2009 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly
May 29-30
God's Work. Our hands.
Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN

Opening Service of the Word

The opening Service of the Word was held in Melby Hall Gymnasium of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Friday, May 29, beginning at 8:45 a.m.

PLENARY #1 – Friday, May 29, 2009, 9:15 a.m.

Opening of the Business of the Assembly

Bishop Craig E. Johnson called the 2009 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly to order on May 29, 2009, at 9:15 a.m. in Augsburg College.

Introduction of Head Table

Bishop Johnson introduced the head table: Raenay Rock, Administrator/Bishop's Assistant; Michelle Reichow, Synod Council Vice President; Leslie Frost, Parliamentarian; and Rev. Thomas Carlson, Synod Secretary. He also introduced Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock, assistant to the presiding bishop of the ELCA and executive for administration.

Rev. Randy Romsdahl, Chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee introduced and thanked the committee members and announced that all 2009 Resolutions were being forwarded to the Assembly. He explained the process for submitting amendments to the distributed Resolutions. This committee is always available to anyone wanting assistance with resolutions.

Credentials Report

Rev. Tom Carlson, Synod Secretary, presented the Credentials Report of the Minneapolis Area Synod. The following voting members were registered and in attendance as of 8:45 a.m.:

Clergy – Female -- 46
Clergy – Male -- 118
Elected Lay – Female -- 149
Elected Lay – Male -- 129
Rostered Lay – Female -- 11
Rostered Lay – Male -- 8
Total 461

Proposed Rules of Procedure

Bishop Johnson referenced the Proposed Rules of Procedure.

⏩ **SA09.05.01** Voted to adopt the Rules of Procedure for the 2009 Assembly, as printed on page 5 in the assembly packet.

Proposed Order of Business

Bishop Johnson referenced the Proposed Order of Business and asked for a motion to adopt it as presented.

SA09.05.02 Voted to adopt the 2009 Assembly Proposed Order of Business, as presented.

Announcements
Terri Endres, assembly manager, provided the assembly with important information.

Synod Vice President's Report
Bishop Johnson introduced Ms. Michelle Reichow, Synod Vice President. She welcomed the voting members, and expressed her appreciation for the honor of serving as the vice president of the synod. She thanked the members of the Synod Council and the Executive Committee for their service. She also expressed her gratitude for the faithful synod staff members.

Welcome
Bishop Johnson introduced Paul Pribbenow, president of Augsburg College and thanked him and his staff for hosting this year's assembly. President Pribbenow shared a welcome on behalf of the college.

RC 2009-5
Memorial Requesting Publication of
***Evangelical Lutheran Worship* in Braille**

WHEREAS, the hymns are a wonderful tool for members of a congregation to use for inspiration, as well as bringing joy, faith building and healing for their lives as a community as well as individually; and

WHEREAS, blind people are members of congregations, and have the same spiritual needs as the sighted; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America did produce a Braille version of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (green book) and many blind people are accustomed to its use; and

WHEREAS, Braille printers are expensive for most people to purchase; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, to commit sufficient funding for the publication of a Braille version of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (cranberry book).

Author:	Mr. John Hemp, St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Adopted by:	North Minneapolis Conference meeting in Assembly on March 23, 2009
Contact Person:	Mr. John Hemp, 612-522-6473

SA09.05.03 Voted to adopt Resolution RC2009-5.

RC 2009-13
Memorial Calling for ELCA Support of a U.S. Department of Peace

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace who calls us to love our neighbors and to be at peace with one another; and

WHEREAS, citizens of the United States and people around the globe desire nonviolent approaches to conflict resolution so that God's children live in peace; and

WHEREAS, we applaud and seek to augment the marvelous work the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) does to promote peace in our world; and

WHEREAS, the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA on August 20, 1995, adopted FOR PEACE IN GOD'S WORLD, a social statement on the responsibility of the church to work for peace; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 808(HR808) would implement action in keeping with the goals stated in FOR PEACE IN GOD'S WORLD by creating a cabinet level Department of Peace; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA's former Director, International Relations and Human Rights, the Rev. Dr. James Vigen, wrote in a letter dated November 14, 2005, that "The goals of this legislation (HR808) are worthy and well in line with our ELCA Social Statements on seeking peace, and are certainly ones we would support"; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to endorse HR808 by calling on the Unit for Church in Society to notify its co-workers in the nationwide network of state public policy advocacy Offices, and the Members of the United States House of Representatives, of this church's support for HR808; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to call for the Communication Services unit to provide ELCA congregation members and staff with information about HR808 through all appropriate media including, but not limited to, *The Lutheran* magazine and the ELCA website.

