted by what he had seen and lived, Robert Ball completed his theological education and returned to prison as a chaplain in 2006. Chaplain at both Lunenburg and Baskerville Correctional Centers, Chaplain Ball is a living example not only of how God can transform a heart – but also how God can radically transform lives – inmates and staff. Learn more about Chaplain Ball and other chaplains like him throughout our Commonwealth at www.graceinside.org. The support from the Virginia Synod of the ELCA helps Chaplain Ball and his colleagues continue saving 30,000 incarcerated lives (and the staff who tend them) from the inside-out!

GraceInside has employed chaplains, like Chaplain Ball, since 1920. Although almost 100 years old, we are also brand new! 2014 was a year full of reasons to celebrate something new at GraceInside.

New name - from Chaplain Service Prison Ministry of Virginia, Inc. to GraceInside.

New website! www.graceinside.org.

New Facebook presence at GraceInside

New Twitter presence @GraceInsideVA

New YouTube channel

New print and video materials

New organizational structure

We celebrated a stronger presence in the community and heightened awareness of our ministry and mission. All those things make our real mission, saving lives from the inside-out, more attainable! Lutherans were among our founding denominations 95 years ago. Your support is ESSENTIAL to the survival of GraceInside! Without your continued help, we cannot do the job you have tasked us to do. We rely on you to keep us in your hearts.

Unique in the United States, Virginia is the only state in which state prison chaplains are NOT state employees. Thus, we are able to employ specifically Christian chaplains inside the prisons and can do this only because GraceInside obtains private funding. The prison mission field is extremely fertile and fruitful. Broken lives open to the healing of Christian influence and the touch of Jesus. Through GraceInside, lives are truly saved and entire families can be transformed. Sharing Jesus through worship services, baptisms, Bible studies, grief groups, recovery programs and pastoral care, GraceInside's 31 privately funded Christian chaplains provide hope for our most struggling brothers and sisters in Christ. Faith-Based Reentry (FBRE) programs have proven to reduce recidivism (returning to prison) by half!

We end 2014 and enter 2015 with a renewed commitment to increase our efforts to provide our chaplains with the support they deserve as they visit those in prison on behalf of all Christians. We are grateful that six chaplains now can serve *full-time* for GraceInside, but we need to increase the hours our chaplains so they can better share the ministry of Jesus Christ within the prison environment. We at GraceInside thank *you*, The Virginia Synod of the ELCA, for your support! We know this vital ministry impacts all of us, whether we see it or not. It is GraceInside's privilege, because of our partnership, to see firsthand that through Christ lives are changed from the inside-out.

Blessings,

Rev. J. Randy Myers
President

2014 Annual Report
Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center

2014 was an exciting year at HMLRC. With the addition of new board members combined with the steady contribution of dedicated volunteers, we achieved a lot of good. From making extraordinary improvements and upgrades to our facility, to coming together as a board mapping a course for the future, we at HMLRC are excited about what God has in store for the camp. We feel it is our role in ministry to provide all visitors a place of peace and tranquility to stay for the day or a week. As part of a larger group gathering in fellowship, or a small prayer group, we hope to create an environment where one can find reprieve from the daily rigors of their lives and reconnect with their spiritual side. Psalm 46:10 says “Be still, and know that I am God”. It is important to remember in our busy lives to sit back and give glory and honor to God for the things in our lives for it is He who has provided them.

We are continuing to expand our partnership with Sprouting Hope Garden which is located at the front of our property. Jason, who is their director, is residing in one of our cabins and acts as camp host and provides an onsite presence. With the help of volunteers, Sprouting Hope provides fresh organic vegetables to the local food pantry. We are developing ways to do joint programming here on our site dealing with issues concerning child obesity and diabetes to name a couple.

We have formed a partnership with a local ministry that provides home repair for folks in need through the volunteer efforts of visiting church groups. We will provide housing and help in any other way to facilitate their great work here and see they are made comfortable. We will be hosting four such groups during the summer which will expose our camp to over 150 visitors.

