



Preliminary Minutes

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Tenth Biennial Churchwide Assembly
August 6–11, 2007—Chicago, Illinois

Plenary Session Six

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

8:30 A.M.—11:00 A.M.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called to order Plenary Session Six of the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at 8:30 A.M., Central Daylight Time, on Thursday, August 9, 2007, in Exhibition Hall A at Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois. He rang the bells, lit the candle, and asked the Rev. Kenneth M. Rupp, member of the Church Council from Richmond, Va., to lead the assembly in Morning Prayer. The assembly sang “O Day of Rest and Gladness”; the Scripture reading was from Proverbs.

Opening Remarks

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson informed the assembly that it would have a busy day with a variety of matters coming before it. Referring to the Board of Pensions Wellness Wheel, he said that voting members know that part of the Wellness Wheel involves physical activity. Using the voting machines, he asked how many had done any of the following in the last two days:

1. Walked to Navy Pier or back (405);
2. “Walked, Ran, or Rolled” in the morning (21);
3. “Stretched and Prayed” with Murray Finck (7);
4. More than one of the above (100).

The presiding bishop suggested that voting members could do better in this area. He noted that part of the Wellness Wheel also involved spiritual health and asked those who had prayed outside of the plenary sessions or worship to press “yes” on their voting machines. A total of 788 indicated they had and 20 that they had not. He responded that everyone should pray for those 20.

Presiding Bishop Hanson reminded the assembly that a voting member had asked a question during Plenary Session Four about offerings at assembly worship services. He reported that he had conferred with the worship team, which had indicated that Churchwide Assembly offerings were designated in advance. For assembly participants and visitors who preferred to offer a gift each day, he announced that there would be baskets at the entrance to the worship center on Thursday and Friday, and that, unless otherwise designated, those gifts would support the World Hunger Appeal.

The presiding bishop added that, in general, gifts would be welcome at any time and could be given online or mailed to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Such gifts could be designated to a specific ministry of choice or left undesignated.

Special gifts—even for a rabbit or a goat—could be given through the ELCA Good Gifts catalog.

Presiding Bishop Hanson proposed the following for the morning’s agenda:

- Elections Report: First Ballot for Secretary. He noted that the deadline for withdrawal of names from the ballot would be 9:30 A.M.
- Report of the Secretary
- Elections: First Common Ballot
- Greeting from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
- Consideration of memorial Category B3 on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- Report of the World Hunger Appeal and Lutheran World Relief
- Resolution on the World Hunger Appeal
- Second ballot for secretary
- Greeting from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
- Dwelling in the Word.

He further proposed the following items for the afternoon plenary session:

- Bible study
- Consideration of extension of full communion to two additional provinces of the Moravian Church in America
- Ecumenical greetings from full-communion partner churches
- Elections Report: Second Ballot for Secretary
- Consideration of memorials on sexuality
- Dwelling in the Word
- Nominee forum for secretary.

Hearing no objection, the chair ordered the agenda set as proposed.

The Rev. Heidi W. Punt [Central/Southern Illinois Synod] announced that a document had been circulated throughout the assembly hall and asked if it had been authorized. Presiding Bishop Hanson replied that he just had been made aware of the problem. He asked members to abide by the rules that the assembly had adopted.

Elections Report: First Ballot for Secretary

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IV, pages 3–4; Section I, pages 17–19.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called on Mr. Phillip H. Harris, chair of the Elections Committee, to report on the first ballot for secretary. Mr. Harris reported that 1,004 ballots had been cast, including three illegal ballots. He indicated that no one had received the 753 votes required for election and added that nominees who wanted to withdraw from further

consideration would need to make that request to the secretary's deputy by 9:30 A.M.

Report of the Secretary

(Reference: *2007 Pre-Assembly Report*, Section II, pages 7–32.2; Section I, page 20.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson announced that the assembly would move to the report of the secretary, the Rev. Lowell G. Almen, whose written report was in the *2007 Pre-Assembly Report*, Section II, beginning on page 7. Presiding Bishop Hanson commented that this would be Secretary Almen's tenth and final report as secretary of this church. Although the assembly would have the opportunity on Friday to thank Secretary Almen more formally for his remarkable ministry, he invited the assembly to join him now in an expression of appreciation for the secretary. The assembly stood and applauded for several minutes as Secretary Almen came to the dais. The presiding bishop announced that this was the longest continuous smile by Secretary Almen in 20 years.

