

2022 Oregon Synod Assembly
Ruah: Trusting in the Spirit
Jesus Promises
May 13-15, 2022
Sunriver, Oregon

Day 1, Friday May 13, 2022

Arrival/Gathering with Song:

Opening Worship: Synod Assembly was started with worship. Rev. Melissa Reed served as our presider and Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar as our preacher.

Plenary Session 1: Welcome and Orientation

Bishop Laurie welcomed all who gathered. The session was called to order at 2:18PM.

Bp. Laurie introduced the theme of *Ruah*.

It is a pivot point in the time of the church.

What is the spirit nudging us to do?

How can we walk together?

In singing a song about the Holy Spirit, may our hearts flutter over the words of our heart.

Call to Order: Session declared open by Bp. Laurie at 2:18PM

Theme of SA centers on the Hebrew word for Spirit – Ruah/Ruach.

It is a pivot point in the time of the church

What is the Spirit nudging us to do?

How can we walk together in God's future?

Sing a song about the Holy Spirit

May our words flutter over the words of our heart

Quorum:

Quorum was established. Chair of the Credentials Committee, Rev. Mary Anthony offered the following information:

There were 393 voting member and 198 are present.

Introductions of Special Guests and Synod Staff:

Bp. Laurie introduced our special guests in attendance at SA as well as Synod staff:

Guests:

Judith Roberts, Senior Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the churchwide offices of the ELCA.

Dr. Susan Abraham, who is from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley and part of the Graduate Theological Union also serves as VP of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

Synod Staff, Synod Council, Cluster Deans

- Juan Carlos La Puente Tapia, Bishop's Associate
- Rev. Melissa Reed, Bishop's Associate
- Jemae McCanna, Synod Administrator and Assembly Manager
- Greg Shea, Synod VP

- David Swartling, Parliamentarian, who is also a special guest. David served as Secretary of the ELCA at the Churchwide office of the ELCA, worked as an attorney for over 40 years and is an expert on Roberts Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedures.
- Deacon Sue Best, Synod Secretary
- Synod Council, Cluster Deans and the Joy Committee were recognized as well.

Announcements – Juan Carlos La Puente Tapia

Juan Carlos made a series of announcements regarding logistics of the assembly such as safety measures, meeting spaces, location of key places in the complex, as well as how/where to find SA booklets.

Business of the Assembly – VP Greg Shea

Greg offered information on the following topics:

1. Deadline for resolutions and the process for submitting one
2. Deadline for nominations and the process for submitting one
3. Guidelines for speaking at the SA
4. Process for voting at the SA

Adopting Rules of the Assembly and the Agenda for Assembly – Bp. Laurie

Motion **05.13.2022-1** by Synod Council to adopt the Rules of the Assembly. Motion approved.

Motion **05.13.2023-2** by the chair, Bp. Laurie Larson Caesar to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded and approved.

Robert's Rules of Order – David Swartling

Our Parliamentarian offered a briefing on Robert's Rules of Order that included a primer on making motions.

Roberts Rules, are important because they:

1. Offer practicality
2. Provides good governance as they are required at every level
3. Help to facilitate ministry
4. Are a foundation for fairness, respect, and clarity
5. They provide for a good and fair process which leads to wise decision-making

Thanks – Bp. Laurie extended her thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers, staff, and contributors who made this Assembly possible as well as to the staff at Sun River.

Video Presentation – Camp Lutherwood

A video presentation was offered about Camp Lutherwood. Executive Director, Andrea Scofield also spoke.

Rooted in Scripture – Bible Study with Bp. Laurie

We were asked to think about our baptism, when and where it was, plus who might have been present. Baptism is a time when one is offered God's unconditional love and the fact that you are one of God's beloved children is celebrated publicly.

Additionally, the bible study focused on the Acts of the Apostles, chapters 10 and 11.

After hearing the story, we were asked to pair up with someone and consider the following questions:

What is your role in the story?

What were your fears?

What was God calling forth in you?

How did you feel about it?

What did you do?

After having time with our conversation partner(s), we were asked these questions:

How was that conversation?

What were common obstacles?

What were common ways people were able to hear God's voice?

We were invited to talk again with your table again for a few minutes about what meaning might this have for our church today.

What did you hear from one another?

What are some of OUR obstacles to hearing God's voice?

