

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Seventh Biennial Churchwide Assembly
August 8-14, 2001
Indianapolis, Indiana



**SHARING
FAITH IN A
NEW CENTURY**

Preliminary Minutes

PLenary SESSION EIGHT
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2001
8:00 A.M.—10:00 A.M.

The Rev. H. George Anderson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, brought the assembly to order at 8:00 A.M. and called upon Mr. J. David Watrous, a member of the Church Council from Richland, Washington, to lead the assembly with a hymn and prayer.

Bishop Anderson said that the morning's agenda would include the second ballot for secretary, several reports and greetings, and time to discuss resolutions before recessing for worship and a free afternoon and evening.

He reminded the assembly that the offering at the morning's worship service had been designated for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, which, in the last two years has provided \$16 million in support for this remarkable ministry of this church. He concluded by reminding members of the assembly that the multi-year goal to reach \$25 million annually.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, pages 8 and 33.)

Bishop Anderson called upon Mr. Scott S. Fintzen for a report from the Credentials Committee prior to the balloting. Mr. Fintzen reported that 1,039 voting members out of a possible 1,040 had registered, and, because one voting member will not be attending, he said, "we can safely say, 'Hail, hail, the gang's all here.'"

SECOND BALLOT FOR SECRETARY

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, pages 9-13.)

Bishop Anderson asked that all voting members take their seats as it was time for the second ballot for secretary and reminded them that they must be seated in their place on the floor of the assembly in order to vote. He called attention to the printed report of the results of the first ballot and called upon Mr. Phillip H. Harris, chair of the Elections Committee, for his report. Mr. Harris read the names of those nominated on the initial ballot who had withdrawn their names from consideration. Mr. Harris stated that voting members would use ballot number two and that anyone receiving three-fourths of the votes cast on this ballot would be elected secretary.

Bishop Anderson said that the results of this second ballot for secretary will be announced tomorrow morning, but that the results will be posted in the lobbies of the Westin, Marriott, Crowne Plaza, and Hyatt hotels as soon as they are available today. If there is not an election, he continued, it will be important for the seven persons receiving the highest number of votes to submit biographical data promptly after the announcement of the report. He asked if there were any questions, noting that there can be no interruptions once the voting has begun.

The assembly sang, "Gracious Spirit, Heed our Pleading," and Bishop Anderson led in prayer, saying, "We thank you, O Lord, for this list of names of people before us now who are willing to serve you in your Church. We thank you for their openness to offer their gifts and abilities for service in so many ways. Guide us now as we choose an important leader for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the capacity of secretary. In the name of Christ, we pray."

Bishop Anderson invited voting members to proceed to write in the name of the nominee for whom they wished to vote and, when finished, to pass their ballot face down and unfolded to the aisle, where it will be picked up by the pages.

After a few minutes, he declared the second ballot for secretary to be closed.

Ms. Susan M. Neitzel [Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod] moved to amend the agenda:

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the agenda to provide for additional time to consider the matters which require action by the assembly by either:

- 1) postponing the remaining greetings, initiative updates, unit overviews, videos, and other reports that do not require assembly action until after such matters that do require consideration and action have been completed, or
- 2) adding a plenary session, of at least two hours, later today.

Ms. Neitzel pointed out that the assembly was the highest legislative authority whose purpose was to consider important matters. She asserted that it seemed to be the sense of this assembly to take action but insisted that it seemed as if the assembly had spent more time watching reports and videos than deliberating the important matters before it. She said that there were 18 memorials to be addressed individually, as well as other memorials, the budget, and the possible second common ballot, and only 11 and one-half hours in plenary remained following this session. "There is more time devoted to reports than the business at hand," she asserted, and said that "our assemblies have become more like dog and pony shows and infomercials about programs of the church." She concluded, "This is a working assembly and I urge my fellow members to take a stand and not be distracted from our purpose."

Mr. Patrick Brady [Northwest Washington Synod] moved to close debate on the matter.

Moved;

Seconded: To move the previous question.

Bishop Anderson immediately called for a vote on the motion, explaining that it would require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

Moved;

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Seconded;

Yes-867; No-80

Carried: To move the previous question.

Bishop Anderson then moved to action on the main motion.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-256; No-707

Defeated: To amend the agenda to provide for additional time to consider the matters which require action by the Assembly by either:

- 1) postponing the remaining greetings, initiative updates, unit overviews, videos, and other reports that do not require assembly action until after such matters that do require consideration and action have been completed, or
- 2) adding a plenary session, of at least two hours, later today.