Secretary Almen's report was presented by video. A printed version of the complete text, "Report of the Secretary," Part Five, Section II, pages 27-30 of the *2007 Pre-Assembly Report*, was distributed later to voting members. In the report, Secretary Almen presented an overview of his 20 years of service as the first and only secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As he stood in front of the oldest unaltered Lutheran church building in North America, Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, Pennsylvania, Secretary Almen spoke of how its pioneer pastor, the Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, had served as a model for him throughout his ministries, beginning with his first call to what was then St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Dresser, Wisconsin.

Pr. Almen went on to serve as associate campus pastor and director for communications at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, later becoming managing editor and editor of *The Lutheran Standard*, the official magazine of the American Lutheran Church. Pr. Almen was first elected secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1987.

Pr. Almen spoke of his work at the Lutheran Center in Chicago as well as beyond those walls: visiting hundreds of congregations and synodical assemblies and events; being part of the Church Council; working with the Conference of Bishops; managing a dedicated staff at the churchwide offices; serving alongside three presiding bishops, three treasurers, and four vice presidents of the ELCA; and functioning as the first chair of the Lutheran-Reformed Coordinating Committee and as a member of the U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue.

Speaking of the international dimensions of his work, Secretary Almen told of meeting popes, patriarchs, and other church leaders throughout the world. He recalled his participation in the Eighth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in 1990 and the Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1998; his conversations with Bishop Kleopas Dumeni of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia at Namibia's independence celebration; and his attendance at the observation of the 1700th anniversary of Christianity in Armenia.

Secretary Almen observed that he found himself "with tear-filled eyes as I think of the places in many lands which I have seen firsthand the work of Lutherans and others in relief and development" through Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran

World Relief, and the “marvelous ministries” of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Lutheran Services in America. He also mentioned the work of Lutheran pastors serving as military chaplains.

He described his heart as filled with gratitude for having been able to serve this church as secretary, and thanked his wife, Sally, and their children, Paul and Cassandra, for “the unbounded love they have given me so generously” throughout his years of service to the Church.

The end of the video prompted another round of vigorous applause from the assembly, which then stood and sang the hymn, “Your Hand, O Lord, Has Guided.”

Presiding Bishop Hanson stated that, under the assembly’s rules of procedure, the secretary’s report was received and referred to the Reference and Counsel Committee without further action of the assembly.

Elections: First Common Ballot

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, pages 1-91; Section I, pages 9, 13-15.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson announced that the assembly would proceed to the first ballot for Church Council, various churchwide and program committees, and boards of separately incorporated churchwide units. He informed voting members that they would need the nominee list and the computer ballot form on which they could mark their choices. The forms were passed out to voting members by their synodical bishops. Presiding Bishop Hanson reminded them that the biographical descriptions of the nominees were contained in Section VII of the 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, including information on nominations made by voting members.

The presiding bishop called upon Mr. Phillip H. Harris, chair of the Elections Committee, for a word of explanation about the various tickets. Mr. Harris pointed out that there had been an error on the first ballot for secretary. The votes for Michael Dubsy, regrettably, had been split into two entries on the ballot, and he had in fact received nine votes. Mr. Harris apologized for the mistake, which fortunately had had no effect upon the election itself. Synodical bishops were reminded that, if a voting member of their synod were absent, they would need to retain that person’s ballot since the governing documents forbid voting by proxy. Mr. Harris gave voting members explicit instructions on voting procedures.

Presiding Bishop Hanson recommended that people vote over lunch and not during the business session, and added that voting members would probably need to take about a half hour to fill out the ballot. He reminded them to hand ballots in at the ballot stations located at the main doors to the plenary hall before the 2:00 P.M. deadline.

Greeting: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson observed that it was his pleasure to welcome the Rev. Munib A. Younan, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and a vice president of the Lutheran World Federation. The presiding bishop mentioned that Bp. Younan

would be present throughout the assembly and would be in the Augsburg Fortress bookstore later in the day for a book signing.

Presiding Bishop Hanson reminded the assembly that the 2005 Churchwide Assembly had approved a “strategy for engagement in Israel and Palestine” and that a report on the strategy could be found in Section V of the 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, beginning on page 53. In addition, he noted that a “Peace, Not Walls” bookmark had been distributed to remind participants of the strategy. He said that the assembly later would consider memorials that addressed the ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine.