All of what we hope to accomplish here at HMLRC would not be possible if not for, first the grace of God, but second the support of Lutheran Partners in Mission, Thrivent Choice Dollars, and generous donations from churches and individuals. We value these relationships and they are at the core of who we are and hope to achieve all to the glory of God.

In His Service,

Chris Stevens

Interim Director

Lutheran Family Services of Virginia
Submitted by Julie Swanson, President/CEO, April 2015

For the last two years, the leaders of LFSVA have been laying the groundwork for a challenging and ambitious strategic plan. We established our strategic goals not just to grow, but to *thrive* in the future -- to move from being a good organization to a great one. Our first strategic goal is to build an organization based on a set of Guiding Principles: **abundance, relationships, person-centered, stewardship and shared ownership**. These principles represent the best of what we aspire to in leadership, service, policy, procedures, planning, work, and life. And they seem to be a perfect way to structure this report to you — our faithful and passionate supporters in the Virginia Synod.

Abundance: Working for the best outcomes

There are two stories about the people we have served this year that best illustrate the kinds of outcomes and futures we want to see. This past March we celebrated the adoption of a 17-year-old girl by one of our foster parents. Lena beat the odds, and we were there to help make it happen. She now has the mother she always wanted and needed and a family who will support and love her as she makes the journey to adulthood. The other story is about Khamani, who came to us a scared nine-year old who could neither talk nor walk upright. Today, at 22, he is ready to leave our Minnick School in May, but will continue to be a part of our LFSVA family. Khamani lives with the Jordans, an LFSVA Family Care Home, and he will attend our day program in Roanoke on the days that he is not working.

Relationships: Making connections that further success

Again there are two events that beautifully illustrate how creating relationships is allowing us to serve people in new and enhanced ways. In the Northern Shenandoah Valley area, our Therapeutic Day Treatment (TDT) program has almost tripled in size to include schools in Frederick County. TDT is an in-school program where LFS staff are in the school to help students improve behavior and therefore their ability to learn. Every day we see students' joy at finally experiencing success – and fun – in the classroom. In Wythe County, LFS and the school division jointly financed a PAES lab for students in public school and our Minnick Wytheville campus. The Practical Assessment Exploration System provides a mini-work environment with skill centers that help students discern their vocational skills and preferences. LFS also has a PAES lab in the Roanoke Minnick campus. Resources like the PAES lab are critically important in helping students and their families plan for life after school.

Person-centered: Putting people at the center of our work

Four new side-by-side cottages in Bedford are home for 16 adults with disabilities in the LFSVA group home program. The open, one-floor, specially modified spaces make living and socializing easier and more enjoyable. One resident says that her favorite feature of the new home is the in-the-door ice dispenser, because now she doesn't have to ask anyone to get ice. Keeping the needs and desires of the people we serve front and center is critically important if

we are to help them achieve the most full, complete and abundant life possible. Guided by this principle, we moved our Roanoke Day Support program to a more comfortable, updated and spacious setting and renovated two other office/day support locations.

Stewardship: Using our resources wisely

We continue to focus on opportunities to help our employees be the best they can be and to help our programs grow in quality, breadth, and capacity. We recently hired a Vice President of Strategic Program Development, who will help us look for new opportunities to serve, especially in northern Virginia. We have also acquired a new practice management system, which will streamline billing and record-keeping and help us gather and use data to make decisions and to see if we are creating the best outcomes for the people we serve. Our revenues exceeded our expenses for the fiscal year 2013-2014. For a more complete picture of our finance and program statistics, please go to our web site lfsva.org and search annual report.

Shared Ownership: Serving together

The mission of LFSVA is to “express God’s love by providing services and assistance to empower communities, families and individuals in their journey to well-being.” Simply said, our job is to express love. The primary task in front of each of us every day is to take this notion and convert it into action. And we can’t do that without the help and support of the people who believe in us – you. You are our supporters, our volunteers, our donors, our advocates. You enrich the lives of many through us or directly by volunteering at our locations or by taking part in the annual Virginia Synod Week of Service. We thank our volunteers, who have provided services too numerous to recount and which have ranged from painting and repair to assembling skill-building kits to preparing flower and vegetable beds at a Day Support. I am so grateful for the many volunteers and congregations who are living their faith each day by bringing us into their circle of caring. The people of Lutheran Family Services give you heartfelt thanks.