What might be steps to get there?

How is God inviting us and our church to change?

Announcements about Evening Schedule – Rev. Melissa Reed

Reminders about the evening schedule were offered as well as encouragement to attend one of the evening workshops:

- 1) Pathways Toward a Hybrid Church
- 2) Pathways to Community Vitality and Engagement: Sacred Organizing Cohorts, Disaster Preparedness and Response, and Reckoning with Racism
- 3) Pathways to Reckoning with Racism and White Supremacy

Plenary Session 1 Adjourned by the Chair, Bp. Laurie

Day 2, Saturday May 14, 2022

Opening Worship: Day 2 of SA was started with *Service of Healing and Reconciliation*. Deacon Bonnie Beadles-Bohling was our presider.

Welcome: Bp. Laurie Larson Caesar welcomed all who gathered.

Quorum: Quorum was established. Chair of the Credentials Committee, Rev. Mary Anthony offered the following information:

There are 393 voting member and 198 are present.

Bishop's Report: Bp. Laurie offered her report which offered the following key points:

- The hope is that we are building trust, one with another.
- We are grounded in our Horizon statement:
Moved by the Mystery of Love, we are, and are becoming, a wild web of relationships, a communion of communities, cultures, and diverse faith experiences walking into life, as we seek the life of the world together, trusting in the liberating Spirit Jesus promises
- Bp. Laurie welcomed people who are new to the Oregon Synod and invited those who have come to the synod since the pandemic started to stand.

- This included: seminarians, Synod Authorized Lay Ministers, intern rostered leaders, and mission developers.
- The Synod's *Stepping Stones* were highlighted:
 - A. Shared Power and Respect,
 - B. Sustainability
 - C. Story
 - D. Siblings
 - E. Shameless, Fearless Innovation
- Deep compassion and personal stories – are powerful, it has deeper connection, it is harder and more exhausting, and it is the way the Gospel is held.
- Spending time with folks of different faiths/beliefs/roots allows us to go deeper, examine our roots and dig into the depths to find the treasures. It allows to truly get to know our neighbors.
- As Bonhoeffer reminds us that if church only exists for ourselves, it is not church at all.

What is the state of the Synod? There is good news and bad news. First the challenges:

- Firstly, on a national level, 27 years ago, the ELCA had 6 million members and now only has 3.5 million.
- There are fewer resources and more work to do.
- The world around us is going through major transitions with the pandemic that has killed millions, the war in Ukraine, plus a church we love, often doesn't speak to our children and grandchildren.
- In the ELCA, 25% of our congregations haven't baptized anyone in the last year or two. 50% have not confirmed anyone.
- In Oregon, 40% of our congregations can only afford to call a half-time rostered minister or less. When Bp. Laurie came to this synod as a pastor 28 years ago, many of our congregations could afford two rostered leaders on staff.
- Our membership does not include many people of color or folks who are LGBTQIA+.
- Nationally and ecumenically, there is a shortage of ordained deacons and pastors.
- Bottom line: Out of our 113 churches we've got 25 congregations in transition and not nearly that many interim pastors trained and ready to jump in.
- Studies show that successful institutions sink at least 30% of income into innovation. That's incredibly hard to do when income is decreasing, and the demands are growing.

Here are the opportunities. Many. Think manna in the wilderness or Paul in prison or the scared disciples on Pentecost morning. Miracles happen!

- Giving has remained high despite the pandemic. Thank you!
- The Oregon Synod is known as a synod willing to try new things and learn. It has been part of who we are! Other synods look to us as a healthy model of creativity and courage.
- Collegiality is high in the ministerium - during the pandemic, your pastors and deacons gathered weekly for almost two years.
- The pandemic has meant we have all been innovating to some degree.
- We are learning how to be a faithful remnant. We are like Leaven, Sunlight, and Salt. We are becoming a faithful remnant people.
- We are learning to be more and more honest with one another and ourselves. We are talking about hard things, and we are giving up privileges we covet.