Since 2000, he stated, this church has held a prayer vigil for peace in the Middle East. The presiding bishop referred to Bp. Younan as a contemporary Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who understood the cost of being marked with cross of Christ forever and of laying down one’s life. He reported that quite recently he had witnessed Bp. Younan’s efforts to bring Christian leaders and Muslims leaders together. He asked the assembly to extend a welcome to this prophet of Jesus Christ, peace, and justice. The assembly rose to its feet and applauded enthusiastically as Bp. Younan stepped to the podium.

Bp. Younan brought greetings from Lutherans in Jordan and the Holy Land and expressed his deep gratitude to the assembly for its commitment to mission, leadership, and support. He observed that no state or nation is independent, but rather all are interdependent. As the Church works for justice, some say it should not meddle in politics, he observed, but it was Jesus who said that his followers should speak out for the oppressed and for justice, caring for all human beings. Working for justice is not political, he said, but is biblical and spiritual. Almost 20 years ago, former U.S. President Ronald Reagan had said that the Berlin wall should come down. Who could have imagined, Bp. Younan asked, that 20 years later the world would be back to building walls? How many lives would be lost and villages demolished before the walls of hatred would be torn down? He argued that the wall would not provide security, but would promote a culture of hatred, resentment, and separation.

Bp. Younan observed that two years ago in Orlando the 2005 Churchwide Assembly had adopted the “Peace, Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land” strategy. He could not say how much his people appreciated the support and the hope the campaign gives them. He stated that the church in Palestine teaches non-violence, and that arms, walls, weapons, and occupations would only breed more violence. He noted that this year marked 40 years of occupation by the Israelis and commented that 40 years of wilderness time was enough. He hoped that both peoples could be liberated from a culture of occupation, violence, and death into a society in which each recognizes the other.

He declared that the West must implement a single standard for justice and that the United States must become an honest broker for peace. He stated, “The road to peace is only through Jerusalem,” and urged world leaders to have the political will to stand up and say, “Mr. President, tear down that wall and use your power to free both Israelis and Palestinians and keep our children from fear and violence. Don’t send more weapons. Send us justice.”

He added that Palestinians must do their part, commenting that the internal fighting was discouraging. He stated his belief that there is one just Palestinian cause: to end the occupation nonviolently and build a Palestinian state along the lines of the pre-1967 borders. He asked the assembly to endorse this goal and support a just solution to ending the refugee problem. He remarked that the Palestinian economy was in shambles from the occupation, and that Palestinians needed to become a modern, democratic, secular society.

Bp. Younan asserted that no religion had a monopoly on hate and extremism and that religion must become part of the solution. Christians, Muslims, and Jews must stand up for the common values of justice, peace, love, forgiveness, and community, he urged. He added that Christians must reexamine their own extremism, which he called “Christian Zionism.” Unilateral support of Israel was dangerous.

He said that this church could help in the following ways:

1. By becoming educated about the situation and teaching children to live together with mutual understanding and compassion. He proclaimed that extremism in the name of God is blasphemy and heresy.
2. By engaging in prophetic interfaith dialogue. The bishop argued that the Abrahamic religions must work together to promote their shared values of peace, justice, reconciliation, and tolerance. Bp. Younan thanked Presiding Bishop Hanson and others for their prophetic leadership, and called on religious leaders of all three faiths to be instruments of peace, brokers of justice, and workers for reconciliation.
3. By securing continuity of Christianity in the Holy Land. The bishop explained that Christians were leaving the region because of the unstable situation and harsh restrictions of the occupation, and now represented less than two percent of the population. Some have suggested, he said, that Arab Christians are the only ones who can bring stability to the region.

Bp. Younan observed that the Palestinian church is a suffering church—not persecuted or weak, but suffering. He said he believed that the Lord wants Palestinian Christians to suffer in order to carry out the mystery of salvation, and that their witness is in their suffering. He referred to St. Paul’s words to the Corinthians about deciding to know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified. But, he added, sometimes it is difficult to find hope; he has found none in politics or politicians but only in the living God and God’s people. He said that his church would continue to work for reconciliation so they could see God in the Israelis and they would see God in the Palestinians.