The Rev. Robert L. Isaksen [New England Synod] moved to limit the length of speeches to two minutes for all remaining discussions.

Moved;

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Seconded;

Yes-783; No-167

Carried: To limit speeches to two minutes for all remaining discussions.

RURAL MINISTRY UPDATE

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, pages 19-24.)

Bishop Anderson invited the Rev. Richard A. Magnus, executive director of the Division for Outreach, and Ms. Sandra A. LaBlanc, director for rural networking and resources, to the stage. Bishop Anderson said, "This church has been not only concerned about the rural crisis affecting this country, our congregations, and members, but we have been actively involved in addressing needs and seeking answers as well. Some of you have had an opportunity to learn more about it at the hearing on Thursday and in breakfast conversations." He referred the assembly to the report in Section V, of the *2001 Pre-Assembly Report*.

Pr. Magnus said that the process to have a full-time churchwide staff position for rural ministry began in 1997, and said that "we were very fortunate to have Ms. LaBlanc take this position." He noted that she had worked in this area with the Roman Catholic Church and has worked very well with the advocacy arm of this church.

Ms. LaBlanc thanked voting members for their support of rural ministries. She told the assembly how she came to learn that each of the presidents of the three major national farm organizations in the United States are ELCA members. She brought this information to the Rural Ministry Advisory Committee and decided to approach Bishop Anderson with a suggestion to meet with the three leaders. The meeting was held on September 27, 2000. Eight areas of agreement were identified by the three farm organizations. Ms. LaBlanc said that 15 years ago these organizations would not have set foot in the same room together.

She said the farm-organization leaders challenged the ELCA to broaden the discussion and Bishop Anderson agreed. On March 26, 2001, an historic event took place at the Lutheran Center in Chicago when nearly 70 people met to talk about how to work together and look at directions for rural issues. Participants at this rural summit came from all over the country and from different denominations and groups. Ms. LaBlanc noted that never have all of these groups been present to sit down and talk together about common direction for rural issues. "It was a remarkable day." Participants laughed, got angry, disagreed, and agreed to disagree.

She said that Bishop Anderson challenged everyone to seek the common good, seek common ground, and to listen. She said that this is a concrete example of the Church as a place for moral deliberation, pointing out that, in rural America, the Church is the last place where people would expect this to happen. During the summit, Ms. LaBlanc said, several rural life task forces from various synods came to meet in the Lutheran Center Chapel at the same time to surround the rural summit in prayer; they prayed for each participant by name. She reported that a statement of agreement did not come about, but we know the Holy Spirit will lead as we continue to look for direction.

She encouraged everyone to wear a green ribbon to show family farmers, ranchers, and fishers that we care through prayer. She said that the ELCA is active in advocacy for the 2002 farm bill and offered a word of “profound thanks” to Bishop Anderson, who, because of his leadership, has made the ELCA a national leader in rural concerns. She also thanked voting members for their support of rural ministry and for letting her talk about “this remarkable and Holy Spirit-led event.”

Bishop Anderson said that the assembly would return to this topic later.

INITIATIVES UPDATE: HELP THE CHILDREN

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, pages 13-14.)

Bishop Anderson turned the attention of the assembly to an update from the “Help the Children” initiative. He said, “As a result of this initiative, many congregations have declared themselves to be ‘Safe Havens for Children.’ In September 2001, this initiative’s last activity will be to sponsor a Summit on Children under the theme, ‘Treasured and Safe: A Future for Children in Congregations and Communities.’” He invited the initiative chair, Ms. Joanne Negstad, to bring an update.

While Ms. Negstad came forward, Bishop Anderson called attention to her leadership as the first president of Lutheran Services in America, where she laid the ground for a fine organization and established a strong network among the related agencies and institutions.

With the sounds of children crying in the background, Ms. Negstad reminded the assembly of the many cries of children—cries for nurture of faith, of fear and loneliness, cries of neglect, of worry and wonder, cries for arms of love.

At Safe Haven, the cries turn to cries of laughter and joy, because the ELCA is providing a safe haven for children. The update concluded with a video on Safe Haven for Children, featuring Grace Lutheran Church in York, Pennsylvania.

EVANGELISM STRATEGY, (continued)

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IV, pages 1-39; continued on Minutes, page 32.)

