

PROPOSED...A * G * E * N * D * A...PROPOSED

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2015...AFTERNOON SESSION

12:00pm	Registration, Crowne Plaza, First Floor	
1:00-1:30pm	Assembly Voting Member Orientation Plaza B, First Floor...A "come and go" format to ask questions	
1:00-1:40pm	Choir Rehearsal for Thursday Evening Festival Worship	
1:45pm	Pedal for a Purpose Ride Finale Entrance	
2:00pm	Opening Devotion / Opening of Synod Assembly, Plazas G, H, I, First Floor	
2:15pm	Announcements Report of Credentials Committee Adoption of Rules of Procedure Adoption of Agenda Appointment of Parliamentarian Recognition of the Assembly Committees Reference and Counsel Local Arrangements Worship Assembly Manager Registration Elections Youth Pages	
2:45pm	Ecumenical Greetings Report on Roster of Congregations Report on Roster of Pastors / Diaconal / AiMS Introduction of Pastors New to C/SIS Introduction of Seminarian Students	Pastor Patricia Heath Pastor Patricia Heath Pastor Patricia Heath Pastor Patricia Heath
2:50pm	Report of the Bishop Introduction of Synod Staff Approval of 2014 Assembly Minutes Report of Synod Council Report of the Treasurer	Bishop John Roth Ms. Jeanne Rapp Mr. Lyle Hallock
3:35pm	Assembly Business Nominating Committee Report For Synod Council / Committees as Needed For 2016 Churchwide Voting Members Proposed Budget 2016, First Reading	 Pastor John Rothfusz
4:00pm	<u>Keynote Presentation #1</u> <i>Faithful Discipleship</i>	Rev. Dr. James Thomas
4:50pm	Announcements / Dinner on your own	
6:15pm	Choir Rehearsal and Worship Participant Instruction / Rehearsal Saint Agnes Catholic Church	
8:00pm	Festival Worship, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Preaching	

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015...MORNING SESSION

	Breakfast...on your own	
8:30am	Morning Devotion	
8:40am	General Announcements Report of Credentials Committee	
8:50am	Assembly Business Voting for Synod Council / Committees Voting for 2016 Churchwide Voting Members Reference and Counsel	
9:40am	ELCA Update Portico Benefit Services	
9:45am	Break	
10:00am	Breakout for Forums	
11:15am	State of the Church Address	Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch Recess...on your own	

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015...AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00pm	Breakout for Forums	
2:15pm	General Announcements Credentials Report	
2:17pm	Assembly Business Reference and Counsel Ballot Two: Voting for 2016 Churchwide Voting Members(if needed) Synod-wide Ministry Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Lutheran Campus Ministry Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center Proposed Budget Reading #2 / Action	Pastor John Rothfusz
3:00pm	<u>Keynote Presentation #2</u> <i>Deep Engagement with the Narrative</i>	Rev. Dr. James Thomas
3:45pm	Break	
4:00pm	Bishop's Colloquy	
4:45pm	Announcements	
6:00pm	Banquet, Ballrooms / Second Level Hostess: Ms. Jeanne Rapp, synod lay vice-president Fellowship / Recognition of Anniversaries / Retirements Guest Speaker: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton	

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015...MORNING SESSION

Breakfast...on your own

8:30am	General Announcements Report of Credentials Committee
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8:35am **Keynote Presentation #3**
Engagement with the World

Rev. Dr. James Thomas

9:45am Mission Support and Stewardship Education
Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy
New and Renewing Congregations
Global Mission
Professional and Lay Leadership
Candidacy
Leadership Support
Synodically Authorized Ministers
Recognition of Committees
Constitution
Consultation
Discipline
Auxiliaries
LYO, Lutheran Youth Organization
WELCA, Women of the ELCA
LMM, Lutheran Men in Mission
Board Member Recognition
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
Lutheran Outdoor Ministry
Lutheran Campus Ministry

10:15am Break

10:30am Reference and Counsel

12:00-1:00pm Lunch Recess...on your own

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015...AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00pm General Announcements
Report of Credentials Committee
Assembly Business
 Courtesies

2:00pm Adjournment / Sending Worship

Motion carried.
To approve Resolution 2015.01

year campaign approved by
million in support of new and
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designated funding for these

the need is greatest.

million

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- ## the ELCA

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- ## Communities Team

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-to do God's work,

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mission.

RESOLUTION 2015.02

Moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2015.02 by acclamation. Chair rules motion out of order.

VOTED:
SA15.06.00

Motion carried.
To approve Resolution 2015.06.02

Title	Courtesies
Mover	Reference and Counsel
Second	None needed

WHEREAS	as the Father has sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us; therefore be it
RESOLVED	that we give thanks to the voting members, rostered, laity and youth, as they have taken time from busy schedules to come together to do the business of the church, worship, learn, and fellowship; and, be it further
RESOLVED	that the Assembly Committees be recognized for their tireless efforts in organizing, planning and presenting the Twenty-eighth Annual Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly; and, be it further
RESOLVED	that the assistants to the bishop Pastor Ken Sandlin, Pastor Wayland Middendorf, Pastor Maureen Stein, Pastor James Reents, Director for Evangelical Mission, Pastor Robert Dealey, and support staff, Cindy Koonce, and Glenna Senters, be recognized for all their efforts in supplying the Assembly and our synod with material and information; and, be it further
RESOLVED	that the Assembly pages be recognized for their ongoing support and steadfast faithfulness; and, be it further
RESOLVED	that the Northwest Conference be thanked for its gracious work of hosting and assistance with the planning of the Assembly; and, be it further
RESOLVED	that we are thankful to the Rev. Dr. James Thomas for inspiring messages and his gracious proclamation of the gospel, and, be it further
RESOLVED	that we thank Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton for her contribution to the spirit of the Assembly in informing us of the State of the Church and sharing the Gospel at the Festival Worship Service, and, be it further
RESOLVED	that all forum leaders be thanked for their encouragement in presenting educational opportunities for ministry; and, be it further
RESOLVED	that we give thanks to Pat Caley and volunteers for time in organizing and overseeing the Fair Trade Fair; and be it further
RESOLVED	that the Synod Council, Synod Committees, and all those who volunteered their time, energies, and talents toward the work of our synod receive the Assembly's appreciation for their dedication to the ministry of the Central-Southern Illinois Synod; and, be it further
RESOLVED	that we give thanks for the ELCA and its partnership ministry which allows us to carry out Christ's command to " <i>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations....</i> "; and, be it further
RESOLVED	that thanks be given to those Synod Council and Synod Committee members whose terms end this year but who have accompanied the work of our synod living the mission: <i>God's Work. Our Hands</i> , through their years of dedicated service; and, be it further
RESOLVED	that Bishop S. John Roth receive our appreciation for leadership in our synod and that we would daily hold him in prayer for strength, health, wisdom and courage.

Resolution 2015.03

VOTED: Motion failed.
SA15.06.00 Move and seconded to table this motion.

VOTED: Motion carried.
SA15.06.00 To Approve Resolution 2015.03

Title Companion Synod Financial Partnership Plan
Submitted by Synod Council
Seconded by Non required

WHEREAS, Bishop Roth proposed to the Global Mission Committee of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod a 5-year Companion Synod Financial Partnership Plan that is intended to serve as a minimum level of financial partnership with the Ambovombe-Androy Synod and the Ft. Dauphin Synod of the Malagasy Lutheran Church through 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Global Mission Committee recommended to the Synod Council that this Companion Synod Financial Partnership Plan be adopted by the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council by Resolution SC15.01.05 approved this Companion Synod Financial Partnership Plan and recommended that it be forwarded to the 2015 Assembly of the C/SIS, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Companion Synod Financial Partnership Plan listed below be adopted as a minimum level of financial partnership with the Ambovombe-Androy Synod and the Ft. Dauphin Synod of the Malagasy Lutheran Church through 2019.

Companion Synod Financial Partnership Plan	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Malgagasy Lutheran Church Companion Synod Support Commitments from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod					
Ambovombe-Androy Synod					
Mahavelo Bible School for Catechists	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Seminary Student Scholarships	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$2,200	\$2,200
Fort Dauphin Synod					
Manatantely Bible School for Catechists	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Seminary Student Scholarships	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$2,200	\$2,200
Bezaha Regional Seminary	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
TOTAL Commitments	\$11,600	\$13,600	\$14,000	\$16,400	\$16,400
Funding Sources for Companion Synod Support					
Synod Budget	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,400	\$2,400
Synod Assembly Offerings	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
Congregations making Malagasy Student Scholarship Contributions	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
Congregations making Malagasy Companion Synod Support Contributions	\$-0-	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$4,500
Existing Resources in Madagascar Project Restricted Fund	\$4,400	\$2,100	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$3,500
Bishop's Fund	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$-0-	\$-0-
TOTAL Funding	\$11,600	\$13,600	\$14,000	\$16,400	\$16,400
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-

Resolution 2015.04

Friday Discussion:

Postpone further debate.

Saturday Discussion:

Back to Resolution 2015.04 – Criminal Justice

Editorial change to put the name of the social statement instead of just “the social statement.”

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA15.06.00 Move and seconded to amend to strike “punitive measures” and all later language in resolve.

As to amended Resolution 2015.04

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA15.06.00 To approve Resolution 2015.04 as amended

Title: Criminal Justice Awareness

Mover: Pastor Robert Rasmus, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Urbana

Second: Pastor Tom Hillertz, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Champaign

WHEREAS, Illinois prisons operate at 172.6% of design capacity, and are second only to Alabama in terms of being overcrowded;

WHEREAS, Cook County Jail serves as the largest mental health care provider in the United States;

WHEREAS, almost 70 percent of all Illinois inmates are in prison for non-violent crime;

WHEREAS, because budget cuts have eliminated services and educational programs that would prepare inmates for their reentry to society;

WHEREAS, offenders face great obstacles when they return to society which make it difficult to secure housing and employment resulting in a recidivism rate higher than the U.S. average: in 2011, 51.7% of released prisons returned to prison within three years versus the national average of 43.3%;

WHEREAS, both the General Assembly and the Governor recognize the need for comprehensive reform: the Joint Criminal Justice Reform Committee was created in the last session and was reconstituted in this session; and Governor Rauner has appointed a 28-member Criminal Justice Reform Commission;

WHEREAS, Lutheran Advocacy connects faith with public life, endeavors to further God's work in our world by advancing the common good, and represents a valuable tool to members of the ELCA as we do advocacy;

WHEREAS, the Social Statement on **The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries** was adopted in 2013 at the 13th biennial Churchwide Assembly and gives direction for action;

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to read and study the Social Statement *The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries*; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that congregations and members discuss how they might serve those involved in the Criminal Justice system, whether offenders or victims; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that congregations become acquainted with the criminal justice ministries provided by Lutheran Social Services Illinois; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that members of congregations be encouraged to join Lutheran Advocacy in order to engage in this ministry more effectively; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that members of congregations encourage their lawmakers to support criminal justice legislation that focuses on the restoration of offenders to society.

Resolution 2015.05

As to Resolution 2015.05

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA15.06.00 To approve Resolution 2015.05

Title: Trusting the Promise of the Holy Spirit for Continual Renewal of Christ's Church
Mover: Pastor Kurt Hoover, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Dwight
Seconded: Pastor Ed Hudelson, Trinity Lutheran, Chenoa and Community Lutheran, Cornell

- WHEREAS many members of congregations in the C/SIS experience anxiety and even depression on account of declining or aging attendance of the membership of their congregations;
- WHEREAS Members of our Synod New and Renewing Congregations Committee have attended ELCA training in Transformational Ministry, and established a team prepared to train congregational leaders for renewal of vitality within their congregations;
- WHEREAS the Apostle Paul's words continue to encourage the church today to believe and therefore speak and act according to our faith, so that more and more people may have life in Christ: "Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake (the other), so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God." 2 Corinthians 4:14-15;
- WHEREAS the measure of congregational vitality is not children and young families alone, rather the empowering work of the Holy Spirit flowing outward from the hearts, hands, and in the voices of believers making visible the Body of Christ on earth;
- WHEREAS strength and vitality of neighboring congregations encourages the larger church and draws inactive believers back again to be a part of what God is doing in and through the community of believers

THEREFORE BE IT

- RESOLVED The 2015 assembly of the Central Southern Illinois Synod encourage all congregations of our body to seek and renew practices of unity and welcoming renewal through the Holy Spirit including encouraging congregational leaders to participate in opportunities like "Discovering God's Mission Introduction" September 26, 2015 at St. Luke's Lutheran, Campbell Hill and November 7, 2015 at Immanuel Lutheran in Lincoln.

Resolution 2015.06

**Moved that the final Resolved be amended by addition: THAT AT A MINIMUM the entire...
Dies for lack of a second**

As to Amendment:

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA15.06.00 Moved and seconded to amend the first Resolved by addition ... \$1500 minimum every academic year FOR A MAXIMUM OF FOUR (4) YEARS.

As to Amendment:

VOTED: Motion carried.

**SA15.06.00 Moved and seconded that the first Resolved by substitution:
RESOLVED, that EACH STUDENT IN THE CADNDAICY PROCESS OF THE CENTRAL/SOUTHERN
ILLIONIS SYNOD will receive \$1,500 minimum every academic year for a maximum of
four years.**

As to Amendment:

VOTED: Motion carried.

**SA15.06.00 Moved and seconded to amend by substitution the second resolved: that the entire
Seminary Scholarship budget line is to be faithfully distributed by the C/SIS Candidacy
Committee to ~~seminarians from the~~ CSIS STUDENTS IN THE C/SIS CANDIDCY
PROCESS, regardless of the number of students for that year.**

Call the Question

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA15.06.00 Moved and seconded to call the question.

As to Resolution 2015.06

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA15.06.00 To approve Resolution 2015.06 as amended.

Resolution 2015.06

Title: Seminary Scholarship Reformation

Mover: Pastor Bradley Eidson Trinity Lutheran Church, Golden

Seconded: Pastor Candice Wassell Stone, Faith Lutheran Church, O'Fallon

WHEREAS, Seminary presidents, Bishops, and the Presiding Bishop all acknowledge the problem of rising Seminary costs.

WHEREAS, The current cost for a full-time student at Trinity Lutheran Seminary is estimated to be \$34,986 for an on-campus student and \$37,776 for an off-campus student for one academic year.

WHEREAS, The cost for student health insurance coverage through Trinity Lutheran Seminary is \$3,556.

WHEREAS, Candidacy Committees recognize the fact that high student loan debt is an overwhelming burden for pastors on a first call salary, and thus discourage candidates from pursuing rostered ministry based on high student loan debt figures during the candidacy process.

WHEREAS, Concerns surrounding seminary student debt have sparked dialogue on how to best resolve this issue. While there has been much dialogue concerning student debt, meaningful solutions have not yet come to fruition.

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that each student in the candidacy process of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod will receive \$1500 minimum every academic year for a maximum of four (4) years.

RESOLVED, that the entire Seminary Scholarship budget line is to be faithfully distributed by the CSIS Candidacy Committee to students in the C/SIS candidacy process, regardless of the number of students for that year.

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA

Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders

2016

**Presented by the Leadership Support Subcommittee of the
Professional and Lay Ministry Committee
and approved by the Synod Council of the
Central/Southern Illinois Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Approval Date: Synod Council, March 2015**

Contents:

I.	Rationale	page 1
II.	Annual Update	page 2
III.	Explanation of the Components of Compensation	page 2
IV.	Worksheet of Compensation and Benefits	page 5
V.	Tables for Compensation and Benefits	page 6

I. RATIONALE

This report on compensation contains a revision of the 2015 guidelines, "Compensation and Benefits for Pastors, Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers and Deaconesses for the Central/Southern Illinois Synod." It is suggested that those who are responsible for the compensation of Pastors, Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers, and Deaconesses use this report as an aid in determining what fair and equitable compensation is for church workers. In addition to this report congregations may wish to consult other publications on compensation for church workers.

As congregations and church workers prepare their budgets for the coming year, this subcommittee would offer a few suggestions or principles that have guided this report. They are:

1. **The Mutual Ministry Principle:** Lutheran theology affirms that ministry belongs to the whole body of Christ. It is recommended that each congregation establish a Mutual Ministry Committee to review and appraise the congregation's ministry. This committee can make salary recommendations to the congregation and advocate the needs and concerns of the church worker. In addition, members of this committee can relate and share the needs and concerns of the parish to the pastor, associate in ministry, diaconal minister or deaconess.

When it comes to compensation everyone worries about money! Pastors and church workers worry about their finances in the same way that church boards worry about funding their budgets. Should matters of compensation become irritants, it is important to seek qualified help. When problems arise, either for the congregation or the church worker, consult the bishop's office for help and guidance.

Congregations believe and trust in their pastors and church workers. Pastors and church workers love their ministries and congregations. Matters of compensation should never become adversarial and harm good relationships that exist in parishes.

2. **The Information Principle:** Guidelines or recommendations can be useful only if they are understood. Those responsible for compensation in the parish need good, reliable information. Hopefully, this report can fulfill such a need. As congregations work through this report, they will learn more about what is expected and necessary for good compensation planning. It is also recommended that congregations stay current with the tax laws and recent changes in the tax laws. Sound tax strategies and planning can maximize the compensation of church workers.

3. **The Cost of Ministry Principle:** It costs money, time, and effort for a congregation to carry on an effective ministry. The cost of ministry is not the same as the remuneration given to the pastor, associate in ministry, diaconal minister, or deaconess. Remuneration or compensation is that amount of money that is paid to the church worker. This generally would include the base salary and housing allowance. These items accrue to the benefit of the worker. The cost of ministry includes all costs that a congregation incurs by virtue of having church worker. This generally would include professional expenses, worker compensation insurance, car reimbursement, medical, disability, survivor and retirement plans. The cost of ministry is substantially higher than the compensation that church workers receive.

When preparing a budget, congregations are urged to separate the cost of ministry from the compensation paid to church workers.

All guidelines have limitations. Every issue of salary and compensation cannot be determined or settled in this report. Congregations, pastors, associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, deaconesses and church workers are encouraged to talk and negotiate with each other as mature Christian brothers and sisters. It is hoped that these guidelines will serve as an aid for such dialogue.

4. Due to the complex nature of the tax code as it relates to clergy and lay professionals, the subcommittee for leadership support strongly recommends the use of a tax professional who is knowledgeable about such matters in the preparation of tax returns.

II. UPDATE IN THE FORMAT OF THE GUIDELINES

For 2016, the base salary guideline is given as a salary range for the number of years of service. Also, while the guidelines chart does not extend past 35 years of experience, we certainly do recommend that there be salary increases for church staff with more than 35 years of experience.

III. EXPLANATION OF THE COMPONENTS OF COMPENSATION

Note: All components apply to pastors and other rostered leaders, unless indicated otherwise.

1. Base (Basic Salary)

Direct monetary compensation or salary has been divided into levels, based on experience or years in the ministry. Each level provides a range of salary. Additional flexibility for the congregation in determining salary relates other factors for consideration. Such factors might include:

- a. Two point parish - add 3% to 5% of base.
- b. Senior Pastor with staff - add 3% to 5% of base.
- c. Advanced degree - add 3% to 5% of base.
- d. Merit - for exceptional work add 3% to 5% of base.
- e. Second career experience - Congregations are encouraged to recognize the previous work experience of second career church workers. Congregations may fully or partially recognize previous experience in determining the base salary, but some credit should be given in computing salary.
- f. Size or work load - Some congregations have special situations which merit increased salary. Some church workers carry heavy workloads which merit increased compensation. Normally, however, a congregation should increase the staff, rather than the compensation when the workload becomes too great for an individual.

Congregations are free to determine which of the above factors merit increases in the base salary. There may be other factors, which have not been considered in this report. The range in each level allows for flexibility, within the parameters established by years of service in the ministry.

2. Social Security Allowance

Social Security & Medicare Tax Allowance

While most clergy are considered employees for income tax purposes, they are considered self-employed for purposes of Self Employment Contributions Act (SECA) taxes, which means they carry the full burden of those taxes themselves.

An organization may choose to pay an amount directly to a pastor to use toward her or his Social Security and Medicare tax. Providing the allowance helps the pastor avoid being at a disadvantage when compared to a lay employee, who pays only the employee's share of the Social Security and Medicare tax.

Calculating Social Security & Medicare Tax Allowance:

Consider increasing Compensation Using the Same Combined Employer Social Security/Medicare Tax Rate as Lay Employees (7.65%) This approach mirrors the manner in which Social Security and Medicare taxes are allocated between employers and lay employees.

Examples:

Social Security and Medicare Tax Allowance with No Parsonage	
1	Base Salary _____
2	Housing Allowance _____
3	Total of 1 + 2 _____
4	7.65% of line 3 = Social Security and Medicare Tax Allowance _____

Social Security and Medicare Tax Allowance with a Parsonage	
1	Base Salary _____
2	Furnishings and Utilities Allowance (if designated) _____
3	Utilities Paid by Organization _____
4	Fair Market Rental Value of Parsonage _____
5	Total of 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 _____
6	7.65% of line 5 = Social Security and Medicare Tax Allowance _____

Reporting Social Security & Medicare Tax Allowance:

- For tax purposes: the IRS considers Social Security and Medicare allowance as taxable income to the pastor. Any allowance is typically reported as part of the taxable income in box 1 on a IRS Form W-2; not in boxes 2 or 4.
- For benefit purposes: Portico Benefit Services includes any Social Security and Medicare Allowance in the defined compensation used for calculating retirement, health, and other benefit contributions.
- For organizational budgeting purposes: it may still be helpful to report Social Security and Medicare Tax Allowance as a separate accounting item for planning and interpretive purposes.

Additional Notes:

The actual SECA tax liability must be calculated by the pastor at the time of filing his or her federal tax return, and involves numerous adjustments and calculations. These calculations are the pastor's responsibility, and not the congregation's.

In some instances, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers may be subject to SECA taxes on their ministerial earnings. In these situations, congregations should consider providing a Social Security and Medicare Tax Allowance.

The current SECA tax rate of 15.3% was established in 1990. It was temporarily reduced by 2% in 2011 and 2012, but returned to 15.3% in 2013.

3. Housing

Note: Associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses are not to be included in this component. Two housing alternatives are considered below:

- a) Parsonage: When a parsonage is provided, the congregation should pay for utilities and maintenance. The fair rental value of the parsonage is included in calculation SECA taxes (see above). In addition, defined compensation for benefit purposes is increased by 30% when reported to Portico Benefit Services. Congregations providing a parsonage must also consider a housing equity allowance.

Housing Equity Allowance:

- The ELCA suggests that congregations provide pastors with a "housing equity" allowance if they live in parsonage. These funds can grow over time, and can make home ownership possible for pastors who are retiring or moving to a new call where a parsonage is not provided.
- The ELCA recommends that either 3% of the pastor's total compensation or 5% to 10% of the base salary be designated and set aside as a housing equity allowance. Regardless of which figure is chosen, the congregation and pastor need to negotiate a figure that is mutually acceptable.
- The tax treatment, legal ownership, and management of housing equity funds can be complex, and may result in significant unplanned income and SECA tax liabilities for the pastor if not handled carefully.

Portico Benefit Services offers a convenient way to establish and manage housing equity contributions with simplified ownership and minimal tax consequences. These contributions are placed in the pastor's ELCA Retirement Plan account and are configured as Housing Equity contributions for tax purposes. These funds and any investment earnings can be withdrawn at any time, will not be subject to SECA taxes, and may not be subject to income taxes and early-withdrawal penalties when used to provide a home.

