



Preliminary Minutes

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

Plenary Session Eight

Friday, August 10, 2007

8:30 A.M.—11:00 A.M.

The eighth plenary session of the tenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was called to order by Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson in Exhibition Hall A at Navy Pier, Chicago, Ill., on Friday, August 10, 2007, at 8:32 A.M. Central Daylight Time.

Morning Prayer

The presiding bishop invited Ms. Judy Biffle, a member of Church Council from Houston, Texas, to lead Morning Prayer. The presiding bishop rang the bell to call participants to worship and lighted the candle. Ms. Biffle announced the hymn, “Drawn to the Light,” introduced the responsive reading, read from the Gospel of Luke, and led the assembly in prayers.

Opening Remarks

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson thanked Ms. Judy Biffle for leading Morning Prayer. He also expressed his gratitude to voting members for their commitment to the work of the assembly and their lively involvement in the process. He told the assembly members that they had done well, but shared with them the weighty agenda for the eighth plenary session and his concern about the backlog of work yet to be done. Presiding Bishop Hanson asked for unanimous consent to extend the eighth plenary session until 11:15 A.M. The assembly granted its consent by voice vote.

Presiding Bishop Hanson outlined the items on the agenda for the session: consideration of the social statement on education; the third ballot for secretary; greetings from Lutheran Men in Mission; election report on the third ballot for secretary and the first common ballot; the second common ballot; and continued consideration of the memorials regarding sexuality and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Presiding Bishop Hanson further proposed that the agenda for the ninth plenary session include Bible study; speeches by the nominees for secretary; consideration of memorials, the Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations, constitution and bylaw changes, and the budget; greetings from the Lutheran Youth Organization, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and Women of the ELCA; the report of the youth convocation and the Reference and Counsel Committee; and presentation of the *Servus Dei* Medal to the Rev. Lowell G. Almen, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The session would conclude with recitation of a litany of thanksgiving for 20 years

of this church. The presiding bishop asked voting members whether the assembly would give unanimous consent for the changes. The assembly granted the presiding bishop’s request.

Social Statement on Education:

“Our Calling in Education”

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IV, pages 13-34; Section I, page 12.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson announced consideration of the proposed social statement “Our Calling in Education.” He reminded participants that they had been introduced to the proposed statement through the printed text in the 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, an overview in the third plenary session, and a hearing on Tuesday afternoon. He called attention to the fact that the assembly would consider two actions, one on the social statement itself and one on its implementing resolutions.

Presiding Bishop Hanson reminded the assembly about the importance of social statements in the life of the ELCA. He explained that social statements guide this church as it steps forward as a public church, forming the basis for its public policy and the public speech of the presiding bishop, especially in response to requests for statements on a variety of public policy issues.

The presiding bishop summarized the process for considering the social statement and implementing resolutions. The assembly would begin with a report and recommendations from the *ad hoc* committee, which had received the amendments that had been submitted, met with those who had proposed amendments, and prepared the report that had been distributed to the assembly. The *ad hoc* committee, he said, had recommended first acting on amendments to the social statement and then acting on amendments to the implementing action. He indicated that after the adoption of the social statement had been moved by the secretary, the assembly would discuss and act on the *ad hoc* committee’s recommendations, after which it would consider any additional amendments. Then the assembly would vote on the adoption of the proposed social statement as amended. Adoption of the social statement would require a two-thirds vote. After that vote, the assembly would act on the implementing resolutions, considering first the amendments recommended by the *ad hoc* committee and then other amendments proposed by the assembly. The adoption of the implementing resolutions would require a majority vote.

Presiding Bishop Hanson welcomed to the stage as resource persons the Rev. Rebecca S. Larson, executive director of the Church in Society unit; Mr. Paul J. Dovre, co-chair of the task force; Ms. Christy Lines, co-chair of the task force; the Rev. Roger A. Willer, director for studies in the Church in Society unit; the Rev. Ronald W. Duty, associate director for studies in

the Church in Society unit; and Ms. Judy Biffle, a member of Church Council and chair of the *ad hoc* committee.

Presiding Bishop Hanson acknowledged the critical role in education played by this church's seminaries, colleges and universities, schools, and other institutions. He introduced the presidents of the eight seminaries: the Rev. Michael L. Cooper-White, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg; the Rev. Phillip D.W. Krey, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; the Rev. Marcus J. Miller, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, all part of the Eastern Cluster; the Rev. James K. Echols, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; the Rev. Mark R. Ramseth, Trinity Lutheran Seminary (*in absentia*); and the Rev. Duane H. Larson, Wartburg Theological Seminary, the Covenant Cluster; the Rev. Richard H. Bliese, Luther Seminary; and the Rev. Phyllis B. Anderson, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (*in absentia*), Western Mission Cluster. The assembly responded with applause.

The presiding bishop asked those who are involved in one of this church's preschools, parochial schools, or early childhood education centers to stand and to receive the assembly's gratitude. The assembly expressed its gratitude with applause.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked Secretary Lowell G. Almen to read the recommended action on the social statement.

Moved;

Seconded: To adopt "Our Calling in Education" as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" (2006).

Presiding Bishop Hanson called on Ms. Judy Biffle, chair of the *ad hoc* committee, to provide an overview of the committee's process and recommendations. Ms. Biffle stated that the committee had received 12 motions; two were withdrawn, and two were merged into one. Several were divided to allow action on portions of them as implementing resolutions. On behalf of the committee, Ms. Biffle expressed gratitude for the collegial working relationship with the authors of the proposed amendments and for their commitment in every case to enhancing the strength of the social statement.

The Rev. Dean W. Nelson, bishop of the Southwest California Synod, moved the amendments contained in section I.A.1. of the committee's report.