Author:	Ms. Eileen Anderson, All Saints Lutheran Church, Minnetonka
Adopted by:	Partnership Table on March 19, 2009
Contact:	Ms. Beth Young, 952-937-8870

⏩ **SA09.05.04** Voted to adopt Resolution RC2009-13.

"Listen" Video
Bishop Johnson introduced the video "Listen" which was created for the 2008 Synod Assembly by Anders Peterson and Scott Fitzloff, portraying what it means to listen to others, as people of God.

Synodical Inreach Report
Bishop Johnson introduced Rev. David Wangaard, Bishop's Associate, and Robera Battal, who shared with the assembly the learnings that have come as the synod has been listening to people during the past two years through the synodical inreach project.

He invited all the voting members to find someone they did not know and visit with them for a couple of minutes. Rev. Wangaard reported that more than 800 listening conversations have taken place throughout the synod. God appears to be calling us to be: rooted in the biblical story, focused on radical grace, called to committed discipleship, living in inclusive community, experiencing authentic worship, practicing courageous outreach, and building a just world.

Evangelical Mission Report
Rev. Susan Tjornehoj, Director of Evangelical Mission, introduced herself as the new synod mission director. She introduced a video showing the 26 ministries in the synod which are funded by partnerships between the synod and the ELCA. Bishop Johnson thanked Pastor Tjornehoj for her work in our synod, begun last September.

Bible Study
Bishop Johnson engaged the assembly in Bible study. He directed our thinking under the following themes: 1.) God's humiliation for our salvation. 2.) Human righteousness is not God's righteousness.

RC 2009-4
Memorial Increasing Funding for Inner City Congregations

WHEREAS, the Minneapolis Area Synod is committed to addressing the needs of the poor; and

WHEREAS, churches with low income members often find it difficult to raise the necessary funds through offerings; and

WHEREAS, Lutherans in the Minneapolis area have a strong desire to contribute to communities where poverty is high; and

WHEREAS, the majority of poverty in Minneapolis is concentrated in specific inner city areas; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to commit an additional $300,000 in the 2010 ELCA budget, from funds obtained from congregational mission support through the synods, for congregational development in inner city neighborhoods as identified by the 2000 census, to be allocated by the ELCA Council.

Author: Rev. Dale Hulme, St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Adopted by: North Minneapolis Conference meeting in Assembly on March 23, 2009
Contact person: Rev. Dale Hulme, O: 612-529-7725

⏩ **SA09.05.05** Voted to accept Resolution RC2009-4.

RC 2009-3
Multicultural Participation at Minneapolis Area Synod Assemblies

WHEREAS, the word Evangelical has its roots in the understanding that the Good News of God in Jesus Christ is for all persons in this world; and

WHEREAS, we have chosen Evangelical to describe ourselves as a church that is open to all persons and as a church that intentionally reaches out to all persons with the Good News of God in Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Minneapolis Area Synod has demonstrated in many ways its commitment to be an inclusive church; and

WHEREAS, the Minneapolis Area Synod constitution, Chapter 6: Statement of Purpose, S6.04 states that "it is the goal of this synod that 10% of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and /or other organizational units be persons of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English'; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod Council appoint a task force, 50% of its membership consisting of persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English, to develop a strategy for recording (registration) and reporting of such information at the 2010 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED that this same task force and others involved in multicultural mission and ministry assist the Minneapolis Area Synod congregations and ministries in reaching out to invite and to welcome persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English.

Author: Rev. Roger Hardy, Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Adopted by: 31 Voting Members and the 2009 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly
Contact person: Rev. Roger Hardy, O: 612-521-3644

Reference Policies: Adopting names available upon request.