- b) Housing Allowance: Some congregations provide their pastor with a housing allowance in place of a parsonage. This figure should reflect the realistic fair rental value of a home in the community, and would normally include such costs as insurance, utilities, taxes, maintenance, improvements, and furnishings. This figure needs to be reviewed and adjusted annually.

A housing allowance designation provides a special tax benefit for the pastor. According to IRS Publication 517, the pastor may exclude from gross income the smallest of:

- Eligible expenses used to provide a home
- The amount officially designated as a housing allowance, or
- The fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and utilities

- c) Housing Resolution: To assist you and your congregation in this process, the following is offered as a sample. IRS regulations require that this resolution be adopted by the church council on an annual basis and be recorded in church council minutes.

WHEREAS The Reverend, name is a full-time clergy staff member of name of congregation and city of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS name of pastor owns his own home; and

WHEREAS in compliance with Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code (Revised ruling 71-280), such persons are eligible to have a portion of their compensation designated as rental or housing allowance, now, there be it

RESOLVED that name of pastor shall have a portion of his/her compensation for the calendar year designated as housing or rental allowance in the amount of \$ and be it further

RESOLVED that the Congregation Council of name of congregation and city the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America take the foregoing action solely to fulfill an IRS requirement and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of figures submitted by clergy staff members.

Date

(Signed by the Congregation Council President)

Date

(Signed by the Pastor)

4. The ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program

The ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program helps plan members live well for life, by offering a benefit program that includes health, flexible spending, retirement, disability, life insurance, and other benefits. By helping each other live well, we strengthen our ministries and our communities, and are better equipped to carry out God's work. For more than 25 years, Portico Benefit Services has used foundational principles guided by the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits to design a bundled benefit program that aligns with ELCA values and affirms the importance of benefits for the health and wellness of this church.

As outlined by the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits, health benefits should include coverage for the plan member and immediate family members of rostered leaders and lay employees. Although employers are expected to pay the majority of benefit costs through plan contributions, plan members are expected to participate in the benefit costs through plan design and features.

Benefit Program Overview

a. ELCA Health Benefits Plan — Health benefits including medical and mental health, dental, prescription drugs, support services, and wellness programs. Sponsoring organizations can choose between four ELCA-Primary health benefit options:

Platinum+: Lowest deductible and out-of-pocket limit

Gold+: Low deductible and out-of-pocket limit

Silver+: High deductible and low out-of-pocket limit paired with HSA

Bronze+: Highest deductible and out-of-pocket limit paired with HSA

The ELCA Church Council recommends Gold+ to preserve a cost structure that works well for plan members and supports the call process nationally.

If an organization selects Platinum+ or Gold+, or if plan members choose to buy up to one of those options, they can make pretax contributions to a health FSA, which they can use to pay for eligible health care expenses. If an organization selects Silver+ or Bronze+ they'll also select one of three HSA contribution amounts to offset members' higher deductible and out-of-pocket costs:

Level A: \$1,200 single/\$2,400 family

Level B: \$600 single/\$1,200 family

Level C: \$0 single/\$0 family (no contribution)

Note: By not contributing to plan members' HSAs, employers put more of the health care cost burden on them.

Sponsored members may waive health benefits for themselves or their eligible spouse or eligible same-gender partner as long as they can prove they have other valid health coverage, as defined by Portico. If a sponsored plan member waives health benefits for themselves, they must also waive health benefits for their spouse or eligible same-gender partner and children.

Plan members or family members who are eligible for Medicare will have ELCA Medicare-Primary health benefits to supplement Medicare benefits.

b. ELCA Flexible Benefits Plan — Health flexible spending accounts (FSA), dependent (day) care accounts FSA, health savings accounts (HSA), limited-purpose flexible spending accounts (FSA), and personal wellness accounts, which can be used to pay for eligible expenses. Both sponsoring employers and plan members can make contributions to an HSA. Members who have waived ELCA health benefits can participate in an FSA.

c. ELCA Retirement Plan — Sponsoring employers and eligible plan members contribute to save money for plan members' retirement

- i. Employer retirement contributions: minimum of 10% for clergy and rostered lay in congregations; some members, based on age, may have a minimum of 11% or 12%
- ii. Employer housing equity: contributions are not to replace salary but can be used to voluntarily increase retirement contributions or to build equity for a pastor who lives in a parsonage
- iii. Employee pretax retirement contributions: plan members can contribute up to IRS contribution limits

- d. **ELCA Disability Benefits Plan** — Provides eligible disabled plan members a monthly income, health benefits, life insurance, and retirement account contributions after a two-month waiting period. Eligibility for benefits is determined by Portico's benefits administrator.
- e. **ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan** — Life insurance to help plan members' beneficiaries with financial obligations in the event of a death.
 - i. Employer-paid basic group life insurance for sponsored plan members
 - ii. The opportunity for eligible plan members to purchase supplemental life insurance for themselves, and dependent life insurance for eligible spouses, eligible same-gender partners, and children

Annual Open Enrollment

Each fall, each sponsoring employer must make a selection with Portico for the ELCA-Primary health benefit option they will offer their sponsored plan members for the following year. Even if they'll be providing the same ELCA health benefit option as the current year, they still must confirm that option.

More Information

It is expected that congregations will sponsor pastors and their families in the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program. Congregations are permitted to make additional contributions to the ELCA Retirement Plan of the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program. These contributions are tax deferred. The Professional Leadership Committee encourages our congregations to fund Retirement Plan contributions at 12%.

Sponsored Couples

If both members of a couple are sponsored in the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program, they are a sponsored couple. Most sponsored couples choose to enroll in health benefits as a couple, because it typically reduces health benefit costs for both the family and sponsoring employers. As a couple, they are able to manage health benefits as a family, but manage other benefits — like tax-advantaged accounts and retirement accounts — individually.

Each sponsoring employer's health contribution is calculated separately as if each person was the only sponsored member of the family, based on defined compensation, age, geographic location, and health coverage level. The cost is then divided in half to determine each employer's contribution. If the plan member chooses to buy up to a higher-value health benefit option, their buy-up cost is calculated separately for each as if they were the only sponsored plan member of the family, and takes into account their defined compensation, age, geographic location, and health coverage level. The buy-up cost is divided in half to determine the amount of payroll withholding from the employee's paychecks. The same calculation is used to determine payroll withholding for the other spouse or eligible same-gender partner. Each employer pays the full cost of retirement, disability, and survivor benefit contributions for the plan member it sponsors.

5. Professional Expenses Reimbursement

- a. **Automobile Reimbursement:** It is usual for a congregation to set an actual cost-per-mile reimbursement, using the IRS mileage figure. (e.g. \$.57.5 per mile for 2015 or current IRS rate.) Some congregations may lease or own a car, which the church worker uses for congregational business. Still other congregations set a fixed annual rate for an "automobile allowance."

For tax purposes this report recommends that congregations use the reimbursement method. Allowances are taxable income; straight reimbursements of costs are not. Professional expenses which are not reimbursed are normally deductible on Schedule A where they are subject to the 2% rule, i.e. only the amount that exceeds 2% of one's adjusted gross income (1040, line 31) is deductible.

- b. **Books and Other Published Resources:** It is appropriate for the congregation to reimburse the church worker for books, magazines, professional journals, and other published materials.
- c. **Malpractice-Liability Insurance:** Congregations are encouraged to provide this coverage for all church workers.
- d. **Other Professional Expenses:** Congregations should reimburse the pastor and all church workers for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Some examples would include the fees charged for the Professional Leadership Conference, parking costs, dues for professional associations, telephone, synod assembly, etc.

6. Continuing Education.

The congregation should negotiate allotted time for a pastor to continue his/her education. The ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit recommends twenty-five classroom hours per year. This report recommends that pastors and congregation councils work out a mutually agreed upon plan of study and file a covenant with the bishop's office. It is expected that the congregation, the church worker, and the church all share in the cost of continuing education.

We recommend congregation councils give serious consideration to Sabbatical or Clergy Renewal Leave as part of the compensation package. A sabbatical leave is a time for release from normal duties in order that the Pastor may devote time to renewal. It is an integral and important part of an overall strategy for enhancing the mission of the congregation through pastor renewal, enrichment, study, spiritual growth, travel, personal and family time, skill development, and/or research. Sabbatical leaves can be of any duration decided upon by the congregation. For those congregations interested in providing sabbatical or clergy renewal time a resource document is available on line or from the Synod Office. It is entitled: Resource Guide for Sabbatical or Clergy Renewal for The Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA.

7. Leave Time

1. Continuing Education: Two weeks per year, which may be accumulated up to six weeks over a three year period.
2. Regular vacation:
 - a. Minimum of four weeks with Sundays per year.
Additional Sundays may be granted.
3. Sick leave: Full salary until ELCA Disability Benefits Plan takes effect; eligibility rules apply. See Letter of Call or Appointment for specific details.
4. Parental leave: Maternal--6 weeks with full salary.
Paternal--2 weeks with full salary.
Parents who are adopting children should be granted the same amount of leave time. Parental leave may also be granted at other times, e.g. during times of severe illness, trauma, or death.
5. Personal leave: As mutually agreed upon.

Congregations are encouraged to establish a policy of emergency leave, before an emergency arises.

PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES

1. Automobile Expenses:
 - a. Fixed monthly amount or a cost-per-mile reimbursement.
 - b. Congregation owns or leases a car.
2. Continuing Education: Recommendation is \$1,000, minimum recommendation is \$700 per year.
Continuing education time of two weeks per year, which may be accumulated up to six weeks over a three-year period, is recommended.
3. Professional Books and Journals: \$200 per year.
4. Insurance, et al.: includes malpractice and worker comprehensive coverages.

IV. WORKSHEET OF COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Pastorally vacant congregations who are calling a pastor are asked to use the
"Worksheet of Compensation and Benefits for a Newly Called Pastor"

	Current Year		Next Year
<u>Compensation</u>			
1 Basic Salary	\$ _____		\$ _____
2 Social Security & Medicare Tax Allowance	_____		_____
3 Housing			
a. If Parsonage is Provided:			
Utilities Paid by Congregation	_____		_____
Furnishings and Utilities Allowance	_____		_____
Housing Equity Allowance	_____		_____
b. If Parsonage is Not Provided:			
Housing Allowance	_____		_____
 Total of Salary, Housing & Social Security & Medicare Tax Allowance	 \$ _____		 \$ _____

ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program

1 ELCA Health Plan Premium	\$ _____		\$ _____
Health Plan Provided: _____ Platinum+ _____ Gold+ _____ Silver+ _____ Bronze+			
2 Employer Health Savings Account			
Contributions (if Silver+ or Bronze+)	_____		_____
3 ELCA Retirement Contributions at _____ %	_____		_____
4 ELCA Disability Benefits Contributions	_____		_____
5 ELCA Survivor Benefits Contributions	_____		_____
6 ELCA Retiree Support Contributions	_____		_____
 Total Pension & Benefits	 \$ _____		 \$ _____

Expenses

1 Automobile			
a. Reimbursement (cents/mile IRS rate or fixed amount)	\$ _____		\$ _____
b. Congregation lease/own car	_____		_____
2 Continuing education	_____		_____
3 Books, journals, etc.	_____		_____
4 Malpractice-Liability Insurance	_____		_____
5 Other _____	_____		_____
 Total	 \$ _____		 \$ _____

Leave Time

1 Continuing Education (weeks)	_____	_____
2 Regular vacation (weeks, including Sundays)	_____	_____
3 Sick leave (days)	_____	_____
4 Parental leave (weeks)	_____	_____
5 Personal leave (days)	_____	_____

V. TABLES FOR COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

5. THE YEAR 2016 COMPENSATION FOR ROSTERED LEADERSHIP

Base salary is determined by years of service in the ministry. Please give serious consideration to any other experience. Then view the present base salary and make appropriate adjustments with prayerful Christian deliberation.

CLERGY				DIACONAL MINISTERS				Associate in Ministry			
Years of Service				Years of Service				Years of Service			
0	\$34,960	-	\$36,000	0	33,728	-	34,740	0	\$33,461	-	\$34,465
1	\$35,700	-	\$36,750	1	34,398	-	35,520	1	\$34,121	-	\$35,135
2	\$36,440	-	\$37,500	2	35,068	-	36,300	2	\$34,781	-	\$35,805
3	\$37,180	-	\$38,250	3	35,738	-	37,080	3	\$35,441	-	\$36,475
4	\$37,920	-	\$39,000	4	36,408	-	37,860	4	\$36,101	-	\$37,145
5	\$38,660	-	\$39,750	5	37,078	-	38,640	5	\$36,761	-	\$37,815
6	\$39,400	-	\$40,500	6	37,748	-	39,420	6	\$37,421	-	\$38,485
7	\$40,140	-	\$41,250	7	38,418	-	40,200	7	\$38,081	-	\$39,155
8	\$40,880	-	\$42,000	8	39,088	-	40,980	8	\$38,741	-	\$39,825
9	\$41,620	-	\$42,750	9	39,758	-	41,760	9	\$39,401	-	\$40,495
10	\$42,360	-	\$43,500	10	40,428	-	42,540	10	\$40,061	-	\$41,165
11	\$43,100	-	\$44,250	11	41,098	-	43,320	11	\$40,721	-	\$41,835
12	\$43,840	-	\$45,000	12	41,768	-	44,100	12	\$41,381	-	\$42,505
13	\$44,580	-	\$45,750	13	42,438	-	44,880	13	\$42,041	-	\$43,175
14	\$45,320	-	\$46,500	14	43,108	-	45,660	14	\$42,701	-	\$43,845
15	\$46,060	-	\$47,250	15	43,778	-	46,440	15	\$43,361	-	\$44,515
16	\$46,800	-	\$48,000	16	44,448	-	47,220	16	\$44,021	-	\$45,185
17	\$47,540	-	\$48,750	17	45,118	-	48,000	17	\$44,681	-	\$45,855
18	\$48,280	-	\$49,500	18	45,788	-	48,780	18	\$45,341	-	\$46,525
19	\$49,020	-	\$50,250	19	46,458	-	49,560	19	\$46,001	-	\$47,195
20	\$49,760	-	\$51,000	20	47,128	-	50,340	20	\$46,661	-	\$47,865
21	\$50,500	-	\$51,750	21	47,798	-	51,120	21	\$47,321	-	\$48,535
22	\$51,240	-	\$52,500	22	48,468	-	51,900	22	\$47,981	-	\$49,205
23	\$51,980	-	\$53,250	23	49,138	-	52,680	23	\$48,641	-	\$49,875
24	\$52,720	-	\$54,000	24	49,808	-	53,460	24	\$49,301	-	\$50,545
25	\$53,460	-	\$54,750	25	50,478	-	54,240	25	\$49,961	-	\$51,215
26	\$54,200	-	\$55,500	26	51,148	-	55,020	26	\$50,621	-	\$51,885
27	\$54,940	-	\$56,250	27	51,818	-	55,800	27	\$51,281	-	\$52,555
28	\$55,680	-	\$57,000	28	52,488	-	56,580	28	\$51,941	-	\$53,225
29	\$56,420	-	\$57,750	29	53,158	-	57,360	29	\$52,601	-	\$53,895
30	\$57,160	-	\$58,500	30	53,828	-	58,140	30	\$53,261	-	\$54,565
31	\$57,900	-	\$59,250	31	54,498	-	58,920	31	\$53,921	-	\$55,235
32	\$58,640	-	\$60,000	32	55,168	-	59,700	32	\$54,581	-	\$55,905
33	\$59,380	-	\$60,750	33	55,838	-	60,480	33	\$55,241	-	\$56,575
34	\$60,120	-	\$61,500	34	56,508	-	61,260	34	\$55,901	-	\$57,245
35	\$60,860	-	\$62,250	35	57,178	-	62,040	35	\$56,561	-	\$57,915

Central/Southern Illinois Synod
2014 Synod Assembly
Synod Assembly Minutes

Thursday, June 5, 2014

OPENING DEVOTION

Called to order at 2:08p.m. by Assembly Chair, Bishop S. John Roth.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Report given by Pastor James Davis.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.01 **To approve** the roll of persons hereby submitted to be the official roll of voting members of the Assembly:

Lay Voting Members	190	Official Observers	0
Clergy Voting Members	89	Visitors	36
Associates in Ministry	2		
Diaconal Ministers	0		
Total Voting Members	281	TOTAL Attendance	317

ADOPTION OF 2014 RULES OF PROCEDURE

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.02 **To approve** 2014 Synod Assembly Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2014 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

ASSEMBLY AGENDA

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.03 **To approve** the Agenda with permission of the Chair to adjust as necessary.

ASSEMBLY PARLIAMENTARIAN

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.04 **To approve** the seating of Mr. Daniel Simmons, Esq. as 2014 Assembly Parliamentarian.

RECOGNITION OF ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

RECOGNITION OF ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

Bishop Daniel Martins, Episcopal Bishop, Springfield Diocese

The Rev. Kevin Laughery, Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer for the Catholic Diocese of Springfield

ELCA PARTNERSHIP GREETINGS

Video greeting brought from President Dr. Rakoto Endo Modeste, Lutheran Church of Madagascar.

REPORT ON THE ROSTER/SYNOD STATISTICS

All statistics are as of May 15, 2014.

Congregations	130
Baptized Membership	43,611
Confirmed Membership	36,973
Average Sunday Worship Attendance	11,933
<u>Clergy on the Roster</u>	
Active Called to Congregations	86

Active, Called to Specialized Ministry	10	
On Leave from Call	12	
Retired	56	
Medical Disability	1	
<u>Lay Rostered</u>		
Active, Called to Congregations	3	0
Active, Called to Specialized Ministry	1	1
On Leave from Call	2	2
Retired	4	0
	Associates in Ministry	Diaconal Ministers

Excused absences to 2014 Synod Assembly

Pastor Vic Baderschneider	Carol Manley, AiM	Pastor Jared Parker
Pastor Emil Blobaum	Pastor Wilbur McCasky	Pastor John Schmeling
Pastor John Constable	Patrick Monroe, DM	Pastor Mike Thomas
Pastor Roger Digges	Pastor Ron Neustadt	(Friday and Saturday)
Pastor Nathan Frambach	Pastor Elaine Olson	Pastor Knight Wells

INTRODUCTION OF ROSTERED LEADERS NEW TO C/SIS

Pastor Walter Chellberg from Indiana-Kentucky Synod, retired
 Pastor April Dailey from Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, called to Trinity Lutheran, Olney
 Pastor Pamela Mitcham from North Carolina Synod, called to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Centralia
 Pastor Margo Peterson from Northern Illinois Synod, called to St. Martin of Tours Lutheran, Mascoutah
 Pastor Carla Rush from North/West Lower Michigan Synod, called to Peace Lutheran, Chester and St. John Lutheran, Bremen
 Pastor Candida Turner from Southeast Michigan Synod, called to Immanuel Lutheran, Lincoln

Seminarians assigned

Bradley Eidson, Spring 2014 Daryl Emowery, Spring 2014

Candidacy Students

Brian Coffey	Laurie Helms	Trena Montgomery
Lynne Culkin	Patrick Jenkins	Linda Strader
Michael Griffith	Brach Jennings	

APPROVAL OF 2013 ASSEMBLY MINUTES

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.05 **To approve** the 2013 Synod Assembly minutes as presented.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP (written report submitted)

Bishop S. John Roth

TREASURER'S REPORT

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.06 **To approve** the report of the Treasurer and place it on file.

Financial reports for fiscal year 2013 have been made available online. The yearly audit has been completed, but a written document has not yet been received. Missional giving was higher than budgeted, and fiscal year 2014 ended with an approximately \$25,000 surplus. C/SIS has approximately \$246,000 in cash reserves, which is near the maximum allowed constitutionally.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL

Vice President Jeanne Rapp introduced members of Synod Council.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Henry Harms

Synod Council

Member-at-Large / One (1) to be elected

Three (3) year term

Mr. Steve Rapp

Mr. Larry Saler

Consultation Committee

Two (2) to be elected

Six (6) year term

Ms. Sharon Cassens

Pastor Karen Norman Rees

PROPOSED 2015 BUDGET

First Reading, Pastor John Rothfusz

Income:	\$1,475,000
ELCA:	\$ 826,000
CSIS:	\$ 649,000
Misc.	\$ 9,000
Total available to C/SIS	\$ 658,000

Budget being proposed this year is a deficit budget.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Pastor Robert Rasmus

RESOLUTION 01.2014

Title: Synod Constitution Changes

Mover: Synod Council

Seconder: None required

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.07 **To approve** Resolution 01.2014

RESOLUTION 01.2014

Title: Synod Constitution Changes

Mover: Synod Council

Seconder: None required

THEREFORE, SO BE IT

Resolved That the Central / Southern Illinois Synod adopt the amended by-laws S7.23 and S7.26, printed below, as recommended by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S7.23. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~mission settings formed with the intent of becoming recognized~~ congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION #1

The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen

Session declared in recess at 4:51 p.m.

Friday, June 6, 2014 – Morning

MORNING DEVOTIONS

Assembly called to order at 8:38 a.m. by Assembly Chair, Bishop S. John Roth.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Report given by Pastor James Davis.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.08 **To approve** the roll of persons hereby submitted to be the official roll of voting members of the Assembly, unanimous.

Lay Voting Members	200	Official Observers	0
Clergy Voting Members	110	Visitors	42
Associates in Ministry	2		
Diaconal Ministers	0		
Total Voting Members	312	TOTAL Attendance	354

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

FIRST BALLOT, VOTING FOR SYNOD COUNCIL

*denotes elected

Synod Council

Member-at-Large / One (1) to be elected

Three (3) year term

139* Mr. Steve Rapp

125 Mr. Larry Saler

Consultation Committee

Two (2) to be elected

Six (6) year term

* Ms. Sharon Cassens

* Pastor Karen Norman Rees

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Pastor Robert Rasmus

RESOLUTION 02.2014

Title: Synod Assembly Location

Mover: Rev. Paul M. Thomas, Trinity Lutheran Church, Macomb

Seconder: Rev. Paul Schwartzkopf, retired

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.09 **To call** the question.

As to Resolution 02.2014

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.10 **To approve** Resolution 02.2014

RESOLUTION 02.2014

Title: Synod Assembly Location

Mover: Rev. Paul M. Thomas, Trinity Lutheran Church, Macomb

Seconder: Rev. Paul Schwartzkopf, retired

WHEREAS: C/SIS Resolution 89-13 *"Therefore be it resolved that Springfield, IL, be the Annual Assembly Site until such time that the Assembly decides otherwise,"* stipulates that

Springfield, IL, be the Annual Assembly Site until such time that the Assembly decides otherwise; and
WHEREAS: a site outside of Springfield, IL may be a preferred site for an Assembly of this synod in any given year; and
WHEREAS: action by the Assembly of the C/SIS is required to provide the flexibility to consider a site outside of Springfield, IL for an Assembly;
THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED: that the restriction to Springfield, IL set forth in C/SIS Resolution 89-13, as the Annual Assembly Site is removed.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Mr. Lon Buss, ELCA Regional Director of Lutheran Men in Mission

PORTICO BENEFITS

Ms. Andrea Arey

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Pastor Robert Rasmus

RESOLUTION 04.2014

Title: The Future of ELCA Seminaries
Submitted by: Mr. Tom Gooding, St. Paul Lutheran, Hillsboro
Seconded by: Rev. Ken Sandlin, St. Paul Lutheran, Hillsboro

VOTED: Motion carried.
SA14.06.11 **To approve** Resolution 04.2014

RESOLUTION 04.2014

Title: The Future of ELCA Seminaries
Submitted by: Mr. Tom Gooding, St. Paul Lutheran, Hillsboro
Seconded by: Rev. Ken Sandlin, St. Paul Lutheran, Hillsboro

WHEREAS seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are treasures of learning, wisdom, tradition, and equipping visionary leaders for service in our local congregations on a daily basis; and,
WHEREAS the graduates of our ELCA seminaries are accumulating higher debt load that can affect their ministry; and,
WHEREAS the ELCA seminaries are struggling with financial challenges and burdens created by decreased ELCA funding and higher educational costs; and,
WHEREAS ELCA research reports that there will be a future need for additional pastors and leaders across the ELCA; and,
WHEREAS gift planners of the ELCA foundation and seminary foundations have tools to help people consider planned gifts to seminaries as well as other ministries;
THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED that the Central / Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA:
1. Inform its congregations and members of the financial struggles our seminaries are experiencing; in particular the seminaries relating to our synod: Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC), Chicago IL, and Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA; and
2. Inform its pastors, congregations, and members of the need to identify gifted leaders for theological education who may serve our local congregations; and,

3. educate its congregations and members that the ELCA Foundation and seminary foundations can help people plan and develop charitable trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts that will help ELCA seminaries survive into the future; and,
4. encourage congregational church councils of the Central / Southern Illinois Synod to include in their church's annual budget financial support to ELCA seminaries.