Bp. Laurie next offered the 7 Marks of Congregational Vitality:

- Energy and skills for discerning collective vocation (or “mission”) over pastor-driven vision or little ongoing discernment of a shared vocation.
- Room for new voices and active engagement of guests, friends and young adults over prioritizing long-time members and inner circles.
- A culture of authenticity, trust, and capacity for hard conversations over isolation, performance, and a culture of “nice.”
- Strategic collective risk-taking and a culture of experiments and mistakes for the sake of learning over safety at all costs and institutional preservation.
- Blurred lines between members and neighbors and many mutual connections with the larger world over an attitude of “us and them” or us “serving” them.
- Many leaders, many decision tables, and many natural avenues for new leadership development over centralized authority, “earned power” and subtle or not-subtle clericalism.
- Spirit-filled worship in which ritual shapes life and life shapes ritual over static, unexamined, and unchanging worship styles.

Bp. Laurie invited the assembly to take these tools home to share with congregational leaders. Encouragement was also offered to consider signing up for the Synod emails that share news, coming events, grant opportunities and so much more.

Keynote Address: Susan Abraham, Professor of Theology and Postcolonial Cultures, VP of Academic Affairs, and Dean of Faculty at Pacific School of Religion. (Here is the link to her address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWOH47UjOLE>)

Some highlights from Dr. Abraham’s address are follows:

- Listen to the spirit
- The assembly was asked to consider the following question: *How would you pick-up a snake?*
- It is not just a matter of answering the question. In our haste to answer a question like that, it stops us from looking at what is this question seeking from us?
- All the puzzles that we experience come down to one thing, *who are you right now?*
- Encounters with who we are at any given moment.
- Cultivating wisdom but not heart – a gateless barrier
- This can be the challenge of the Western culture as we are taught to think which can lead to the polarization we are currently experiencing.
- Eastern thought would look more at our connectedness with others.
- The snake story-if we focus on the literal idea, we are overthinking and have created a big barrier for ourselves. Go beyond our thoughts.
- God should not be the ‘giant daddy with the toga.’ Now that we are no longer children, we need to have a grown-up idea of God.
- Can’t imagine how impoverished her life would be w/out God!
- More of an acceptance of cycle of life in the East.
- We can let things die a natural death such as our theologies, our communities, our congregations.
- Wisdom is beyond words and plans.

Rostered Leader Celebration – these were presented throughout the assembly but are listed here all together.

25 Years of Ministry:

Rev. Laurie Jones
Rev. Joseph McInnis

30 Years of Ministry:

Rev. Brian Brandt
Rev. Katherine Martin
Rev. Mark Pederson
Rev. Siew Fong (Andrew) Yong

35 Years of Ministry:

Rev. David Balch
Rev. David Brauer-Rieke
Rev. Gary Connors-Nelson
Rev. Aaron Couch
Rev. Larry Jorgenson
Rev. Michael Ostrom
Rev. Melinda Wagner

40 Years of Ministry:

Rev. Joel LiaBraaten
Rev. Mark Gilderhus
Rev. Randy Schutt

45 Years of Ministry:

Rev. Gregory Ames
Rev. Paul Gross
Rev. Dan Hallgrimson
Rev. Thomas Hiller
Deacon Judy Jernberg
Rev. Newton Kerney
Rev. William Moos

50 Years of Ministry:

Rev. Gary Blumenthal

55 Years of Ministry:

Rev. James Bornzin
Rev. Lawrence Rosenkoetter
Rev. David Wilder

60 Years of Ministry:

Rev. Frank Brocker

65 Years of Ministry:

Rev. Leonard Nelson

Rev. Wesley Sackmann

70 Years of Ministry:

Rev. James Seiffert

Judith Roberts – Churchwide

Judith is part of the ELCA churchwide leadership, serving as the Senior Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). She is responsible for articulating and championing a comprehensive approach and vision for diversity, equity, inclusion within the ELCA. Judith is from Hartford, CT, and confirmed at Christ the King in Windsor, CT. She is the mother of Julian, lover of museums, afternoon tea and travel.

Judith Spoke to what does it mean to be church together.