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary – Lenoir-Rhyne University
Provost's Report to the Synods of Region 9
Spring 2015

As Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary nears the end its third year of life as a seminary embedded within the university, there are a number of exciting developments under way. The biggest is the establishment of three endowed professorial chairs.

Following the merger, one of the clearest calls from our alumni and constituents has been the need to secure an endowed chair in Lutheran Studies. In response we have launched a campaign to raise funds to fully endow this position. The Lutheran Studies chair holder will continue the teaching of our courses in Confessions and Lutheran Polity and will be one of the seminary's key spokespersons on Lutheranism for the 21st century church. In addition to the Lutheran Studies chair, we are also seeking to establish an endowment fund for a full-time Methodist Studies chair and a half-time Baptist Studies chair. The two full-time chairs would be the first fully funded professorates in the school's 184-year history.

One of the seminary's faculty positions remains open going into the coming school year. During the current academic year a search for a full-time Professor of Preaching and Worship was undertaken. Given the small pool of Lutherans available for this position, it was determined to fill the vacancy for a second year on an interim basis and to undertake the search again in the coming year. We are grateful to Visiting Professor Jann Boyd for agreeing to serve a second year in this interim position.

On the co-curricular front, our new Academy for Faith and Leadership continues to offer excellent teaching and lecture opportunities for our communities, both local and online. We are working on a second generation of What Does This Mean videos, this time geared toward questions young children are asking about the faith. The Academy continues to schedule major lectures, presentations, and lay courses that take place on campus and that are broadcast via internet to those who cannot attend in person. The Academy is also starting two new certification programs, both slated to begin in the coming school year. They are certifications in Public Safety Chaplaincy and Spiritual Direction.

In early March the seminary was visited by a consulting team that assisted us in clarifying the seminary's marketing and messaging. While too soon to announce the outcome of the consultation, the goal is to enable us to identify ourselves within the broader environment of theological education. The process involved gathering input and feedback from students, staff, faculty, administration, and constituents in order to provide clarity and consensus regarding the seminary's message and program. Heading the two-person visiting team was a seminary alumnus, John Scherer, whose own work has moved away from congregational ministry toward international business and leadership consulting.

Finally, while Southern Seminary works alongside our sister ELCA seminaries to provide training for leaders in our church, the ELCA's Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC) has been at work to determine how to support and enhance the work of the denomination's seminaries. TEAC has identified three key imperatives:

1. The ELCA needs a theological education network that is *more far-reaching*.
2. The ELCA needs a theological education network that is *more connected and flexible*.
3. The ELCA needs a theological education network that is *more sustainable*.

To conclude this report, I want to indicate the ways in which Southern is and has been moving toward the realization of these imperatives.

1. Far-reaching theological education:
 - co-curricular offerings of the Academy for Faith and Leadership
 - exploring means by which to engage in leadership training for non-white communities of faith
2. More connected and flexible:
 - exploration of strategic partnerships beyond ELCA seminaries, and beyond regional and national agencies
 - connecting with agencies and ministries within the Columbia and Eau Claire communities in which we are situated
 - development of cooperative arrangements with the Lenoir-Rhyne undergraduate and graduate programs in Hickory, Asheville, and Columbia
 - creation of a culture that celebrates and fosters innovative programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels
3. More sustainable:
 - living fully into our role as an embedded seminary within the university, which safeguards the seminary's financial future while providing us with opportunities for enriched educational collaboration

I am pleased to report that Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary has had another strong year and we are poised for another year of teaching, forming, and nurturing wise leaders for the church of the 21st century.



Clay Schmit

Provost

LTSS and the School of Theology of Lenoir-Rhyne University



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

About the Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF), a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, makes low-interest **loans** to established ELCA congregations, new-start congregations and ELCA-related ministries for capital projects.