SYNOD FORUMS

STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS

The Rev. Michael Stadie, Director of Lutheran Disaster Response
Video message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

ANNOUNCEMENT

Festival Offering to benefit Madagascar ministries: \$6,279.03. As of June 6, 2014, the Pedal for a Purpose fundraiser to benefit campus ministry has raised \$17,055.50.

Session declared in recess at 11:52 a.m.

Friday, June 6, 2014 – afternoon

ASSEMBLY FORUMS

Assembly called to order at 2:16 p.m. by Assembly Chair, Bishop S. John Roth.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Report given by Pastor James Davis.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.12 **To approve** the roll of persons hereby submitted to be the official roll of voting members of the Assembly, unanimous.

Lay Voting Members	206	Official Observers	0
Clergy Voting Members	113	Visitors	45
Associates in Ministry	2		
Diaconal Ministers	0		
Total Voting Members	321	TOTAL Attendance	366

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Synod-wide Ministry

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
Lutheran Campus Ministry
Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center

Pastor Elyse Nelson Winger, Board Member
Pastor Matthew Geerdes
Mr. Jesse Klosterboer, Public Relations Director

PROPOSED 2014 BUDGET

Second Reading, Pastor John Rothfusz

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.13 **To approve** the 2015 Proposed Budget

<i>Income from Congregations</i>	\$1,475,000
Ministry through ELCA (56%)	\$826,000
Ministry through CSIS (44%)	\$649,000
Interest & Misc. Income	\$9,000
TOTAL AVAILABLE TO CSIS	\$670,100

<u>Outflow CSIS</u>	
<u>Agencies and Institutions</u>	
LSSI	\$51,421
Colleges	\$2,000
Seminaries	\$40,000
Campus Ministries	\$49,500
LOMC	\$6,750
Region 5 Support	\$3,008
ICOC	\$3,600
TOTAL AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS	\$156,279
<u>CSIS Program Committees</u>	
Global Mission	\$4,000
Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy	\$8,000
Professional and Lay Ministry	
Candidacy Subcommittee	\$20,000
S.A.M. Subcommittee	\$3,500
Leadership Support	\$4,000
Mission Support and Stewardship	\$1,000
New and Renewing Congregations	\$7,050
Constitution/Miscellaneous	-0-
TOTAL C/SIS PROGRAM COMMITTEES	\$47,550
<u>CSIS Congregation/Clergy Services</u>	
Salaries/Housing	\$286,056
Benefits	\$77,120
Continuing Education	\$4,500
Bishop's Fund	\$1,000
TOTAL C/SIS CONG/CLERGY SERVICES	\$368,676
<u>CSIS Office Administration</u>	
Staff Travel	\$18,000
Operations	\$60,185
Equipment	\$4,500
Furniture	\$2,200
Automobile	\$2,000
Communication	\$750
TOTAL C/SIS OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	\$87,635
<u>CSIS Synod Administration</u>	
Synod Assembly	\$25,000
Nominating Committee	-0-
Synod Council	\$4,500
Restructuring Task Force	-0-
TOTAL C/SIS SYNOD ADMINISTRATION	\$29,500
TOTAL SYNOD OUTFLOW	\$689,640
Total Outflow	\$1,515,640
Total inflow over total outflow	(31,640)
Reserves available end of year	\$214,367

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS
REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Pastor Robert Rasmus

MEMORIAL 01.2014

Title: Church Social Statements and Messages
Submitted by: Mark R. DePue, Atonement Lutheran, Springfield, IL
Seconded by: Pastor Scott Egbers, Pastor, First Lutheran, Beardstown, IL

Debate held. Orders of the day called. Additional debate postponed.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION #2

The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen

Return to debate on Memorial 01.2014

Motion to Amend by Insertion Memorial 01.2014:

RESOLVED ... social statements FOR THE CHURCH IN ASSEMBLY TO ACCEPT OR REJECT A
GIVEN SOCIAL STATEMENT or social messages and instead...

Motion died for lack of a second.

VOTED: Motion carried.
SA14.06.14 **To call** the question.

As to Memorial 01.2014:

VOTED: Motion failed.
SA14.06.15 **To approve** Memorial 01.2014

MEMORIAL 01.2014

Title: Church Social Statements and Messages
Submitted by: Mark R. DePue, Atonement Lutheran, Springfield, IL
Seconded by: Pastor Scott Egbers, Pastor, First Lutheran, Beardstown, IL

Whereas the ELCA Church since its founding has sought to make the ELCA church a place that welcomes diversity among its members; and,
Whereas the ELCA members have very diverse political views and affiliations, spanning the spectrum of the American political scene today; and
Whereas Americans today are deeply divided on their political views, reaching historical levels of political dissension and animus; and
Whereas ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton is reported to state in the January 2014 edition of *The Lutheran* that the church body "need(s) to repair trust and diminish suspicion that is 'prevalent in our culture [and] has seeped into our church'"; and
Whereas the Christian faith and Lutheran teaching do not require us to share common political views, and future social statements could potentially take positions that exclude other positions that are just as faithful to our calling as Christians; and
Whereas some ELCA congregations downplay the existing ELCA social statements in the interest of unity and harmony within their congregations.
Therefore, be it
Resolved that the Central / Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to hereafter issue no further social statements, social messages, and instead focus on those things that unite us as a church body, in particular, the redeeming message of Jesus Christ.

BISHOP'S COLLOQUY

Session 3 declared in recess at 5:10 p.m.

Saturday, June 7, 2014 – Morning

Assembly called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Assembly Chair, Bishop S. John Roth.

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Report given by Pastor James Davis.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.16 **To approve** the roll of persons hereby submitted to be the official roll of voting members of the Assembly, unanimous.

Lay Voting Members	206	Official Observers	0
Clergy Voting Members	113	Visitors	45
Associates in Ministry	2		
Diaconal Ministers	0		
Total Voting Members	321	TOTAL Attendance	366

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION #3

The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Churchwide Reports

ELCA Foundation – Ms. Jennifer Prinz

Mission Investment Fund – Mr. Enrique Rojas, Regional Manager

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mission Support and Stewardship Education	Pastor Kathryn Montira, chair
Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy	Ms. Ellen Davis, chair
New and Renewing Congregations	Pastor Ed Hudelson, chair
Global Mission	Pastor Wayne Shelksohn, chair
Professional and Lay Leadership	
<i>Candidacy Subcommittee</i>	Pastor Chris Repp, member
<i>Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee</i>	Pastor David Hofer, chair
<i>Leadership Support Subcommittee</i>	Pastor James Reents, member

RECOGNITION OF COMMITTEES and TASK FORCES

Constitution Committee	Pastor Richard Hertenstein, chair
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RECOGNITION OF CONFERENCE DEANS

Reports online

RECOGNITION OF AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

Lutheran Youth Organization	Hannah Sherer – President of C/SIS LYO
Women of the ELCA	Ms. Mary Plymire, C/SIS WELCA President

RECOGNITION OF LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS

Board members	Ms. Jeanne Rapp
	The Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger
	Mr. A.J. "Mike" Schwindenhammer

RECOGNITION OF LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRY

Board Members	The Rev. Dennis O'Brien
	Mr. Rob Gieraltowski
	Mr. John Gregg
	The Rev. Julia Rademacher
	Mr. Jason Fisher

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS
REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

Mr. Michael Mason

RESOLUTION 03.2014

Title: Resolution on Cooperative Ministry with Ecumenical Partners
Mover: Rev. William Dohle, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Peoria
Seconders: Rev. Wayne Shelksohn, Grace and Peace Lutheran Church, Peoria
Rev. James Lillie, First English Lutheran Church, Peoria

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.17 To approve Resolution 03.2014

RESOLUTION 03.2014

Title: Resolution on Cooperative Ministry with Ecumenical Partners
Mover: Rev. William Dohle, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Peoria
Seconders: Rev. Wayne Shelksohn, Grace and Peace Lutheran Church, Peoria
Rev. James Lillie, First English Lutheran Church, Peoria

WHEREAS, our Lord Jesus Christ prayed for the unity of the people of God (*that they may be completely one*) and that they be filled with the love of God to give testimony to the world, who does not know the God through Christ Jesus; and

WHEREAS, a central document to Lutherans is the *Augsburg Confession*. Article VII of the *Augsburg Confession* states that "the true unity of the church" is present where the gospel is rightly preached and sacraments rightly administered. The ELCA is committed to this model of full communion as an authentic expression of Christian unity; and

WHEREAS, in Churchwide Assembly the ELCA has formed full communion partnerships with the Episcopal Church (since 1999), the Presbyterian Church USA (since 1997), the Reformed Church in America (since 1997), the United Church of Christ (since 1997), the Moravian Church (since 1999), and the United Methodist Church (since 2009); and

WHEREAS, for the ELCA, the characteristics of full communion relationships imply that the gospel allows variety and flexibility in carrying out the theology and mission that we share. These characteristics stress that the church act ecumenically for the sake of the world, not for itself alone. They will include at least the following, some of which exist at earlier stages:

- common confessing of the Christian faith
- mutual recognition of Baptism and a sharing of the Lord's Supper, allowing for joint worship and an exchangeability of members
- mutual recognition and availability of ordained ministers to the service of all, subject to the disciplinary regulations of other denominations
- common commitment to evangelism, witness and service
- means of common decision-making on critical common issues of faith and life
- mutual lifting of any condemnations that exist between denominations; and

WHEREAS, full communion allows full participation in and full acceptance of the ministries of the other ecumenical partners; and

WHEREAS, there are many ways outside of sharing clergy that churches in full communion can relate and cooperate with each other; and

WHEREAS, the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, has not developed a mission and ministry plan with our ecumenical partners in our area or actively implemented such a plan;

THEREFORE BE IT THAT

- RESOLVED, the Bishop of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod as the Synod's Chief Ecumenical Officer, appoint an Ecumenical Committee and Chairperson to oversee development of an expansive vision and strategy for how the synod as a whole can develop a deeper cooperative ministry with its ecumenical partners to possibly include joint convocations, assemblies, committees, and the like, and report on this strategy to the Synod Council in 2015 and the Synod Assembly by 2016; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED that, the Central/Southern Illinois Synod memorialize its congregations to begin now cooperating with and engaging in ministry, beside sister churches, especially those officially deemed ecumenical partners in full communion relationships with the ELCA; and BE IT FINALLY
- RESOLVED that, the rostered leaders of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod be memorialized and encouraged to find or create opportunities to worship and study with leaders and congregations in full communion with the ELCA in our Synod area.

RESOLUTION 06.2014

Title: Definitely-Abled Sunday

Mover: The Rev. Kara Shaw, Zion Lutheran, Shipman and St. John Lutheran, Dorchester

Second: The Rev. Christine McNeal, St. John Lutheran, Bloomington

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.18 **To refer** Resolution 06.2014 to Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy Committee.

RESOLUTION 06.2014

Title: Definitely-Abled Sunday

Mover: The Rev. Kara Shaw, Zion Lutheran, Shipman and St. John Lutheran, Dorchester

Second: The Rev. Christine McNeal, St. John Lutheran, Bloomington

WHEREAS: St. Paul in Scripture invites us to understand God's perspective of all humanity's value within the Body of Christ, the Church. He wrote: "*So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*" (I Corinthians 12:25 NCV)

WHEREAS throughout his ministry, Jesus and his followers sought to embrace and re-incorporate the forgotten, the marginalized, and the excluded; for example:

- Bartimaeus, the blind man on the side of the road (Luke 18:35-43)
- The man with paralysis carried by four friends (Matthew 9:1-6)
- The woman suffering from blood flow (Mark 5:25-34)
- The ten men with leprosy (Luke 17:11-19)
- The man with the withered hand (Mark 3:1-15)

...the list of examples could go on and on ...

and we believe the Church should be a community where people of all abilities are affirmed and appreciated and encouraged to participate,

WHEREAS the ELCA social message about "Human Disability" www.elca.org/disabilities message states: "*Just as in Christ there is no longer Jew nor Greek, there is no longer slave nor free, there is no longer male and female*" (Galatians 3:28 NRSV), so also in Christ there are neither people with disabilities nor people without disabilities and encourages congregations to be inclusive and accessible to those who live with physical, sensory, intellectual, mental and developmental challenges; and

WHEREAS we confess that too often we have intentionally and unintentionally placed physical, social, and relational barriers that have limited our welcome to others with special needs, and that we may have injured them and their families in this process. "People with disabilities are much less likely to attend religious services compared to people without disabilities, 50% versus 57% respectively." (N.O.D. Harris Survey 2010)

- THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED that the Central/Southern Illinois Synod (C/SIS) develop a Definitely-Abled Advocacy group within our synod; and therefore be it
- RESOVLED that one Sunday each year be designated as "Definitely-Abled Sunday" within the C/SIS; and, be it further
- RESOLVED that the congregations and special ministries of C/SIS offer prayers, litanies, sermons, and/or lessons that highlight the capabilities, issues, and struggles of those with disabilities; and therefore be it
- RESOLVED that we lift up local, state, national, and international ministries like MOSAIC, an ELCA ministry that partner with people with intellectual disabilities to create a meaningful life in caring community, giving a voice to their needs, and let it be further
- RESOLVED that congregation be encouraged to use ministry resources like "Rejoicing Spirits," and offering of MOSAIC that works with parishes to embrace and involve people with differing abilities; and be it further
- RESOLVED that congregations invite those with disabilities to serve in leadership positions within Sunday worship services and within the life of the congregation and on other occasions as appropriate to witness to the unity we share in Christ, and for each person's abilities.

RESOLUTION 05.2014

TITLE: Courtesies
 MOVER: Reference and Counsel
 SECONDER: None needed.
 VOTED: Motion carried.
 SA14.06.19 **To approve** Resolution 05.2014.

TITLE: **Courtesies**
 MOVER: Reference and Counsel
 SECONDER: None needed.

- WHEREAS we are blessed by God to be a blessing to others; and
- WHEREAS those blessings are shared in a variety of ways;
 THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED that we give thanks to the voting members, rostered, laity and youth, as they have taken time from busy schedules to come together to do the business of the church, worship, learn, and fellowship; and, be it further
- RESOLVED that the Assembly Committees be recognized for their tireless efforts in organizing, planning and presenting the Twenty-seventh Annual Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly; and, be it further
- RESOLVED that the assistants to the bishop Pastor Ron Moorman, Pastor Wayland Middendorf, Pastor James Reents, Director for Evangelical Mission, Pastor Robert Dealey, and support staff, Cindy Koonce, Glenna Senters, and Melissa Bealon be recognized for all their efforts in supplying the Assembly and our synod with material and information; and, be it further
- RESOLVED that the Assembly pages be recognized for their ongoing support and steadfast faithfulness; and, be it further
- RESOLVED that the Northeast Conference be thanked for its gracious work of hosting and assistance with the planning of the Assembly; and, be it further
- RESOLVED that we are thankful to Dr. Anna Madsen for inspiring messages and her gracious proclamation of the gospel, and, be it further
- RESOLVED that we thank Pastor Michael Stadie for his contribution to the spirit of the Assembly in informing us of the State of the Church and, be it further
- RESOLVED that all forum leaders be thanked for their encouragement in presenting educational opportunities for ministry;

- RESOLVED that we give thanks to Pat Caley and volunteers for time in organizing and overseeing the Fair Trade Fair; and be it further
- RESOLVED that the Synod Council, Synod Committees, and all those who volunteered their time, energies, and talents toward the work of our synod receive the Assembly's appreciation for their dedication to the ministry of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod; and, be it further
- RESOLVED that we give thanks for the ELCA and its partnership ministry which allows us to carry out Christ's command to "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*"; and, be it further
- RESOLVED that thanks be given to those Synod Council and Synod Committee members whose terms end this year but who have accompanied the work of our synod living the mission: *God's Work. Our Hands*, through their years of dedicated service; and, be it further
- RESOLVED that Bishop S. John Roth receive our appreciation for leadership in our synod and that we would daily hold him in prayer for strength, health, wisdom and courage.

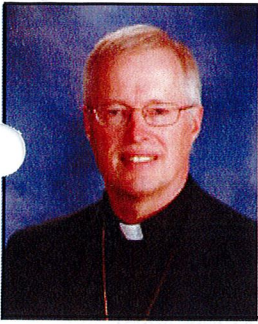
ADJOURNMENT

VOTED: Motion carried.

SA14.06.20 **To adjourn** contingent upon the closing worship service.

Assembly declared closed at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Patty Heath
C/SIS Council Secretary



Bishop's Report to the Assembly

Bishop S. John Roth

Central/Southern Illinois Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Our three-year lectionary cycle includes Jesus' words, "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you," in Year A as a reading on the Sunday after Easter. You know that worship attendance tends to swing low after the crowds of Easter Sunday. On Easter Sunday, we boisterously celebrate what blessings we get to enjoy because Jesus is risen: God loves us with a love stronger than death; God forgives us; Jesus can be trusted when he says that he will take care of us; Jesus' resurrection foreshadows our resurrection. This Easter joy in what God did and continues to do, trading our unrighteousness for Jesus' righteousness, purely out of God's grace, is always first and foremost.

But then, I wonder. Might Jesus' message "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you," be why some people who come to church on Easter don't come back the following Sunday? Jesus does not say, "As the Father has made my life comfortable, so I am making your life comfortable." Jesus does not say, "As the Father has made me self-satisfied, so I am making you self-satisfied." No. Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

This appearance of the risen Jesus to his disciples is a distinctive commissioning event. Matthew and Luke also have commissionings. In the biblical narratives by both Matthew (28:20) and Luke (24:47-48; Acts 1:8), the risen Jesus commissions his disciples to go into the world – you are probably most familiar with Matthew's, where Jesus says, "Go, make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them." In John's Gospel, Jesus makes the special point that the Christian community inherits Jesus' work – in a sense, takes up Jesus' mantle. God the Father sent Jesus; parallel to that, Jesus sends us.

About 15 years ago, I attended a church growth conference in Orange County, CA. It was at Saddleback Church (Saddleback is not a Lutheran church), one of the fastest growing churches in the country – if not the fastest growing. I went there wanting not to like the senior minister at Saddleback, Pastor Rick Warren. It had everything to do with jealousy. He is one of those "too good to be true" stories: in 15 years his church grew from two families to an average weekend worship attendance over 10,000. Who can measure up to that? But I came away impressed; he is good, and genuine. This sticks with me. Early on in their history, Pastor Warren said to his church,

Have you ever wondered why God leaves us here on earth, with all its pain, sorrow, and sin, after we (have become Christians)? Why doesn't God just zap us immediately to heaven and spare us from all this? After all, we can worship, fellowship, pray, sing, hear God's Word, and even have fun in heaven. In fact, there are only two things you can't do in heaven that you can do on earth: sin, and witness. . . . (W)hich of these two (do you) think Christ left us here to do? We have a mission on earth. (*Purpose Driven Church*, p. 116)

Rick Warren is right about that: we have a mission on earth. There are other aspects of Pastor Warren's teaching that make me wince, but he is right about that.

Our assembly speaker, Dr. James Thomas, and our assembly preacher, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, will draw us into further reflection on what it means to be sent as Jesus was sent. How good it is to look forward to this.

I will continue to visit as many of you as I can, in your congregations and in your communities. I find great joy in worshiping with you, joining in your special gatherings, celebrating congregational anniversaries, installing your pastors, dreaming about missional ministry, and exploring creative ways to turn challenges into God-given opportunities wherever Christ is sending us.

Synod Council

The Synod Council meets four times a year. Among its responsibilities, the Synod Council tends to be the vision and purpose of the synod, acts on recommendations regarding the rosters of the synod (for example, "on leave from call" requests and "retirement status" requests), oversees the ministries of our synod committees and synod staff, recommends budgets to the Synod Assembly, and advises the bishop. You can peruse the minutes of the Synod Council meetings in the Assembly Reports (available on the synod website).

I encourage us as a Synod Council, as an ongoing exercise, to look at our purpose and goals as a synod and as a Synod Council. This began with lifting up three foundational questions: Who are we? Why are we here? What then shall we do?

To take this conversation further, in 2014 I asked the Synod Council to take up two questions that directly concern the Synod Council's leadership role in the synod. 1) What three things does the synod do that, if those three things do not get done, nothing else matters? 2) How do we address doing those things in light of our synod's capacity to doing these things? When the Synod Council brainstormed on the first of these two questions, we came up with a list of more than 20 things that members of the Synod Council considered to be indispensable functions of the synod. Our assigned task was to identify and organize priorities for the synod. Following conversation at subsequent meetings and completion of forced ranking surveys between meetings, with the assistance of a Synod Council ad hoc working group, the Synod Council arrived at a consensus on three key items that speak to our "being," i.e., that underpin all that we do as a synod, and three key items that speak to our "doing" regarding prioritizing what the synod is about. The working group observed that Synod Council responses predominately focused on synodical engagement with congregations rather than Churchwide or public ministry. Still, there is no suggestion here that any of the tasks identified but not included as a key item are without merit or importance.

Being, underpinning all we do:

1. Discern and articulate the Spirit of Christ.
2. Remind us of who we are (Lutheran, evangelists, spiritually empowered) and who we are not.
3. Envision our Mission for sustainable growth and discipleship.

Doing:

1. Support and encourage effective congregational leadership by putting pastors in the pulpit and providing leadership in time of crisis.
2. Facilitate collective decision making by convening and gathering the gifts of the synod.
3. Communicate connectedness and caring with congregations and our broken world.

These are basic guiding values/priorities/goals. Listing them is not intended to limit or constrain our synod's collective programs, ministries, mission projects, or educational activities. These value/priorities/goals give guidance for what we attend to first, what we take particular care not to neglect, and how we engage in everything from youth ministry to candidacy committee to companion synod relationships. (I have attached as an appendix a list of other tasks initially listed by Synod Council members as vital to what we do as a synod.)

The Synod Council reflected on these key items at its March 2015 meeting by breaking into small groups and envisioning concretely what it might look like if the synod is fruitfully being and doing these key items.

This will be an ongoing conversation in the Synod Council. It is not the intent of the Synod Council to create a "top-down" directive for committees, conferences, or congregations to implement. Rather, our hope is that this conversation would expand to committees, conferences, and congregations so that we might refine our vision of who we are, why we are here, and what we then do. In other words, our hope is to expand this conversation so that we may share in the joy of being church together as we glorify God, build up the body of Christ, and proclaim Christ in the world.