Moved;

Seconded: To amend the social statement on education by addition of the following:

p. 17, line 50 Insert new sentence: "The needs of students with differing abilities are not always being met effectively."

p. 19, line 84 Insert new sentence after "this church's outdoor ministries" as follows: "Congregations should also

encourage outdoor ministries to offer programs to those with disabilities."

p. 20, line 50 Insert ", including those with disabilities," after "children, youth, and adults"

p. 20, line 71 Insert "all" after "welcome and educate."

p. 21, line 19 Change "violence, and poverty" to "violence, poverty, and disability."

p. 22, line 19 After the paragraph that ends on this line, insert new paragraph as follows: "In recognition of the differing ability and needs of students, this church is committed to the education of students with disabilities. This entails the provision of needed technical and adaptive technology, qualified teachers and staff, appropriate curricula and programs, and support services."

p. 23, line 96 Insert "and special education" after "poverty."

p. 25, line 109 Insert ", and special needs." after "cultural, ethnic, religious, and economic backgrounds." Insert new sentence after "and special needs." as follows: "As they are able, Lutheran schools (sometimes in cooperation with public schools) are expected to make provision for students with special learning needs."

p.27, line 58 Add bullet point after "church" as follows:

- "make adequate provision to meet the needs of students with disabilities, and"

The rationale provided by the *ad hoc* committee for these amendments was that the proposed statement did not adequately address the education of persons with disabilities; these amendments address the issue.

Mr. James T. Stensvaag [Virginia Synod] spoke in favor of these amendments. He acknowledged that working through the amendments to a social statement was not easy and that those engaging in compromise do not get everything that they want.

Ms. Donna M. Treaster [Upper Susquehanna Synod] asked whether the needs of gifted children would be addressed by the

proposed social statement. The task force responded that students of differing needs are addressed consistently throughout the statement; in doing so, the task force had responded adequately to the needs of gifted children.

Ms. Constance Kilmark [South-Central Synod of Wisconsin] spoke in support of these amendments, and cited her role as the mother of an autistic child. She informed the assembly that her child had been an integral part of the life of their congregation because of the warm welcome he had been given there. She said that the proposed amendments do a better job of welcoming those people with special needs to educational systems.

Mr. Earl G. Knitt [East-Central Synod of Wisconsin] expressed his support for the amendment on page 25, line 109 because the amendment clarified that the term "special needs" included both handicapped and gifted persons.

Ms. Nadine R. Anderson [Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod] also supported the amendment. As a school psychologist, she understands that the term "special needs" is interpreted differently in different school districts and states. She stated that sometimes difficult students with special needs are expelled from private schools into public schools. In her experience, parents have not offered the same support to public schools that they offer to private schools, and this places an undue burden on public schools.

Mr. Jason Day [Delaware-Maryland Synod] moved the previous question.

The chair called for a vote on the motion to end debate.

Moved; *Two-Thirds Vote Required*
Seconded; *Yes-964; No-51*
Carried: To end debate.

Debate having been ended, the chair called for a vote.

Moved;
Seconded; *Yes-984; No-18*
Carried: To amend the social statement on education by addition of the following:

p. 17, line 50 Insert new sentence: "The needs of students with differing abilities are not always being met effectively."

p. 19, line 84 Insert new sentence after "this church's outdoor ministries" as follows: "Congregations should also encourage outdoor ministries to offer programs to those with disabilities."

p. 20, line 50 Insert ", including those with disabilities," after "children, youth, and adults"

p. 20, line 71 Insert "all" after "welcome and educate."

p. 21, line 19 Change "violence, and poverty" to "violence, poverty, and disability."

p. 22, line 19 After the paragraph that ends on this line, insert new

paragraph as follows: "In recognition of the differing ability and needs of students, this church is committed to the education of students with disabilities. This entails the provision of needed technical and adaptive technology, qualified teachers and staff, appropriate curricula and programs, and support services."

p. 23, line 96 Insert "and special education" after "poverty."

p. 25, line 109 Insert ", and special needs." after "cultural, ethnic, religious, and economic backgrounds." Insert new sentence after "and special needs." as follows: "As they are able, Lutheran schools (sometimes in cooperation with public schools) are expected to make provision for students with special learning needs."

p.27, line 58 Add bullet point after "church" as follows:

- "make adequate provision to meet the needs of students with disabilities, and"

Bp. Nelson moved the amendments contained in section I.A.2. of the committee's report.

Moved;
Seconded: To amend the social statement on education by substitution:

p. 18, lines 10-11 Substitute for this sentence the following: "Faith formation is a gift of the Holy Spirit that continues throughout life."

The *ad hoc* committee provided a rationale for the amendment, pointing out that it emphasized the freedom of the Holy Spirit in forming faith whenever and however it wills, and that it remains faithful to believers in doing so throughout their lives.

Ms. Marlane E. Druckenmiller [Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod] supported the amendment, noting that pre-baptismal conversations are part of faith formation.

The Rev. Beth A. Schlegel [Lower Susquehanna Synod] moved to amend the amendment:

Moved;
Seconded: To amend the amendment by addition: Insert the words "given at baptism" after the words

“gift of the Holy Spirit.”

The Rev. Gregory W. Frey [Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod], citing his experience with the adult catechumenate, expressed his view that faith formation begins prior to baptism.

Mr. Jayesh S. Hines-Shah [Sierra Pacific Synod] told the assembly that he had been a participant in the adult catechumenate and baptized at age 30. He spoke in opposition to the motion because he recognized the work of the Holy Spirit in his life before he was baptized.

The Rev. Heidi W. Punt [Central/Southern Illinois Synod] moved the previous question.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called for a vote on the motion to end debate.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried: To end debate.

Two-Thirds Vote Required
Yes-897; No-105

Debate having ended, the presiding bishop called for a vote on the amendment to the amendment.

Moved;
Seconded;
Defeated: To amend the amendment by addition:
Insert the words “given at baptism” after the words “gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Yes-159; No-847

There being no further discussion, Presiding Bishop Hanson called for the vote on the amendment.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried: To amend the social statement on education by substitution of the following:
p. 18, lines 10-11 Substitute for this sentence the following: “Faith formation is a gift of the Holy Spirit that continues throughout life.”

Yes-955; No-45

Bp. Nelson moved the amendments contained in section I.A.3. of the committee’s report.