Established congregations use MIF loans to renovate, expand or relocate. New-start congregations rely on MIF loans to buy land and construct their first church buildings. ELCA-related ministries use MIF loans for a variety of capital projects.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a variety of **investments** for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. MIF investments offer adjustable- or fixed-rate terms and earn interest at competitive rates.

The Mission Investment Fund is **financially strong and stable**, with a record of steady, controlled growth:

- With total assets of \$661 million and net assets of \$192 million at year-end 2014, MIF achieved a capital ratio of 29 percent—maintaining MIF's position in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.
- At year-end 2014, loans for capital projects for more than 780 ELCA congregations and ministries totaled \$461 million. MIF investments by congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries totaled \$464 million.

Investments and Loans in the Virginia Synod

As of December 31, 2014:

- 15 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of **\$12,669,683**, are at work throughout the synod.
- Investments in the Mission Investment Fund by 127 individuals, 54 congregations, 4 ministries and the Virginia Synod totaled **\$5,138,995**.

MIF representative for the Virginia Synod:

The Rev. Kent Peterson, Regional Manager: Tel. (276) 698-7970; e-mail: kent.peterson@elca.org

Mission Investment Fund | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631
Tel: 877-886-3522 | Web: mif.elca.org

Virginia Lutheran Homes

Report to The Virginia Synod

This past year has been a time of promising transitions for Virginia Lutheran Homes, Inc. Since relocating our Corporate Office to the Brandon Point building across the street from Brandon Oaks, we have enhanced our accessibility to both the residents and staff, and the community at large.

We had multiple surveys and inspections at all of our locations last year, including two surveys of Assisted Living (in January and July), an unannounced survey at the Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in September, and an OSHA inspection in September. The results of all surveys were favorable. We were awarded the American Health Care Association Bronze Award for Assisted Living. The NRC maintains our five-star rating as recognized by U.S. News and World Report, which means we are in the top 10% in the nation. Brandon Oaks was also recognized as a Platinum Award Winner for Best Retirement Community and Best Nursing Home by *The Roanoker Magazine*. Luther Manor had a REAC inspection in June and received a score of 95b. Luther Crest had a REAC inspection in February 2015, and received a score of 99b, which shows great improvement over their previous inspection.

Construction continued on the John P. Fishwick Rehabilitation Center, which despite some weather-related delays, was completed on time and was successfully opened in February 2015. On Monday, February 9, the first rehabilitation patients were accepted into the Fishwick Center. The Fishwick Center, named in memory of a well-known Brandon Oaks resident, greatly increases the previous space for rehabilitation at Brandon Oaks and includes 23 private rooms exclusively for therapy patients. The addition will provide state-of-the-art rehabilitative therapies for both residents of Brandon Oaks and the general public. The Fishwick Center increases the current Nursing and Rehabilitation Center from 29,000 square feet to over 63,000 square feet. Advanced therapy technology fills the sizeable 4,500 square foot suite, dedicated solely to physical, occupational and speech therapy. The large rehabilitation gym features a state-of-the-art activities of daily living suite, an outdoor fresh air gym, and private treatment rooms. In the activities of daily living suite, patients and families will learn how to accommodate their daily routines of cooking, cleaning, and personal care after their surgery. The Brandon Oaks Auxiliary gave another sizeable donation to the John P. Fishwick Rehabilitation Center, and therefore the new Therapy Gym has been named for the Brandon Oaks Auxiliary. It is important to note that the Fishwick Center can accommodate not only Brandon Oaks residents but also therapy patients from the Roanoke Valley at large.

The VLH chaplaincy program continues to be active in all of our locations, bringing Bible study, worship with Holy Communion, pastoral care and other programmatic opportunities. Recently at the Brandon Oaks Retirement Community in Roanoke, Communion has become a weekly offering in a simple, contemplative atmosphere. Plans were begun at Brandon Oaks to hold a spiritual retreat for seniors in 2015, with the expectation that this will become a semi-annual event helping participants to reflect on their stage of life, their faith, and God's presence in their lives.