2015 Bishop's Report to the Assembly

Please join me in thanking the members of our 2014-2015 Synod Council:

Ms. Jeanne Rapp, Synod Vice President

Pr. Patricia Heath, Secretary

Pr. Laura Kamprath

Mr. Terry Goff

Pr. Ed Hudelson

Ms. Meret Kammerling

Mr. Michael Mason

Ms. Tiana Montgomery

Mr. Steve Rapp

Pr. John Rothfusz

Mr. Mathew Spencer

Pr. Glen VanderKloot

Mr. Lyle Hallock, Treasurer

Ms. Kim Alberts

Ms. Connie Frankenfeld

Mr. Henry Harms

Mr. Jerry James

Ms. Diane Maertens

Mr. Don Swan

Ms. Helen Pagel

Pr. Robert Rasmus

Pr. Gary Ryden

Pr. Michael Thomas

Mr. Daniel Simmons, Legal Counsel

It continues to be a joy to work with these faithful, highly-motivated disciples, who come from every Conference in the synod. In addition to participating in the four meetings the Synod Council has each year, each member has an additional responsibility with a committee or group in the synod.

Staff

It continues to be a joy to serve with the faithful and gifted people on our synod staff. Let me take this moment to thank them:

Pr. Robert Dealey, Director for Evangelical Mission/Coordinator of Communications and Networking

Ms. Cindy Koonce, Office Manager

Pr. Wayland Middendorf, Assistant to the Bishop

Mrs. Barbara Purple, office volunteer

Pr. Jim Reents, Assistant to the Bishop

Pr. Ken Sandlin, Assistant to the Bishop

Ms. Glenna Senters, Bookkeeper

Pr. Maureen Stein, Assistant to the Bishop

Pastor Ken Sandlin joined the synod staff July 1, 2014 as an assistant to the bishop. He currently carries two of the quarter-time portfolios of assistants to the bishop.

Pastor Maureen Stein joined the staff as an assistant to the bishop with a small, one-tenth time portfolio June 5, 2014. Her role expanded to a quarter-time position on June 1, 2015, following her final Sunday as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Canton, on May 31, 2015.

Synod Notes

My report includes the statistical information on the synod that you will find available on the synod web-site: www.csis-elca.org The statistical information includes the current number of congregations in the synod and the transitions of rostered leaders over the course of the past year.

As I write this, we have 15 active call processes in which a full-time pastor is sought and a Ministry Site Profile has been submitted by the congregation council; I anticipate three of them having called pastors by the time you read this. Of the remaining 12, four are interviewing nominees. Congregations in an additional five active call processes are working on submitting their Ministry Site Profile.

Companion Synod Relations – Malagasy Lutheran Church

We relate to two synods (or dioceses) of the Malagasy Lutheran Church, which is the Lutheran church body in Madagascar: the Ambovombe Synod and the Ft. Dauphin Synod, both of which are located in the southern region of Madagascar. Thanks to voluntary contributions, we continue to support the regional seminary in Bezaha, the Manatantely Bible School in Ft. Dauphin, and the Mahavelo Bible School in Ambovombe.

2015 Bishop's Report to the Assembly

Most significant for the development of our companion synod relationships this past year was the visit a delegation made to Madagascar. Making the trip were Pr. Wayne Shelksohn (who shouldered the responsibility for organizing the trip), Ms. Jeanne Berg, Ms. Linda Ericsson, Ms. Connie Frankenfeld, Pr. Ruth Kaden, Pr. Harlan Kaden, Pr. Kathryn Montira, as well as my wife, Kris, and me. Thank you" to the individuals, congregations, conferences, and the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA for financial support for this trip. No synod benevolence dollars were used. Those who made the trip themselves made a substantial financial investment in it.

I. Why the C/SIS went to our Malagasy companion synods:

1. We went and foremost because the Malagasy Lutheran Church invited us to do so. And we thank them for that. When President Modeste was in the United States and we were in meetings together, President Modeste emphasized that for a full and healthy relationships, people need to see one another personally. Malagasy Lutherans in the southern areas of Madagascar and we American Lutherans have a relationship in Christ that has been going for 127 years - begun in 1888. We cherish that relationship, and we thank President Modeste for reinforcing the value getting together has for our relationship in Christ. We want to be together with them, and we are grateful to God that they want to be together with us. We went because they invited us to do so to explore how we might improve our partnership in the gospel.
2. Second, we went to learn about our Malagasy sisters and brothers in Christ, to learn about their faith, about their daily life, about their joys and their sorrows, their challenges and their victories; we went to learn how Jesus Christ shapes and fashions their life; we went to see the effect of God's grace through Jesus Christ on you.
3. There is one more reason to mention. We went hoping to learn not only about Malagasy Lutherans; we went hoping to learn from them. We wanted to come back to the United States and ask ourselves, "What did we learn, what did we experience in Madagascar that can help us glorify God and build up the body of Christ here in the United States?"

II. Highlights of our itinerary -- where we went:

- ♦ We left for Madagascar on Monday morning, August 11, and arrived in the capital city of Antananarivo late Tuesday night, August 12.
- ♦ Thursday, August 14: Visit to Toby Fiadanana (Peace)
- ♦ Friday, August 15: Conversation with Malagasy Lutheran Church General Secretary Samuel Georges and presented him with the etched glass gift from our synod to the Malagasy Lutheran Church.
- ♦ Saturday, August 16: Flew to Tolagnaro (Fort Dauphin). Conversation with leadership of the Fort Dauphin Synod including Synod President Pastor Rakotondravony Soloson, Vice President Pastor Monja, and Treasurer Perline Endor, as well as the General Secretaries for the Sunday School Department, the Revival Movement, the Women's Department (Evangelist Masy), the Manantantely Bible School, and the Youth Department. We presented President Soloson with the etched glass gift from our synod to the Malagasy Lutheran Church.
- ♦ Sunday, August 17: Worshipped with the church in the village of Elarina, with lunch afterwards. In the evening, we attended a concert of choirs at a church in Tolagnaro.
- ♦ Monday, August 18: Conversation with leadership of the Amobovombe Androy Synod: President Pastor Elia; Pastor Gideon (GS of the Literacy program); Mrs. Macrine (General Secretary of the Women's Department and a Bible School teacher); Mr. Mbola (Synod Controller). In the evening, we had supper together with these companion synod leaders.
- ♦ Tuesday, August 19: With President Soloson, Vice President Monja, and Pastor Gasy, we visited the Lutheran Hospital in Manambaro, the church in Manambaro, the Bible School in Manantantely, the Toby Nenilava, and the office of the Fort Dauphin Synod Department of Agriculture and Farming. In the evening, we were treated to supper with leaders of the Fort Dauphin Synod at the home of President Soloson.
- ♦ Wednesday, August 20: Flew back to Antananarivo.
- ♦ Thursday, August 21: Our group met to debrief our experiences and to plan communicating our companion synod relationship in our synod. Late this night, we began our trip back to the United States.

When it was formed in 1950, the Malagasy Lutheran Church counted 180,000 members; today it numbers roughly 4 million members, and continues to experience rapid growth. Malagasy Lutherans credit much of the Malagasy Lutheran Church's rapid growth to the holistic healing ministry of the revival movement.

The Malagasy Lutheran Church has a deep commitment to providing a comprehensive education and training for its church leadership including catechists, shepherds, pastors and female theologians. These leaders are trained in a network of regional seminaries and Bible schools. The church also operates numerous schools at the primary and secondary levels. There are also schools and ministries dedicated to working with people who are blind or hearing impaired.

In our formal meetings with the companion synod delegations and ministry spokespersons, they told us about themselves: their church structures, their programs, their activities, their ministries. Every ministry, every program area, every department has an evangelism emphasis. Also, they emphasized their commitment to sustainability, self-sufficiency, and accountability.

Both synods fervently request our prayers. They emphasized this multiple times. I encourage all Synod Assembly attenders to do this in your private prayer life. Also, please go back to your congregations and conferences and work out opportunities for any of us who visited our companion synods to come to your church or conference to talk about the life and ministry of the Lutheran Church in Madagascar, to explore ways we might share in their ministry, and to consider where we might learn from them.

You may find out more about our trip and our companion synods at either of the two forum opportunities during this assembly.

"As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

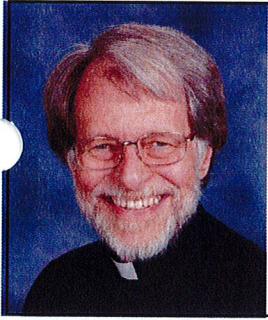
As we gather in assembly, the promises of God continue to guide us, our prayers continue to form us, and the Spirit poured out at Pentecost continues to empower us. Thank you for being here to tend to the work of Christ's church. May you be filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit!

As I did last year, I will conclude my report with a slide show of some of the places where I've been over the past year: scenes of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod.

Appendix

Other tasks initially listed by Synod Council members in response to the question "What three things does the synod do that, if those three things do not get done, nothing else matters?"

- ♦ Administer, support and nurture Associates in Ministry
- ♦ Articulate the Spirit of Christ. We are to bless one another and to be blessed, centered in Christ
- ♦ Churchwide ministry support and participation
- ♦ Cooperate with other synods and Churchwide when most effective
- ♦ Elect Churchwide Assembly members
- ♦ Evaluate leaders, congregational materials and congregations, individually and collectively
- ♦ Maintain partnership and support for seminaries and continuing education
- ♦ Nurture youth faith foundation
- ♦ Partnership and support for congregationally operated schools
- ♦ Partnership and support with social ministry organizations
- ♦ Provide for activities in conjunction with other synods
- ♦ Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care of the sick and suffering...participate in society
- ♦ Structuring sustainable growth and discipleship in our synod
- ♦ Support colleges, universities and campus ministries



Assistant to the Bishop Report to the Assembly

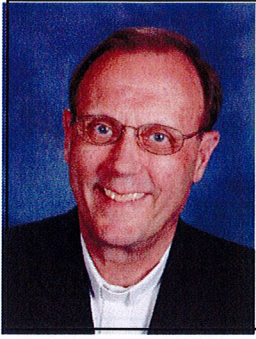
Pastor Kenneth Sandlin

I began serving as an Assistant to the Bishop almost one year ago. On July 1, 2014 Pastor Ron Moorman handed over files, keys, and his vast store of knowledge; and I wondered how long it would take for me to get settled in my new position. There were a few bumps and glitches when I began, but with Cindy and Glenna's help, some phone calls to Ron, and guidance from the Bishop and other assistants; I have learned the lingo, navigated the computer and settled in. I enjoy what I do, and I look forward to whatever possibilities each new week will bring. Time goes quickly. Typically, I'm in the office from 9am until 4pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. I also visit with councils and call committees to explain the various steps of the call process; and, on Sunday mornings, I am privileged to join congregations, in my area of the synod, for worship.

The Call Process occupies most of my time. Everything is done on computer now. When congregations are vacant and seeking a pastor, they complete and submit a Ministry Site Profile on the ELCA website. When pastors feel that God is calling them to a different congregation or ministry, they also login to the ELCA website and complete and submit a Rostered Leader Profile. Whenever a pastor submits an RLP which names our synod as a synod of interest, we receive an automatic email notification from the ELCA. Some profiles are promising and we follow-up with the potential nominee, working to find a congregational match. Others, for various reasons, don't fit the current needs of vacancies in our synod and are set aside. As I type this, we have 21 congregations or yoked parishes who are involved in the call process; seven have received nominations and are interviewing, three have all their paperwork completed and are waiting for a nomination, and the eleven remaining are at various other points. Of course, the numbers change quickly, and by the time you read these words, they will have changed again. But despite the long journey and the uncertainty that congregations and pastors often feel, one truth remains . . . we continue to trust that God will call pastors to all of our congregations, and will provide calls to all of our pastors.

Candidacy is also one of my staff responsibilities. If a member of a congregation wants to learn more about candidacy and the call to become a pastor; I meet with them to share information, hear their story and answer their questions. If they discern that they are being called and enter candidacy, they maintain a close relationship with the candidacy committee who guide them through study, internship and on to ordination. The number of candidates from our synod, who are currently on their road through seminary, is low. This is a direct invitation to each one of us – encourage potential students in your congregation to consider the pastoral ministry.

The third part of my assistant to the bishop's role is visiting with congregations and pastors and worshipping with them on Sunday mornings. Not only do I bring them greetings from the Bishop, the synod staff and all the congregations of the synod; but I also work to provide a personal connection, a face and a voice, to strengthen the bond and the communication between us. Please let me know if you have any questions; and thanks once again for this opportunity to serve.



Assistant to the Bishop Report to the Assembly

Pastor James Reents

"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." It is a privilege to be sent on a mission through the Central/Southern Illinois Synod to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank you for this privilege. Welcome to our new staff members: Pastor Ken Sandlin and Pastor Maureen Stein.

I am a part-time Assistant to Bishop Roth relating to congregations in the Northern and Northeast Conferences. I am considered deployed staff, living in Bloomington, so I can visit most congregations in one hour. I drive to the synod office in Springfield once a month to meet with Bishop Roth and the other assistants. This arrangement is working well.

My general duties include the following: read Rostered Leader Profiles, preach in one congregation a month, attend monthly conference meetings and text studies, relate to the Lay and Professional Leaders Subcommittee, conduct initial "Call Process" meeting in the Northern and Northeast conferences, and attend synod council meetings.

In visiting a congregation each month, I try to establish a closer relationship between each congregation and synod. I appreciate the warm hospitality I have received. I have almost completed visiting all 50 congregations.

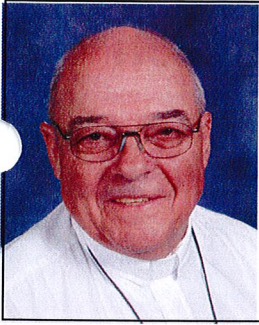
Pastors seeking a call in a different location fill out a Rostered Leaders Profile (RLP). I read the RLPs relating to our synod, respond to them and make recommendations to Bishop Roth and Pastor Ken Sandlin. There is a shortage of RLPs.

The Lay & Professional Leaders Subcommittee meets through tele-conference calls. We completed a "Resource Guide for Clergy Renewal (Sabbatical) Leave" which is posted on the synod website. In addition we have revised the Compensation Guidelines. For 2016 we are recommending maintaining the current salary schedule because of the increase cost of Portico Health Benefits.

One of the most exciting activities of the Northeast conference is planning for a possible geographic parish. Eight congregations are involved: Community LC, Cornell; Trinity LC, Chenoa; Trinity LC, Fairbury; St. Paul LC, Forrest; St. Peter LC, Dwight; St. John LC, Anchor; St. John LC, Sibley; and American LC, Gibson City. Dedicated representatives have met for two years to find ways to do ministry together following the example of the Wartburg Parish. Many of these congregations are holding joint catechism classes and senior high youth activities. Thank you to Pastor Bob Dealey and Pastor Tom Krieger for their leadership.

I had the privilege of attending the ELCA Assistants to Bishops Gathering, February 26-March 1 in Jacksonville, Florida. It was an excellent Gathering with Dr. David Lose as the main speaker and Bishop Eaton preaching at the opening worship service. I also benefited from networking with other assistants.

With the warmer spring weather I am preparing for "Pedal for a Purpose." Last year we raised money for Lutheran Campus Ministry in Illinois and this year for our companion synod in Madagascar. Thank you for your support and please pray for safe biking.



Assistant to the Bishop Report to the Assembly

Pastor Wayland Middendorf

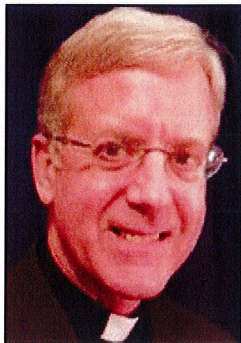
I serve as synod staff liaison for the Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy Committee, the Global Mission Committee, and the Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee. Another area of responsibility is to visit congregations and conference gatherings in the East Central Conference, Southern Conference and the I-70 portion of the West Central Conference. I also serve as the contact person for one closed congregation (Trinity Alton) until the real property is disposed. Disposal of the property has been concluded for Immanuel Cairo.

Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy reviews grant requests and designates a monetary amount to each grant that is approved. The amount is based on the funds available, number of grants received that meet the criteria, the need and what the impact might be. This year we had four grants (Sola Gratia Farm, Youth Advisory Council, Karios and Sheep). We approved all four for a total of \$3,871.58. The committee will have a member join the World Hunger Web-Ex on the third Tuesday of each month so we can be more aware of needs and make more information available for the congregations in our Synod. We are also looking into ways we can become more involved in advocacy issues in our synod and communicate those issues to congregation leadership. The needs are many and great. Our hope is to educate and make more people aware of those needs.

Global Mission Committee made a successful visit to Madagascar in 2014 and the members of the team are available for congregations and other gatherings, to give a report of the highlights of the visit. Bishop Roth, Pastor Wayne Shelksohn the Committee Chair and myself, have quarterly Web-Ex conference calls with the other synods who also have companion synods in Madagascar and we annually meet at the Churchwide office to schedule visits and share information related to our companion synods. Bishop Roth has prepared a five-year plan for financial assistance with the Ft. Dauphin Synod and the Ambovombe Synod. The Central/Southern Illinois Synod has also requested a youth representative from Madagascar to attend the Youth Gathering in Detroit this summer.

Synodically Authorized Ministry (S.A.M.) Subcommittee is currently reviewing the S.A.M. Guidelines and plan to make some revisions by the end of this year to put us in line with the ELCA guidelines for Synodically Authorized Ministry and improve the education program. Our Dean of Education, Pastor Blake Duncan and I have been in contact with possible teachers and retreat leaders and have filled the positions for the fall, winter and spring classes for 2015-2016. We also have a couple of retreat opportunities tentatively scheduled as well for this fall and will add at least one additional retreat for either the winter or spring season of 2016.

I thank God for the opportunity to serve as an Assistant to Bishop Roth and I am grateful to all of you.



ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission and Coordinator of Communications and Networking Report to the Assembly

Pastor Bob Dealey

ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission

As the Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM), I am the staff liaison to the Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee (MSSEC) and the New and Renewing Congregations Committee (NRCC).

Since the last synod assembly, the MSSEC has been engaged in two primary projects: the Macedonia Project and the Mission Interpretation Ministry. The Macedonia Project has focused on two areas:

- ♦ Synod congregations were invited to order a copy of the three-year stewardship resource entitled "First We Give of Ourselves" by the Rev. Kurt Nordby. The resource, which includes everything that congregations will need to conduct a stewardship campaign normally sells for \$60, but because of funding from a Macedonia Project grant, we were able to reduce the cost of the resource to \$15. Pastor Nordby will also lead a forum entitled "First We Give of Ourselves" at this year's synod assembly.
- ♦ Doreen Klages continues to serve as the Synod Coordinator for the Mission Interpreters Ministry, as we seek to recruit and train congregational representatives to serve as Mission Interpreters in their respective congregations. To date, training events have been held in five of the six conferences and a training event will be held in the Southern Conference in the fall, 2015. Mission Interpreters are persons, selected by the congregation, who share stories about what the Church is doing on the congregational, synodical and churchwide levels, with the hope that as congregational members hear these stories, they will be inspired and encouraged to undertake similar ministry projects. In 2014, Deb Rathert attended the annual churchwide Mission Interpreters' training event held in Chicago. The 2015 event will be held in New York City.

Two other items of note should be mentioned:

- ♦ The MSSEC is in the process of re-organizing. The Rev. Kathy Montira, who has served faithfully as the committee chair has accepted a call to a congregation in the Nebraska Synod and will no longer be able to serve on the committee; and the Rev. Jim Davis, who served as the clergy representative from the Northeast Conference, was elected as conference dean.
- ♦ The NRCC, under the leadership of the Rev. Ed Hudelson, co-sponsored with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, a Transformational Ministry 2.0 training event, held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Bloomington, IL, January 8-10, 2015. Six representatives from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod attended the training event. As a result, NRCC members will present a forum at the synod assembly entitled "Discovering God's Purpose for You and Your Congregation". Plans are also being developed to introduce key congregational renewal concepts to congregations in the fall, 2015 at two different sites within the synod.

As the DEM, I have the privilege and opportunity to work with individual (or groups of) congregations on the development of missional/strategic plans. I am currently working with several congregational groups to develop an Area Ministry Strategy. These groups include eight congregations in the Northeast Conference; eight congregations in the Northwest Conference; four congregations in the Northern Conference; three congregations in the West/Central Conference; and two congregations in the Southern Conference.

I am also working with a number of individual congregations, who seek to clarify their understanding of God's mission. I am available to come and assist your congregation with the development of a mission plan. Please contact me to see how I might be of service to you.

Report of the Coordinator of Communications & Networking

Since the last synod assembly, the following communications activities have taken place":

- ♦ "Mission Matters..." a monthly electronic newsletter is sent to rostered leaders and congregations for congregational distribution.
- ♦ "For Your Consideration", a monthly electronic ministry reflection piece is sent to rostered leaders and congregations.
- ♦ "To The Point!", a bi-weekly e-mail blast with information about upcoming events and resources is sent to rostered leaders.
- ♦ In July, 2014, the first bi-weekly installment of "Did You Know That...?", was sent to rostered leaders and congregations. "Did You Know That...?" is a series of questions, the answers to which provide information about events and resources to congregational members.
- ♦ In March, 2015, the inaugural issue of "Church Connections" was sent electronically to congregational leaders. The initial issue featured information about events, resources and grant opportunities.
- ♦ Copies of pre/post-assembly fill-in-the-blank sample press releases were sent to congregations to submit to local media.
- ♦ A 2014 synod assembly summary was sent to congregations for distribution within the congregation. A 2015 synod assembly summary will be sent to congregations after this year's assembly.

The Central/Southern Illinois Synod webpage continues to be updated on a regular basis. Past issues of "Mission Matters...", "For Your Consideration", and "Did You Know That...?" are archived on the website. Thank you to Dean Haucap, Chris Wollesen, Cindy Koonce, and Pastor Ken Sandlin for their participation in keeping the website current. In an effort to help congregations with their ministry, new resources are constantly added to the site throughout the year. If there are any resources that you have found to be helpful with your ministry, please pass that information along to us. We appreciate your input. You are encouraged to visit the website at www.csis-elca.org

Frequently, the synod office is contacted to assist with the promotion of events of interest to synod constituents (e.g. Pedal for a Purpose; the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering; Women of the ELCA). You may contact me at the synod office to see how we can assist you with your communications efforts.

We continue to expand our synod-wide email contact list. You may send us the names and email addresses of church council members, so that they may receive mailings from the synod office.

"Welcome to the Central/Southern Illinois Synod", a handbook for rostered leaders who are new to the synod, has been developed and is being distributed by way of cluster meetings.

Congregations are invited to send copies of their church newsletters (either electronically or by U.S. mail). We want to hear what you are doing and to share your stories with others.

Questions, comments and/or suggestions about communications may be sent to me at Bob.Dealey@csis-elca.org I thank you for your partnership in this ministry.

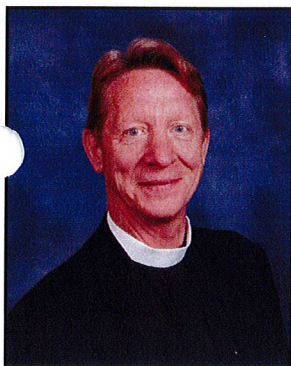


Assistant to the Bishop Report to the Assembly

Pastor Maureen Stein

With my retirement from parish ministry this month, my work as Assistant to Bishop Roth will expand to a quarter time position. I will continue to work with First Call Theological Education and the Candidacy Committee. Added areas of responsibility: relating to some congregations in the Northwest Conference and assisting with arrangements for interim ministries.

I look forward to the opportunity to know and work with pastors and congregation members in a variety of communities in the synod.