Scripture sets Judith on her path every day and she offered this from Romans 8:38-39:

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, not anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

ELCA Churchwide

- Churchwide has 410 employees, who are: 65.1% female, 34.9% male.
- Racial and Ethnic Background: 64% White; 36% Black, Indigenous people of color
- It is the whitest Protestant denomination with 96% of white leadership in our church.
- The ELCA’s *Future Church Initiative* (<https://elca.org/News-and-Events/8083>) is an effort to examine and develop how as a church we going to be intentional and innovative.
- This initiative has led to creating a new department and positions to get on par with other organizations and businesses to focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion
- The Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion was created with a Chief Diversity Officer.
- There is a great need to have this work occurring in all 3 expressions within the ELCA: nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and churchwide.
- We get to choose how we show up.
- Credit to you for the ways you are already showing up and serving and seeing your neighbors. You are doing this at a time and place that we have all been challenged greatly.
- Much of our work has needed to be remote, which has been really hard.
- There is so much hurt in that we are a denomination in which less than 10% of our members are people of color.
- As the Director of Racial Justice, Judith spoke of hearing many stories about the inequities and the pain in our church.
- Judith shared stories that were stirring for her and revealed much pain particularly as there are so few people of color.
- We have the greatest witness of all, the wounded healer, who offers nothing but love.
- Sometimes we need to speak the hard truths.
- The spirit is stirring and casting new seeds
- Just embrace it, it is going to be alright.

Mission Support:

- 2021 Oregon Synod Mission Support: \$388,057 was committed to help serve the ministries of the ELCA.
- Judith expressed her gratitude to the Oregon Synod for that generosity especially in the midst of COVID.
- There is over \$40 million in Mission Support from all ELCA congregations for the ministries we share together through the churchwide organization.

Mission Support Distribution for Churchwide Ministries

- Grow the ELCA in the United States (41%)
- Grow the Lutheran Church and Address Issues around the World (22%)
- Develop Current and Future Leaders in the ELCA (37%)

(To learn more about the ministry we do together through Mission Support check out Stories in Faith in Action www.elca.org/SOFIA)

Ministries in the Oregon Synod that receive Mission Support are vital to the work in the Oregon Synod. They walk alongside congregations going through the call process and accompany congregations as they respond to the needs of their communities. These ministries are teaching us ways to lead in new ways:

- Cully Ministry
- Mid-Willamette Latino Ministry
- Queer Enough
- Story dwelling
- Storyline Community
- Together Lab

Fund for Leaders Scholarships

Educational debt is a big issue. The goal of this fund is to work on curtailing the burden of educational debt. Here are some of the recipients of this fund:

- Charlotte Trent-Wartburg – ELCA Fund for Leaders – Wartburg Theological Seminary
- Susan Johnson – Synod Scholarship – PLTS
- Andrew Langford – Synod Scholarship – PLTS

Supporting Missionaries/Mission Work in the Oregon Synod:

- Naomi Seaholm – Missionary in Central Europe
- YAGM - Young Adults in Global Mission

Dollars Raised for ELCA World Hunger was \$216,682 from the Oregon Synod

These are some of the ministries that received grants:

- Cully Neighborhood
- Nativity Lutheran Church
- Portland Rescue Mission
- Storyline Community
- Zion Lutheran Church

Dollars Raised for Lutheran Disaster Response (LDS) = \$122,143 in the Oregon Synod

- LDS assists with disasters across the country and around the globe.
- Over \$15 million raised in the US
- Disaster assistance for communities hit by tornadoes, fires, storms

- International response for the earthquake in Haiti
- Humanitarian response continues for those affected by the war in Ukraine providing shelter, hygiene, money, and psychological support.

COVID-19 response fund

- \$2.1 raised so far with donations still being accepted.
- Funds are being distributed through ministries such as ELCA World Hunger and LDS.

Ordination of Women, Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession in Poland

- 9 women were ordained

New Resources on ELCA website

- Social Statement: *Faith Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action*
- *Now is the Time*, a study guide for ELCA Declaration to people of African descent – helps us think that reparation and repair looks like.
- *Declaration of the ELCA: To American Indian and Alaska Native People*, examining the doctrine of discovery as well as examining what it looks like to be in community with each other.

Investments and Loans:

- The Mission investment Fund is a financial ministry of the ELCA that provides a range of investments for individuals, congregations, and ministries to achieve their financial goals.

All Creation Sings: ELCA Lutheran Worship Supplement

- ELCA worship Supplement offered by Augsburg Fortress.
- It goes hand in hand with Evangelical Lutheran Worship.
- It invites us to expand our prayer, song and joining our voices with the praise and sighs of the whole creations God so marvelously made.