⏩ **SA09.05.06** Voted to accept Resolution RC2009-3.

ELCA World Hunger Appeal Video
Bishop Johnson introduced Mr. Ed Payne, a longtime leader in hunger advocacy at both the local and national level for Bread of the World, the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, and chair of the MAS Hunger Committee. Mr. Payne introduced two short videos which described ministries supported by the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Lunch

PLENARY #2 – Friday, May 29, 2009, 1:30 pm

The business session of Plenary #2 of the 2009 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly was called to order by Bishop Craig E. Johnson on May 29, 2009, at 1:30 pm.

Introduction to Mission Support and Budget Consideration
Ms. Glenndy Ose, Bishop Associate for mission support, set the stage for discussion on both mission support and synod budget considerations.

Credentials Report
Rev. Tom Carlson, Synod Secretary, presented the Credentials Report of the Minneapolis Area Synod as of 1:30 p.m.:

Clergy – Female -- 63
Clergy – Male -- 161
Elected Lay – Female -- 165
Elected Lay – Male -- 139
Rostered Lay -- Female -- 12
Rostered Lay – Male -- 8
Total 548

Larry Cruse, synod treasurer, introduced the two synod budget resolutions. Mr. Cruse thanked the assembly for the privilege of serving as treasurer during the past year.

RC 2009-1
Revising the 2009 (2/1/2009 – 1/31/2010) Synod Budget

WHEREAS**,** the 2008 Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly adopted congregation mission support of $3,800,000 for budget year 2009; and

WHEREAS**,** letters of intent from congregations indicate anticipated mission support of $3,800,000 in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council reviewed the entire budget; therefore be it

RESOLVED**,** that the "Interest and Other Income" of $21,000 and "Mission Support" of $3,800,000, the revised total budget of $3,821,000 with 55% of congregational giving of $3,800,000 designated as mission support for the churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be adopted for budget year 2009.

Author:	Mr. Larry Cruse, Synod Treasurer	952-361-6995
Adopted by:	Minneapolis Area Synod Council, May 19, 2009	
Contact person:	Ms. Michelle Reichow, Synod Vice-President	763-434-3093

SA09.05.07 Voted to adopt Resolution RC2009-1 Revising the 2009 Synod Budget.

RC 2009-2
2010 (2/1/2010 – 1/31/2011) Proposed Synod Budget

RESOLVED**,** that the 2009 Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly adopt the year 2010 Minneapolis Area Synod budget of $3,821,000 with 55% of congregational giving of $3,800,000 designated as mission support for the churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Author:	Mr. Larry Cruse, Synod Treasurer	952-361-6995
Adopted by:	Minneapolis Area Synod Council, May 19, 2009	
Contact person:	Ms. Michelle Reichow, Synod Vice-President	763-434-3093

SA09.05.08 Voted to adopt Resolution RC2009-2, 2010 Proposed Synod Budget.

Keynote Address
Bishop Johnson introduced Rev. Rolf Jacobson who provided part one of the assembly's keynote speech on the theme, "God's Work. Our Hands."

RC 2009-6
Memorial Supporting Adoption of the Social Statement
***Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,* with Recommendations on Resources and Rostering**

WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has earnestly studied and struggled with these matters for eight years, and their work models and invites mutually respectful dialogue about sexuality throughout this church; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Social Statement powerfully proclaims this church's teachings on trust, love, and service to the neighbor as the proper foundation of sexuality, while honestly recognizing that there is no consensus regarding same gender relationships or the rostered ministry of people in them; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council, at its March 2009 meeting, voted to recommend to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality, its implementing resolutions, and a Recommendation on Ministry Policies; and

WHEREAS, the Recommendation on Ministry Policies allows a way to maintain a uniform standard and process for candidacy and call throughout this church while respecting the bound consciences of all; and

WHEREAS, the time has come for both those in this church who support publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same gender relationships and those who oppose them to join together in creating a means to continue living together faithfully in the midst of disagreement; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly as follows:

- To adopt the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality and its implementing resolutions, as recommended by the ELCA Church Council.
- To adopt the four parts of the proposed Recommendation on Ministry Policies, as recommended by the ELCA Church Council.
- To adopt the following additional implementing resolution of the Social Statement on Human Sexuality:

  > "To direct appropriate churchwide units to develop, in consultation with those most affected, resources for congregations or faith communities and ministers that choose to do so to support same gender relationships by holding them publicly accountable in the exchange of promises of lifelong love and fidelity."
- To adopt the following additional implementing resolution of the Social Statement on Human Sexuality:

  > "Resolved, that the Church Council, in consultation with the Vocation and Education unit, be directed to develop procedures for the reception from another Lutheran church body and for the expedited reinstatement to the

roster or to candidacy of those whose rostering was precluded by previous policies on same gender relationships."

Author: Rev. Brad Froslee, Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church of Minneapolis
Adopted by: Central Conference meeting in Assembly on March 15, 2009
South Conference meeting in Assembly on March 12, 2009
Contact persons: Rev. Mary Albing, O: 612-926-5414
Rev. Jay Carlson, O: 612-729-8358
Rev. Brad Froslee, O: 612-827-2504
Ms. Jen Nagel, O: 612-872-4650

SA09.05.09 Voted to adopt Resolution RC2009-6.
Yes – 327 No – 175 Spoiled - 3

RC 2009-7
Memorial Requesting Educational Materials Reflecting the work of the ELCA's Task Force for Studies on Human Sexuality

WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has earnestly studied and struggled with matters of human sexuality for eight years, and their work models and invites mutually respectful dialogue about sexuality throughout this church; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Social Statement powerfully proclaims this church's teachings on trust, love, and service to the neighbor as the proper foundation of sexuality; and

WHEREAS, education "refers in a broad sense to learning, teaching, and knowing as a dimension of human life. It is a life-long activity that permeates all we do," and "People create institutions and situations whose purposes are to encourage, transmit, and advance human learning to shape and equip future generations"[1]; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA has made it a commitment that "children, youth and family ministries will welcome and educate all children and youth in ways that recognize their wonderful complexity and dignity"[2]; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to adopt the following as an implementing resolution of the Social Statement on Human Sexuality:

> "To direct relevant churchwide units, in cooperation with congregations and recognized Lutheran organizations whose mission includes ministry by and on behalf of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, to develop congregational resources for age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education that upholds the values of this social statement."

Author: Rev. Brad Froslee, Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church of Minneapolis
Adopted by: Central Conference meeting in Assembly on March15, 2009
South Conference meeting in Assembly on March 12, 2009

1 "Our Calling in Education," adopted as amended by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, p. 15.
2 "Our Calling in Education," adopted as amended by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, p. 21.

Contact persons: Rev. Mary Albing, O: 612-926-5414
Rev. Jay Carlson, O: 612-729-8358
Rev. Brad Froslee, O: 612-827-2504
Ms. Jen Nagel, O: 612-872-4650

SA09.05.10 Voted to accept Resolution RC2009-7.
Yes – 304 No – 203 Spoiled - 1

RC 2009-8
Memorial Supporting Advocacy for Legal Protection and Fairness

WHEREAS, the Lutheran church has a tradition of opposing discrimination codified in law, even during times of social dislocation; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran church has written social statements to guide efforts to advocate for the protection of legal rights, and has developed an advocacy arm to carry out the pragmatic efforts at legislative change; and

WHEREAS, the Social Statement on Human Sexuality notes that "laws have a direct impact on patterns of social trust within households and networks of kinship" and that "victims of sexual violation must be able to rely on public institutions for intervention"; and

WHEREAS, the Social Statement on Human Sexuality notes that "certain laws and economic realities...may create extreme economic hardship for some, including older adults, who desire to be legally married" and asks that the ELCA advocate for "altering laws and the factors that create a significant impediment for such people to be married"; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to call on bishops, ministries, and members of this church to advocate for laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for laws that define violence on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity as a hate crime; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to direct appropriate churchwide units and to encourage synods, congregations, and members of this church to advocate for laws and regulations that permit widows and widowers to marry without losing retirement benefits.