East Central Conference Report to the Assembly

*Pastor Rob Rasmus, Dean
St. Matthew Lutheran, Urbana*

Congregations

- ♦ St. Matthew, Urbana, Pastor Bob Rasmus, Dean, Associate—in call process
- ♦ Grace, Champaign, in call process, Pastor Phil Lund, Interim
- ♦ Good Shepherd, Champaign, Pastor Tom Hillertz, Jason Fisher, AiM
- ♦ St. Andrew's and Campus Center, Champaign, in call process, Pastor Amy Thoren, Interim
- ♦ Lutheran Church of Mahomet, in call process, Pastors Vic Baderschneider and Emil Blobaum, Interims
- ♦ Christ, Monticello, Pastor Micah Garnett
- ♦ First, Decatur, in call process, Pastor Al Weidlich, Interim
- ♦ Holy Cross, Decatur, Pastor Amy Zietlow, Jan Lawson, SAM
- ♦ Bethel, Danville, Pastor Ed Stone
- ♦ St. Paul, Shelbyville, St. John, Shelbyville, Marilyn Dudley, SAM, Tom Galyen, SAM, Jan Lawson, SAM
- ♦ Grace Lutheran Church, Rankin, Pastor Jennifer Hartweg-Brown

East Central Officers

Dean	Pastor Bob Rasmus
Vice Dean	Pastor Elaine Olson
Lay Vice-president	Jason Fisher, AiM
Treasurer	Kim Johnson
Secretary	Marilyn Dudley

Synod Committee Members

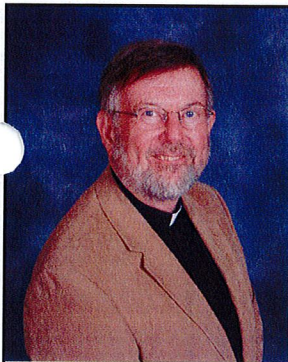
Synodically Authorized Ministry	Pastor Tom Hillertz, clergy
New and Renewing Congregations	Pastor Micah Garnett, clergy
Global Mission	position vacant
Mission Support and Stewardship Education	clergy position vacant
Synod Council	Ms. Tiana Montgomery, lay female
Candidacy	Mr. Bill Moehring, lay male, Pastor Tom Hillertz, clergy

Conference Activities

- ♦ Pastor Elaine Olson, St. Andrew's, Champaign retired in January, 2015.
- ♦ Pastor Amy Zietlow was installed as Pastor of Holy Cross, Decatur, April 12, 2015.
- ♦ Mike Shea, a member of St. Matthew and a pastor formerly rostered in the Evangelical Free Church, was granted Synodical Authorized Ministry status.
- ♦ Our fall conference dedicated two gatherings to conversations about the *Use of the Means of Grace*, as requested by the synod council and presiding bishop. Those conversations were animated and helpful and led, in some cases, to churches reconsidering and rewriting their invitations to communion and baptism.
- ♦ In November, we welcomed Rev. Dr. Steve Shoemaker who presented a conversation on C.S. Lewis.
- ♦ We had a record registration for our Conference Epiphany Dinner on Friday, January 9, 2015.
- ♦ This winter our conference gatherings included a discussion led by Pastor Micah Garnett on the use of social media and technology for outreach. In February, Pastor Rachel Bass-Guennewig presented on her Daily Bread Yoga ministry which meets weekly in several churches in our conference.
- ♦ Pastor Wayne Shelksohn was our guest speaker for our Annual Conference Assembly. He led a discus-

sion of our companion synod in Madagascar.

- ♦ In March Pastor Amy Zietlow hosted the conference at Holy Cross and she and Pastor Elaine Olson led discussion on self-care and boundaries.
- ♦ Our conference hosted the Bishop for our annual Bishop's colloquy in April.
- ♦ In May, the conference will travel to Chicago where we will meet the new CEO of LSSI, visit the church-wide offices and then to Hyde Park for a tour of the rare books collection at LSTC.
- ♦ In June we will gather at Atonement Lutheran Church in Springfield for a conference dinner during the Synod Assembly.



Northeast Conference Report to the Assembly

Pastor Ed Hudelson Dean

Trinity Lutheran Church, Chenoa

Community Lutheran Church, Cornell

CONGREGATIONS	24
SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES	2
CALLED PASTORS	21
RETIRED/OLC/CHAPLAINS	6
INTERIM/CONTRACTUAL	5 congregations

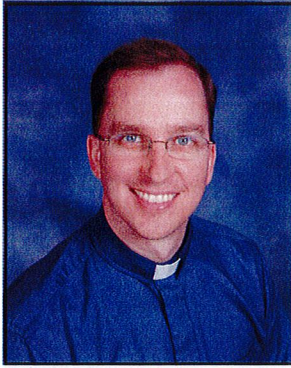
VACANCIES:

St. Paul	Chatsworth	
Pontoppidan	Elliot	Interims, Pastors Priscilla and Matthew Geerdes
Trinity	Kankakee	
St. John	Sibley	Interim, Pastor James Davis
St. John	Cullom	

Currently there are three Shared Ministry projects in the conference. One is the Conference LYO events. There is an LYO event planned each month with all the youth in the conference invited to participate. The second shared ministry project is a Geographical Confirmation Class. We have completed the classes for this year and will be evaluating the effectiveness of the format and curriculum for next year. And the third project, which is in ongoing discussions, is an investigation into the possibility of developing one or more Geographical Parishes within the congregations of the conference. Currently there are eight congregations participating in the conversation.

Our professional and lay leadership continue to meet monthly from October until May for fellowship and presentations on various subjects.

At our conference assembly in March, Pastor Jim Davis was elected Dean.



Northern Conference Report to the Assembly

Pastor John Rothfusz, Dean

Faith Lutheran Church, Washington

The Northern Conference consists of 26 congregations in the Peoria area and surrounding counties. These churches are served by 18 pastors under call, six interim pastors, and three with contractual arrangements.

The conference saw several pastoral transitions over the past year. Pastor Maureen Stein will be retiring from Trinity, Canton, and serving as an assistant to the Bishop. Pastor Jim Lillie will be retiring from First English, Peoria. Pastor Jill Flynn accepted a call to Rockford, IL. We are thankful for their good and faithful service in our midst. Pastor Lisa Goodwin was installed as pastor of St. John, Hartsburg. Pastor Patrick Monroe was ordained as a pastor in June after many years of service as a Diaconal Minister. He continues to serve at Lutheran Hillside Village and as an interim pastor.

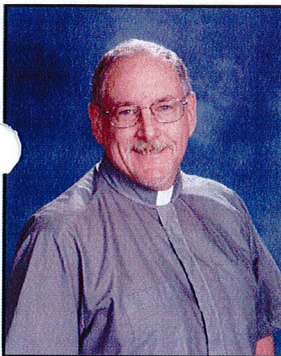
Those serving as Interim Pastors within the conference are the following: Pastor Dan Tuhy at Immanuel, Mionk and Bethany, Wenona; Pastor Wendy Popp at St. Timothy, Wyoming; Pastor Dick Hanson at Salem, Peoria as Interim Senior Pastor; Pastor Raymond Barclay at Bethel, Bartonville; and Pastor Ruth Kaden at St. Mark, Chillicothe. Those providing interim ministry outside the conference include: Pastor Dan Stalker at St. Peter, Arenzville and St. John, Bluffs; Pastor Phil Lund at Grace, Champaign; and Pastor Patrick Monroe at Zion, Liberty and Salem, Mendon.

The Northern Conference had a very successful "God's Work, Our Hands" service day in September, and organized a second spring event in April. This was our second year of service in this way, and we truly enjoyed working side by side and partnering with community groups like Habitat for Humanity, the Crittenton Center, Lutheran Hillside Village, LSSI, Southside Mission, Camp Kearney, The Morton Mission Mart, The Midwest Food Bank, and the Faith Lutheran Child Care. We had a great response from a number of area congregations.

Our Conference Youth Board draws together the gifts of several Youth and Family Ministers and numerous churches to provide exciting opportunities. The annual *Be Like Jesus* retreat draws in over 100 3-8th graders for a memorable weekend of service, music, and faith. The conference has continued working to organize *8 Days*, a cooperative young adult ministry for college-age students at Bradley University. They are largely unreached by existing churches. This year they are organizing plans and travel together for the National Youth Gathering in Detroit.

The Professional Leaders of the Conference meet on the second Tuesday of the month for worship, study and fellowship. Topics since summer of 2014 have included: YAGM and Missions, Means of Grace Discussion and sharing resources, Ministry of LSSI, Bishop's Colloquy, Ministry of MOSAIC, Claimed, Gathered and Sent – Being the Church, Clergy Sharing, and Pastoral Care for those with Dementia.

The Northern Conference is an active, positive, and collegial place to share in ministry in Jesus' name. We are blessed to gather and strengthen one another for service to the Lord.



Northwest Conference Report to the Assembly

*Pastor Mike Thomas, Dean
Trinity Lutheran Church, Macomb*

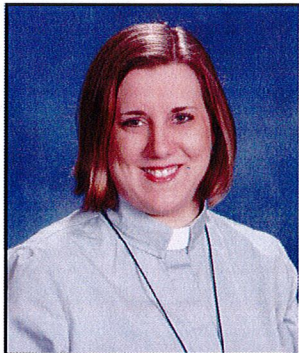
The Northwest Conference is the second smallest of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Conferences, both in number of congregations and membership, with seventeen churches spread out over Adams, Hancock, Cass, Scott, and McDonough Counties.

The Conference welcomed Rev. Brad Eidson (Trinity, Golden), Rev. Mauricio Vieria (Trinity, Carthage), Rev. Colleen Winkler (Grace, Virginia and St. John's, Bluff Springs), Rev. Pete Hagglund (Christ, Nauvoo and St. Paul, Ft. Madison, Iowa), and Rev. Richard Hertenstein (Immanuel, Carthage and Faith, Augusta) this past year. Pastor Richard Hertenstein is officially retired but serving in a special long term Pastoral Appointment Letter of Agreement, which is a fancy way of saying he is not really retired at all, providing pastoral ministry throughout the week, and leading worship at two congregations each Sunday. Just in case Richard was confused about what officially retired meant, he has also become an Interim Pastor at a nearby congregation. We keep asking Richard how retirement is, but he is too busy to answer. Pastor Pete Hagglund is serving a special two-point call under the auspices of both our synod and the Southeast Iowa Synod. Should the Mississippi River flood again like it did in 1993, Pete will need to be provided with a motorboat to make it to both services he leads each Sunday. (A canoe was originally proposed, but it was felt his vestments would get too wet.) Rev. Jill Flynn who had been serving as Interim at St. Peter's, Coatsburg bid farewell to us and moved to begin ministry in the Northern Illinois Synod.

We continue to make regular use of the Synodically Authorized Ministers residing in the Conference, with some S.A.M.s leading worship and providing pulpit supply regularly to congregations without a pastor. We thank S.A.M.s Brian Days, Larry Jahn, Muriel Paul, Ron Schultz, Dan Wilson, Shirley Arnold, Dave Poland, and Helen Pagel, Associate in Ministry, for all of their service. Some of the S.A.M.s have been called upon so often, that soon they may receive notification they have been placed on the inactive roster at their home congregation.

Several congregations within the Conference are exploring mutual ministry possibilities as discussions led by Rev. Robert Dealey pertaining to a Western Illinois Regional Parish are ongoing. The Conference Assembly was held in May, 2014 at Immanuel, Golden with a presentation made about planned giving by the ELCA Foundation.

The Professional and Lay Leaders of the Conference have monthly meetings from the fall through the spring, and topics this past year have included a book study, L.S.S.I., Congregational Constitutions, Care of Souls, *The Use of the Means of Grace*, and Bishop Roth joined us for a Bishop's Colloquy one meeting. Rev. Ken Sandlin has joined us a few times as the liaison to the synod office. The Dean wanted to have a meeting to focus on Ole and Lena jokes, but few others agreed, so once again, it did not become a topic in 2014-15.



Southern Conference Report to the Assembly

*Pastor Laura Kamprath, Dean
St. John Lutheran Church, Campbell Hill
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Steeleville*

The Southern Conference consists of 18 congregations across the large geographical territory that extends from Metropolis in the south, north to Olney, west to Chester, and east to Mount Carmel. We are currently served by twelve called pastors, along with one pastor and one Synodically Authorized Minister in interim service.

The conference officers for 2015-2016 are:

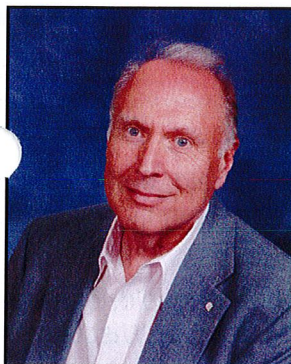
Dean	Pastor Laura Kamprath	Wartburg Parish
Clergy Vice President	Pastor Gary Ryden	Retired
Lay Vice President	Mr. Larry Saler	Trinity, Olney
Secretary	Mrs. Jane Otte	Our Redeemer, Marion
Treasurer	Mr. Jerry Wilson	Peace, Steeleville

Since last year's Synod Assembly we welcomed Pastor Terry Edwards, called to serve Prince of Peace, Mount Vernon. We bid farewell to Pastor Ray Heilener (retired) as he and his wife, Janice, moved to Tennessee. We also bid farewell to Pastor Ken Staib who accepted a call in the Southeast Michigan Synod and to Pastor Kathryn Montira who accepted a call in the Nebraska Synod.

Members of the conference congregations gathered in September 2014 for assembly at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Metropolis, and in March 2015 for assembly at Peace, Steeleville. In the fall, we heard from Lutheran Disaster Response about the work they are doing following a tornado in Bridgeport and from Pastor Kat Montira about the synod's visit to our companion synods in Madagascar. In the spring, we had a Southern Conference music festival, with guest musician Daniel Schwandt, Cantor at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and six of our congregational choirs or ensembles in attendance.

Professional Leaders continue to meet each month for fellowship and education. In February, we went on retreat at Toddhall Retreat Center in Columbia, IL, and used the ELCA study "Table & Font" as our discussion topic. A text study group meets twice monthly in Carbondale.

The conference's missional spending plan for the year includes gifts to campus ministry, the Hospitality Houses in Vienna and Chester, LSSI, the ELCA Malaria Campaign, and our companion synods in Madagascar; support for a student in the Synodically Authorized Ministry program; and funding of our spring and fall assemblies and our conference professional leader's retreat. We also have a designated fund to provide partial scholarships to every attendee from conference congregations to the Synod Youth Gathering at Rend Lake each February.



West Central Conference Report to the Assembly

*Pastor Glen VanderKloot, Dean
Faith Lutheran Church, Springfield*

The West Central Conference consists of thirty-four congregations stretching from Columbia at the southern end of the Metro-St. Louis area, north to Springfield and Jacksonville, west to Batchtown, and east to Shumway and Altamont.

Four members of the West Central Conference participated in the synod trip to our companion synods in Madagascar in August 2014: Bishop S. John Roth, Kris Roth, Jeannie Berg, and Connie Frankenfeld. The conference helped financially support the trip for the three lay members of our conference. Jeannie Berg and Connie Frankenfeld reported to our 2015 Spring Assembly about their trip.

The pastors of the West Central Conference met twice last fall.

In October we heard from Pastor Marlin Otte about the Marion Medical Missions and their shallow wells program. Marion Medical Mission seeks to share the love of Christ with the extreme poor in Africa by providing all in need with a sustainable source of clean, safe drinking water.

In November we had a lively discussion on the Means of Grace particularity as related to Holy Communion: invitations, age, and frequency, bread/wafer, wine/grape juice. We discovered that practices vary widely as do our theological perspectives on Holy Communion.

On February 12, 2015, Bishop Roth held his annual Colloquy with our conference at Mt. Zion in Litchfield.

The Conference Annual Spring Assembly was March 22, 2015, at Zion in Gillespie. In addition to the presentation about Madagascar we elected Deanne Holshouser to the synod council, Pastor Glen VanderKloot was re-elected as Conference Dean, Rose Moser was re-elected to the Synod Global Mission Committee and Pat Caley was elected to the Synod Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee. Thank you to Connie Frankenfeld for her faithful service on behalf of our conference to the Synod Council. A free book exchange was also held at the conference assembly.

Three of the five Springfield congregations (Atonement, Faith, and Luther Memorial) are proceeding towards becoming a new blended congregation. The vote at each congregation to blend will be on Sunday, July 12, 2015. July 26, 2015, will be the last service of Atonement, Faith, and Luther Memorial. August 2, 2015, will be the first worship service together in Atonement's building. We are excited about this new congregation (yet to be named) that will arise.

We rejoiced with Pastor Ken Sandlin on his retirement June 30, 2014, from St. Paul's in Hillsboro and began working July 1, 2014, as Assistant to the Bishop. Thank you Ken for your service and ministry in our conference. God's richest blessings to you.

We welcomed to our conference Pastor Candice Stone who was ordained by Bishop S. John Roth on July 9, 2014, at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Belleville and installed as Associate Pastor on July 24, 2014, as Associate Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, O'Fallon.

We congratulate Pastor Margo Peterson who was installed as Pastor of St. Martin of Tours on July 20, 2014. She previously served this congregation on a contract basis.

We said goodbye to Pastor Ryan Ritzmann and his wife Ashley who completed his ministry in Litchfield (Mt. Zion and Trinity) and has accepted a call to Crossroad Lutheran Church in Fleming Island, Florida in the Florida-Bahamas Synod. We wish Ryan and Ashley well and God's blessings on their ministry at Crossroad.

West Central Dean's Report, continued

We will soon say goodbye to...

Pastor Jon Berg and his wife Jeannie as Jon retires from his ministry at Atonement, Springfield, on May 31, 2015, and relocates to Channahon, Illinois, in the Northern Illinois Synod. We wish Jon and Jeannie well and God's blessings and hope that they enjoy their retirement.

Pastor Bill Zanton and his wife Linda as Bill retires from his ministry at Luther Memorial, Springfield, on July 31, 2015, and relocates in October to the family farm in Wisconsin in the South Central Synod of Wisconsin. We wish them God's blessings and hope that they enjoy their retirement.

Pastor Glen VanderKloot will also be retiring September 1, 2015, from his ministry at Faith Lutheran Church, Springfield. He and his wife will be remaining in Springfield for now.

We offer our deep condolences to Pastor Bill Veith on the death of his wife Karen on April 18, 2015, after a long illness. Pastor Veith provides interim ministry at Elm Street Presbyterian Church in Alton, Illinois. May the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection fill the Veith family and friends with peace and comfort.

2015 Committee Reports

Constitution Committee

Submitted by Pastor Richard Hertenstein, chair

This committee has the responsibility to review the synod constitution to be sure that it is up-to-date with the churchwide documents. It also is to review the constitutions of the congregations in the synod. When amendments are proposed, the committee will make recommendations to the synod council concerning wording, applicability and concurrence with constitutional requirements of the ELCA, the synod, and a congregations own constitution.

Our constitutions are tools which, when used well, enhance our mission in serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This year, April 2014- March 2015 the committee reviewed proposed amendments to constitutions of:

Christ Lutheran Church, Quincy	St. Petri Lutheran Church, Flanagan
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Coatsburg	St. John Lutheran Church, Springfield
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, (Wine Hill) Steeleville	Faith Lutheran Church, Augusta
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Urbana	Faith Lutheran Church, Washington
Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield	St. Mark Lutheran Church, Chillicothe
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Arenzville	Trinity Lutheran Church, Litchfield

Finding no inherent conflicts the committee recommended approval by the Synod Council. At least three congregations are in the process of reviewing their constitutions and have been in contact with members of the committee concerning suitable wording and phrasing for portions of their documents.

The committee continues to review the resolutions of past assemblies to be sure the current constitution of the synod reflects those resolutions which still apply.

Congregations are reminded that when they are considering making changes in their constitutions these changes are to be reviewed by the Constitution Committee and approved by the Synod Council. Congregations should also refer to and use the most recently adopted "Model Constitution for Congregations" as amended by the churchwide assemblies. The most recent edition is from the 2013 assembly and is available at the churchwide website, www.elca.org go to the office of the secretary and then to resources.

Global Mission

Submitted by Pastor Wayne Shelksohn, chair

Members: Ms. Kim Alberts (Synod Liaison), , Rev. Wayland Middendorf (Assistant to the Bishop), Rev. Wayne Shelksohn (Chair, Northern), Rev. Carla Rush (Secretary, Southern), Rev. David Deem (Southern) Ms. Rose Moser (West Central), Ms. Mary Plymire (West Central) Ms. Beth Rogner (East Central) Ms. Marcia McGaughey (Northwest) Ms. Gloria Overturf (Northern) John Setterlund (East Central, moved) Rev. Laura Kamprath (Southern, resigned) Mr. Jeff Hancks (Northwest, resigned).

The major project of the Global Mission Committee was the preparation and execution of the Trip to Madagascar to visit officials of the Malagasy Lutheran Church and our two Companion Synods, the Ft Dauphin and the Ambovombe-Androy Synods. To this end eight people participated: Bishop John Roth and his wife Kris, Pastors Ruth and Harlan Kaden, Pastor Kathryn Montira, Pastor Wayne Shelksohn, Ms. Connie Frankenfeld, Ms. Jeanne Berg, and Ms. Linda Ericsson. The trip began August 11, 2014 and we returned to the USA August 22, 2014. We also had visits to the US from the Young Adults In Global Missions Coordinators Rev. Austin and Tanya Probst in July and August 2014. We prepared a Mission Experience Survey for the synod. And had a member of the synod attend a Global Event October 30-November 1, 2014 at Wartburg Seminary.

The Vision of the Global Mission Committee:

Who are we?

The C/SIS Global Mission Committee is a twelve member committee representing the six conferences of the C/SIS under the auspices of the C/SIS Synod Bishop, staff and Council. We are called to share in the Global Mission of the ELCA with Particular focus is on our Companion Synods in Madagascar.

Why are we here?

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. "When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." *Matthew 28:16-20*

As a committee of this synod we are to bring the larger sense of the mission and global outreach of the ELCA to the members and congregation of this synod, and how this Global Church shares with us the Gospel and mission given to us by Christ. As members and congregations of this synod we would seek ways to explore the use of our talents and gifts in this Global Mission.

What then shall we do?

- ♦ Seek ways to educate the congregations and members of the C/SIS about the global mission and global ministry of the ELCA
- ♦ Strengthen our ties to the Malagasy Lutheran Church and the Ambovombe-Androy and Ft. Dauphin synods of Madagascar
- ♦ Bring awareness of various global mission opportunities and events in the ELCA and other global mission opportunities members and congregations can participate in
- ♦ Encourage mission support to the congregations and members of CSIS

Mission Support and Stewardship Education

Submitted by Pastor Bob Dealey, DEM

This committee has responsibility for stewardship education; steward leader development; and encouraging mission support. In that vein, through the generosity of an ELCA Macedonia Project grant, the committee offered congregations the opportunity to purchase "First We Give of Ourselves", a three-year stewardship resource developed by the Rev. Kurt Nordby. This \$60 resource was available to congregations for only \$15. Pastor Nordby will be present at this year's synod assembly to lead a forum based on the resource. Congregations have until June 30, 2015 to take advantage of purchasing this resource at the discounted price.

Doreen Klages serves as the Synod Coordinator for the Mission Interpretation Ministry. Our goal is to recruit a minimum of one Mission Interpreter in every congregation. Mission Interpreters share stories about the ministries of the congregation, synod and the ELCA. It is a two-year term of service and Mission Interpreters learn a great deal about ministry from other Mission Interpreters. Training events have been held in five of the six conferences. The next training event will be held in the Southern Conference this coming fall. (Arrangements for the meeting are still pending).

The Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee enthusiastically endorses the *"Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA"* which seeks to raise \$198 million in support of new and expanded churchwide ministries between now and January 31, 2019. Every synod congregation is encouraged to pick up a copy of an ELCA Campaign Information Packet at this year's synod assembly.

The Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee is in the process of several transitions this year. The Rev. Kathy Montira, who has served faithfully as the committee chair, has resigned from the committee because she has accepted a new call out of synod. Her departure has created a vacancy from the Southern Conference. Pat Caley was recently elected as the representative from the West Central Conference and she will be serving as the group's recorder. The committee also has a vacancy from the East Central Conference.

As the committee seeks to fulfill its constitutional mandates, you and/or your congregation is invited to contact the committee for assistance in the areas related to stewardship education; steward leader development; and encouraging mission support.

New and Renewing Congregations

Submitted by Pastor Ed Hudelson, chair

Who are we?

We are a committee made up of Christian members of this synod who are concerned about the future of this synod's mission and ministry for Christ. Currently our committee is made up of Pastor C. Edward Hudelson (committee chair), Connie Frankenfeld (synod council liaison), Pastor Micah Garnett, Suzanne Ligon, Pastor Matthew Kamprath, Pastor Kurt Hoover, Cindy Hindman, and Pastor Jan Worms. We work closely with Pastor Bob Dealey, the Director of Evangelical Mission for our synod.

Why are we here?

Within the synod's role to fulfill God's purposes, the New / Renewing Congregations Committee's mission is to equip the saints for ministry by building enthusiasm and support for renewal and to empower congregations to embody the vitality of faith.

What then shall we do?

During our third year as a committee:

- ♦ We continued to work to develop a network of congregational resources that will foster and facilitate sharing of practices which have proven helpful in fostering renewal in congregations within the synod. We are working with the Pastor Dealey to determine the resources and approaches that are available to assist the work of renewal within our synod.
- ♦ We now have seven people who have been trained in Transformational Ministry 2.0. The synod's transformational ministry team will be offering two introductory workshops for congregations who would like to investigate this method of congregational renewal. The workshops will be offered in the fall with one in the northern half of the synod and one in the southern half of the synod. These workshops will introduce the basic method by which congregational teams will be trained and will lead their congregations through this process.
- ♦ We are beginning to develop criteria for identifying congregations for transformation.
- ♦ We continue to utilize on-line resources for meetings, including SKYPE, conference calls, Drop Box, etc., so that we can be more effective stewards of the synod's financial resources and the investment in time for the committee members.
- ♦ Finally, we continue to strive for a culture of constant evaluation of the effectiveness of our efforts to learn from our failures and embrace our successes.

Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy

Submitted by Ms. Ellen Davis, chair

"Then the King shall say unto them on his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 'Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me.' " - Matthew 25:34-36,40b

The committee continues into our third full year of work and have been quite busy. We have grant application requirements that provide more accountability of the use of funds and to assure that the congregations are actively participating in the ministries that they are requesting funds for. The theory for this change is that people are more willing to give if they know that the funds they are providing are being used appropriately and the idea of the grants is not only to provide a minimal amount of the funds needed for a project but to make the church a visible and viable part of their local communities.

If just monetary means are given, it is too soon that people forget who actually provided assistance and the church is still not a visible part of the project. This year we stipulated that two reports and pictures (when possible) from the grant recipients and the churches actively participating in the projects be submitted. This allowed us to know that our goal of visibility and viability are both being met, we require that several people in the congregation are actively participating in the projects that they are requesting funds for.

The grant application 2016 is available at the display table and will be available on the website following the Assembly. Again this year we will have a slide show with many of the photos of these grant projects in action.

We also allocated money out of our committee expenses to provide stipends to help out conferences with some of the expense of speakers to aide their congregations in programs to bring more of the people from their congregations in from the community and reach out with programs that promote justice and advocacy in minimizing the effects of hunger and discrimination in our environments.

It is the goal of this committee not only to issue grants, but to be a source of contact for congregations as to how their congregations can be active participants of social ministry in their individual communities.

It is our goal to assist the bishop in showing the congregations that we as a church can be a viable and valuable asset to the communities in which we reside.

The grants for 2014 went to:

Kids After School Program	Immanuel Lutheran, Golden
TAFFY Trico Area Food for Youth	St Luke Lutheran, Campbell Hill
Kairos Prison Ministry	St John Lutheran, Campbell Hill
Salem Community Aid Program	Salem Lutheran, Jonesboro
Blessings in a Backpack	Our Savior Lutheran Bradley
Spirit of Serving Soup Kitchen	Our Lord's Lutheran, Maryville
Project Compassion	Calvary Lutheran, Belleville
Making our Neighbors our Friends	St John Lutheran Springfield
Book Ministry for Prisoners	Faith Lutheran , Jacksonville
Let Justice Prevail	Trinity Lutheran, Kankakee
Sola Gratis Farm	St Matthew Lutheran, Urbana
Drug Awareness Coalition	Lutheran Church of the Cross Metropolis
Summer Lunch Program	Faith Lutheran, Springfield

This year we had the same funds to assist in Social Ministry Programs in your congregational communities and many more requests requiring us to make some tough choices and much smaller grants. Part of the funds we received has been set aside for stipends for education of your congregations in Anti-racism and other synod approved educational programs.

If you have a request for a grant, it is imperative that we receive it no later than April 15, 2016, so that the information can be sent to the committee to be reviewed and voted on for distribution of available funds. A listing of grants for this year 2015 will be available and distributed at the Synod assembly.

Since we will have the same amount of funds to work with grants will not be as large as last year and approved at much smaller amounts but our goal was to spread the bounty as far as we could by trying to make sure that at least every need was met in some small way.

The acronym we have chosen for our committee is **SEA** which stands for:

Serve Educate Advocate

I want to thank Bishop Roth, the wonderful staff of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, the Conference Deans, Synod Council, and especially Pastor Middendorf and the committee for their hard work in the short time we have had to accomplish what we have. Committee members included: Pastor Jill Flynn, Ms. Sue McLennan, Ms. Carol Manley, Pastor Kara Shaw, Pastor Christine McNeal, Mr. Mark Golden and Ms. Diane Maertens, synod council liaison.

I look forward to being able to serve the synod and our conferences therein with the important mission of the church and community relationships growing in the Light of Christ and the ability of others to see Christ in what we have to offer in way of assistance to them.

Professional and Lay Leadership

Candidacy Committee

Submitted by Pastor Elise Rothfusz, chair

The Candidacy Committee of the Central/Southern Illinois is tasked with the responsibility for approving candidates to serve as rostered leaders in the ELCA. We oversee the process of preparation and formation of these candidates and partner with them, their congregations, seminaries, and the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA. We seek to support and guide candidates through prayer and conversation as they discern God's call to ministry.

This committee meets three times each year to make entrance, endorsement, and approval decisions for candidates. This past year we established a three-year calendar so that candidates can be more aware of our meeting schedule and paperwork deadlines, particularly important since we are no longer working as part of a multi-synodical committee. This calendar is published on our synod website.

In 2014 we worked with a total of nine candidates. Five of them are distributed learning students with Luther Seminary and Wartburg Seminary. We approved one candidate for ordination; one candidate was endorsed; and two were granted entrance into the candidacy process.

One of our goals for the future is to offer more opportunities for discernment and community, for both candidates and those who are in the early process of discerning a call to ministry in the ELCA. We encourage congregations to raise up new leaders for ministry!

There were a number of transitions on our committee this past year: we thank Rev. Elaine Olson for her years of service as the chair of this committee, and Rev. Ron Moorman for having served as a synod staff representative. In August, I assumed the chair of the committee, and Rev. Ken Sandlin and Rev. Maureen Stein have served as synod staff representatives.

I would like to thank the other committee members for their dedication to this committee and the work we do together for the Church: Mr. Chris Ayers, Rev. Scott Egbers, Ms. Karen Fifer, Ms. Jean Graff, Rev. Mary Kay Henson, Mr. David Malone, Mr. Bill Moehring, Rev. Jared Parker, Mr. David Poland, Rev. Chris Repp, Ms. Lynn Smith, Synod Council Representative Rev. Glen VanderKloot, Seminary Representative Rev. Paul Landahl, and ELCA Region 5 Representative Rev. Ramie Bakken.

Leadership Support Committee

Submitted by Mr. Robert Mueller, chair

The Leadership Support Committee had a productive year. The committee reviewed and revised the Compensation Guidelines. The major revision was to include more clearly information on the PORTICO Insurance program. By including worksheets, that helped explain the various plans and options, it will make it easier for congregations to apply cost guidelines. It was decided that the salary guidelines for rostered personnel would remain the same for 2016. Language within the document was also reviewed and revised where necessary.

The Committee also reviewed and revised the guidelines for pulpit supply. This area had not been looked at for several years. Increases for pulpit supply were approved and guidelines revised as necessary. The major undertaking of the Committee was to write a resource guide for congregations considering a sabbatical or clergy renewal program for called pastors. This document is available on the synod website: csis-elca.org

The Committee wishes to thank Bishop Roth and the Synod Council for their input and review of the materials that have been updated.

Synodically Authorized Ministry

Submitted by Pastor David Hofer, chair

The Synodically Authorized Ministry (SAM) Subcommittee met three times since the last Assembly. We currently have thirty-three SAMs serving in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod. During the past year Synodically Authorized Minister, Marilyn Weingarz, who had served faithfully for six years, entered the Church Triumphant.

There are four students who have completed their course of study this spring, but because the last class is less than a week before the Synod Assembly, they were not able to be recommended to the Bishop for service by the Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee and have their interview with Bishop Roth. As a result, they will be recommended for service and have their interview with Bishop Roth after the Synod Assembly and recognized at a later date.

The next discernment retreat is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015. The Introduction to Lutheran Theology is scheduled to begin Saturday, August 29, 2015. The Lutheran Confessions class is tentatively scheduled to begin Saturday, January 16, 2016. The location for all three of these events has not yet been determined. If anyone is interested in checking out the Synodically Authorized Ministry program or would like more information, please contact Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Wayland Middendorf at 217-343-8809 or at middyw@sbcglobal.net or any member of the Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee.

S.A.M. candidates are required to complete the following courses:

- ♦ Introduction to the Old Testament – Themes and Literary features
- ♦ Introduction to the New Testament – Themes and Literary features
- ♦ Liturgy and Worship I
- ♦ Liturgy and Worship II (Practicum)
- ♦ Preaching I
- ♦ Preaching II (Practicum)
- ♦ Introduction to Lutheran Theology
- ♦ Introduction to Church History
- ♦ Introduction to Lutheran Confessions
- ♦ Students are also required to attend at least four retreats

During 2014-2015 the following retreats were held for the S.A.M.'s: Spirituality Retreat, which included spiritual practice and life-long discernment, led by Pastor Elaine Olson; the Gospel of Mark, led by Pastor Blake Duncan; and Catechism and Youth Ministry, led by Pastor Laura Kamprath and Mr. Jason Fisher.

The Preaching II class met at Immanuel Lutheran Church Lincoln. The instructor for this class was Pastor Elyse Nelson Winger. On May 2, 2015 a Catechism and Youth Ministry retreat (required) was held at Zion Lutheran Church Farmersville with Pastor Laura Kamprath and Mr. Jason Fisher leading this retreat.

The opportunity to serve the Church is a gift from the Lord Jesus. We thank God for those who have served the Central/Southern Illinois Synod as Synodically Authorized Ministers during the past year and we thank God for Bishop Roth, at whose pleasure the S.A.M.'s serve.



2015 Report from the Central / Southern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA

Submitted by Ms. Mary Plymire, president

Our women continue to conscientiously pursue many kinds of ministry and are looking forward to new avenues of grace in the next year. Seventy women participated in a gathering held at East Bay Camp and Retreat Center near Bloomington, Illinois. Jane Otte lead a discussion on human trafficking presenting us with some disturbing and yet enlightening facts about abuse of women and children in the United States. On a more physical note, Pastor Rachel Bass led us in devotions and a session of yoga combined with prayer and meditation. Some women attending were so inspired by Pastor Rachel that they signed up to attend another presentation she did in Champaign at a later date. Music was led by AIM Kathy Eckert with her lovely voice and her expertise at the piano.

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, we gathered at Grace and Peace Lutheran Church in Peoria, Illinois, for a presentation of *Mission Madagascar: Possible*. Pastor Wayne Shelksohn shared his impressions of the recent August 2014 trip on which he and a group from our synod learned more about our sister synod. Pastors Harlen and Ruth Kaden followed with a documentary slide show with commentary on their experiences. Following lunch we heard from the women who went on the trip who highlighted their own impressions and brought along samples of items they had purchased in that island country.

As many of you know our organization is very committed to our ministry in Madagascar. In the past we have sponsored and helped provide education for Toromare Mananato and will continue to do whatever we can to support her important work. We are also taking on the "HOUSE PROJECT" taking up a suggestion by the Bishop that we help to refurbish a house that the Lutheran women of Madagascar now own. The plan is to get the building redone so that it can be a traveling house for visitors who will pay money to stay there. This money will be used to support women's ministries which promote healing and wholeness.

On Saturday, September 19, 2015 we will hold our Biennial Convention at St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield. Our theme is *Friends, Faith, and the Future*. Our keynote speaker will be Jane Otte, our chaplain, Pastor Ruth Kaden and Pastor Bob Dealey will represent the Bishop. We are trying a one day convention this year and hope that this will accommodate a greater number of women. A very exciting day is planned and please pray for our gathering, and also pass along information when it is sent to your church.

Thank you very much for your past support. We look forward to working with you in the future with faith and hope.



2015 Report from the Central / Southern Illinois Synod Lutheran Youth Organization

Submitted by Brodie Wileman, president

Greetings on behalf of the C/SIS Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO).

I would first like to introduce myself; I am Brodie Wileman, the new Central Southern Illinois Synod LYO President. I attend First English Lutheran Church in Peoria and enjoy participating in all the youth events throughout our synod and all of Illinois, as well as the youth group and the choir and praise band in my own church. I was elected in February at our meeting during the Rend Lake youth retreat. I feel very blessed to have this opportunity to serve all of you and the C/SIS LYO, and am very excited to get to work!

The LYO Board and Planning Committee has been very busy planning for and participating in synod youth events in 2014 and 2015. Junior, Senior and Post High youth and their adult leaders from all CSIS congregations are invited to participate in the two synod LYO retreats: at Rend Lake Resort in February, and Lake Williamson Retreat Center near Carlinville in November.

The Carlinville gathering was held November 21-23, 2014 at the Lake Williamson Retreat Center; theme was "Hungry Hungry Lutherans" based on the story of the feeding of the five thousand, we talked about not only our hunger for food on a daily basis but also about our daily hunger for faith. Music was led by Dakota Road and keynotes by Pastor Ben Bergren. The LYO Convention approved a proposed Amendment to raise the upper age requirements of the President and Vice President. Finally, congregations were asked to bring hygiene items as an in-kind service project. The kits were sent to the military to aid in the transition of our soldiers coming back into the states after deployment.

Our annual gathering at Rend Lake was held February 20-22, 2015; music was provided by Prays Twice, with Pastors Roy Christell, Tom Krieger, and Tom Hillertz as the keynote speakers. The theme was "Faithbook" based on Hebrews 11. We focused on accepting God's friend request into our lives. The Amendment approved in November that changes the age of the President and Vice President to be consistent with the ages of other elected positions, up to the age of 21 (excluding the two high school at large members), was ratified.

The summer saw many youth from our synod in attendance at Leadership Lab, held at Augustana College in Rock Island. Leadership Lab is a ministry of the three Illinois synods that helps to teach and guide youth and young adults in leadership and faith growth within the church. The theme of Leadership Lab was from Matthew 5:13-14, "pour out the salt and turn on the light!" We learned to accept our gifts of salt or light in our faith, and how to use and grow those gifts.

The dates for your upcoming events are:

Leadership Lab:	July 27 - August 1, 2015
Carlinville:	November 13-15, 2015
Rend Lake:	February 19-21, 2016

The LYO would like to thank Bishop Roth, and all of the wonderful congregations in our synod who continually support youth ministry. It is truly amazing the things we get done due to the kindness and generosity of all of you. Thank you! We would also like to give a very special thanks to our LYO Advisors, Cindy Svanda and Katlyn Brown, and our pastoral advisor Tom Krieger. Thank you for your leadership and many hours of dedication to the C/SIS LYO.

C/SIS LYO TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Svanda, CSIS LYO Advisor

Bank of Springfield Account	
Beginning Balance	\$73.60
Service Charge	\$0.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$73.60
Bank of Carbondale Account	
Beginning Balance	\$10,255.35
2014 Rend Lake Youth Gathering Expenses	26,471.19
2014 Carlinville Youth Gathering Expenses	26,917.93
2014 Leadership Lab Scholarships	1,000.00
2014 Synod Assembly Page Expenses	388.18
Deposits	
Rend Lake Youth Gathering	25,351.50
Carlinville Youth Gathering	26,795.00
CSIS Synod Youth Budget Amount - 2013	2,050.00
CSIS Synod Youth Budget Amount – 2014	2,050.00
Ending Balance	\$11,724.55

Central/Southern Illinois Synod

2016 Proposed Budget

	Actual 2012	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Proposed Budget 2016
Income from congregations	\$1,429,078	\$1,423,174	\$1,500,000	\$1,450,269	\$1,475,000	\$1,450,000
Ministry through ELCA (56%)	800,284	796,977	840,000	812,151	826,000	812,000
Ministry through CSIS (44%)	628,794	626,197	660,000	638,119	649,000	638,000
Interest & Misc. Income	8,278	7,683	10,100	7,987	9,000	9,500
Total available to CSIS	637,072	633,880	670,100	646,105	658,000	647,500
Outflow CSIS						
<u>Agencies and Institutions</u>						
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois	72,000	51,421	51,421	51,421	51,421	51,421
Colleges	4,050	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Seminaries	54,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Campus Ministries	49,500	49,500	49,500	49,500	49,500	49,500
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750
Region 5 support	3,860	3,167	3,458	3,458	3,008	3,008
Illinois Conference of Churches	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600
Total Agencies and Institutions	193,760	156,438	156,729	156,729	156,279	156,279
<u>CSIS Program Committees</u>						
Global Mission	1,114	949	4,000	1,130	4,000	4,300
Social Ministry, Justice & Advocacy	9,418	7,612	8,000	6,608	8,000	8,000
Professional and Lay Ministry						
Candidacy Subcommittee	16,320	15,064	24,500	10,492	20,000	15,500
Synodically Auth. Min. Subcommittee	445	466	3,500	742	3,500	3,500
Leadership Support Subcommittee	3,853	3,585	4,000	5,500	4,000	4,000
Mission Support & Stewardship	776	805	1,000	92	1,000	1,000
<i>Church in Society/Outreach</i>						
New / Renewing Congregations	4,560	1,401	7,050	6,549	7,050	7,050
Constitution / Miscellaneous	0	105	0	0	0	0
Total CSIS Program Committees	36,485	29,987	52,050	31,113	47,550	43,350
<u>CSIS Congregation/ Clergy Services</u>						
Salaries/Housing	226,305	246,980	279,829	257,561	286,056	293,584
Benefits	46,412	62,580	61,707	66,842	77,120	80,261
Continuing Education	2,000	1,000	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Bishop's Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total CSIS Cong/Clergy Services	275,717	311,560	347,036	329,902	368,676	379,345
<u>CSIS Office Administration</u>						
Staff Travel	14,637	20,834	16,500	18,108	18,000	19,000
Operations	54,319	56,866	58,835	57,400	60,185	56,695
Equipment	5,000	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Furniture/Capital Improvement	2,500	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Automobile	8,000	5,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,000
Communication	175	216	750	618	750	750
Total CSIS Office Administration	84,630	89,615	84,785	84,826	87,635	86,145
<u>CSIS Synod Administration</u>						
Synod Assembly	27,247	16,500	25,000	15,388	25,000	25,000
Nominating Committee	0	0	0	0	0	0
Synod Council	5,234	4,941	4,500	4,669	4,500	5,000
Total CSIS Synod Administration	32,481	21,442	29,500	20,057	29,500	30,000
Total Synod Outflow	623,073	609,042	670,100	622,627	689,640	695,119
Total Outflow	1,423,357	1,406,019	1,510,100	1,434,778	1,515,640	1,507,119
Total inflow over total outflow	13,999	24,838	0	23,478	(31,640)	(47,619)
Reserves available end of year	217,442	246,007	246,007	267,674	236,034	188,415
Reserve % of annual budget	15%	17%	16%	19%	16%	13%

2016 Budget Notes

1. The budgeted 2015 congregational mission support is 25,000 lower than the budget for 2015. Based on 2015 intents and actual results for 2014, it is likely that actual 2015 and 2016 income will be stabilized at \$ 1,450,000..
2. The Finance Committee received no specific requested amounts for staff compensation. The 2016 proposed budget amount reflects a 2.0% increase in total salaries. Medical Insurance increase is big question, 3% increase for 2016 included here. The 2012, 2013 & 2104 budgets included 3%; 2011 included no salary increases.
3. The 2016 Proposed Budget is a not balanced budget. Cash reserve will be \$188,415 if 2015 and 2016 deficit budgets are both realized.

Central/Southern Illinois Synod

2016 Proposed Budget

C/SIS Program Committee Detail

	Actual 2012	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Proposed Budget 2016
Global Mission	1,114	949	4,000	1,130	4,000	4,300
Committee Expenses	1,061	924	2,200	130	1,000	1,000
Companion Synod Programs	-	-	1,000	1,000	2,500	2,500
Regional Events & Scholarships	53	25	-	-	500	-
GME Scholarships	-	-	800	-	-	800
Social Ministry, Justice & Advocacy	9,418	7,612	8,000	6,608	8,000	8,000
Committee Expenses	2,819	1,612	2,000	458	2,000	2,000
Grants	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,150	6,000	6,000
Anti Racism	600	-	-	-	-	-
Professional and Lay Ministry	20,617	19,115	32,000	16,734	27,500	23,000
Candidacy Subcommittee						
Committee Expenses	1,153	1,268	1,000	1,350	1,000	1,000
Multi synodical	198	(618)	1,000	-	-	-
Seminary Scholarships	14,250	13,500	16,500	7,500	12,000	10,500
Candidacy	719	914	6,000	1,643	7,000	4,000
Synodically Auth. Ministry Subcommittee						
Committee Expenses	306	306	1,000	320	1,000	1,000
S.A.M. Program	139	160	2,500	422	2,500	2,500
Leadership Support Subcommittee						
Committee Expenses	630	235	1,000	389	1,000	1,000
Retreats, Conferences	3,223	3,349	3,000	5,112	3,000	3,000
Mediation Training	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission Support & Stewardship	776	805	1,000	92	1,000	1,000
Committee Expenses	658	-	500	-	500	500
Stewardship	118	805	500	92	500	500
New / Renewing Congregations	4,560	1,401	7,050	6,549	7,050	7,050
Committee Expenses	2,510	1,401	5,000	2,449	5,000	5,000
Youth/Leadership Lab	2,050	-	2,050	4,100	2,050	2,050
Discipline	0	0	0	0	0	0
Constitution / Miscellaneous	0	105	0	0	0	0
Consultation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total CSIS Program Committees	36,485	29,987	52,050	31,113	47,550	43,350

SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA
Thursday, June 5, 2014

The Synod Council of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod ("C/SIS" or "synod") met at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois, on June 5, 2014, with the following members in attendance:

Bishop S. John Roth
Ms. Jeanne Rapp
Pastor Patricia Heath
Mr. Lyle Hallock

Pastor Ed Hudelson
Pastor John Rothfusz
Pastor Robert Rasmus
Pastor Gary Ryden
Pastor Mike Thomas
Pastor Glen VanderKloot

Mr. Mathew Spencer, Young Adult
Representative
Ms. Kim Alberts
Ms. Connie Frankenfeld
Mr. Terry Goff
Mr. Henry Harms
Ms. Diane Maertens
Mr. Michael Mason
Ms. Helen Pagel
Ms. Tiana Montgomery
Mr. Steven Rapp

Absent:

Mr. Jerry James

Ms. Meret Kammerling, Youth
Representative

Also present:

Ms. Carol Maertens

Mr. Michael Stadie, Program Director of Lutheran Disaster Response, Churchwide
Representative to 2014 C/SIS Synod Assembly

Mr. Robert Mueller, chair, Professional and Lay Leadership Committee

Vice President Rapp called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Devotions

Pastor Mike Thomas opened with a devotion based on *My Penguin Osbert* and prayer.