Bishop Anderson returned the assembly to discussion of the Evangelism Strategy that began earlier, referring to Section IV, page 39. He invited those waiting to discuss this proposal to proceed to the microphones as resource people come to the stage.

Ms. Susan M. Neitzel [Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod] moved to amend the motion by insertion:

Moved;

Seconded: To amend the main motion by inserting in the second RESOLVED the following:

- 2) setting a priority and committing itself to study and a renewed growth in knowledge of the Gospel and its place in our daily lives; *[with the remaining items renumbered].*

The Rev. Peter Klotz [Upstate New York Synod] said he thought there was an amendment on the floor before the assembly recessed. Bishop Anderson said that he thought that was the case, but that since “WHEREAS” clauses have less precedence than the RESOLVED clauses, those amendments would be considered later.

Ms. Perri Kathryn McCary [Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod] spoke in favor of the amendment, saying that if we are committed to prayer, great, but we should be committed to study. If the Word is in your heart, she continued, we make better decisions. She said that we pray, but do not listen for answers, but that if we study, we listen and hear the Word and make better decisions.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-855; No-79

Carried: To amend the main motion by inserting in the second RESOLVED the following:

- 2) setting a priority and committing itself to study and a renewed growth in knowledge of the Gospel and its place in our daily lives; *[with the remaining items renumbered].*

Bishop Anderson returned to consideration of the motion under consideration during Plenary Session Four:

Moved;

Seconded: To delete the third WHEREAS paragraph:

~~Whereas, we have discovered the effectiveness of churchwide initiatives, such as the “Mid-Sized Congregation Transformation Project” and “Call to Discipleship,” and synodical efforts like the “Living the Great Commission” mission plan of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America...~~

Pr. Klotz said that the evangelism programs mentioned have no more evidence of being effective than others examined by the Department for Research and Evaluation. He said that before designating these as the most effective, best practices, they should be subjected to the same standards of evaluation. He urged that evangelism programs not be evaluated by the number of evangelists they catch.

The Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive director of the Division for Congregational Ministries, said that Pr. Klotz was correct in noting that research on these models had not been completed, and added that, if the assembly wanted to delete the paragraph, there would be no objection. She concluded that there is some evidence, but that it is not “extensively conclusive.”

The Rev. David Trygestad [Northeastern Minnesota Synod] spoke against the amendment to delete, saying that their congregation has used the “Mid-Sized Congregation Transformation Project” and found it very effective.

The Rev. Raymond LeBlanc [Southwestern California Synod] moved to amend the main motion. Bishop Anderson asked him to await the decision of the matter pending on the floor.

The Rev. Christopher Webb [Florida-Bahamas Synod] moved to substitute the word “benefits” for the word “effectiveness” on line 15. Bishop Anderson said it would be helpful to decide if the paragraph remains before it is amended. The amendment to delete the WHEREAS, lines 15-20, was voted.

Moved;

Seconded; **Yes-267; No-636**

Defeated: To delete the third WHEREAS paragraph:

~~Whereas, we have discovered the effectiveness of churchwide initiatives, such as the “Mid-Sized Congregation Transformation Project” and “Call to Discipleship,” and synodical efforts like the “Living the Great Commission” mission plan of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America...~~

Pr. Webb then moved to amend by substitution:

Moved;

Seconded: To substitute the word “benefits” for “effectiveness” in line 15.

Seeing no one at microphones, Bishop Anderson called for a vote on the motion to amend.

Moved;

Seconded; **Yes-802; No-137**

Carried: To substitute the word “benefits” for “effectiveness” in line 15.

Pr. LeBlanc, moved to amend the fifth RESOLVED of the amended main motion by addition:

Moved;

Seconded: To add “ethnic diversity” to the list of Blue Ribbon task force participants.

“...RESOLVED, that at least 50 percent of the participants of the task force be currently active parish pastors and lay leaders in growing congregations, representing a range of worship styles, membership size, ethnic diversity, and of urban, suburban, and rural settings; and be it further....”

Seeing no one at microphones, Bishop Anderson called for a vote on the motion to amend.

Moved;

Seconded; **Yes-923; No-35**

Carried: To add “ethnic diversity” to the list of Blue Ribbon task force participants.

“...RESOLVED, that at least 50 percent of the participants of the task force be currently active parish pastors and lay leaders in growing congregations, representing a range of worship styles, membership size, ethnic diversity, and of urban, suburban, and rural settings; and be it further....”