He concluded with a pledge to work to work to liberate the world from hate, including Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-Americanism, and to commit together to develop a culture of bridge building, where weapons will be transformed into plowshares, hatred into love, and oppression into liberation. He asked that the Holy Spirit continue to guide each person to become an instrument of healing and a broker of reconciliations.

Bp. Younan’s impassioned address evoked a standing ovation and sustained applause. Presiding Bishop Hanson expressed gratitude for Bp. Younan’s leadership and declared this church’s continued commitment to working with the ELCJHL.

Report of the Memorials Committee

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VI, pages 1–74; Section I, pages 6, 9, 11-12.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called upon the Rev. Kenneth M. Rupp and Ms. Norma J. Hirsch, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, to present the committee’s report. He asked voting members to turn to Section VI in the 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, memorial Category B3: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

Moved;

Seconded: To receive the memorials from the Pacifica Synod, Metropolitan New York Synod, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, New England Synod, Southeast Michigan Synod, and Metropolitan Chicago Synod and to thank them for their support of efforts by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to promote peace with justice in the Holy Land;

To note the participation of the ELCA in ecumenical and inter-religious forums where religious extremism is addressed;

To acknowledge the Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine, including its call for “increased engagement with conservative Christians and a clearer and more forceful expression of Lutheran theology in the public debate . . .”; and

To call upon the ELCA, in all of its expressions, to recommit itself to the Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine through awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy activities, including pilgrimage visits, sustained financial support, and other forms of economic stewardship.

Ms. Glendy L. Ose [Minneapolis Area Synod] raised a question about the first common ballot. The chair asked that she hold her question until later.

An unidentified voting member rose to move to limit debate. The presiding bishop said that this would apply only to the motion which was on the floor; if he wanted it to apply to all motions, he should wait until action is completed on the current motion.

Mr. Omar L. Tesdell [Southeastern Iowa Synod] moved to amend the motion by adding a final paragraph.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend by addition:*

To call upon the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to underscore the call for economic initiatives by this church and its members in the “Peace, Not Walls” campaign. Such initiatives, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, could include:

- purchasing of products from Palestinian providers and

- exploration of the feasibility of refusing to buy products produced in Israeli settlements. Also to be explored is the entire investment activity by this church.

In support of his motion, Mr. Tesdell indicated that the actions recommended in his amendment would be a powerful testimony in support of Palestinian brothers and sisters. He said that the ELCA's call as a sent church was a call to challenge the *status quo* and to stand in solidarity with marginalized sisters and brothers. He added that the Church is one body by virtue of faith, but is also connected economically. This church needs to explore those connections and build on the positive ones and seek to shed the destructive ones. He commented that Palestinians languish under an Israeli occupation that was accountable to no one. He urged this church to invest in the Palestinian economy, bring world pressure to bear on the situation, and step out as a courageous and sent church.

The Rev. Darrell H. Jodock, professor at Gustavus Adolphus College and faculty resource person, opposed the resolution. He spoke as one who went with a delegation of Jews and Christian leaders to Palestine, stating that actions such as the one under discussion have proven largely ineffective and difficult to carry out. He said that the chief way in which this church could be a positive influence for peace would be to put pressure on the United States government, which for the past six years has dragged its feet in being engaged positively for peace. He stated that ELCA members should work with Jews, Muslims, and Christian brothers and sisters to bring a united voice for peace to influence government. Noting that 80 percent of both Jews and Muslims wanted a two-state solution in which they could live in peace and justice with each other, he reiterated that the actions called for in the amendment were a waste of time. This church should put efforts into doing what Bishop Younan had asked it to do.

The Rev. John H. Schreiber, bishop of the Southeastern Michigan Synod, spoke in favor of the amendment. He applauded the efforts of the ELCA, but said that it needed to match its rhetoric with the vast resources entrusted to it in order to work for peace and justice.

Mr. Jeremy P. Truelove [Indiana-Kentucky Synod] spoke in opposition. He commented that the members of this church needed to work together; the amendment would not achieve the desired goal. He added that the amendment supported Palestinians only and was against Israelis and that the church needed to support both sides in the conflict.

Mr. John Munday [Minneapolis Area Synod] observed that the point of the amendment was to add force to what Bishop Younan had asked this church to do—namely, bring justice.