Welcome

Vice President welcomes all members of Synod Council and guests.

Approval of Agenda

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.06.01 Moved and seconded to approve the Synod Council Agenda as amended.

By removal from Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda

A. Extension of Call for Specialized Ministry

1. ~~Patrick Monroe, Chaplaincy, Lutheran Hillside Village, Peoria~~

2. ~~Proposed, Ms. Diane Runyan, Diaconal Minister, Non-stipendiary Call to Faith Lutheran Church, O'Fallon, IL; a Word and Service position~~

By substitution:

Other Business

A. Next Council meeting, September 20, 27 2014 at the synod office.

Bishop's Report (*written report submitted*)

- A. Assistant to the Bishop Reports
 - 1. Pastor Wayland Middendorf
 - 2. Pastor Ron Moorman
 - 3. Pastor Jim Reents
- B. Director for Evangelical Mission Report
 - 1. Pastor Bob Dealey (*written report submitted*)

Discussion held regarding visioning session held at March 2014 Synod Council meeting. Mr. Terry Goff working with Bishop Roth to synthesize the data and provide a report.

Vice President's Report

Nominations have been made for synod-level position openings. These will be forwarded to the 2014 C/SIS Synod Assembly for action. Mr. Henry Harms will be making the report to the Assembly on behalf of the Nominating Committee.

Secretary's Report

- A. Minutes of the Synod Council, March 16, 2014

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.06.02 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Synod Council Minutes, Saturday, March 16, 2014 as amended.

By substitution:

Devotions

Mr. Terry Geth GOFF....

Treasurer's Report

- A. Financial Update

Audit report for fiscal year 2013 is not ready from the accountant and so books are not truly closed. Benevolence giving to date in 2014 is inconclusive as to indicate a trend for this year.

Consent Agenda

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.06.03 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Consent Agenda as amended.

- B. Approval of On Leave From Call Status

- a. Pastor Steven Mall, Year 1, effective May 1, 2014
- b. Pastor David Bruner, Year 3, effective June 29, 2014
- c. Pastor William Veith, Year 3, effective June 1, 2014

- C. Approval of Retirement Status

None.

- D. Acknowledgement of Resignation from Roster

a. None.

- E. Roster Changes

- a. Pastor Pamela Mitcham, transfer received from the North Carolina Synod, call to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Centralia
- b. Pastor April Dailey, transfer received from Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, call to Trinity Lutheran, Olney

- c. Pastor Carla Rush, transfer received from North/West Lower Michigan Synod, call to Peace Lutheran, Chester and St. John Lutheran, Bremen
- d. Pastor Margo Peterson, transfer received from the Northern Illinois Synod, call to Saint Martin of Tours Lutheran Church, Mascoutah
- e. Mr. John Rogers, Associate in Ministry transfer to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod
- f. Pastor Lisa Goodwin, from OLC status, call to St. John Lutheran, Hartsburg
- g. Pastor Paul Balaban, transfer to Montana Synod

F. Conference Reports (*written reports submitted*)

- a. East Central, Pastor Robert Rasmus
- b. Northern Conference, Pastor John Rothfus
- c. Northeast Conference, Pastor Ed Hudelson
- d. Northwest Conference, Pastor Mike Thomas
- e. Southern Conference, Pastor Gary Ryden
- f. West Central Conference, Pastor Glen VanderKloot

G. Congregation Constitutions

- a. Trinity Lutheran Church, Litchfield
- b. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Chillicothe
- c. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Arenzville

Removed Items

A. Extension of Call for Specialized Ministry

- 1. Patrick Monroe, Chaplaincy, Lutheran Hillside Village, Peoria

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.06.04 Moved and seconded that Synod Council issue a Letter of Call to Patrick Monroe as Pastor/Chaplain, Lutheran Hillside Village, Peoria
Bishop Roth has been in conversation with Lutheran Hillside Village and a call package has been negotiated.

- 2. Proposed, Ms. Diane Runyan, Diaconal Minister, Non-stipendiary Call to Faith Lutheran Church, O'Fallon, IL; a Word and Service position

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.06.05 Moved and seconded that Synod Council propose to the ELCA Conference of Bishops that a Letter of Call for Non-stipendiary Call be extended to Ms. Diane Runyan, Diaconal Minister, to Faith Lutheran, O'Fallon, IL.
A ministry plan has been developed that provides for at least an average of 10 hours per week employment.

Committee Reports

A. New and Renewing Congregation Committee (*written report submitted*)

Ms. Connie Frankenfeld and Pastor Ed Hudelson, *Synod Council Liaisons*

After working on transformational ministry training for an extended period of time, the committee is evaluating the larger scope of the committee's role/work.

B. Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy Committee

Ms. Diane Maertens, *Synod Council Liaison*

Committee met in May and grant requests were approved. A report will be given during the 2014 C/SIS Synod Assembly regarding grants awarded.

- C. Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee
Mr. Steve Rapp, *Synod Council Liaison*
Committee will be meeting during the 2014 C/SIS Synod Assembly and will have a display in the Exhibit Hall.
- D. Global Mission Committee (*written report submitted*)
Ms. Kim Alberts, *Synod Council Liaison*
Synod's Madagascar trip is scheduled for August 11– 22, 2014. Video greetings will be played at the 2014 C/SIS Synod Assembly from President Modeste from Ambouvambe Synod of the Malagasy Lutheran Church.
- E. Professional and Lay Leadership Committee
 - 1. Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee (*written report submitted*)
Ms. Helen Pagel, *Synod Council Liaison*
Subcommittee met at the same time as the Synod Council in March. SAM retreat had approximately 30 people attending. A fall retreat is in the works. Discussions have been held regarding revision of SAM guidelines.
 - 2. Candidacy Subcommittee
Pastor Glen VanderKloot, *Synod Council Liaison*
It was noted that 20% of *C/SIS candidates* are doing in-residence study, meaning a majority of our candidates are engaged in some type of distance learning. The number of candidates in process is down from years past.
 - 3. Leadership Support Subcommittee
Mr. Jerry James, *Synod Council Liaison*
No report given.

Finance Committee Report

- A. Update as needed.
The Proposed Budget approved at the March 2014 Synod Council meeting will be presented to the 2014 C/SIS Synod Assembly for action.

Old Business

- A. Follow up congregations disbanded
 - 1. Union, Gila
Nothing new to report.
 - 2. Trinity, Alton
Real property may be able to be liquidated in the near future.
 - 3. Immanuel, Cairo
Discussions held with a newly-forming congregation regarding possible liquidation of Immanuel's real property.

New Business

- A. Approval of Pastor Maureen Stein as Assistant to the Bishop
VOTED: Motion carried.
SC14.06.06 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that it approve the appointment of Pastor Maureen Stein as Assistant to the Bishop.
- B. Approval of C/SIS Sabbatical Guidelines
Mr. Bob Mueller present as chair of the Professional and Lay Leadership Committee.
Discussion held regarding the proposed sabbatical guidelines and the process used to draft them.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.06.07 Moved and seconded to refer the C/SIS Sabbatical Guidelines document submitted back to the Professional and Lay Leadership Committee with direction for revision.

C. Approval of Bethlehem Christian Families to sell religious wood carvings

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.06.08 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that the request of Bethlehem Christian Families to offer products for sale at synod gatherings be tabled until the September 2014 Synod Council Meeting.

D. Approval of Ms. Susan Rehwaldt as a C/SIS representative to the Wartburg Theological Seminary Board, 2nd six-year term

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.06.09 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Ms. Susan Rehwaldt be appointed as the C/SIS representative to the Wartburg Theological Seminary Board.

E. Propose to the 2014 Synod Assembly changes to synodical constitution as recommended by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.06.10 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that it propose to the 2014 C/SIS Synod Assembly the changes to the synodical constitution (S7.23 and S7.26) as recommended by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

F. Rescind Synod Council action SC14.03.09

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.06.11 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the recession of Synod Council action designated SC14.03.09

Other Business

B. Next Council meeting, September 27, 2014 at the synod office.
Discussion held

Announcements

Discussion held regarding changes in Synod Assembly protocol this year.
Thanks expressed to those members of Synod Council completing their terms of service.

Executive Session

None needed.

Adjournment

Having concluded business, Vice President Rapp declared the meeting closed at 10:49 a.m.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Mike Thomas closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Patty Heath
Secretary

SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA
Saturday, September 27, 2014

The Synod Council of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod ("C/SIS" or "synod") met at the Synod Office in Springfield, Illinois, on September 27, 2014, with the following members in attendance:

Bishop S. John Roth
Ms. Jeanne Rapp
Pastor Patricia Heath

Pastor Ed Hudelson
Pastor John Rothfusz
Pastor Robert Rasmus
Pastor Glen VanderKloot

Ms. Kim Alberts
Ms. Connie Frankenfeld
Mr. Terry Goff
Mr. Henry Harms
Mr. Jerry James
Ms. Diane Maertens
Ms. Helen Pagel
Ms. Tiana Montgomery
Mr. Steven Rapp

Absent:

Mr. Lyle Hallock
Pastor Laura Kamprath
Mr. Michael Mason

Pastor Mike Thomas
Ms. Meret Kammerling, Youth Representative
Mr. Mathew Spencer, Young Adult Representative

Staff Present:

Pastor James Reents

Pastor Ken Sandlin

Pastor Maureen Stein

Also present:

Ms. Carol Maertens

Vice President Rapp called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Devotions

Ms. Kim Alberts opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Welcome

Vice President Rapp welcomed council members and provided introductions.

Approval of Agenda

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.09.01 Moved and seconded to approve the Synod Council Agenda.

Installation of Pastor Ken Sandlin and Pastor Maureen as Assistants to the Bishop

Installation service held.

Brief Synod Council Orientation

None held.

Bishop's Report (*written report submitted*)

Bishop Roth shared a multimedia presentation reflecting his recent trip to Madagascar and the relationships C/SIS has with companion synods in Madagascar.

- A. Assistant to the Bishop Reports
 - 1. Pastor Wayland Middendorf (*written report submitted*)
 - 2. Pastor Jim Reents (*written report submitted*)
 - 3. Pastor Ken Sandlin (*written report submitted*)
 - 4. Pastor Maureen Stein (*written report submitted*)
- B. Director for Evangelical Mission Report
 - 1. Pastor Bob Dealey (*written report submitted*)

Vice President's report.

None.

Secretary's Report

- A. Minutes of the Executive Committee, June 4, 2014
Previously approved by Executive Committee.
- B. Minutes of the Synod Council, June 5, 2014

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.09.02 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Synod Council Minutes, June 5, 2014.

- C. Minutes of the 2014 Synod Assembly
Received as information only.

Treasurer's Report

Report given by Pastor John Rothfusz in the absence of Treasurer Lyle Hallock.

- A. Financial Update
Financial giving for fiscal year 2014 is close to amount anticipated. The amount budgeted for FY 2014 (approximately \$1.5 million) will probably not be realized. A more realistic amount is \$1.45 million. As anticipated, actual health care costs were higher than budgeted for FY 2014. Amount in cash reserves is nearly equal to the constitutional limit allowed. Designated benevolence giving has increased for Madagascar, tornado relief and Pedal for a Purpose. Designated benevolence giving has decreased for ELCA Hunger and ELCA Disaster Relief.
- B. 2013 Audit is Complete
A written document has been received. Synod financial records are in order.

Received for filing:

Central Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Key Financial Statistics, As of August 31, 2014; Congregational Benevolence Comparisons, As of August 31, 2014; Central Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Designated Giving, as of August, 2014; Central Southern IL Synod, ELCA, Analysis of Revenues & Expenses – Detail, August 2014; Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Restricted and Designated Fund Balances; Central Southern IL, ELCA, Balance Sheet, January 2014.

Consent Agenda

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.09.03 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Consent Agenda.

- A. Extension of Call for Specialized Ministry
 - 1. None.

- B. Approval of On Leave From Call Status
 - 1. Pastor Wendy Popp, Year 1, effective October 16, 2014
 - 2. Ms. Judy Coiner, AiM, Year 1, effective August 28, 2014
 - 3. Ms. Kathy Eckert, AiM, Year 3, effective August 19, 2014
 - 4. Pastor Jill Flynn, Year 4, effective February 1, 2015 subject to Conference of Bishops approval in October 2014
 - 5. Mr. Terry Moore, Year 4, effective February 1, 2015, subject to Conference of Bishops approval in October 2014
- C. Approval of Retirement Status
 - 1. Pastor Elaine Olson, effective January 1, 2014
- D. Acknowledgement Resignation from the ELCA Roster
 - 1. J. Martin Eckert
- E. Approval of One Leave from Call as provided by the Conference of Bishops (COB)
 - 1. Pastor Christopher Hale, Year 2 of COB extension effective September 14, 2014
 - 2. Pastor Jan Worms, Year 2 of COB extension effective January 1, 2015
- F. Roster Changes
 - 1. Call Accepted / Installation of Pastor Margo Peterson, St. Martin of Tours, Mascoutah
 - 2. Call Accepted / Installation of Pastor Lisa Goodwin, St. John, Hartsburg
 - 3. Ordination/ Installation of Pastor Patrick Monroe, Synod Council Call to Special Service to Lutheran Hillside Village
 - 4. Ordination / Installation of Pastor Brad Eidson, Trinity, Golden
 - 5. Ordination / Installation of Pastor Candice Stone, Faith, O'Fallon
 - 6. Call Accepted / Installation of Pastor Julia Rademacher, St. John, Bloomington
 - 7. Transfer Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner to Southeastern Synod
 - 8. Transfer Pastor John Setterlund to Minneapolis Area Synod
 - 9. Ordination of Mauricio Vieira
- G. Conference Reports
 - 1. East Central, Pastor Robert Rasmus (*written report submitted*)
 - 2. Northern Conference, Pastor John Rothfusz (*written report submitted*)
 - 3. Northeast Conference, Pastor Ed Hudelson (*written report submitted*)
 - 4. Northwest Conference, Pastor Mike Thomas (*written report submitted*)
 - 5. Southern Conference, Pastor Laura Kamprath (*written report submitted*)
 - 6. West Central Conference, Pastor Glen VanderKloot (*written report submitted*)
- H. Approval of the Constitution Committee's assessment that changes in Congregation Constitutions contain no conflicts with the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA or the C/SIS
 - 1. Christ Lutheran, Quincy
 - 2. Faith Lutheran, Augusta
 - 3. St. Matthew Lutheran, Urbana

Committee Reports

- A. New and Renewing Congregation Committee (*written report submitted*)
Ms. Connie Frankenfeld and Pastor Ed Hudelson, *Synod Council Liaisons*
Pastor Dealey and a committee member attended the Churches Changes Churches conference. Committee continues to refine its vision and goals.
- B. Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy Committee
Ms. Diane Maertens, *Synod Council Liaison*
Committee has met and awarded grants. Most grant monies have been disbursed.
- C. Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee
Mr. Steve Rapp, *Synod Council Liaison*
Nothing to report.

D. Global Mission Committee

Committee met during the 2014 C/SIS Synod Assembly. A contingent from the synod traveled to Madagascar this summer and met with representatives from our companion synods. A conference call meeting was held in September.

E. Professional and Lay Leadership Committee

1. Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee (*written reports submitted*)

Ms. Helen Pagel, *Synod Council Liaison*

Document provided listing all SAMs in C/SIS. Subcommittee continues to meet and plan ahead of synod and personnel needs.

2. Candidacy Subcommittee

Pastor Glen VanderKloot, *Synod Council Liaison*

Pastor Elaine Olson has resigned as chair of the subcommittee; Pastor Elise Rothfusz is the new subcommittee chair. A training session for all members was held. Subcommittee continues to keep in creative tension the needs of the Church and the needs of the candidates.

3. Leadership Support Subcommittee

Mr. Jerry James, *Synod Council Liaison*

Subcommittee has been meeting regularly with a current goal of refining the synod's guidelines regarding sabbatical leave.

Finance Committee Report

A. Update as needed

Budget requests for the 2016 budget will be due no later than the January 2015 Synod Council meeting. Requests may be forwarded to Pastor John Rothfusz or Mr. Lyle Hallock.

Old Business

A. Follow up congregations disbanded

1. Union, Gila

Mr. Lyle Hallock has been in conversation with congregational representatives. Some work has taken place with more to come, including full transmittal of liquidated assets. Lyle will continue to follow up.

2. Trinity, Alton (awaiting sale of property)

Sale is imminent.

3. Immanuel, Cairo (awaiting sale of property)

Some difficulties have been encountered in transferring property to an interested party. The Synod Office will continue to follow up.

B. Results of Synod Council Survey (*written document submitted*)

Mr. Terry Goff presented and interpreted the results from the recent Synod Council survey regarding priorities for the synod. He and Bishop Roth will continue to refine priorities and work together for future synod strategies.

C. Synod Sabbatical Guidelines (*written document submitted*)

Discussion held regarding proposed changes, wordings, etc. in the submitted document.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.09.04 Moved and seconded to amend by addition the Compensation Guidelines, 8. Sabbatical or Clergy Renewal Leave the Synod Council as follows:

We recommend congregational councils give serious consideration to including a sabbatical or clergy renewal leave as part of their overall compensation packages.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC14.09.05 Moved and seconded that the Compensation Guidelines, 8. Sabbatical or Clergy Renewal Leave paragraph be approved as amended.

D. Synod Assembly Locations

A task force including Synod Council members and synod staff has investigated alternative locations at which to hold future C/SIS synod assemblies. Weighing numerous factors, two viable locations were identified for 2015 – Crowne Plaza in Springfield and Embassy Suites in Peoria. The task force will continue to work and make a recommendation to Bishop Roth in the near future.

New Business

A. Receive Resignation of Michael Mason from Synod Council

Due to health issues, Mr. Michael Mason has submitted a letter of resignation from Synod Council to Bishop Roth.

B. Synod Council Committee Liaison Appointments

By consensus, the following appointments were made:

Executive Committee:

Bishop S. John Roth, Vice President Ms. Jeanne Rapp, Secretary Pastor Patty Heath, Treasurer Mr. Lyle Hallock, Pastor Mike Thomas, Ms. Tiana Montgomery, Ms. Kim Alberts.

Finance Committee:

Treasurer Mr. Lyle Hallock, Pastor John Rothfusz (chair), Mr. Henry Harms, Mr. Terry Goff, Mr. Mathew Spencer, Ms. Meret Kammerling, Ms. Jeanne Rapp, *ex officio*

Synod Council Liaisons

Global Mission:

Pastor Laura Kamprath

New and Renewing Congregations:

Ms. Connie Frankenfeld & Pastor Ed Hudelson

Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy:

Ms. Diane Maertens

Mission Support, Stewardship and Education:

Mr. Steve Rapp

Professional Leadership – Candidacy:

Pastor Glen VanderKloot

Professional Leadership – Leadership Support:

Mr. Jerry James

Professional Leadership – Synodically Authorized Ministers:

Ms. Helen Pagel

Mutual Ministry Committee:

Bishop Appointees:

Pastor Ed Hudelson and Pastor Mike Thomas

Council Appointees:

Pastor Robert Rasmus, Pastor John Rothfusz, Pastor Glen VanderKloot, and Pastor Laura Kamprath

C. Report of C/SIS Working Group for “Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA”

A task force comprised of some voting members from the last Churchwide Assembly have met and discussed options for implementation of the campaign. The task force identified three goals:

1. Focus on exciting individuals and congregations for ministry, not in raising dollars.
2. Formulate a plan for participating in the ELCA campaign both from individuals as well as congregations and then introduce that plan to Synod Council and synod congregations.
3. Expand the task force to between 8 and 10 people to assist in plan formulation and presentation to both the Synod Council and the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

The task force will be meeting again in October.

D. Pedal for a Purpose – discussion of future projects (*written document submitted*)

VOTED: **Motion carried.**

SC14.09.06 Moved and seconded that Synod Council affirm that we would like Pedal for a Purpose to continue in the synod, and we will be supportive of every effort.

VOTED: **Motion carried.**

SC14.09.07 Moved and seconded that a list be provided to them [Pastor Adam Dichsen and Pastor Scott Egberts] as approved causes for which Pedal for a Purpose may raise money within the synod, and Synod Council shall provide a weighted ranking of the approved choices for consideration by the Pedal for a Purpose leadership team.

Other Business

A. Next meeting, January 17, 2015

Plans are to hold the January Synod Council meeting at the Chiara Center in Springfield.

B. Synod Sabbatical Option

VOTED: **Motion carried.**

SC14.09.08 Moved and seconded that the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee give serious consideration to adopting a sabbatical policy for clergy who are full-time employees of the synod.

C. Other

Request was made that a paper directory of synod roster leaders and SAMs be compiled for appropriate distribution and use.

Executive Session

None needed.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Having concluded business, Vice President Rapp declared the meeting closed at 1:40 p.m.

Ms. Kim Alberts closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Patty Heath
Secretary

SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA

Saturday, January 17, 2015

The Synod Council of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod ("C/SIS" or "synod") met at the Chiara Center in Springfield, Illinois, on January 17, 2015, with the following members in attendance:

Bishop S. John Roth	Pastor Ed Hudelson	Ms. Kim Alberts
Ms. Jeanne Rapp	Pastor Laura Kamprath	Ms. Connie Frankenfeld
Pastor Patricia Heath	Pastor Robert Rasmus	Mr. Terry Goff
Mr. Lyle Hallock	Pastor John Rothfusz	Mr. Henry Harms
	Pastor Mike Thomas	Mr. Jerry James
	Pastor Glen VanderKloot	Ms. Diane Maertens
		Ms. Tiana Montgomery
		Ms. Helen Pagel
		Mr. Steven Rapp
		Mr. Donald Swan
		Mr. Matthew Spencer, Young Adult Representative

Absent:

Ms. Meret Kammerling, Youth Representative

Staff Present:

Ms. Cindy Koonce
Pastor James Reents

Also present:

Ms. Carol Maertens

Devotion

Pastor Bob Rasmus provided devotions using the theme, "Everything being made new."

Welcome

Vice President Rapp called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.01.01 Moved and seconded to approve the Revised Synod Council Agenda.

Appointment to Synod Council

- A. Donald Swan to replace Mike Mason, Southern Conference
Selected by Southern Conference, will fulfill the unexpired term in fullness.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.01.02 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Mr. Donald Swan be appointed to Synod Council to fulfill the unexpired term of Mr. Michael Mason (until June 2016).

Recognition of Representatives of Faith Lutheran Church, LeRoy

Mr. Paul Jensen present as a representative from and former president of Faith, LeRoy. Mr. Jensen addressed Synod Council regarding the disbanded congregation and presented a check in the amount of \$136,803.37, reflecting the remaining assets of the congregation. He asked that the money be used to help struggling congregations and/or mission starts.

Brief Synod Council Orientation

Handout provided.