Author: Mr. Charles Lutz, Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer
Adopted by: Central Conference meeting in Assembly on March 15, 2009
Contact person: Rev. Brad Froslee, O: 612-827-2504

SA09.05.11 Voted to accept Resolution RC2009-8.
Yes – 347 No – 160 Spoiled – 1

Service of Holy Communion
The assembly recessed at 3:45 p.m. The service of Holy Communion began at 4:15. An offering of $7, 269 was received for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Gourmet Boxed Supper

PLENARY #3 – Friday, May 29, 2009, 6:30 pm

Plenary #3 of the 2009 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, was called to order by Bishop Johnson at 6:30 p.m.

RC 2009-9
Advocating Permanent Resident Status for Liberian People

WHEREAS, the country of Liberia experienced a civil war lasting almost 15 years; and

WHEREAS, it has only been five years since peace has been established; and

WHEREAS, it has only been three years since Presidential elections have established political stability; and

WHEREAS, it has only been two years since the Truth and Reconciliation process has been established; and

WHEREAS, many displaced people from Liberia have settled in the Minneapolis area; and

WHEREAS, there are many congregations in the Minneapolis Area Synod where Liberians are members; and

WHEREAS, many of the displaced were forced to leave without refugee status; and

WHEREAS, the "temporary protected status" which the U.S. Congress has issued for over 11 years does not provide many of the benefits of permanent residency such as eligibility for college loans and scholarships, application for citizenship, and application for sponsorship; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly go on record as supporting U.S. Congressional Bill S656, titled, "**Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 2009,"** therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Office of the Bishop contact the Minnesota U.S. Senators and their U.S. Representatives representing the congressional districts in the Minneapolis Area Synod to convey this decision.

Authors:	Mr. Joseph Cornormia,	St. Olaf Lutheran Church
	Ms. Queenella Cornormia,	St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Adopted by:	North Minneapolis Conference meeting in Assembly on 03/23/2009	
Contact persons:	Mr. Joseph Cornormia,	763-213-5468
	Ms. Queenella Cornormia,	763-561-0589

SA09.05.12 Voted to accept Resolution RC2009-9.

RC 2009-10
Memorial Advocating Permanent Resident Status for Liberian People

WHEREAS, the country of Liberia experienced a civil war lasting almost 15 years; and

WHEREAS, it has only been five years since peace has been established; and

WHEREAS, it has only been three years since Presidential elections have established political stability; and

WHEREAS, it has only been two years since the Truth and Reconciliation process has been established; and

WHEREAS, many displaced people from Liberia have settled in the Minneapolis area; and

WHEREAS, there are many congregations in the Minneapolis Area Synod where Liberians are members; and

WHEREAS, many of the displaced were forced to leave without refugee status; and

WHEREAS, the "temporary protected status" which the United States Congress has issued for over 11 years does not provide many of the benefits of permanent residency such as eligibility for college loans and scholarships, application for citizenship, and application for sponsorship; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to go on record as supporting U.S. Congressional Bill S656, titled, **"Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 2009,"** therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop or his designee(s) contact all congressional legislators in the U.S. Congress to convey this decision.

Authors:	Mr. Joseph Cornormia,	St. Olaf Lutheran Church
	Ms. Queenella Cornormia,	St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Adopted by:	North Minneapolis Conference meeting in Assembly on March 23, 2009	
Contact persons:	Mr. Joseph Cornormia,	763-213-5468
	Ms. Queenella Cornormia,	763-561-0589

SA09.05.13 Voted to accept Resolution RC2009-10.