2014 was also a year of significant financial improvement for Virginia Lutheran Homes and its affiliates. By focusing on increasing revenues while at the same time beginning to develop a "cost conscious" culture, we were able to cut the bottom line deficit in 2014 by \$250,000. Operating revenues increased by 8% compared to the prior year, and EBIDA increased to 10.7%. This was accomplished while maintaining the highest level of service and care our clients have become accustomed to and deserve, as evidenced by our Nursing and Rehabilitation Center maintaining its five star rating. In addition, our Assisted Living received the Bronze award designation from the National Center for Assisted Living. Both Luther Manor and Luther Crest, our low income HUD assisted facilities, also improved their financial results in 2014. Both decreased their respective deficits in 2014 and remain at or near capacity with a healthy waiting list.



Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2/20/2015

**TWENTY EIGHT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE VIRGINIA SYNOD
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

ORDER OF BUSINESS – PLENARY SESSIONS

**Recommendation #1
to the Assembly**

**To approve the Order of Business as the agenda of the 2015 Assembly of the
Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia, June 5 – June 7, 2015

PLENARY SESSION 1

Beginning: 1:00 p.m.

Ending: 6:00 p.m.

Friday, June 5, 2015

Reports and Recommendations Requiring Action or Review

REFER TO: Assembly Bulletin of Reports unless otherwise noted.

ACTION ON PAGE: Favorable action requires a majority vote of those voting members present. The page number(s) on which the actions begin are printed in bold typeface.

TIME	ITEM	REFER TO	ACTION ON PAGE	Media Needs
1:00 PM	Opening Communion Service Order for the Opening of the Assembly	Daily Worship: 1-? Daily Worship: 14		
2:05 PM	Theme Presentation by Dr. Mary Sue Dreier			
3:00 PM	BREAK			
3:30 PM	Organization of the Assembly - Report of Committee on Official Roll - Establishment of a quorum - Appointment of Assembly Committees - Review of Constitution and Parliamentary Notes	H- Supplement A _ – A __		
	Order of Business Approved		Cover	VM – Recommendation #1
3:50 PM	Report of Reference and Counsel - Official Visitors - Resolution of Official Visitors		Place on tables	VM – Visitors Resolution

4:00 PM	Greetings from Roanoke College – Dr. Mike Maxey		
4:05 PM	Introduction of Staff		
4:10 PM	Report of Nominating Committee	D: __ (Supplement 1)	
	Nominations from Floor	D: __ and following Biographical Data	
	Additional Biographical Data placed on tables		
4:20 PM	Report of the Officers		
	Report of the Vice-President		
	Report of the Secretary	B: __ - __	
	Report of the Treasurer	B: __ and following (include 2016 Spending Program)	
	Report of the Bishop	B: _ - _	VM Power Point
5:40 PM	Greetings from Mission Investment Fund – LuAnn Ferguson		
5:40 PM	Thrivent Presentation Stephanie Leisier		
5:50 PM	Announcements		
5:55 PM	Prayer		
6:00 PM	Recess for Dinner		

PLENARY SESSION 2

Beginning: 7:15 p.m.

Ending: 8:50 p.m.

Friday, June 5, 2015

Reports and Recommendations Requiring Action or Review

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ACTION ON PAGE: Favorable action requires a majority vote of those voting members present.
The page number(s) on which the actions begin are printed in bold typeface.

TIME	ITEM	REFER TO	ACTION ON PAGE	Media Needs
7:15 PM	Gathering Music and Word by Youth			
7:30 PM	Reading of Resolutions received By Committee of Reference and Council		E- and following	
7:35 PM	Report of Synod Council Recognition of Synod by class			
7:50 PM	Introductions of those rostered leaders new to the synod and interns servings in VA Synod Recognitions of Anniversaries of Congregations Recognition of Anniversaries of Ordinations Recognition of Anniversaries of Congregations			
8:25 PM	Celebration of Malaria Campaign			
8:25 PM	Announcements			
8:30 PM	Sending Prayer			
8:35 PM	Recess Networking Gathering Back Quad8			

PLENARY SESSION 3

Beginning: 8:10 a.m.

Ending: 12:00 p.m.