Upcoming Gatherings:

- Churchwide Assembly: *Embody the Work*, August 8-12, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio
- Rostered Ministers Gathering: *Rekindle the Gift within You*, July 17-20, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona
- **MYLE** (Multicultural Youth Leadership Event) for young leaders of color & **tAble** which blesses and empowers youth who live with physical, cognitive, and psychological disabilities. They gather in New Orleans, July 13-16, 2024.
- ELCA Youth Gathering July in New Orleans, July 16-20, 2024

Thanks were offered to the following Leaders/Staff within the Oregon Synod:

- Deacon Clare Josef-Meier who has served in these ways:
 1. Contributing Committee Member: *Faith, Sexism, Justice: A Call to Action* Study Guide
 2. Member, Committee on Discipline
- Bp. Laurie Larson Caesar
 1. 2022 Memorials Committee
 2. Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Committee Member

- Oregon Synod's Directors of Evangelical Missions:
 1. Juan Carlos La Puente Tapia
 2. Rev. Melissa Reed

Judith ended by offering her thanks to all gathered at SA.

Resolutions

Gene Obie, chair of the Oregon Synod Reference and Counsel Committee, introduced this part of the assembly. Gene provided information about the role of this committee in screening all resolutions and memorials that are submitted. After being reviewed and endorsed by the committee, 6 resolutions and memorials have been brought to the assembly for consideration. Gene also reminded those in attendance that the Assembly Booklet contains the work of this committee as well as copies of the resolutions and memorials.

Before presentation and discussion of the resolutions and memorials, Bp. Laurie offered that during this process, we are all called to speak with respect, clarity and to be concise. Our lenses for these resolutions and memorials are our Christian faith and the ethical principles that flow from it, the priorities of the synod and the needs across the globe.

Resolutions and Memorials Recommended to the Assembly for Consideration in 2022

Gene explained the process for review of resolutions and memorials in advance of the Synod Assembly as well as the process for their consideration on the floor.

- Each of the following resolutions/memorials brought forward were with a recommendation for its consideration by the Reference and Counsel Committee.
- Each was read by Gene after which one of the makers moved its adoption.
- Motions that come those from an organization or group do not require a second.
- After the initial makers speaks, other voting members may address the Assembly by coming to a designated microphone to be recognized by the Chair.
- Gene reminded everyone that all attendees have access to the complete resolutions and memorials as part of their Synod Assembly materials.
- Gene read each resolution/memorial to the assembly.

Bishop Laurie then reminded everyone wishing to speak to do so in the manner of civility. It is important to respect each speaker even if you disagree with them.

#1: Formation of an Oregon Synod Antiracism Resources Network. After its reading, Pr. Steve Kienberger, PeaceFirst Lutheran Church, Astoria moved adoption of the resolution, and spoke in support of it.

Discussion then took place.

The resolution was adopted (**Motion 2022.05.14-1**). (A copy of Resolution #1 as adopted is attached as **Exhibit 3** to these minutes.)

#2: Resolution Regarding Type of Synod Assembly. After its reading, Vice President Greg Shea moved adoption of the resolution on behalf of the Synod Council, plus described the background and rationale for it.

Discussion then took place.

A motion to end debate was moved, seconded, and adopted.

Resolution #2 was then adopted (**Motion 2022.05.14-2**). (A copy of Resolution #2 as adopted is attached as **Exhibit 4** to these minutes.)

#3: Reparations and Land return Memorial to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. After its reading, Pr. David Eppelsheimer, Community of Christ Church, Washington County moved its adoption on behalf of the makers.

Discussion then took place.

In the course of the discussion, a question was asked whether there had been engagement with local tribes regarding the memorial. Pr. Solveig Nielsen Goodin responded on behalf of the makers that there are not currently members of indigenous communities participating, but the proposed memorial is an invitation for future engagement. The team did receive input from Vance Blackfox who is the ELCA's Director of Indigenous Ministries & Tribal Relations.

After further discussion, a motion to end debate was moved, seconded, and adopted.

The memorial was adopted (**Motion 2022.05.14-3**). (A copy of the adopted memorial is attached as **Exhibit 5** to these minutes.)

#4 Inclusive Call Process Resolution. After its reading, Gary Schulstad, Creator Lutheran Church, Clackamas moved its adoption on behalf of its makers. The motion was seconded.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to amend was moved and seconded to add an additional clause to the resolution as follows:

“Be it further resolved that the Synod Council will report at the next Synod Assembly on what has been done to implement this resolution.”