Presentation of Honorees
Bishop Craig Johnson extended the best wishes of the synod to the following honorees:

Rostered leaders who retired from the synod in 2008

Rev. Elizabeth W. Beissel
Rev. Paul A. Bierlein
Rev. Judith A. Hazen
Rev. James G. Lindekugel
Rev. Richard A. Magnus
Rev. Linda I. McEwen
Rev. Duane O. Salness
Ms. Jerie S. Smith, AiM
Rev. David B. Spong
Rev. Rebecca I. von Fischer
Rev. Thomas E. von Fischer
Rev. Dennis W. Wright

Rostered Leaders Who Joined the Synod in 2008

Rev. Robert D. Berg
Mr. George F. Brooke, AiM
Rev. Jay M. Carlson
Rev. Meta H. Carlson
Rev. Douglas S. Cox
Rev. Paul K. Galchutt
Rev. Stephen L. Ganzkow-Wold
Rev. Tasha K. Genck
Rev. Philip P. Gotsch
Rev. Monica M. Hammersten
Rev. John Hierlinger
Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer
Rev. Beth E. Horsch
Rev. Karl N. Jacobson
Rev. Sharon F. Kelly
Rev. Dr. Nancy E. Maeker
Rev. Richard Magnus
Rev. Brian D. Mundt
Rev. James D. Nelson
Rev. Randolph A. Nelson
Rev. Scott A. Nocton
Rev. Diane R. Odermann
Rev. Constance S. Olson
Rev. Elaine K. Olson
Rev. Margie A. Olson
Rev. Randall J. Romsdahl
Rev. Timothy J. Savares
Rev. Lucas C. Schmidt
Rev. Jane Ann Settergren
Rev. E. Peter Strommen
Rev. Amy C. Thoren
Rev. Judith A. VanOsdol-Hansen
Rev. Tony Wong

Rostered Leaders Celebrating Anniversaries Ordained 65 Years

Rev. George H. Gerberding
Rev. Gilford S. Helgesen
Rev. Maynard B. Iverson
Rev. Omar G. Otterness
Rev. Merton P. Strommen
Rev. Griffith H. Williams

Ordained 60 Years

Rev. William J. Hanson

Ordained 50 years

Rev. E. Charles Anderson
Rev. Mark M. Anderson
Rev. Omar Bonderud
Rev. Arvid O. Dixen
Rev. John D. Erickson
Rev. LeRoy A. Erlandson
Rev. Glen M. Floe
Rev. Dennis V. Griffin
Rev. Walter G. Hed
Rev. Richard F. Holy
Rev. Marshall P. Pechauer
Rev. Bruce E. Pederson

Ordained 25 Years

Rev. Elizabeth W. Beissel
Rev. William H. Dexheimer-Pharris
Rev. Julie A. Grothe
Rev. Heather E. Hammond
Rev. Dr. Nancy L. Maeker
Rev. Scott B. Maxwell
Rev. Mark P. Nelson
Rev. Dana K. Nissen
Rev. Liane S. Rock
Rev. Lynne A. Silva-Breen
Rev. Mark D. Tranvik
Rev. Judith K. Wascher

Commissioned 25 Years

Ms. Brenda M. Kutz
Ms. Dorothy E. Swanson

Congregations Celebrating Anniversaries
25th Anniversary

All Saints Lutheran, Norwood
Prairie Lutheran, Eden Prairie

50th Anniversary
Christ Lutheran , Blaine
St. Stephen Lutheran, Bloomington
St. Timothy Lutheran , Columbia Heights

100th Anniversary
Redeemer Lutheran, Minneapolis
Mount Olive Lutheran, Minneapolis

125th Anniversary
St. Peder's Lutheran, Minneapolis

Leadership for A Missional Church Award
Bishop Johnson presented the Leadership for A Missional Church Award, given to a person or institution demonstrating leadership in Christ-centered, creative outreach in service and evangelism in the Minneapolis area. The award is given in honor of former Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop David Olson and his wife Nancy. Bishop Johnson presented the award this year to Valborg Tollefsrud.

Servant of Christ Award
Mark Peterson, President and Chief Operating Officer of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, presented the Servant of Christ Award to Mount Calvary, Excelsior.

Summer Program Consortium
Bishop Johnson highlighted the congregations participating in the Summer Program Consortium, sponsored by the Partnership Table.

ELCA National Youth Gathering
Jo Mueller, Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator, spoke about the upcoming 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July. Assembly members were invited to pray for individual youth who will be attending.

Closing
Rapper, Agape, led the assembly in the closing song "God's Work. Our Hands."