Bishop Anderson then called for action on the main, amended motion.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION **Yes-965; No-9**

CA01.05.18

WHEREAS, as people of God in Christ, we confess with joy and thanksgiving that the Holy Spirit is given at baptism to empower us to be witnesses for Jesus Christ, and calls us into a lifelong discipleship journey with Jesus Christ; and that every baptized member of this church is part of Christ’s body and is called to give witness in word and deed to God’s Good News; and each ministry of this church, including congregations, synods, churchwide units, agencies, and institutions, belongs to Christ;

WHEREAS, we have learned about the relationship of effective evangelism to an openness to change and a clear sense of mission and purpose;

WHEREAS, we have discovered the benefits of churchwide initiatives, such as the “Mid-Sized Congregation Transformation Project” and “Call to Discipleship,” and synodical efforts like the “Living the Great Commission” mission plan of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2001 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA):

- 1) receives with appreciation the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s Evangelism Strategy Decade Report 1991-2001, “A Telling Witness of God’s Good News;”
- 2) expresses gratitude for the witness of individual members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who tell, proclaim, and bear witness to the good news of God in Christ in all areas of everyday life; and for the mission and ministry of each ELCA congregation, synod, churchwide unit, institution, and agency that makes evangelism a priority; and
- 3) reaffirms its commitment to both the biblical mandate to “Go, therefore, and make disciples...” (Matthew 28:19-20) and this church’s constitutional charge to participate in God’s mission by:
 - a) proclaiming “God’s saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ’s sake through faith alone...;”
 - b) carrying out “Christ’s Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ...;” and
 - c) nurturing “members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love;”¹ and be it further

RESOLVED, that we invite and encourage each expression and ministry of this church—including congregations, synods, schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, organizations (Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Youth Organization, Lutheran Men in Mission), campus ministries, outdoor ministry settings, ethnic associations, social ministry organizations, and the churchwide organization—to commit to working toward a vision for evangelism in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by:

- 1) setting a priority and committing itself to pray for our evangelism ministries through prayer services, prayer ministry teams, and prayer partners;

- 2) setting a priority and committing itself to study and a renewed growth in knowledge of the Gospel and its place in our daily lives;
- 3) receiving the witness of and gifts for evangelism from global companions;
- 4) clarifying its sense of purpose and mission;
- 5) seeking ways to be open to innovation and change; and
- 6) sharing new or existing evangelism plans with this whole church prior to the 2003 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and be it further

RESOLVED, that each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be invited and encouraged to recommit itself to making disciples for Jesus Christ, sharing in the “Call to Discipleship,” as approved by the 1999 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, working in partnership with the Division for Congregational Ministries, the other churchwide divisions and units, and the Conference of Bishops, establish a “Blue Ribbon” task force by January 31, 2002, to develop a comprehensive evangelism strategy for presentation and possible action at the 2003 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and be it further

RESOLVED, that at least 50 percent of the participants of the task force be currently active parish pastors and lay leaders in growing congregations, representing a range of worship styles, membership size, ethnic diversity, and of urban, suburban, and rural settings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the comprehensive strategy recommend plans and specific actions for the future evangelism ministry of this church that includes:

1. A summary of the evangelism plans of the expressions and ministries of this church;
2. A multiplicity of models for congregational growth based on current research for missional outreach and plans to implement these models along with the “best practices” of evangelism in this church;
3. Continued expansion of the ELCA-wide *Call to Discipleship*; and
4. Renewed efforts at missional leadership development; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the strategy include recommendations for future budget allocations and possible changes in ELCA budget priorities necessary to implement the plan.

¹Constitutional provision 4.02. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS (continued)

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VI, page 16.)

Mr. Jac Charlier [Metropolitan Chicago Synod] moved to amend the previously approved action, CA01.02.09, Plenary Session Two, page 16, by inserting a new second paragraph to read:

Moved;

Seconded: To insert as a new paragraph two the following:

To request the presiding bishop to send a letter to the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations urging that diplomatic pressure is continued to be placed on those countries who aid groups operating in the Middle East which have as their primary purposes to oppose the peace process, further destabilize the region or simply to promote violence. The groups receiving the aid in the form of funds, training, or equipment are those that primarily carry out acts of terrorism.

and

To insert in the original second paragraph between the second and third phrase the following:

“...to acknowledge the pain, suffering, and loss of life on all sides of this ongoing and terrible conflict...”