Following brief discussion, the motion to amend was adopted.

A motion to end debate was then moved, seconded, and adopted.

The resolution as amended was then adopted. (**Motion 2022.05.14-4**). (A copy of the resolution as amended and adopted is attached as **Exhibit 6** to these minutes.)

Courageous Stewardship Table Presentation: *Getting to the Heart of the Matter*

Money time and talent: Pr. Melissa Reed led this creative presentation with the assistance of other members of her Courageous Stewardship Team.

The root of the word courage is *cor* – the Latin word for heart.

The mission of the Courageous Stewardship Table is connecting the faith of our hearts as people and as communities of the Oregon Synod with the life we are called to steward – our money, time, talent, bodies, buildings, land-to energize our way together toward our Synod Horizon of Courageous Love. To become that wild web of courageous love that seeks the life of the world as we come alive together in the liberating spirit of Jesus.

The Courageous Stewardship Table includes these working groups:

- **Appeals and Wild Web:** shares stories from around the Synod
- **Individual Giving:** supports members and friends of the Synod with monies going to the general fund of the Synod and special funds such as the Reparation Fund
- **Community Giving:** supports congregations and ministries to connect your collective hearts with your money, with mission support to the general fund and to

discern the additional giving to the various funds we have such as the Courageous Love Fund.

- **Courageous Stewardship for Congregations:** which nurtures a culture of courageous heart to heart generosity in your congregations and ministries.

There was appreciation offered from the giving that happens every month from congregations around the synod. Additionally gratitude was expressed for the day-to-day work that occurs from the work of the Synod staff: for the support, guidance, and accompaniment offered that is grounded theologically and biblically.

The following ministries that are benefitting from the generosity of others:

- Story Dwelling and ReVillage in Bend that is offering affordable childcare.
- St. Mark's in Portland and Gloria Dei in Coos Bay that are discerning how to build affordable housing for their neighbors.
- Sacred organizing cohorts across the state that are acting together on issues such: as climate justice, immigrant justice, plus racial justice and repair work.

We were asked to consider giving both as individuals and inviting our congregations to connect our hearts with our money and consider giving more.

Mark Dickman – Treasurer's Report

Mark offered a very detailed report as well as the Proposed 2023 Budget. They are attached as **Exhibit 1 & 2**

Here are just a few highlights from Mark's presentation of the 2023 Budget. Mark used the imagery of a clock to demonstrate the workings of the budget and offered the following information:

Mission Support:

- 42% of Oregon Synod Mission Support goes to Churchwide - \$418K
- 58% stays within the Oregon Synod - \$577 K

Synod Revenue:

- 73% Mission Support
- 6% CLF – general fund revenue from Courageous Love Fund
- 12% Savings – transfers from various funds
- 9% DEM – synod receives from CW for support of our DEM's
- Other – interest and individual gifts

Expenses:

- Almost 50% is compensation for bishop and staff
- Almost 1/3 goes to Churchwide
- Projects – \$175,000 that the general funds will use to support the Synod vitality and mission projects
- O & A – insurance, utilities, office and accounting expenses
- Benevolence – grants and gifts that is given to affiliated ministries and agencies

It is important to share this information with the congregation's leaders such as your church councils

Proposed budget for 2023:

- Minor adjustments due to inflation.
- The budgets of the last 3 years represent the work that Bp. Laurie and her staff having are leading
- They really have not changed in any substantive way. Just minor adjustments primarily due to inflation.
- No significant new programs just carrying on the work that is required to keep the synod running and supporting congregations.
- The 2023 was developed in conversation with staff, reviewed by the finance committee and is recommended to you after careful consideration by the Synod Council.
- It is the collective judgment by all these groups that it is the right amount of dollars to do our work; the work that you expect.
- Mark encouraged all congregations to faithfully consider giving more.
- 7.7% more is needed for this fiscal year, and we will need another 2.5% for the next fiscal year.
- Every congregation needs to consider what their part is or share in the mission of the Synod.
- Mark expressed his gratitude to all that are involved in assisting him and the synod in this vital work.
- There were no questions asked after Mark's presentation.

Motion **SA 2022.05.14-** by Mark Dickman on behalf of the Synod Council for the assembly to approve the budget for FY 2023 as presented in the SA financials and budget. Motion was approved.