Moved;
Seconded: To amend the social statement on education by addition:
p. 19, line 81 Insert a sentence at the end of the paragraph as follows: “Parents and congregations may also encourage lifelong growth in faith through Lutheran schools, lifelong learning centers, Lutheran campus ministries, and Lutheran colleges and universities.”

The rationale provided by the committee for the amendment was that it enhanced the statement’s treatment of the importance of lifelong learning.

Ms. Diana J. Sickles [Southeastern Iowa Synod] spoke in favor of the amendment. She was grateful for the way that the committee had worked collegially with her. She had been concerned about the gap between the baptismal call to be a light to the world and adult lifelong learning. She was pleased that lifelong learning had been incorporated into the amendment.

There being no further discussion, the presiding bishop called for a vote on the amendment.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried: To amend the social statement on education by addition:

Yes-955; No-33

p. 19, line 81 Insert a sentence at the end of the paragraph as follows: “Parents and congregations may also encourage lifelong growth in faith through Lutheran schools, lifelong learning centers, Lutheran campus ministries, and Lutheran colleges and universities.”

Bp. Nelson moved the amendments contained in section I.A.4. of the committee’s report.

Moved;
Seconded: To amend the social statement on education by addition and substitution:
p. 23, line 24 Rewrite line with insertion as follows:
“. . . need the most support from their schools, for example, educational funding from the federal government to American Indian and Alaska Native communities, both on and off reservations.”
p. 23, line 87 Insert after “rural areas” “, and on American Indian reservations and in Alaska Native communities.”

The rationale from the *ad hoc* committee for this amendment was that it helped to raise awareness of the particular needs and unique status of American Indians and Alaska Native communities in education, while providing an example of a more general problem.

Ms. Kathryn J. Jennie Lightfoot [Saint Paul Area Synod] introduced herself as Standing Deer Woman in her native language. She spoke about the strength of the National Indian Educational Association (NIEA). The NIEA had seen problems in meeting the criteria of the No Child Left Behind legislation as it moved away from an emphasis on culture and language as an important part of education.

The Rev. Ruth M. Peterson [Pacifica Synod] sought the permission of the assembly to make an amendment that she had not submitted by the stated deadline for amendments to the proposed social statement.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked if the assembly would grant its consent for her to move an amendment at this time.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

Yes-787; No-209

To permit an additional amendment to the social statement, which had not met the announced deadline, to be moved.

Pr. Peterson then moved the following:

Moved;
Seconded:

To amend the amendment to the social statement on education by addition:

To insert the words “and Native Hawaiian communities” following the words “both on and off reservations” in section I.A.4., page 22, line 24; and in section I.A.4., page 23, line 87, to add the words “and Native Hawaiian communities” following the words “Alaska Native communities.”

Pr. Peterson spoke to her motion. She said that the Native Hawaiian communities are facing all the same challenges and problems as the American Indian and Alaska Native communities. She added that many Native Hawaiians are part of vibrant Lutheran communities of faith; they would be encouraged by their inclusion in this social statement.

Mr. Robert W. Radtke [Metropolitan Chicago Synod] spoke in opposition to the amendment, saying that he preferred to keep the statement more general in nature since there were so many groups that could be specifically named, including those interested in deaf education.

Ms. Kathryn J. Jennie Lightfoot [Saint Paul Area Synod] stated that there is an alliance among American Indian and Alaskan Native and Hawaiian Native people, who have a special relationship with the United States government that protects their tribal sovereignty.

Mr. Jeremy P. Truelove [Indiana-Kentucky Synod] spoke “lightly” against the amendment to the amendment, saying that he wanted to learn more about the issue. He expressed his concern that not all members of the Hawaiian Native community are in the special needs category.

The Rev. Ruth M. Peterson [Pacifica Synod] supported the amendment she had proposed. She expressed her conviction that no blanket statement is accurate but that the overwhelming majority of Native Hawaiians have special educational needs.

Mr. Chad J. Beckius [Nebraska Synod] spoke against the amendment. As a public school teacher, he desired a focus on equitable funding for all. While group after group could be added to the amendment, such addition actually detracts from those who truly have special needs in education, he said.

Mr. Jason Day [Delaware-Maryland Synod] moved to close debate on the amendment to the amendment and on the amendment itself.

The presiding bishop called on the assembly to vote on the motion to end debate.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Yes-932; No-68

To end debate on the amendment to the amendment and the amendment itself.

Debate having been closed, the presiding bishop called for a vote on the amendment to the amendment.

Moved;
Seconded;

Yes-647; No-377

Carried: *To amend the amendment to the social statement on education by addition:*

To insert the words “and Native Hawaiian communities” following the words “both on and off reservations” in section I.A.4., page 22, line 24; and in section I.A.4., page 23, line 87, to add the words “and Native Hawaiian communities” following the words “Alaska Native communities.”

Presiding Bishop Hanson called for the vote on the amended amendment.

Moved;
Seconded;

Yes-647; No-359

Carried: *To amend the social statement on education by addition:*

p. 23, line 24 Rewrite line with insertion as follows: “. . .need the most support from their schools, for example, educational funding from the federal government to American Indian and Alaska Native communities, both on and off reservations, and Native Hawaiian communities.”

p. 23, line 87 Insert after “rural areas” “, and on American Indian reservations and in Alaska Native communities and Native Hawaiian communities.”

Bp. Nelson moved the amendments contained in section I.A.5. of the committee’s report.

Moved;
Seconded:

To amend the social statement on education by substitution:

p. 24, lines 77-80 Substitute the following language for the current text of the statement: “Whether or not these reform proposals will improve education may vary from one context to another. In each context citizens must ask the basic questions suggested above under ‘Evaluating Education Reforms.’”

The rationale that the committee gave for the amendment is that it clarified the intent of the language in the text.