Ms. Sharon Josephson [Northwestern Minnesota Synod] raised a point of order, saying that the proper procedure here is to make a motion to reconsider an action.

Bishop Anderson called upon Parliamentarian Mr. David Hardy who reported that the assembly was not required to proceed with reconsideration but, citing Section 35 in *Robert's Rules of Order*, said it could consider the amendment immediately.

Mr. Charlier said that the original motion is not balanced and that the action oversimplifies the argument. He asserted that the memorial also makes the assumption that by removing military aid for Israel and converting it into other aid it would bring peace, but he said that is not likely. Mostly importantly, he said, the day the resolution was passed, the Jewish Community Relations Committee told *The Indianapolis Star* that the action was “regrettable.”

The Rev. Michelle Rowell [Western Iowa Synod] asked about the last sentence in the new second paragraph, saying the it was very unclear and that she wanted clarification.

Mr. Charlier said that it refers to groups in an earlier sentence.

The Rev. Donna Wright [Nebraska Synod] requested that the motion to amend be divided.

Bishop Anderson said that can be done at the time of the vote and that “we are now working on the first paragraph.”

An unidentified voting member suggested that because there are so many grammatical complications in the amendment it should be withdrawn until it is perfected.

Ms. Sarah W. Wing [Northwest Washington Synod] moved to amend by deletion:

Moved;

Seconded: To delete the sentence, “~~The groups receiving the aid in the form of funds, training, or equipment are those that primarily carry out acts of terrorism.~~”

Ms. Wing asserted that this sentence could be removed without losing the thrust of the amendment.

Moved;

Seconded: **Yes-810; No-134**

Carried: To delete the sentence, “~~The groups receiving the aid in the form of funds, training, or equipment are those that primarily carry out acts of terrorism.~~”

Bishop Anderson then called for a vote on the first portion of the motion to amend by insertion of a new second paragraph.

Moved;

Seconded: **Yes-722; No-233**

Carried: To insert as a new paragraph two the following:

To request the presiding bishop to send a letter to the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations urging that diplomatic pressure is continued to be placed on those countries who aid groups operating in the Middle East which have as their primary purposes to oppose the peace process, further destabilize the region or simply to promote violence.

Bishop Anderson directed the assembly to the second part of the motion to amend paragraph two by adding, “to acknowledge the pain, suffering, and loss of life on all sides of this ongoing and terrible conflict.”

Mr. Myrvin Christopherson [Nebraska Synod] raised a concern about ungrammatical language and said that we need to find a way to facilitate handling it in a more expeditious way.

Bishop Anderson said that the assembly could vote to refer it back to committee for perfection.

Mr. Christopherson suggested that with unanimous consent “we could permit the secretary and the chair to make those changes,” and asked if he could ask for unanimous consent.

Bishop Anderson said, “Why don’t you let me ask? Does anyone object to good grammar?” Hearing no objections, he added, “the wording will be scrutinized and made as appropriate as possible.” Seeing no one else at microphones, he then called for the vote on the second portion of the motion to amend.

Moved;

Seconded; **Yes-904; No-65**

Carried: To insert in the original second paragraph between the second and third phrase the following:

“...to acknowledge the pain, suffering, and loss of life on all sides of this ongoing and terrible conflict...”

Assembly

Action

CA01.05.19

To affirm the concern raised in the Alaska Synod memorial over continued U.S. aid to Israel;

To request the presiding bishop to send a letter to the President of the United States, Vice President, Secretary of State, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and all members of Congress: (1) asking that they urge and work with both the Israelis and the Palestinians to end the cycle of violence and seek a just and lasting peace; (2) urging the conversion of funds presently budgeted or allocated for military assistance for nations of the Middle East to support for humanitarian assistance and economic aid; (3) discouraging the private, direct or indirect, sale of military weaponry to Middle Eastern nations; (4) urging the immediate international protection of Palestinian populations under occupation; and (5) to urge the cessation of human sacrifice by suicide bombings from Palestinian military factions;

To request that the presiding bishop send a letter to the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations urging that diplomatic pressure continue to be placed on those countries which aid groups operating in the Middle East and have as their primary purpose to oppose the peace process, destabilize further the region, or promote violence;