The Rev. Ruth L. Hanusa [Sierra Pacific Synod] stated that she would like Bishop Younan to speak to this matter.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked him to comment.

Bishop Younan indicated that while the decision belonged to the assembly, the actions requested were not unique. The Church of Sweden, for example, had spoken on boycotting products that are manufactured in settlements. He reiterated that settlements continued to be an obstacle for peace, noting that even the United States government had called the

settlements illegal. Thus, Bishop Younan concluded, if the settlements were illegal, so were their products. He urged the members of the assembly to vote their conscience.

Mr. Mark A. Davis [Southwest California Synod] stated that he wanted to clarify that what was being proposed was not a boycott of all Israeli products but only those manufactured in the settlements.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called the orders of the day, thanking the co-chairs of the Memorials Committee for their work in the plenary session.

Election Matters

Ms. Glenndy L. Ose [Minneapolis Area Synod] asked for clarification concerning the nominees in category 21 of the ballot.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called on Mr. Phillip H. Harris, chair of the Elections Committee.

Mr. Harris explained that the name in ticket 21 in the lower right-hand corner on the first common ballot should have been Terry Cole, Albuquerque, N.M. He said that the information in Section 7, page 12 of the 2007 *Pre-Assembly Report* was correct. In order to vote for Terry Cole, voting members should mark space b in ticket 21 on the ballot.

Mr. Harris indicated that there was one other correction in the biographical data that had been distributed: Page 48.1 should be page 47.1.

When she was recognized by the chair, the Rev. Claire S. Burkat, bishop of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, said that her question had just been answered.

Mr. Thomas Salber [Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod] recommended ticket 21 be eliminated from the first ballot and brought forward on the second ballot.

Assembly

Action:

CA07.04.14

Yes-563; No-439

To remove ticket 21 from the first common ballot in order for an accurate ticket to be included in the second common ballot.

The Rev. Wayne A. Matthias-Long [Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod] wondered whether, if the correct name had been written already on the ballot, it would cause a problem for the scanner. Mr. Harris replied that there would be no difficulty as long as no circles had been filled.

Report: World Hunger Appeal and Lutheran World Relief

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson announced that the assembly would now turn to a report on one of the strongest aspects of this church's shared ministry, the ELCA World Hunger Program and Appeal, which has changed lives throughout the world. He said that this church gives thanks to God that support for the World Hunger Appeal has grown every year and in 2006 had surpassed \$20 million. He added that a resolution of support for the World Hunger Appeal would be considered at the conclusion of the report.

Presiding Bishop Hanson introduced Ms. Nancy Arnison, director for the World Hunger program, and the Rev. John A. Nunes, the newly elected president of Lutheran World Relief (LWR). He repeated what is printed at the bottom of every LWR news release: "Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), individuals, and parish groups in international relief, development, advocacy, and social responsibility."

Ms. Arnison gave examples of how women and children in Tanzania, Detroit, and Chile have been helped through gifts from members of this church, which enabled it to respond to well publicized disasters in addition to the silent disasters of hunger and poverty. She reiterated that gifts to the World Hunger Appeal in 2006 totaled over \$20 million, which she called "a milestone" and a powerful commitment that has made a difference in the lives of many neighbors. She pointed out that this milestone followed an unprecedented response of over \$28 million to earlier disasters, especially the hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. Even while rejoicing at this generosity, she noted that the impact of the storms was exacerbated by poverty and hunger.

She stated that one of the most egregious causes of hunger and poverty is war, and asked the assembly to journey with her via a video to war-torn Uganda to see the work of Lutheran World Relief. The ELCA World Hunger Fund, she said, was present in Uganda through Lutheran World Relief. Ms. Arnison referred to a Ugandan saying, "The heart can see further than the head," and said that eradicating global poverty is achievable. Support for the Millennium Development Goals and the ONE campaign demonstrates this church's commitment to walk with people in poverty and to find sustainable solutions.

Pr. Nunes stated that chronic hunger and poverty continued to create a deadly and silent disaster in the global community. Lutheran World Relief was responding to that disaster by combating the root causes of hunger and poverty. He added that root causes call for root solutions that get to the bedrock of the matter and empower communities to create a future of hope, promise, and possibility. Referring to the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia, he pointed out that Lutheran World Relief stayed in that area even after other international relief agencies had left. He said that ELCA members are called by God to respond to deep human need and to act with indomitable hope, predicting that another tsunami-like disaster would strike sooner or later. Pr. Nunes added that responses to disasters, such as malaria in the sub-Saharan, must be dynamic, complex, and as reasoned as they are impassioned. He thanked the assembly for making the ministry of Lutheran World Relief possible and invited this church to continue working so that others could live in justice and peace.