There being no discussion on the proposed substitution, the presiding bishop called for a vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-909; No-65

Carried: To amend the social statement on education by substitution:

p. 24, lines 77-80 Substitute the following language for the current text of the statement: "Whether or not these reform proposals will improve education may vary from one context to another. In each context citizens must ask the basic questions suggested above under 'Evaluating Education Reforms.'"

Bp. Nelson moved the amendments contained in section I.A.6. of the committee's report.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the social statement on education, as follows:

p. 29, lines 66-78 Move this entire paragraph and insert it as a paragraph at line 31.

The paragraph currently at lines 31-37 would then follow this insertion.

p. 29, new line 31 Begin sentence with "Today campus ministries . . ."

p. 29, new line 32 Delete sentence that begins "On campuses . . ." and insert substitute sentence that reads as follows: "On campuses where other ministries sometimes attract more students, Lutheran campus ministries can question their relevance and vitality."

The rationale given by the *ad hoc* committee for these amendments was that the relocation of the paragraph places it more appropriately in the section discussing the history and contemporary challenges of campus ministry. The changes in text specify the challenges to campus ministry.

Ms. Candice M. Rosin [Eastern North Dakota Synod], citing her experience as an English teacher, asked if the pronoun "their" referenced "Lutheran campus ministries" or "other ministries."

Mr. Ralph G. Barrett [Virginia Synod] expressed his concern over the wording, which seemed to him to be fearful and competitive.

Mr. Monte C. Albert [Western Iowa Synod] rose for a point of personal privilege. He said that he could not hear, nor could he read the video screen. The presiding bishop referred Mr. Albert's concern to the technical team.

The Rev. D. Paul Coen [Nebraska Synod] stated that there were more students at public universities than on Lutheran college campuses. Lutheran campus ministry has served a vast

number of students, he commented.

Ms. Candice M. Rosin [Eastern North Dakota Synod] moved to amend the amendment.

Moved;

Seconded: To amend the amendment to the social statement on education by addition:

To insert "own" after "their" and before "relevance."

There being no discussion on the amendment to the amendment, the presiding bishop called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-845; No-88

Carried: To amend the social statement on education by addition:

To insert "own" after "their" and before "relevance."

The Rev. Robert D. Dotzel [Southeastern Iowa Synod] spoke in favor of the amendment. There were many struggles and tensions in campus ministry, but the struggles have not defined campus ministry. The struggles have grown out of the diversity of campus ministry experiences.

The Rev. Anne L. Morawski [Rocky Mountain Synod] moved to amend the amendment:

Moved;

Seconded: To amend the amendment to the social statement on education, as follows:

To delete the sentence that begins "On campuses. . ."

Pr. Morawski spoke to her amendment, saying that longevity is not a concern for all campus ministries, thus the statement would be stronger if this sentence were deleted.

Mr. Jason Day [Delaware-Maryland Synod] called for the question on the amendment to the amendment and on the amendment itself.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called for a vote on the motion to end debate on the amendment to the amendment and on the amendment itself.

Moved;

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Seconded;

Yes-893; No-61

Carried: To end debate on the amendment and on the amendment itself.

Ms. Joyce A. Partyka [Indiana-Kentucky Synod] rose for a point of personal privilege. She asked where she would find the full text of what was being discussed.

Ms. Judy Biffle, chair of the *ad hoc* committee, answered that it would be found in the proposed social statement, page 29, column 2, end of line 27.

Debate having ended, the presiding bishop called for the vote on the amendment to the amendment.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-559; No-383

Carried: To amend the amendment to the social statement on education, as follows:

To delete the sentence that begins "On campuses. . . ."

Presiding Bishop Hanson called for the vote on the amended amendment.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-796; No-148

Carried: To amend the amendment to the social statement on education, as follows:

p. 29, lines 66-78 Move this entire paragraph and insert it as a paragraph at line 31.

The paragraph currently at lines 31-37 would then follow this insertion.

p. 29, new line 31 Begin sentence with "Today campus ministries . . ."

p. 29, new line 32 Delete sentence that begins "On campuses . . ."

Bp. Nelson moved to substitute I.B.1 in the *ad hoc* committee's report for the amendment that had been proposed by Mr. Monte C. Albert [Western Iowa Synod] with regard to school funding reform.

Moved;

Seconded: To amend the social statement on education, as follows:

p. 24, lines 8-9 Insert a period after "funding system" in line 8 and delete "and tie such reforms to measurable outcomes." Place footnote 24 after "system."

p. 24, line 9 Add the following sentence immediately after "funding system." in the preceding change: "Reforms should be evaluated in terms of their effectiveness in improving student learning."

The committee's rationale for recommending this substitute motion was to clarify the intent of the language in the text.

Mr. Monte C. Albert [Western Iowa Synod] expressed his gratitude to the committee and to the chair for the respect he had shown the assembly. He moved to amend the amendment.

Moved;

Seconded: To amend the social statement on education, as follows:

To delete the sentence "Reforms should be evaluated in terms of their effectiveness in improving student learning."

Mr. Albert spoke in favor of his motion to amend the amendment. He said that equity in funding for students is a justice matter and has nothing to do with measurable outcomes.

Mr. Jeremy Posadas [Metropolitan New York Synod] rose to request a point of clarification, inquiring of the chair if the remaining amendments could be considered *en bloc*. He expressed his concern that the assembly was spending too much time on the details of the amendments rather than on the actual proposed social statement. The presiding bishop responded that the amendment currently on the floor was the last one coming to the assembly from the *ad hoc* committee. Then Mr. Posadas asked if the proposed social statement's implementing resolutions could be considered *en bloc* when they came before the assembly. The presiding bishop replied that a motion to consider the implementing resolutions *en bloc* would be germane at the time when the implementing resolutions were moved.

Mr. Paul J. Dovre said that the rationale of the task force for retaining the sentence had its foundation in the 39 legal initiatives in the 50 states that tied funding to improved educational results for students. The task force had agreed that reforms should be measured by how effective they were.

Mr. Walter Rehwaldt [Central/Southern Illinois Synod] urged defeat of the amendment. Identifying himself as a retired teacher and school administrator, he stated that the more funding is linked to outcomes, the more loopholes people try to find.