Saturday Morning June 6, 2015

Reports and Recommendations Requiring Action or Review

REFER TO: Assembly Bulletin of Reports unless otherwise noted.
ACTION ON PAGE: Favorable action requires a majority vote of those voting members present.
The page number(s) on which the actions begin are printed in bold typeface.

TIME	ITEM	REFER TO	ACTION ON PAGE	Media Needs
8:00 A.M	Gathering Hymns and preparation for worship			
8:15 A.M	Morning Worship and Presentation The Rev. Terri Church, Preacher	Daily Worship 15 - 20		
8:45 AM	Report of the Committee on Minutes			
8:50 AM	1 st Ballot – Synod Council		D-__	VM for elections
9:30 AM	Demographic Presentation			VM
10:15 A.M.	Break			
10:45 AM	Presentation/ Discussion	Dr. Mary Sue Drier		
11:45 AM	History of the Church	Rev. James Utt		
Noon	Lunch and Workshops			

PLENARY SESSION 4

Beginning: 1:25 PM

Saturday Afternoon, June 6, 2015

Ending: 5:15 PM

Reports and Recommendations Requiring Action or Review

REFER TO: Assembly Bulletin of Reports unless otherwise noted.
ACTION ON PAGE: Favorable action requires a majority vote of those voting members present.
The page number(s) on which the actions begin are printed in bold typeface.

TIME	ITEM	REFER TO	ACTION ON PAGE	Media Needs
12:00 – 12:45	Workshop	Dr. Mary Sue Drier Knowing your local Neighborhoods Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla The Church in the Worldwide Neighborhood Cary Mangus Visitation 1st workshop Rev. Mike Ward Synod Campaign 2 nd and 3 rd workshops		
12:50 – 1:35	Workshop Repeat			
1:40 – 2:25	Workshop Repeat			
2:30 PM	2 nd Ballot – Synod Council elections (if needed)			VM for Elections
3:00 PM	Recommendations from Synod Council			
	Recommendation # 2 Compensation		C: _	VM – Recommendation # 3

3:15 PM	Report from Portico		
3:25 PM	Greetings form report ELCA Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla		National Church Video
4:00 PM	Report of Committee of Reference and Counsel Resolutions	E: _ – and following	VM – for Resolution
4:45 PM	All Inclusive Outreach Team Presentation		
4:55 PM	Power in the Spirit Presentation		
5:00 PM	Announcements		
5:00 P.M.	Recess for Dinner and Plenary Session 5 – St. Andrew’s Roman Catholic Church		

PLENARY SESSION 6

Beginning: 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning, June 7, 2015

Ending: 12:00 p.m.

Reports and Recommendations Requiring Action or Review

REFER TO: Assembly Bulletin of Reports unless otherwise noted.
ACTION ON PAGE: Favorable action requires a majority vote of those voting members present.
The page number(s) on which the actions begin are printed in bold typeface.

TIME	ITEM	REFER TO	ACTION ON PAGE	Media Needs
8:00 A.M.	Gathering Hymns			

8:15 A.M.	Opening Prayer, Word and Necrology	Daily Worship Book: __-__	Necrology Slides (1)
8:30 A.M.	Report – Youth Assembly		
8:45 AM	3 rd Ballot – Synod Council elections (if needed)		VM for Elections
9:00 AM	Report of the Committee on Minutes		
9:05 AM	Report of the Synod Council - Approval of 2016 Financial Program Recommendation # 4	C: _	VM – Recommendation # 5
9:15 AM	ELCA Questions & Answers – Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla		
9:45 AM	Report of Committee of Reference & Counsel - Resolutions continued as needed	E – _ and following	VM – for Resolutions in need
10:00 AM	Announcements		
10:00 AM	BREAK (10 Minute)		
10:10AM	Unfinished Business		
10:30AM	Report of Committee on Transportation		
10:35AM	Report on Committee on Official Roll		
10:40 AM	Report of Reference & Council - General Resolutions		VM – General Resolution
10:40 AM	Worship Rev. Warren Lesane Jr. Preacher (Service includes Installation of Leadership and Closing of Assembly)	Daily Worship Book: __	

NOON

Go in Peace, Serve the Lord...