To encourage ELCA members to participate in the ecumenical prayer vigil for peace in the Middle East, to support through prayer and material assistance the people in the region affected by civil strife, to acknowledge the pain, suffering, and loss of life on all sides of this ongoing and terrible conflict, and to pray for the ELCA missionary staff in the region;

To affirm the work of the Division for Global Mission and the Division for Church in Society in their efforts to organize an ecumenical response to the crisis in Palestine and Israel that includes accompanying Palestinians and Israelis in nonviolent efforts to end the occupation; mobilizing grass-roots activists in the U.S. for prayer and advocacy; developing and distributing congregational resources; and engaging the public media concerning U.S. policy toward the Middle East; and

To commend the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and Palestine, Bishop Munib Younan, its congregations and schools for steadfastness in faith and courage in witness throughout this time of crisis; for their ministries of reconciliation and peacemaking; for their tireless assistance and service including ministries with traumatized children, students, and congregation members.

GREETINGS:

LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE

Bishop Anderson asked, “Will those who were not born in the United States but are present at this assembly please stand so we can see how this church has been enriched.” They stood as the assembly applauded.

Bishop Anderson invited Mr. Ralston Deffenbaugh, president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), to bring a greeting.

Mr. Deffenbaugh thanked Bishop Anderson for his work and then told about Sudanese youth facing death who tried to escape the war in Sudan as family members were slaughtered and children were forced into fighting. Their flight became a death march, he said, but now the lost boys and girls, “the real survivors,” are here. Now it’s escalators, fast food, traffic, snow, and people who don’t look like them that are their challenges, he said. The new arrivals are strangers in a new land, he said, and our job is to help welcome them.

He said that some of you support the programs of LIRS, turning advocacy into action. He asked, “People of the ELCA: what does God require of you?” and said that the Bible states it bluntly: “Love the stranger.” He said that there are 14.5 million refugees in world and the United States admits only one-half of one percent, and asked: Have we, who are here like refugees, truly welcomed refugees? Do we

advocate for justice? Have we answered the call? Have you embraced this call as your own? He concluded, "Welcome the stranger, embrace the stranger as an angel. God tells us to do so."

REPORT OF THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VIII)

Bishop Anderson invited Ms. Lily R. Wu and the Rev. Kirkwood J. Havel, co-chairs of the Committee of Reference and Counsel, to come forward to continue the discussion of resolutions from voting members.

Bishop Donald J. McCoid [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod] moved the following:

Moved;

Seconded:

To request that the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and others as the presiding bishop determines, engage in continuing consultation with the presiding bishop and other representatives of The Episcopal Church, affirming the abiding dedication of this church to live fully into the commitments that are part of the full-communion relationship between the ELCA and The Episcopal Church, as expressed in "Called to Common Mission;" and

To express gratitude to the members of the Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee as they foster mutual understanding in the implementation of the relationship of full communion for the sake of witness to the Gospel and effective mission together.

Bishop Anderson said that action on the motion would be deferred until printed copies were distributed to the assembly.

Ms. Wu explained the distinction between the Reference and Counsel Committee and the Memorials Committee and noted where names of the committee members were printed. She also described the composition of the committee that included synodical bishops, parish pastors, an accountant, business owners, a musician, a state supreme court justice, a forensic expert, a health-care professional, and a retired nuclear engineer.

Motion C: The Family Farm

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VIII, page 3.)

Calling attention to Motion C regarding the Family Farm, Ms. Wu read the recommendation of the Committee of Reference and Counsel:

To refer Motion D to the Division for Outreach in collaboration with the Division for Congregational

Ministries and the Division for Church and Society, for consideration in light of the concerns addressed in Memorial B6; and

To request that a report and recommendation be brought to the Church Council at its April 2002 meeting.

Bishop Anderson explained that the memorial cited in the recommendation, Category B6: The Family Farm, is printed on page 22 of Section VI in the *2001 Pre-Assembly Report*, and noted that it had been amended to add the paragraphs in Motion C. Since it had budgetary considerations, he said, it was referred to the Reference and Counsel Committee. He clarified that action being considered was not to amend Memorial B6 itself, but on the recommendation to refer.

The Rev. Leland M. Eilert [Southern Ohio Synod] spoke in favor of referring, noting that he was the one who moved the amendment. He said that what he wanted to accomplish was to keep the need to address rural issues in front of us. One person working at the rural desk is not enough, he said, and urged that we take advantage of the window of opportunity before us and get a second staff person.