Opening Service of the Word
The opening Service of the Word was held in Melby Hall Gymnasium of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Saturday, May 30, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Members of Bread of Life Lutheran Church for the Deaf participated in the service.

PLENARY #4 – Saturday, May 30, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

Plenary #4 of the 2009 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, was called to order by Bishop Johnson on Saturday, May 30, at 9:00 a.m.

Church Representatives
Bishop Johnson introduced Rev. Pablo Obregon, member of the ELCA Church Council, who brought greetings to the assembly. Pastor Obregon thanked the assembly for their partnership in mission and ministry.
Rev. Melissa Pohlman and Barbara Brown, AiM, solicited volunteers for the upcoming Churchwide Assembly, being held at the Minneapolis Convention Center August 17-23.

Approximately 1,000 volunteers will be needed.
Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman then gave the Churchwide report. Pastor Bouman introduced a video presentation by ELCA Bishop Mark Hanson. He called us to recover our first love.

Challenge
Bishop Johnson reported that because of lower benevolences given to the ELCA, the Evangelical Outreach for Congregational Mission unit has reduced its grants to ministries by 7%. This cutback affects 23 congregations in our synod. Bishop Johnson challenged congregations to make contributions that will help these ministries to make up for the shortfall. Funds can be given through Making A World of Difference.

Credentials Report
Rev. Tom Carlson, Synod Secretary, presented the Credentials Report of the Minneapolis Area Synod as of 8:30 a.m.:

Clergy – Female -- 68
Clergy – Male -- 167
Elected Lay – Female -- 174
Elected Lay – Male -- 151
Rostered Lay – Female – 14
Rostered Lay – Male -- 8
Total 582

Elections
Rev. Michael Carlson, a member of the Nominating Committee, presented the 2009 nominees for election, and asked for the unanimous election of the presented nominees.

- **SA09.05.014** Voted to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees to synod council, tables, committees and co-ministries.

Elected were as follows:
Augsburg Governing Board: Eric Aune, Dan Aune, Paul Burow, Carl Casperson, Terri Endres DM, David Fernelius, David Mohn, Bob Molldrem, Ross Murray, Valerie Sayre
Discipline Committee: Hans Lee, Christine Wenzel
Global Companion Table: Sheryl Larson, Karen Walhof, Morris Wee, Dawn Dresser, Susan Fanucci
Leadership Table: Christine Bellefeuille, Rev. Janice Bornhoft, David Brueshoff, Peter Larsen, Scott Maxwell, Karen Treat
Mission Table: Judith Hunter, Ed Treat
Partnership Table: Syd Beane, Laurie Eaton, Jim Hoogheem, Shahrazad Mohamed, Melkamu Negeri, Ephraim Olani, Carolyn Torp
Synod Council Members: Rev. Howard Skulstad, Rev. Drew Bakken, Jason Fehring, Ruth Peterson, Rev. Dan Garnaas, Larry Kounkel, Rev. Phil Formo, Mr. Peter Aldrich.

Ministry Leadership Development Report
Rev. Heather Hammond, Bishop's Associate, spoke on behalf of the Synod Candidacy Committee. She shared her vision of being able to pay seminary tuition for all of our candidates during their senior year in seminary.

Wellness Report
Ms. Patricia Hansen, Bishop's Assistant, reported on the work of the Wellness Task Force. The task force is charged with bringing a culture of wellness to our synod for all of its rostered leaders. She encouraged all rostered leaders to take the health assessment, which will result in dollars for their health care and a 2% reduction in health care premiums for all congregations in the synod.

RC 2009-11
Resolution on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

WHEREAS, Christians of various denominations are working together to see fair and humane immigration reform enacted in Congress because we share moral and theological principles that compel us to love, care for, and seek justice for the stranger among us; and

WHEREAS, all people, regardless of national origin or citizenship status, are made in the "image of God" and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, there is a responsibility to love and show compassion for the stranger among us; and

WHEREAS, immigrants are our neighbors, both literally and figuratively, and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves and show mercy to neighbors in need; and

WHEREAS, we are to oppose unjust laws and systems that harm and oppress people made in God's image, especially the vulnerable; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly reaffirm its support for comprehensive immigration reform legislation that includes the following elements:

- Enforcement initiatives that are consistent with humanitarian values;
- Reforms in our family based immigration system that reduce waiting times for separated families to be reunited;
- A process for all immigrant workers and their families already in the U.S. to earn citizenship upon satisfaction of specific criteria;
- An expansion of legal avenues for workers and families to enter our country and work in a safe and legal manner with their rights and due process fully protected;
- Examining solutions to address the root causes of migration, such as economic disparities between sending and receiving nations; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly communicate its support for immigration reform to the appropriate members of the Minnesota congressional delegation and President Obama; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly call on the President, the U.S. Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the U.S. Attorney for Minnesota to suspend all immigration raids until comprehensive immigration reform is enacted.

Author: Rev. Patrick Cabello Hansel, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Minneapolis
Adopted by: Partnership Table on March 19, 2008
Contact: Rev. Luisa Cabello Hansel, Latino Strategy, 612-275-2814

The following amendment was offered:
To insert between lines 38 and 39 the following:
RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod , meeting in Assembly call on the President, the U.S. Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security and U.S. Attorney for Minnesota to request that employers incorporate good faith screening procedures to prevent the hiring of illegal immigrants. Furthermore, if employers knowingly hire an illegal work force, then they must be held accountable to the rule of law.

The amendment was defeated.

The following amendment was offered:
To delete the final paragraph, lines 35-37.

The amendment was defeated.

⏩ **SA09.05.15** Voted to accept Resolution RC2009-11.

RC 2009-12
Memorial on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

WHEREAS, Christians of various denominations are working together to see fair and humane immigration reform enacted in Congress because we share moral and theological principles that compel us to love, care for, and seek justice for the stranger among us; and

WHEREAS, all people, regardless of national origin or citizenship status, are made in the “image of God” and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, there is a responsibility to love and show compassion for the stranger among us; and

WHEREAS, immigrants are our neighbors, both literally and figuratively, and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves and show mercy to neighbors in need; and

WHEREAS, we oppose unjust laws and systems that harm and oppress people made in God’s image, especially the vulnerable; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to call for the Communication Services unit to provide ELCA members with information about comprehensive immigration reform that includes the five elements listed below;

- Enforcement initiatives that are consistent with humanitarian values;
- Reforms in our family based immigration system that reduce waiting times for separated families to be reunited;
- A process for all immigrant workers and their families already in the U.S. to earn citizenship upon satisfaction of specific criteria;

- An expansion of legal avenues for workers and families to enter our country and work in a safe and legal manner with their rights and due process fully protected;
- Examining solutions to address the root causes of migration, such as economic disparities between sending and receiving nations; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod, meeting in Assembly memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to call on the President, the U.S. Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the U.S. Attorney for Minnesota to suspend all immigration raids until comprehensive immigration reform is enacted.

Author: Rev. Patrick Cabello Hansel, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
Adopted by: Partnership Table on March 19, 2008
Contact: Rev. Luisa Cabello Hansel, Latino Strategy, 612-275-2814

⏩ **SA09.05.16** Voted to accept Resolution RC2009-12.

Keynote Address Part 2
Rev. Rolf Jacobson delivered the second part of his keynote address.

Bishop Johnson recessed the assembly for lunch at 12:00. Voting members were given the opportunity to attend two of several workshops on a variety of topics.

Lunch

PLENARY #5 – Saturday, May 30, 2009, 2:00 pm

The business session of Plenary #5 of the 2009 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly was called to order by Bishop Craig E. Johnson on May 30, 2009, at 2:00 pm.

Bible Study Part 2
Bishop Craig Johnson gave the second of his Bible studies. He added the following themes: 3.) Radical grace and mercy, and 4.) Bridges not walls.

Closing Service of the Word
The closing Service of the Word was conducted at 2:45 pm The service was conducted by members of the Swahili Speaking Congregation at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.

Closing of Assembly
Bishop Johnson declared the 2009 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly closed in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit at 3:10 p.m. The 2010 Synod Assembly will be held on Saturday, April 24, at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Prior Lake.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Thomas M. Carlson
Synod Secretary