Elections:

Deacon Bonnie Beadles Bohling, member of the Elections Committee, offered guidance about the voting process. It included the following:

- Biographical information can be found in the assembly booklet.
- As there is only one nominee per position, voting occurred as a single vote conducted with the voting cards.

This was the slate of uncontested Synod Council Positions:

Synod Council:

- Treasurer – Mark Dickman
- Oregon Trail Cluster Representative – Dianna Bernklau
- Crater Lake Cluster Representative – Marc T. Kane
- High Desert Cluster Representative – Peggy Jefferies
- Rose Cluster Representative – Bobbi Varnes
- At Large Representative #4 – Richard Whitwer
- At Large Representative #5 – Rev. Paul Strike

Consultation Committee:

- Diane R. Lafrenz
- Rev. Dan Schlewitz

Discipline Committee:

- Rev. Lori Blake
- David Leverenz

Endowment Board:

- Rev. Lori Blake
- Ron Fenchack
- Gene Obie

The slate of candidates was elected.

Churchwide Council:

Two nominees must be put forward for a vote at Churchwide Assembly. At the 2021 SA, Jennifer Trom had already been elected. The synod was informed it needed a 2nd candidate. This was a contested race. The bios for the 2 candidates were provided to the voting members who needed to cast a vote by written ballot for one of the following candidates:

- Jasmine Anderson Sprague
- Marilyn Keller

The results are to be announced tomorrow.

Bp. Laurie offered her thanks for all nominees and voting members with appreciation for the willingness to serve the synod as we walk together into courageous love.

Announcements were offered about the rest of the day's agenda.

Afternoon Workshops:

1. Pathways Toward a Hybrid Church:
2. Pathways of Transformational Transitions for Congregations: Renewed Vitality, Ecumenical Partnership, Holy Closure and more:
3. Pathways to Reparations

Dinner Keynote:

David Swartling offered a presentation on "Constitutions as Ethical and Theological Documents."

Day 3, Sunday May 15, 2022

Election Results:

The first order of business was providing election results. Deacon Bonnie Beadles-Bohling informed the assembly that Marilyn Keller was elected as the second candidate to be put forward to Churchwide Assembly for Churchwide Council.

Resolutions/Memorials: Two memorials were presented.

#5 Memorial Calling for a Just Transition to 50% Reduction in US Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030. After its reading, Marit Finkel, Central Lutheran, Portland moved its adoption on behalf of the makers.

A motion to amend was moved and seconded to delete the following words that are bolded in this section:

"Be it further resolved, that rostered leaders and bishops will be encouraged to lift up loving our neighbor in response to the climate emergency through their preaching **at least once a month.**"

Another motion to amend was moved and seconded to add the following words to the same section of the resolution that are bolded.

“Be it further resolved, that rostered leaders and bishops will be encouraged to lift up loving our neighbor in response to the climate emergency through their preaching **and teaching.**”

A motion to end debate was then moved, seconded, and adopted.

The resolution as amended was then adopted. **(Motion 2022.05.15-1)** (A copy of the resolution as amended and adopted is attached as **Exhibit 7** to these minutes.)

#6 *Lift Every Voice Oregon Synod Resolution in Support of IP 17 and IP 18.* After its reading, Pr. Mark Knutson, Augustana Lutheran, Portland moved its adoption on behalf of its makers.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to amend was moved and seconded to add the words that are bolded:

“And whereas a primary action our young leaders are calling our nation to is to ban the sale of assault style weapons and large capacity magazines **and bump stocks.**”

Motion to amend was approved.

A motion to postpone this resolution indefinitely was made and seconded. Motion failed.

The resolution as amended was then adopted. **(Motion 2022.05.15-2)** (A copy of the memorial that was amended and adopted is attached as **Exhibit 8** to these minutes.)

Closing of the Assembly:

As the assembly was closed by Bp. Laurie offered her thanks for everyone’s attention, participation, engagement, and care with one another’s physical health. She also offered us this reminder: “The synod is YOU. The synod is me. The synod is us together, us walking together with Christ into courageous love.”

This was followed by a worship service which we left with these words: *Go in peace to spread the Good News. Amen.*

Faithfully and prayerfully submitted,
Deacon Sue Best
Oregon Synod Secretary