The Rev. Donald L. Duy [Nebraska Synod] rose to ask a question of Mr. Deffenbaugh. Bishop Anderson said that Mr. Deffenbaugh would be alerted and the question taken care of later. He then proceeded with the vote.

Assembly

Action

Yes-831; No-43

CA01.05.20

To refer Motion D to the Division for Outreach in collaboration with the Division for Congregational Ministries and the Division for Church and Society, for consideration in light of the concerns addressed in Memorial B6; and

To request that a report and recommendation be brought to the Church Council at its April 2002 meeting.

Category B6: The Family Farm

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VI, pages 21-22.)

After Motion C was referred, Bishop Anderson asked for consent "to follow through and vote on the recommendation of the Memorials Committee on The Family Farm, Section VI, page 22." Seeing no indication of objection, he proceeded with the vote.

Assembly

Action

Yes-898; No-9

CA01.05.21

To acknowledge the concerns related to the family farm raised in the memorial of the Minneapolis Area Synod and to reaffirm the action of the 1999 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to:

- pray for family farmers, their families, and rural communities;
- learn about the challenges facing family farms;
- support family farmers through advocacy for just legislation that protects family farms, the land, and the small towns they make possible;
- continue support for small town and rural congregations;

To commend the initiatives of the presiding bishop of this church who called together, in an historic meeting, the leaders of the National Farmers Organization, the Farm Bureau, and the Farmers' Union;

To support the areas of agreement that emerged from the March 2001 Rural Summit:

- insuring a safe, abundant food supply for the world;
- building upon, improving, or replacing existing structures to respond to the effects of low commodity pricing;
- providing human, financial, and spiritual resources for rural communities;
- providing opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and their communities to meet;
- studying agriculture concentration, industry-wide consolidation, and other phenomena and adopt legislation to promote fair, open, and competitive markets;
- emphasizing conservation, protection, and regeneration of land;
- educating agricultural producers and others on production and economics; and
- engaging in dialogue on issues related to rural and farm life.

To request that the director for rural ministry and networking continue to assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by working with ecumenical and other partners to respond to the farm and rural crisis and identify resources that can be used in that response.

**Motion E:
Income and Expense Charts**

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VIII, page 5.)

Ms. Wu read the recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee:

To refer Motion E to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council for consideration at its November 2001 meeting; and

To request that the committee report its action to Mr. John D. Litke.

Mr. John D. Litke [Metropolitan New York Synod] said that he had spoken with members of the Budget and Finance Committee and thinks they are in agreement. He expressed concern, because of inflation, about what will evolve in the future and wants better financial information so the implications can be addressed.

Assembly**Action****Yes-852; No-21****CA01.05.22**

To refer Motion E to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council for consideration at its November 2001 meeting; and

To request that the committee report its action to Mr. John D. Litke.

**Motion F:
Resources for ELCA Affiliated Organizations**

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VIII, page 6.)

Ms. Wu read the recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee:

To refer Motion F to the Division for Church in Society and the Division for Higher Education and Schools for consideration in program and resource development.

Seeing no one rising to speak to the motion, Bishop Anderson called for a vote.

Assembly**Action****Yes-877; No-18****CA01.05.23**

To refer Motion F to the Division for Church in Society and the Division for Higher Education and Schools for consideration in program and resource development.

**Motion G:
Stipend for ELCA Vice President**

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VIII, page 7.)

Ms. Wu said that the rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee affirmed the vision of the Commission for a New Lutheran Church that this position be a volunteer position, with reimbursement of all expenses related to this position. In addition, the practices of synods and congregations are that these (or similar) positions are volunteer positions.

She then reported that the committee recommended disapproval of this motion.

The Rev. James G. Krauser [Metropolitan New York Synod] asked if it would be appropriate to refer this to the Church Council. Bishop Anderson said that would be an appropriate action once the motion was before the assembly.

The Rev. John V. Carrier [Southeastern Minnesota Synod] moved:

Moved;

Seconded:

WHEREAS, the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 13.32.02., stipulates that the vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, “shall serve without salary”; and

WHEREAS, the office of the vice president is significantly demanding of the officer’s time and personal resources, including considerable financial expense and possible income losses due to required absences from one’s place of employment; and

WHEREAS, our present structure could impair the effectiveness of the vice president in being able to fulfill her or his duties; and

WHEREAS, personal financial constraints will prevent some members of this church from considering serving in this office; and

WHEREAS, Jesus and the early Church recognized the need for leaders to be adequately supported by the Church (Jesus said to the 70... “the laborers need to be paid” [Luke 10:7]... “and it was distributed to each as any had need,” [Acts 4:35]; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that bylaw 13.32.02. of the ELCA constitution be amended to read: The vice president shall serve in a stipended capacity.