Since there was no additional discussion on the amendment to the amendment, the presiding bishop called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-337; No-591

Defeated:

To amend the social statement on education, as follows:

To delete the sentence, "Reforms should be evaluated in terms of their effectiveness in improving student learning."

Discussion continued on the amendment as proposed by committee.

Mr. Barry O. Smith [Lower Susquehanna Synod] said that as a member of the Task Force on Education, he was opposed to tying reforms to measurable outcomes. However, he continued, this issue already was addressed in lines 62-68. He urged the assembly to vote "no" on the amendment.

There being no further discussion on the amendment, the presiding bishop called for a vote on the substitute found in I.B.1. of the report of the *ad hoc* committee.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-796; No-148

Carried: To amend the amendment to the social statement on education, as follows:

p. 24, lines 8-9 Insert a period after "funding system" in line 8 and delete "and tie such reforms to measurable outcomes." Place footnote 24 after "system."

p. 24, line 9 Add the following sentence

immediately after “funding system.” in the preceding change: “Reforms should be evaluated in terms of their effectiveness in improving student learning.”

Ms. Judy Biffle, chair, reported that the *ad hoc* committee, did not recommend adoption of an amendment proposed by Mr. James C. Stromberg [Southeastern Minnesota Synod] with regard to the role of pastors as resources in public schools. Therefore this amendment would not come to the floor.

The Rev. Mary K. Baum [Metropolitan New York Synod] expressed her desire to propose an amendment to page 22, line 56. Presiding Bishop Hanson replied that the assembly first must decide if it would hear Pr. Baum’s proposed amendment. Her request would come before the assembly when discussion of the proposed social statement on education resumed.

The presiding bishop invited all who are involved in campus ministries, preschools, and Sunday church schools to stand and receive the assembly’s appreciation for their ministry. The assembly expressed its gratitude with applause.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called for the orders of the day.

Credentials Report

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, page 9; Section I, page 13.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson invited Mr. David A. Ullrich, vice chair, to present an updated report from the Credentials Committee.

Mr. Ullrich announced to the assembly that as of 8:30 A.M. on Friday, August 10, 2007, there were 1,067 voting members registered for the assembly. Of the 410 ordained ministers, 137 were female and 273 were male. The 657 lay voting members were composed of 341 females and 316 males. Of the voting members, 127 had identified themselves as persons of color or persons whose primary language is other than English. Ten have identified themselves as 18 years of age or younger. There were 541 registered visitors. The presiding bishop thanked Mr. Ullrich for bringing the report of the Credentials Committee.

Elections: Third Ballot for Secretary

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

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson prepared the assembly for the third ballot for secretary of this church. The presiding bishop explained that a nominee needed to receive two-thirds of the votes cast on the third ballot to be elected secretary. He indicated that the third and subsequent ballots would be taken using the electronic voting machines.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called for display of the names of the nominees on the video screen, noting that they were listed in order of vote totals received on the second ballot.

The nominees were:

1. Michael Cooper White
2. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl
3. David Swartling
4. Kenneth Rupp
5. Paul Schreck
6. Glenndy Ose (Sculley)

7. Wm. “Chris” Boerger (*tie*)

8. Mark Gorud (*tie*)

Presiding Bishop Hanson indicated that results would be reported as soon as they were available.

At the invitation of the presiding bishop, the assembly joined in singing, “Come and Fill Our Hearts.” The presiding bishop led the assembly in prayer.

Someone rose for a point of order, asking voting members to note the position of the numbers on the voting pad.

After voting members had the opportunity to cast their votes, the presiding bishop declared the third ballot for secretary closed.

Greeting: Lutheran Men in Mission

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson invited Mr. Heber Rast, president of Lutheran Men in Mission, to bring a greeting from his organization to the assembly.

Mr. Rast said that it was his privilege to bring the assembly greetings from Lutheran Men in Mission. He stated that it was the goal of the organization for every man to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, strengthened through the men’s organization in every congregation. The men’s organization of this church is building men’s faith and building men’s ministry, he stated. Mr. Rast announced that the Church Council recently had approved Lutheran Men in Mission’s articles of incorporation. He reassured the voting members, however, that even as a separately incorporated ministry, Lutheran Men in Mission would continue to relate to this church through the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit.

Mr. Rast thanked Mr. Douglas D. Haugen, director for Lutheran Men in Mission and men’s ministry specialist in the churchwide organization, for his work with the organization. The assembly responded with applause. Mr. Rast added that Mr. Haugen worked to further ongoing programs such as Bible ministry, the emphasis on young men, and men’s events. Mr. Rast indicated that over 40,000 copies of the Master Builder’s Bibles had been placed in the hands of men. He noted that the board of Lutheran Men in Mission had endorsed unanimously the “Book of Faith” initiative because Bible study was at the heart of the organization.

Mr. Rast announced a number of other programs and news items:

- collaborative work with the Youth and Family Institute, including pilot conferences on inter-generational events for young men;
- a men’s ministry summit, held just prior to the assembly;
- a national gathering in Omaha on August 1-3, 2008;
- receipts of close to \$1,000,000 for the endowment fund; and
- a “One Year to Live” retreat.

Mr. Rast concluded by saying that men constituted a mission field for this church, and the goal of his organization was to encourage more men to be active in congregations by strengthening them in their faith and equipping them for service. He reiterated Lutheran Men in Mission’s vision for each person to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

The assembly responded to Mr. Rast’s presentation with applause.

Election Report: Third Ballot for Secretary and First Common Ballot

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IV, pages 3-4; Section I, pages 17-19; Section VII, pages 1-91; Section I, pages 9, 13-15.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called on Mr. Phillip H. Harris, chair of the Elections Committee, to report on the third ballot for secretary and the first common ballot.