Ms. Arnison pointed out that hunger was being fought in this country as well as internationally. Funding has been increased to both global and domestic partners, including over \$1 million for domestic hunger grants. Good work was being accomplished, but the task was not completed, so prayers, advocacy, and gifts were as crucial as ever. She thanked ELCA members for their generosity, saying that with God's help, hunger can be ended now.

Dwelling in the Word

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called on the Rev. Ann M. Svennungsen, newly elected president of Texas Lutheran University, for a Dwelling in the Word moment.

Pr. Svennungsen told about being called to the hospital in the middle of the night when her husband, who was recovering from surgery, had taken a turn for the worse and had been put on a respirator. During that night in the ICU waiting room, she had read psalm after psalm. It was as if she was starved for the Word of God: "Make haste to help me, O Lord." The psalms place our lives before God, the heights of joy and the depths of despair. Her husband recovered, she said, and they both still loved the Psalms. She commented that as bodies cannot survive without food, neither can the human spirit survive without the Word. So individuals need help from others to read and dwell in the Word as well as reflect on it. She added that she prayed the Spirit would encourage everyone to dwell in the Word and be nourished every day.

World Hunger Appeal

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IV, page 35.)

Presiding Bishop Hanson indicated that the assembly would move directly into consideration of the resolution on the World Hunger Appeal, found on page 35 of Section IV of the 2007 Pre-Assembly Report.

Moved;

Seconded:

1. To celebrate the milestone of more than \$20 million contributed in one year during fiscal 2006 to the World Hunger Appeal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA);
2. To give thanks to God for the generosity of members in reaching for the first time this new level in annual giving to the World Hunger Appeal;
3. To remember with thanksgiving the vision and commitment of ELCA predecessor church bodies in initiating the World Hunger Appeal in 1974;
4. To rejoice in the fruitful efforts of churches as well as governmental and non-governmental agencies in the battle against hunger, resulting in fewer people numerically going to bed hungry in the world today than in 1974, in spite of the substantial increase in the population of the globe;
5. To express abiding appreciation to the 1999 Churchwide Assembly for establishing the annual goal of \$25 million for World Hunger giving and for those who have used wisely and effectively the funds provided through the World Hunger Appeal of this church and its predecessors throughout the past 33 years, especially:
 - a. the Lutheran World Federation, the 140-member communion of churches through which the ELCA joins in coordinated

- international efforts to respond to crises and engage in long-term, sustainable development work;
 - b. Lutheran World Relief, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), individuals, and parish groups in international relief, development, advocacy, and social responsibility;
 - c. missionaries of the ELCA who witness to God’s grace through their service and advocacy on behalf of persons living in extreme poverty;
 - d. ecumenical partners and others of good will with whom this church serves in response to God’s love in meeting human needs; and
 - e. those who serve through congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, community organizations, and Lutheran agencies and institutions advocating for persons experiencing hunger and living in poverty;
6. To call upon each congregation of the ELCA to participate in the World Hunger Appeal and to invite members to contribute; and
7. To invite renewed efforts by members and congregations to reach and surpass, as soon as possible, the goal of \$25 million in annual giving by individuals and congregations to the World Hunger Appeal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Rev. John A. Hulden [Northwestern Minnesota Synod] pointed to the “really cool” cash card he received upon arriving at the assembly. He asked if there was a way the balance on the cards could be used to fight hunger. Presiding Bishop Hanson replied that an answer would be supplied at a subsequent plenary session.

Mr. Monte C. Albert [Western Iowa Synod] stated that he and his wife had set up a charitable remainder trust that, after it took care of his children for awhile, would go to the World Hunger Appeal. He said he wished his wife could have seen the video on how World Hunger funds were being used. He concluded by saying that charitable remainder trusts were a great tool for giving.

There being no further discussion, Presiding Bishop Hanson called for a vote.