Speaking to his motion, Pr. Carrier said that the intent of this motion was to acknowledge that not everyone who is eligible for the position of vice president of this church would be able to afford to carry out the duties of the office. With responsibilities of the position growing, he said, the possibility should be there to compensate not only personal expenses but also lost wages—for example, a teacher who

would have to take a leave of absence to complete these duties. He stated that his desire is to make the offering of a stipend a possibility and not a requirement.

Pr. Krauser moved:

Moved;

Seconded: To refer Motion G to the Church Council for study.

Pr. Krauser said that Pr. Carrier’s point was well taken, but the duties of the vice president are best understood by the Church Council and that body is better able to address this concern.

Seeing no one rising to speak to the motion, Bishop Anderson called for a vote.

Assembly

Action

Yes-792; No-138

CA01.05.24

To refer Motion G to the Church Council for study.

Bishop Anderson, calling for the Orders of the Day, asked for the report of the Elections Committee on the second ballot for secretary.

ELECTION REPORT:

SECOND BALLOT FOR SECRETARY

(Reference: 2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, pages 9-13, and 33.)

Mr. Phillip H. Harris, chair of the Elections Committee, said that, even though the results would be posted in hotels, he would offer an oral report for two reasons: “First, because we have the results, so you should have them; and second, because biographical information from the top seven nominees is needed.” He asked the top seven nominees to proceed to the assembly office and fill out a biographical form. He added that if any of these nominees were not present at the assembly they should arrange with the assembly office for receiving that biographical data to provide background information for voting members. Mr. Harris read the results of the second ballot, and indicated that the seven nominees to appear on the third ballot for secretary were:

Lowell Almen	546
Glenddy Sculley	230
Mark Grorud	53
Addie Bulter	50
Harvey Nelson	4
John Pearson	4
Barbara Price	4

Bishop Anderson asked Ms. Addie J. Butler, vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to assume the chair.

**GREETINGS:
WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

Chair *pro tem* Butler called upon the president of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Ms. Linda Chinnia, a member of Holy Comforter Lutheran Church in Baltimore and director for elementary schools for the Baltimore City Public School System.

Ms. Chinnia said that the Women of the ELCA act to mobilize every woman to act boldly on her faith. She said that the women's organization is developing a strategic plan with the help of past and present leaders and many active members, a plan that looks to the future to prepare women to live their lives in the tension between faithfulness and relevance. Among the goals she listed are to build communities that are cohesive, respond to issues affecting women, assess structures in terms of mission, and use demographic information as a basis for mission planning.

She called attention to the Fifth Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA in Philadelphia, July 8-14, 2002, and its theme, "Listen! God Is Calling." She concluded, "Come, join us as we mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ."

REPORT OF THE YOUNG ADULT CONVOCATION

Chair *pro tem* Butler reported that there were two concurrent convocations again during this assembly—a youth convocation and a young adult convocation. She then called for the report of the young adults, presented by all 40 young adults registered for that event. The assembly greeted the young people with sustained applause.

Standing before microphones, they said that they had 9.5 theses they would like to discuss. They said, "It is a good time to be the Church," that they were present as diverse people with diverse gifts, and had discussed many issues. They said that they are passionate about four of them: worship, evangelism, social justice, and the young adult voice, and in a litany presented their concerns about each of these issues.

They asked all the young adults in the plenary hall—those between 18 and 30—to please stand. Several dozen rose to applause. The young adults on the speaker's platform said, "We challenge you to empower larger numbers to participate," and concluded their report with an acclamation in unison: "We challenge you."

RECESS

Chair *pro tem* Butler called upon the Rev. Lowell G. Almen, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America, to offer announcements. Secretary Almen reminded voting members that the deadline for proposed amendments to the budget was 12:15 P.M., Sunday, August 12, 2001.

Following prayer led by Ms. Carol L. Weiser, a member of the Church Council, Chair *pro tem* Butler declared the assembly to be in recess at 10:00 A.M. until 8:00 A.M. Monday, August 13, 2001.