Mr. Harris announced that on the third ballot for secretary, 1043 votes had been cast, two-thirds of which or 696 votes were necessary for election. No one had received the required number of votes. The results of the third ballot were as follows:

Michael Cooper-White	267 (25.6%)
Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl	124 (11.9%)
David Swartling	241 (23.1%)
Kenneth Rupp	77 (7.4%)
Paul Schreck	157 (15.1%)
Glenn Ose (Scully)	49 (4.7%)
Wm. Chris Boerger	50 (4.8%)
Mark Grorud	78 (7.5%)

Mr. Harris indicated that the nominees on the fourth ballot would be Michael Cooper-White, David Swartling, and Paul Schreck.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked the assembly to thank those who were open to election but were no longer in the process: Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, Kenneth Rupp, Glenn Ose, Chris Boerger, and Mark Grorud. The assembly responded with applause.

Mr. Harris continued with a report on the first common ballot. He stated that there were elections on all except four tickets. He asked that elections be declared for all tickets except 21, 26, 36, and 65.

Presiding Bishop Hanson declared the elections.

Assembly

Action:

CA07.05.19 To declare elected all those who received greater than a majority on the first common ballot.

Elections: Second Common Ballot

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

Since there were so few remaining contested tickets, Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson announced that the second common ballot would be taken electronically.

Mr. Phillip H. Harris, chair of the Elections Committee, explained the procedure. The remaining four tickets would be voted upon one by one.

The first ticket voted upon was the following:

Ticket 21 Global Mission Program Committee (Lay Female)

- A. Ms. Cynthia Kopperstad, Des Moines, Wash. (1B)
- B. Ms. Terry E. Cole, Albuquerque, N.M. (2E)

Presiding Bishop Hanson instructed voting members to vote either A or B, using their machines.

The results of the second ballot on ticket 21 were as follows:

Ticket 21 Global Mission Program Committee (Lay Female)

- A. Ms. Cynthia Kopperstad, Des Moines, Wash. (1B) - 446 (48.8%)

- B. Ms. Terry E. Cole, Albuquerque, N.M. (2E) - 468 (51.2%)
- Presiding Bishop Hanson declared Ms. Cole elected.

The second ticket to be voted upon was the following:

Ticket 26 Vocation and Education Program Committee (Lay Male)

- A. Mr. Roger Lewis, Omaha, Neb. (4A)
- B. Mr. Robert S. Schroeder, Overland Park, Kan. (4B)

Presiding Bishop Hanson instructed voting members to vote either A or B, using their machines.

The results of the second ballot on ticket 26 were as follows:

Ticket 26 Vocation and Education Program Committee (Lay Male)

- A. Mr. Roger Lewis, Omaha, Neb. (4A) - 457 (49.84%)
- B. Mr. Robert S. Schroeder, Overland Park, Kan. (4B) - 460 (50.16%)

Presiding Bishop Hanson declared Mr. Schroeder elected.

The third ticket to be voted upon was the following:

Ticket 36 Publishing House (Clergy)

- B. Pr. Scott J. Suskovic, Charlotte, N.C. (9B)
- C. Pr. Eric C. Shafer, Lansdale, Penn. (7F)

Presiding Bishop Hanson instructed voting members not to press A, but to vote either B or C, using their machines.

The results of the second ballot on Ticket 36 were the following:

Ticket 36 Publishing House (Clergy)

- B. Pr. Scott J. Suskovic, Charlotte, N.C. (9B) - 503 (51.8%)
- C. Pr. Eric C. Shafer, Lansdale, Penn. (7F) - 468 (48.2%)

The fourth ticket to be voted upon was the following:

Ticket 65 Committee on Discipline (Lay Male)

- A. Mr. Kenneth G. Mertz II, Middletown, Penn. (8D)
- B. Mr. Mark A. Betley, Utica, N.Y. (7D)

Presiding Bishop Hanson instructed voting members to vote either A or B, using their machines.

The results of the second ballot on Ticket 65 were the following:

Ticket 65 Committee on Discipline (Lay Male)

- A. Mr. Kenneth G. Mertz II, Middletown, Penn. (8D) - 382 (40.17%)
- B. Mr. Mark A. Betley, Utica, N.Y. (7D) - 569 (59.83%)

Presiding Bishop Hanson declared Mr. Betley elected.

Assembly

Action:

CA07.05.20 To declare elected all those who received greater than a majority on the second common ballot.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called for applause for all who had been elected to leadership positions. The assembly responded enthusiastically. He asked the assembly to stand and sing "Signs and Wonders."

Report of the Memorials Committee (continued)

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

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson invited to the podium the co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, the Rev. Kenneth M. Rupp and Ms. Norma Hirsch, to lead the assembly's continued deliberation on memorials. On the agenda was further discussion of Category E2: Standards for Rostered Leaders. Presiding Bishop Hanson asked those who previously had been waiting in line to speak to return to their places.

To respond further to the question asked in Plenary Session Seven about the margin of votes required for passage of the substitute motion, Presiding Bishop Hanson called on Secretary Lowell G. Almen.

Secretary Almen said, "I will try to be clear, but this is not necessarily simple, so listen carefully. The required margin of votes for any particular matter before the Churchwide Assembly is determined in one of three ways. First, by any specific requirements stated in the constitution or bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Second, by the "Rules of Organization and Procedure" that this assembly adopted. And third, by *Robert's Rules of Order*.

"Now to a greater extent than was the pattern in our predecessor churches, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the proceedings of the Churchwide Assembly has followed a pattern of a two-thirds vote required for the passage of major issues. For example, for the adoption of any social statement, a two-thirds vote is required. That is specified in bylaw 12.12.01. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. For the approval of a full-communion relationship with another church body, a two-thirds vote is necessary. That requirement is specified in constitutional provision 8.71. And further, any matter that required and was adopted by a two-thirds vote for adoption at a previous assembly requires a two-thirds vote for amendment or repeal at a subsequent assembly, according to constitutional provision 12.12.

"The required vote for amendment of any constitutional provision or bylaw is two-thirds. That is specified in the constitution. And offering still another example, *Robert's Rules of Order* indicates that a two-thirds vote is required for adoption of standing rules or the rules of procedure for an assembly. Otherwise, the margin in all matters is a majority. That is true except where the constitution and bylaws require a higher margin of votes or the rules of procedure specify a higher margin or *Robert's Rules of Order* specify a higher margin.