Assembly

Action:

Yes-984; No-5

CA07.04.15 1. To celebrate the milestone of more than \$20 million contributed in one year during fiscal 2006 to the World Hunger Appeal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA);

- 2. To give thanks to God for the generosity of members in reaching for the first time this new level in annual giving to the World Hunger Appeal;
 - 3. To remember with thanksgiving the vision and commitment of ELCA predecessor church bodies in initiating the World Hunger Appeal in 1974;
 - 4. To rejoice in the fruitful efforts of churches as well as governmental and non-governmental agencies in the battle against hunger, resulting in fewer people numerically going to bed hungry in the world today than in 1974, in spite of the substantial increase in the population of the globe;
 - 5. To express abiding appreciation to the 1999 Churchwide Assembly for establishing the annual goal of \$25 million for World Hunger giving and for those who have used wisely and effectively the funds provided through the World Hunger Appeal of this church and its predecessors throughout the past 33 years, especially:
 - a. the Lutheran World Federation, the 140-member communion of churches through which the ELCA joins in coordinated international efforts to respond to crises and engage in long-term, sustainable development work;
 - b. Lutheran World Relief, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), individuals, and parish groups in international relief, development, advocacy, and social responsibility;
 - c. missionaries of the ELCA who witness to God’s grace through their service and advocacy on behalf of persons living in extreme poverty;
 - d. ecumenical partners and others of good will with whom this church serves in response to God’s love in meeting human needs; and
 - e. those who serve through congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, community organizations, and Lutheran agencies and institutions advocating for persons experiencing hunger and living in poverty;
6. To call upon each congregation of the ELCA to participate in the World Hunger Appeal and to invite members to contribute; and
7. To invite renewed efforts by members and congregations to reach and surpass, as soon as possible, the goal of \$25 million in annual giving

by individuals and congregations to the World Hunger Appeal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called on Mr. David A. Ullrich, vice chair of the Credentials Committee, for a credentials report prior to the first ballot for secretary. Mr. Ullrich reported that 1068 voting members were registered.

Second Ballot for Secretary

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IV, pages 3-4; Section I, pages 17-19.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson asked all voting members to take their seats, reminding them that they must be seated at their place on the floor of the assembly in order to vote. He stated that voting members had before them the printed report of the results of the first ballot for secretary, indicating that the number of nominations received for each person was included for information only. He called on Mr. Phillip H. Harris, chair of the Elections Committee, for his report.

Mr. Harris instructed voting members to add the name of Miller, Theodore (6 votes) on the first page of the ballot at about line 19. He then read the names of those who had withdrawn from consideration and instructed voting members to vote only for the nominees that remained. Those names included the following: Michael Cooper-White, Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, Ken Ruppard, David Swartling, Paul Schreck, Glenndy Ose (Skully), Wm. Chris Boerger, Mark Gorud, George Watson, Ruth Hamilton, Mark Werner, Kathie Bender-Schwich, Randall Lee, Raymond Miller, Theodore Miller, Michael Dubsky, Callon Hallway, James Krauser, John Dellis, Loren Mai, Matthew Riegel, David Swarthling, Thomas Christell, Karl Donfried, Gary Mills, Dennis Smith, Albert Arndt, Steve Converse, Amandus Derr, Sue Gamelin, Patricia Lull, Kai Swanson, Kathryn Wicks, Dennis Allen, Kevin Bardonner, Chris Boering, Alan Buresh, Brent Campbell, David Daubert, Barbara Dowdy, Ruben Duran, Paul Everett, Mark Fitzsimmons, Mark Foss, Michael Foss, Scott Gorud, Christine Grumm, Rosemarie Guzman, Bill Harris, Donald Hayn, Richard Johnson, Robert Klonowski, Mark Kolden, Susan Langhauser, Diane Loberger, David Lose, Kathryn Love, Angela Miller, David Miller, John Mills, Gladys Moore, Glen Nycklemoe, Glendy Olson, James Peterson, Jeremy Posadas, Robert Rimbo, Michael Root, Pete Rudowski, Kenneth Rupert, Bradley Schmeling, Paul Schrecker, David Schwartling, Joel Sherer, Dennis Smith, Robert Smith, David Swarthmore, David Swedlin, David Swedling, Yolanda Tanner, Janet Thompson, Luther Thoreson, David Tiede, Robert Vaage, Jonathan Vehar, George Watso, Greg Wenhold, Keith Wiens, William Yesse, Jeffrey Ziegler, Catherine Ziel, Mary Zurell.