"One of the questions that has been asked, both on the floor and off the floor, is "What is the difference from Orlando?" The Orlando proposal on Recommendation 3 involved the amendment of the bylaws. The constitution specifies that to amend the bylaws of this church, we must have at least a two-thirds vote.

"Another question that has been asked indicates some impression that the documents referenced in the substitute motion yesterday, namely 'Vision and Expectations' and 'Definitions and Guidelines' are either in the constitution or bylaws or were adopted by a previous Churchwide Assembly. Neither document is in the constitution or bylaws. Both

documents are provided in the constitution and bylaws. 'Vision and Expectations' is the responsibility, under Chapter 7 in the constitution and bylaws, for development by what we now call the Vocation and Education unit, with review by the Conference of Bishops and subsequent adoption by the Church Council. In the case of 'Definitions and Guidelines,' that is not a document in the governing documents itself. That document is the responsibility of the Committee on Appeals for submission to the Church Council for adoption. As indicated, neither of those documents was adopted by a previous Churchwide Assembly."

Presiding Bishop Hanson offered prayer.

The Rev. Wayne A. Matthias-Long [Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod] indicated that the area in which he was sitting had not received a copy of the amended substitute motion. Presiding Bishop Hanson asked that those who had not received the substitute raise their hands so that the pages could distribute it to them.

Presiding Bishop Hanson explained that the assembly had two motions before it. One was the recommendation of the Memorials Committee, found on pages 66-67 of the 2007 *Pre-Assembly Report*. The other was a substitute motion that had been proposed by the Rev. Paul Stumme-Diers, bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, and subsequently amended. Both motions were being debated and perfected.

The Rev. Paul R. Landahl, bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, spoke in favor of the substitute. He noted that, while a number of speakers had referenced the March 2007 statement of the Conference of Bishops, he and a number of other bishops had voted against it. He had done so because it did not take a social statement to rectify a situation that goes against the Gospel and welcoming posture of our Lord. "Our expectation of celibacy thwarts the movement of the Spirit. Double standards in the church of Jesus Christ must go. Now is the time for action. The Gospel is our reason for change."

The Rev. Thomas A. Skrenes, bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, opposed any change in the current standards for rostered ministry. He reported attending numerous congregational meetings, answering questions for hours about this church's studies on sexuality study, and assuring members that this church had put in place a deliberative process that would culminate in a proposed social statement brought to the Churchwide Assembly in 2009. He had encouraged members and congregations to participate in that process, offering their input, reflection, and prayer. If decisions were made outside of that process, members and congregations would lose trust in him and in this church.

The Rev. Dean W. Nelson, bishop of the Southwest California Synod, commented that his synod had been asking this church for change in the rostered leaders policy for years because it had experienced the gifts of partnered leaders. He urged the assembly not to be afraid of them, to acknowledge them as brothers and sisters in Christ, and to welcome and affirm their gifts. When Christians have no fear, God does a new thing, and that new thing brings a blessing, he concluded.

The Rev. Timothy A. Whiteman [Northwest Washington Synod] expressed concern that this church was sending a mixed message, claiming to be a biblically based church and then

ignoring passages of Scripture. He pointed out that full participation in this church was not measured by those on the clergy roster. Full participation was marked by receiving the Word and Sacrament. Pr. Whitehead added that 44 synods, or two-thirds, did not send memorials encouraging change in the rostered leaders policies. He asked that this church remain committed to the sexuality study process that was in place.

Ms. Karen J. Jolly [Oregon Synod] spoke of how the current policies were affecting her family, especially her daughter, who had discerned a call to ordained ministry in college but realized that she could not answer it because she was a lesbian. She has left the Lutheran church, and it was hard for the rest of the family to stay, Ms. Jolly stated. Waiting two more years would result in the loss of more potential leaders. Changing the policy now could result in a fuller discussion of human sexuality in 2009.

The Rev. Jon V. Anderson, bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, supported the Memorials Committee's recommendation and its concern for process. What he has learned, particularly in meetings where people disagree, is that process really matters. He pointed out that this church was divided on the issue largely along sociological grounds, with urban areas for change in the policies and rural against. He urged that any decision be built on the foundations of theology, Scripture, and a social statement based on the work of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality.

The Rev. Katrina D. Foster [Metropolitan New York Synod] shared her life story, which included ordination in 1994, an exchange of vows with a partner in 1998, and the birth and baptism of their daughter in 2002. She indicated that God had called her to be ordained and to be part of a family. She urged this church to change its policy so that her family could live together openly.

The Rev. E. Roy Riley Jr., bishop of the New Jersey Synod, commented that he was speaking in opposition to the substitute motion, even though his was one of the synods that had passed a memorial encouraging change. Many people in this church have counted on having a social statement in place to help shape their perspective on these matters, so this church must honor its process. At the same time, he called for the creation of space in this church, particularly in those places where the ministry of partnered people is valued. He noted that the Conference of Bishops would be meeting with the task force in October 2007, providing advice about what matters the social statement needs to address.

The Rev. Jill J. Henning [Southeastern Synod] raised the point that campus ministry policies had been changed before this church adopted a social statement on education. She wondered what the difference was in the case of policies on rostered leaders. Secretary Almen replied that Lutheran campus ministry had been in existence for 100 years, with a variety of documents in place providing oversight. The revisions in campus ministry policies were based on previous patterns of operation and identified needs. Those changes did not need to be grounded in a social statement because they related to functional operations.

Mr. Ronald L. Pittman [Oregon Synod] commented that, after much thought and prayer, he had concluded that all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, were equally children of

God and deserved his respect. He noted that since three years previously, when the Oregon Synod had become a Reconciling in Christ synod, he had experienced new examples of Christian love and acceptance.

The Rev. Abera B. Hellemo [Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod] acknowledged that God is a God of justice, calling all to acts of justice and loving-kindness. He cautioned, however, against any decision, based on sentiments or emotions, that would undermine the authority of Word of God. Such an action would send away the very people this church wanted to attract.

The 20-minute mark of the discussion having been reached, the assembly paused for prayer.

Ms. Constance Kilmark [South-Central Synod of Wisconsin] spoke in favor of the amended substitute, saying that she had been impressed by how much gay and lesbian clergy love this church. She remarked that celibacy is a gift given to only a few persons and pastoring is a lonely calling. She called on this church to grant full citizenship in God's kingdom on earth to gay and lesbian rostered clergy.

Mr. Brandon A. Johns [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod] spoke to the divisiveness of this issue, pointing out that some young people supported the recommendations of the Memorials Committee. While he was not certain about his position on all matters related to sexuality, he was sure that decisions must be deferred until the social statement was adopted. To do otherwise would undermine the authority of past and future Churchwide Assemblies.

The Rev. Vernon A. Victorson [Upstate New York Synod] contended that, underneath the surface issues, what people really were talking about was sex, the physical relations between two human beings in loving, faithful, and lifelong relationships. In that context, the issue was just the speck in the neighbor's eye, about which Jesus cautions his followers not to worry.

Mr. Eric M. Peterson [South-Central Synod of Wisconsin] inquired about the mandate and scope of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality. He understood that the task force viewed its work on rostering matters as completed after its recommendations to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly. He desired assurance that the task force would address rostering in the social statement and wondered how it would include implementation for any proposed change. Presiding Bishop Hanson responded by asking resource people to prepare to respond to Mr. Peterson's question shortly.

Ms. Joyce A. Partyka [Indiana-Kentucky Synod] asked for clarification regarding the definitions of "chastity" and "celibacy." Presiding Bishop Hanson replied that since hers was not a privileged motion, she would need to wait in line to ask her question.

The Rev. Larry M. Cantu [Western Virginia-Western Maryland Synod] observed that as a son of a Mexican immigrant worker and one called to serve in Word and Sacrament ministry for 45 years, he could not view the matter under debate as a justice issue. For him, it was a biblical matter, and he could not find in the Word a blessing of God on sexual same-sex relationships. The people of the Book of Faith constantly were placing themselves against prevailing cultures, he concluded.

The Rev. Mary R. Halvorson [Minneapolis Area Synod] indicated that changing the rostering policies was important for

keeping the infrastructure of this church strong. Against this church's policies she lifted up the "theological corrective" of baptism: "We cannot stop the flow of God's grace, which rests equally on all dripping foreheads, gay and straight," she said. The infrastructure of her congregation would be weakened greatly without its gay and lesbian members.

The Rev. Richard J. Foss, bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod, spoke in favor of referral to the task force. He encouraged the assembly to see itself as part of an ongoing church, called to consider the implications of its decisions. He commended Presiding Bishop Hanson for his efforts to build trust throughout this whole church. The process developed to study and make decisions about sexuality has deepened that trust, he said. The process is nearly completed, but the social statement is yet to be adopted. To move ahead without the social statement would destroy that hard-won trust, he concluded.

Mr. James M. Morrell [Oregon Synod] reported that his faith had grown when God provided him with a partner, when they worshiped together every Sunday, when he knelt in communion, knowing that none should be excluded from the banquet of God's grace. He prayed that this church would act in the inclusive love of Christ.

The Rev. Roger A. Willer, director for studies in the Church in Society unit, responded to Mr. Peterson's earlier question on the relationship of a social statement to church policies. Pr. Willer said, "In the 'Policies and Procedures' document that guides the whole process for social statements and, in fact, spells out how this church addresses social issues, it indicates that social statements govern the internal and external practices of this church. The current social policy in relation to these issues is not stated in a document of the ELCA, but we operate on the basis of our predecessor body social statements, insofar as they are in agreement. It is on that basis that 'Vision and Expectations' and so forth have articulated the understanding that is there. The social statement process is our opportunity as a church to do the kind of theological work that would allow us to consider this kind of understanding. The task force, their primary role is to listen and to think with this church, and it is very clear to the task force that this is an issue on which this church would like matters to be addressed. That being said, it is on the general issue of sexuality and in particular on homosexuality in terms of theological, biblical, and confessional matters that we would do our work. That would not directly address ministry policy. However, the basis of ministry policy is to be governed by social statements. It is also possible that implementing resolutions of a social statement could direct this church to indicate changes for ministry policy based on the understanding of that social statement. So in many ways it would give us an opportunity to call for changes in ministry policy once we have agreed as a church on our understanding of sexuality in general."

Presiding Bishop Hanson added, "Perhaps an example would be what we are doing on education. First we adopt the social statement on education. Should that be adopted, there are a set of implementing resolutions that would reflect actions based upon that social statement. And I heard Pr. Willer to say it is possible . . . to adopt a statement on human sexuality and, should that provide the basis for recommended changes in the rostering of persons in this church, those recommendations would be in

that set of implementing resolutions."

Ms. Kolloh A. Nimley [Southeastern Minnesota Synod] expressed sorrow that this church was so greatly divided on the issue under discussion. If this church is based on Scripture, then it must listen to Scripture, she stated. It must listen to God and not be in a hurry. She advocated allowing the task force to complete the work with which it had been entrusted.

Presiding Bishop Hanson instructed people who were waiting in line to speak to remember their positions.

Announcements

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called on Secretary Lowell G. Almen for announcements.

Secretary Almen called attention to the service of Holy Communion that would begin at 11:30 A.M., followed by lunch in the Grand Ballroom.

Presiding Bishop Hanson encouraged all those present to participate in worship. Following prayer, he said, the assembly would be in recess until 2:00 P.M.

Closing Prayer and Recess

The Rev. Jennifer J. Thomas, a member of the Church Council from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, soon moving to Kansas City, Missouri, led the assembly in prayer.

The eighth plenary session of the tenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America entered into recess at 11:14 A.M. Central Daylight Time.