Mr. Harris explained that any nominee receiving three-fourths of the votes cast on the second ballot would be elected secretary.

Presiding Bishop Hanson stated that the results of the second ballot would be reported following the Bible study in the afternoon plenary session. He stated that if there were not an election, the seven persons who received the highest number of

votes should promptly submit biographical data to the deputy secretary's desk.

An unidentified voting member asked if names number four and number 35 were the same person. Mr. Harris answered that this was one of the difficult issues faced by the Elections Committee. He explained that when there are different spellings of a name, the committee could not be sure that there was not a member of the ELCA somewhere who had a slightly different spelling than the name of someone else. The reason voting members were asked to include additional information was to help confirm identification of nominees. He noted that the nominee at line number 35 did not have additional information, so those votes could not be given to someone else.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked the assembly to sing "Come and Fill our Hearts" and to pray before voting. He instructed voting members to write in the name of the nominee for secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for whom they wished to vote, then to pass the ballots face down and unfolded to the aisle to be picked up by the pages. After several minutes, the Presiding Bishop Hanson declared the second ballot for secretary to be closed.

Greeting: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson informed the assembly that it next would hear from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), whose name, he said, described its remarkable work among immigrants and refugees. He commented that he recently had heard Mr. Ralston H. Deffenbaugh Jr., president of LIRS, described as a "moral compass" in the debate on immigration.

An unidentified voting member asked if there was biographical information on nominee number 21 and if a DVD of Secretary Almen's report would be available. Presiding Bishop Hanson responded that he would get an answer to the first question and that there would be a DVD of Secretary Almen's report. Another voting member asked if balloting materials should be taken out of the assembly hall. Ms. Kimberley B. Craven [Lower Susquehanna Synod] asked if the assembly would reconvene at 2:30 P.M. Presiding Bishop Hanson replied that he would answer all questions after Mr. Deffenbaugh spoke. He welcomed Mr. Deffenbaugh.

Mr. Deffenbaugh remarked that he wished he could bring an upbeat report, but these have been tough times for refugees and immigrants. He stated that this is a nation that, since September 11, 2001, has been filled with fear. He pointed out that the number of immigrants allowed into this country had been cut from 100,000 a year before 9/11 to less than 50,000 in 2007. He said that the fastest growing group of refugees was from Iraq, but that the United States has resettled fewer than 500 of the millions of Iraqi refugees. Referring to the failure of the U.S. Congress to enact immigration reform, he said that the immigration system was broken. People come to the United States to be reunited with families, for work, or for freedom, but, in this broken system, they are locked up when they arrive, he commented.

Mr. Deffenbaugh reiterated that this nation was paralyzed by fear, fear of the 12 million undocumented persons living here and

even of Iraqi refugees, even those who took the side of the United States at the time of the invasion. He explained that this fear means that more refugees will be apprehended and deported and the need for legal services will grow. LIRS will do its best, he said, to provide education about the current laws and what things congregations can do to assist immigrants and refugees. He noted that congregations would need to be prepared to give pastoral care to the families left behind by deported persons.

He concluded by stating that the ELCA was pro-immigration because it was an immigrant church, that this country was an immigrant nation, and that LIRS would continue to welcome the stranger and encourage this country to be as welcoming as church bodies. Finally, he said, he would remind the assembly of the words of Jesus in this time of fear: "Be not afraid."

In response to questions asked earlier, Presiding Bishop Hanson stated that information about ticket 21 had been distributed earlier, that the afternoon plenary session would convene at 2:00 P.M., but that the assembly hall would be open at 1:00 p.m. to accommodate voting members. He also noted that Ms. Kathryn Sime, director for the World Hunger Appeal and the Disaster Appeal, would have loved to be at the assembly, but was at home tending to a new baby.

Announcements

Secretary Almen made a number of miscellaneous announcements. He reminded voting members of the deadline for the common ballot. He added that the deadline for submitting amendments to the budget was 8:30 A.M. Thursday. He also stated that the balance on cash cards would be used for churchwide ministries.

Closing Prayer

Mr. Grieg L. Anderson, a member of the Church Council from Portland, Ore., led the closing prayer.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson announced that the assembly was in recess, effective 11:08 A.M., until 2:00 P.M.