Bishop's Report (*written report submitted*)

Discussed issues regarding the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly, which will again be held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. In negotiating with the facility, the synod was informed that tables in exhibition hall will be charged \$150 per table. Consensus of Synod Council was that the synod would pay for tables for synod-related vendors, etc. Other vendors would be handled either on a cost sharing basis or the vendor being asked to cover the cost. Due to the cost, there will be no used book sale this year.

A. Assistant to Bishop Reports

1. Pastor Wayland Middendorf (*written report submitted*)
2. Pastor Jim Reents (*written report submitted*)
3. Pastor Ken Sandlin (*written report submitted*)
4. Pastor Maureen Stein (*written report submitted*)

B. Director for Evangelical Mission Report

1. Pastor Bob Dealey (*written report submitted*)

Reports received without comment.

Vice-President's Report

Attended a Personnel Committee meeting and three meetings of the working group for the Campaign for ELCA since the September 2014 Synod Council meeting.

Secretary's Report

A. Minutes of the Executive Committee, September 26, 2014

Previously approved by the Executive Committee.

B. Minutes of the Synod Council, September 27, 2014

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.01.03 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Minutes of the Synod Council, September 27, 2014, as amended.

By substitution:

Page 3, Consent Agenda C.1. January 1, 2014 2015

Page 6, SC14.09.07 Pastor Scott Egberts- EGBERS

Treasurer's Report

A. Financial Update

Treasurer Hallock attended the first synod treasurers' workshop in Philadelphia which was held at same time as the September C/SIS Synod Council meeting.

Monthly benevolence from congregations is higher than it has been since 2010. It is estimated that the synod will have close to \$1.4 million in income at the end of fiscal year 2014. Two years ago \$1.5 million in income was budgeted, which will not be realized. However, expenses have also been less than budgeted, and it is anticipated that the

fiscal year will end with a small surplus. For fiscal year 2015, Portico premiums have increased approximately 20%. A hard copy of audit for fiscal year 2013 has been received and made available to Synod Council members. The report has been forward to Churchwide as required constitutionally.

Received for filing:

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Key Financial Statistics, As of December 31, 2014; Congregational Benevolence Comparisons, As of December 31, 2014; Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Designated Giving, as of December, 2014; Central/Southern IL Synod, ELCA, Analysis of Revenues & Expenses – Detail, December 2014; Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Restricted and Designated Fund Balances; Central/Southern IL, ELCA, Balance Sheet, December 2014.

Consent Agenda

VOTED: **Motion carried.**

SC15.01.04 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Consent Agenda.

- A. Extension of Call for Specialized Ministry
 - 1. Pastor Heather MacIver Arnold, 1-year Non-Stipendiary Call as Family Life Pastor, First English, Peoria
- B. Approval of Retirement Status
 - 1. Pastor Jonathan Berg, effective June 1, 2015
- C. Approval of On Leave from Call Status
 - 1. Pastor Elise Rothfusz, Year 2, effective January 18, 2015
- D. Roster Changes
 - 1. Call Accepted, Pastor Brian Deckinger, to Resurrection, Bloomington
- E. Conference Reports
 - 1. East Central, Pastor Robert Rasmus
 - 2. Northern Conference, Pastor John Rothfusz
 - 3. Northeast Conference, Pastor Ed Hudelson
 - 4. Northwest Conference, Pastor Mike Thomas
 - 5. Southern Conference, Pastor Laura Kamprath
 - 6. West Central Conference, Pastor Glen VanderKloot
- F. Approval of the Constitution Committee's assessment that changes in Congregation Constitutions contain no conflicts with the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA or the C/SIS
 - 1. St. Petri Lutheran Church, Flanagan
 - 2. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Coatsburg
 - 3. St. John Lutheran Church, Springfield
 - 4. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Steeleville

Committee Reports

- A. New and Renewing Congregations Committee (*written documents provided*)
Ms. Connie Frankenfeld and Pastor Ed Hudelson, *Synod Council Liaisons*
Committee has been working on developing a transformational ministry 2.0 training team for the synod. Six people in the synod have completed both parts of the training through ELCA Churchwide. A forum will be presented at the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly regarding Transformational Ministry 2.0.

- B. Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy Committee
Ms. Diane Maertens, *Synod Council Liaison*
Nothing to report.
- C. Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee
Mr. Steve Rapp, *Synod Council Liaison*
Committee has not met since the September 2014 Synod Council meeting.
- D. Global Mission Committee (*written documents provided*)
Pastor Laura Kamprath, *Synod Council Liaison*
Participated in a committee conference call. The committee has put together a five-year funding plan for ministry in our companion synods in Madagascar. Bishop Roth provided background on funding for these ministries, rationale for funding matrix, and stated current needs.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.01.05 Moved and seconded to approve the proposed Madagascar funding plan as put forth in the written document provided, and recommend that the document be forwarded to the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly for approval.

- E. Professional and Lay Leadership Committee
 - Synodically Authorized Ministry ("SAM") Subcommittee
Ms. Helen Pagel, *Synod Council Liaison*
Subcommittee has been meeting via Skype. A December retreat was held focusing on the book of Mark. Some upcoming classes include church history, preaching, and theology. Four students are in their final year of training. Subcommittee noted that all SAM candidates must undergo background checks. The subcommittee is exploring ways they can better equip mentoring pastors. A discernment retreat is scheduled for September 2015. Subcommittee is once again putting out a newsletter for SAMs.
 - Candidacy Subcommittee
Pastor Glen VanderKloot, *Synod Council Liaison*
Currently, at seven, the synod has the smallest number of candidates in candidacy since the formation of the ELCA. Three candidates are not currently active due to a variety of reasons. Of the four active synod candidates, all are participating in distance learning of some type.
 - Leadership Support Subcommittee
Mr. Jerry James, *Synod Council Liaison*
Handout provided – "Resource Guide for Clergy Renewal (Sabbatical) Leave"
Subcommittee has a meeting scheduled in March and will discuss how to incorporate the Portico changes, including increased premiums, into the Compensation Guidelines for Roster Leaders for 2016.

Finance Committee Report

- A. Update as Needed.
Pastor John Rothfusz, *chair*
Budget requests for fiscal year 2016 are due by the close of the January 2015 Synod Council meeting. In the near future, the Finance Committee will be meeting in order to come up with a proposed budget for fiscal 2016 to submit to the Synod Council.

Old Business

- A. Report of the Working Group for next steps with results of the Synod Council survey of synod priorities.

Mr. Terry Goth.

A small group has met and looked more closely at the forced ranking survey completed by Synod Council members. The results fall into two basic categories – tasks and underpinning of what the synod is about. A written document, once prepared, will be disseminated to Synod Council members. It is hoped that once Synod Council reaches a consensus, that that information and vision can be shared with synod congregations, inviting others into the conversation.

- B. Follow-up report of the C/SIS Working Group for “Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA”

The working group has continued to meet and has recently added three members. A kick-off event will happen at the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly. Pastor Ron Glusenkamp, Director of the Campaign for the ELCA, will be present at that synod assembly. Pastor Harold Skillrud will be our synod’s face regarding the campaign. A forum will be available at the 2015 Synod Assembly to provide information and interaction, as well as a table in the Exhibit Hall. The working group is in the midst of putting together a video to help publicize and educate regarding the Campaign for the ELCA. They are also working on putting together a speakers’ bureau. It is anticipated that for the March 2015 Synod Council meeting, a resolution for approval regarding formal support for the campaign will be submitted. The working group will also be asking that the Synod Assembly formalize support for the campaign. C/SIS will use the ELCA theme of: Always being made new. Campaign for the ELCA.

- C. Pedal for a Purpose Survey Follow-Up

Bishop Roth has talked with the coordinators of the Pedal for a Purpose program, and the Madagascar ministry has been chosen as the beneficiary of funds raised in 2015. Although the money will be raised in 2015, it will be expended over the course of five years.

- D. Follow-up on congregations disbanded

1. Union, Gila

Treasurer Lyle Hallock is anticipating receiving a check. Some additional items need to be accomplished before the county will assume ownership of the cemetery. A memorial for the congregation still needs to be erected.

2. Trinity, Alton (awaiting sale of property)

Nothing new.

3. Immanuel, Cairo (sale/paperwork complete)

Transition has been complete and the corporation has ceased to exist. The church building has been deeded to another worshipping community; there are no residual assets.

New Business

- A. Draft proposal from New Mission Support as prepared by the New and Renewing Congregations

A written document submitted outlines a proposed fundraising venture for new mission starts. Concerns raised regarding interfaces with the Campaign for ELCA and its designation for new mission starts as well as bookkeeping issues.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.01.06 Moved and seconded to refer this item back to committee.

B. Draft Proposal of Companion Synod Partnership Support
Previously discussed under Committee Reports.

C. Appointment of Personnel Committee Member

No action taken at this point. Awaiting responses from those contacted to fill vacant and vacated positions.

D. 2015 Housing Allowance, Bishop S. John Roth

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.01.07 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the Housing Resolution as submitted and that \$18,000 be designated as the 2015 Housing Allowance for Bishop S. John Roth.

Other Business

A. Next Council meeting: March 21, 2015. Location to be determined.

Executive Session

None needed.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Having concluded business, Vice President Rapp declared the meeting closed at 1:19 p.m.

Pastor Bob Rasmus closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Patty Heath
Secretary

SYNOD COUNCIL MINUTES

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA

Saturday, March 21, 2015

The Synod Council of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod ("C/SIS" or "synod") met at the Chiara Center in Springfield, Illinois, on March 21, 2015, with the following members in attendance:

Bishop S. John Roth
Pastor Patricia Heath
Mr. Lyle Hallock

Pastor Ed Hudelson
Pastor Laura Kamprath
Pastor Robert Rasmus
Pastor John Rothfusz
Pastor Mike Thomas
Pastor Glen VanderKloot

Ms. Connie Frankenfeld
Mr. Terry Goff
Mr. Henry Harms
Mr. Jerry James
Ms. Helen Pagel
Mr. Donald Swan
Mr. Matthew Spencer, Young Adult
Representative

Absent:

Ms. Jeanne Rapp
Ms. Kim Alberts
Ms. Diane Maertens
Ms. Tiana Montgomery
Mr. Steve Rapp
Ms. Meret Kimmerling, Youth Representative

Staff Present:

Ms. Cindy Koonce
Pastor James Reents

Devotions

Pastor Laura Kamprath opened with devotions.

Welcome

Bishop Roth called the meeting to order at 8:52 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.01 Moved and seconded to approve, as amended, the Revised Synod Council Agenda with permission of the chair to adjust as necessary.

By addition:

New Business

P. Permission for Used Book Sale at 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly
Editorial changes to Consent Agenda

Bishop's Report (*written report submitted*)

A. Assistant to Bishop Reports

1. Pastor Wayland Middendorf (*written report submitted*)
2. Pastor Jim Reents (*written report submitted*)
3. Pastor Ken Sandlin (*written report submitted*)
4. Pastor Maureen Stein (*written report submitted*)

B. Director for Evangelical Mission Report

1. Pastor Bob Dealey (*written report submitted*)

Reports received. Noted that C/SIS received three seminarians, rather than two, through the most recent assignment process.

Vice President's Report

Bishop Roth reports that he and Vice President Rapp have been working on Synod Council nominations for Synod Assembly elections. Vice President Rapp has also been meeting with the synod working group for the Campaign for the ELCA. Bishop Roth and Vice President Rapp have also been having increased discussions regarding Synod Assembly.

Secretary's Report

- A. Minutes of the Executive Committee, January 15, 2015
Minutes previously approved by the Executive Committee.
- B. Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting, January 16, 2015

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.02 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the January 16, 2015, Synod Council minutes.

Editorial correction: page 5, A. Report of the Working Group for next steps with results of the Synod Council survey of synod priorities. Mr. Terry Geth GOFF

Treasurer's Report

Fiscal year 2014, which ended on January 31, 2015, ended approximately \$50,000 short of original budget. However, the synod ended the fiscal year with a \$23,478.22 surplus, which increases the cash reserves to 17.7%. Constitution limit is 16%.

Received for filing:

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Key Financial Statistics, As of January 31, 2015; Congregational Benevolence Comparisons, As of January 31, 2015; Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Designated Giving, as of January, 2015; Central/Southern IL Synod, ELCA, Analysis of Revenues & Expenses – Detail, January, 2015; Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, Restricted and Designated Fund Balances, January, 2015; Central/Southern IL, ELCA, Balance Sheet, January 2015.

Consent Agenda

VOTED: Motion carried.

EC15.03.03 Executive Committee recommends to the Synod Council the approval of the Consent Agenda, as amended.

- A. Approval of Retirement Status
 - 1. PASTOR Scott Olbert, effective April 20, 2015
 - 2. Pastor Diane "Trudy" Foote, effective May 1, 2015
 - 3. Pastor William Veith, effective June 1, 2015
 - 4. Pastor Maureen Stein, effective July 1, 2015
 - 5. Pastor James Lillie, effective July 1, 2015
- B. Approval of On Leave From Call Status
 - 1. Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner, Year 3, effective April 1, 2015
 - 2. Pastor Robert Kinas, Year 2, effective March 1, 2015
 - 3. Pastor Ashley Updegraff- ASHLEY UPDEGRAFF-Balow, Year 2, effective March 24, 2015
 - 4. Pastor Jill Flynn, Year 4, effective February 1, 2015
- C. Acknowledge Resignation from ELCA Roster
 - 1. Kathy Eckert, Associate in Ministry, effective February 23, 2015

D. Roster Changes

1. Pastor Colleen Winkler, Ordained July 31, 2015; Installed March 15, 2015 at St. John Lutheran Church, Bluff Springs and Grace Lutheran Church, Virginia
2. Pastor Brian Haugland HAGGLUND Christ Lutheran Church, Nauvoo, installed February 15, 2015
3. Pastor Amy Zietlow, accepted call to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Decatur, effective March 1, 2015
4. Pastor Ryan Ritzmann, transferred to the Florida-Bahamas Synod, effective March 1, 2015

E. Conference Reports

1. East Central, Pastor Robert Rasmus
2. Northern Conference, Pastor John Rothfusz
3. Northeast Conference, Pastor Ed Hudelson
4. Northwest Conference, Pastor Mike Thomas
5. Southern Conference, Pastor Laura Kamprath
6. West Central Conference, Pastor Glen VanderKloot

F. Approval of the Constitution Committee's assessment that changes in Congregation Constitutions contain no conflicts with the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA or the C/SIS

1. Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield

Committee Reports

A. New and Renewing Congregations Committee

Pastor Ed Hudelson and Ms. Connie Frankenfeld, *Synod Council liaisons*

Committee met in March. Anticipates sponsoring an event in southern Illinois as well as one toward the northern part of C/SIS regarding Transformational Ministry 2.0 in order to better assess congregational interest.

B. Social Ministry, Justice and Advocacy

Ms. Diane Maertens, *Synod Council liaison*

No report.

C. Mission Support and Stewardship Education Committee

Mr. Steve Rapp, *Synod Council liaison*

No report.

D. Global Mission Committee

Pastor Laura Kamprath, *Synod Council liaison*

Committee has not met since the last Synod Council meeting.

E. Professional and Lay Leadership Committee

- Synodically Authorized Ministry Subcommittee

Ms. Helen Pagel, *Synod Council liaison*

Unable to attend the latest committee meeting. Synod Council members are referred to Pastor Middendorf's Assistant to the Bishop report for an update on the committee.

- Candidacy Subcommittee

Pastor Glen VanderKloot, *Synod Council liaison*

There are currently six active candidacy candidates, all of whom are either participating in distance learning or are on internship.

- Leadership Support Subcommittee

Mr. Henry Harms, *Synod Council liaison*

Subcommittee has met twice by conference call since last Synod Council meeting. Members have been working on items that will come before Synod Council under New Business.

Finance Committee Report

Pastor John Rothfusz, chair.

Committee has drafted a proposed budget for 2016 which will be discussed under New Business.

Old Business

- A. Report of the Working Group for next steps with results of the Synod Council survey of synod priorities
 - Review and small group discussions on the ranked prioritizations
Working group members agree to synthesize small group discussions and disseminate the information.
- B. Follow-up report on the C/SIS Working Group for "Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA" (*written report submitted*)
Working group would like congregations/individuals to participate in the Campaign as an expression of being part of Churchwide ministries. Members of the working group will make presentations at the 2015 C/SIS Assembly as well as sponsor a forum. The group is in the process of establishing a speakers' bureau. The working group has drafted a proposed resolution that they would like the Synod Council to submit to the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly.
- C. Draft proposal for New Mission Support as prepared by the New and Renewing Congregations Committee.
No new information to report.
- D. Follow-on congregations disbanded
 1. Union, Gila
Treasurer Hallock has had no recent contact with congregational representatives and no check has been received.
 2. Trinity, Alton (awaiting sale of property)
To date, neither the parsonage nor the church property has been sold.

Introductions

Introduction of Mr. Mark Stutrud, new CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Mr. Stutrud shared his background as well as his vision for the future of LSSI.

New Business

- A. Approval of Personnel Committee Members
 1. Pastor Gayle Pope, 4-year term (replacing Pastor Maureen Stein)
 2. Mr. Jason Fisher, 4-year term (replacing Ms. Carol Manley)

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.04 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the appointment to the Personnel Committee of Pastor Gayle Pope and Mr. Jason Fisher, each for a four-year term.

- B. Approval of Parliamentarian for 2015 Synod Assembly

1. Dan Simmons

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.05 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Mr. Dan Simmons be approved and his name submitted as the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly parliamentarian.

C. Approval of Reference and Counsel Committee for 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly

1. Pastor Bob Rasmus, Urbana, chair
2. Ms. Debbie Peterson, Champaign, East Central Conference
3. Ms. Lynne Culkin, Gilman, Northeast Conference
4. Ms. Carol Ladwig, Peoria, Northern Conference
5. Pastor Tony Metz, Quincy, Northwest Conference
6. Mr. Don Swan, Centralia, Southern Conference
7. Pastor Ben Fiore, Mt. Olive, West Central Conference

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.06 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the appointment of Pastor Bob Rasmus (chair), Ms. Debbie Peterson, Ms. Lynne Culkin, Ms. Carol Ladwig, Pastor Tony Metz, Mr. Don Swan, and Pastor Ben Fiore as the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly Reference and Counsel Committee.

D. Approval of Nominating Committee for 2015 Synod Assembly

1. Pastor Lisa Goodwin, Hartsburg, chair
2. Pastor Micah Garnett, Monticello
3. Mr. Charles Hurliman, Bloomington
4. Ms. Muriel Paul, Beardstown

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.07 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the appointment of Pastor Lisa Goodwin (chair), Pastor Micah Garnett, Mr. Charles Hurliman, and Ms. Muriel Paul as the Nominating Committee for the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

E. Approval of Nomination for Synodical Treasurer

1. Mr. Ken Finkel, Faith, Jacksonville

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.08 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that it place the name of Mr. Ken Finkel in nomination for the Synodical Treasurer at the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

F. Approval of Nomination of Synodical Secretary

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.09 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Synod Council authorize the Executive Committee to place a name in nomination for Synodical Secretary at the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly on its behalf after that name and biographical information have been transmitted to all members of synod council and a week-long opportunity for input to Executive Committee members has been afforded to synod council members prior to the nomination being officially made.

G. Approval of 2015 Synod Assembly Rules of Procedures and Organization

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.10 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council the approval of the 2015 Synod Assembly Rules of Procedure and Organization

H. Approval of 2016 Proposed Budget

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.11 Moved and seconded to approve the 2016 Proposed Budget.
Discussion held.

I. Approval of ELCA Campaign Resolution to Forward to 2015 Synod Assembly

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.12 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that it approve and forward to the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly Resolution 2015.01 Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, as proposed by the synod's working group for the Campaign for the ELCA.

J. Permission for Peace Lutheran Church, New Lenox, IL, to sell children's book *Questions Kids Ask about God*

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.13 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Peace Lutheran Church from New Lenox, IL be permitted to sell copies of the children's book, *Questions Kids Ask about God* at the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

K. Approval of Call Process for St. Andrew Lutheran Church/Lutheran Campus Ministry, Champaign

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.14 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that it authorize the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Synod Council to issue a Synod Council Call for service at St. Andrew Lutheran Church/Lutheran Campus Ministry, if necessary, following completion of all of the following:

1. Nomination from Bishop Roth,
2. Approval of the Board of Directors of Lutheran Campus Ministry, and
3. Approval of at least a 2/3 majority of a congregational vote of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Champaign to call said candidate.

L. Letters of Call

1. Call to Specialized Service (Interim Ministry): Pastor Chris Hale to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Altamont, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Shumway

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.15 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that a Letter of Call to Specialized Services (Interim Ministry) be issued to Pastor Chris Hale to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Altamont and Trinity Lutheran Church, Shumway.

2. Call to Specialized Service (Interim Ministry): Pastor Elise Rothfusz to Salem Lutheran Church, Peoria.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.16 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that Letter of Call to Specialized Services (Interim Ministry) be issued to Pastor Elise Rothfusz to Salem Lutheran Church, Peoria.

M. Acknowledge Lutheran Youth Organization Constitution Change

Amendment to the C/SIS Lutheran Youth Organization's constitution acknowledged and received by Synod Council on behalf of the synod.

N. Approval of proposed Updates to Guidelines for Pulpit Supply for Pastoral Services.

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.17 Moved and seconded to approve the Guidelines for Pastoral Services during a pastoral vacancy or absence, Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA.

O. Approval of 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.18 Moved and seconded to approve the 2016 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders as put forward by the Professional and Lay Leadership Committee, Leadership Support Subcommittee.

The guidelines are unchanged from 2015 due to the increase for Portico Benefits and the fact that a range for compensation is offered within each year of service. It is hoped that congregations will increase salary within the range for their rostered leaders.

P. Permission for Used Book Sale at the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.19 Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council that it approve a used book sale to take place at the 2015 C/SIS Synod Assembly.

VOTED: Motion defeated.

SC15.03.20 Moved and seconded that Synod Council pass a continuing resolution that the duties of the synod nominating committee be expanded to include securing nominations for vice president, secretary and/or treasurer in years when one or more of those offices is up for election, and that the names to be submitted to the Synod Council at its March meeting.

Other Business

A. Next Synod Council meeting, Thursday, June 4, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield.

Executive Session

None needed.

Announcements/Adjournment

VOTED: Motion carried.

SC15.03.21 Moved and seconded to adjourn.

Having concluded business, Bishop Roth declared the meeting adjourned at 3:18p.m.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Laura Kamprath closed the meeting in prayer.

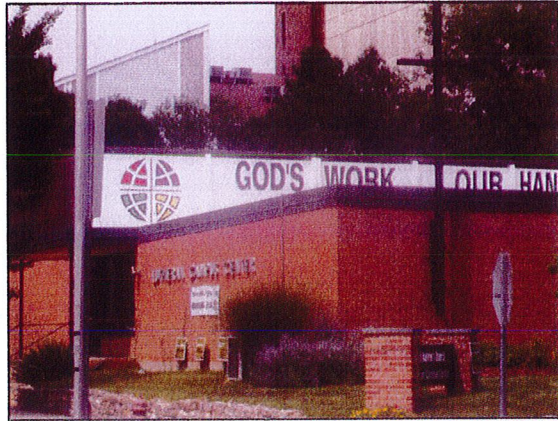
Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Patty Heath
Secretary

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and Campus Center

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

www.lutherancampuscenter.org Facebook: Saint Andrew's Lutheran Campus Center

Submitted by Interim Pastor Amy Thoren



Grace and Peace in Christ! As I have been at St. Andrew's less than two months, following are a few *Interim Impressions*.

The most prominent feature of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and Campus Center is its new larger than life banner across the top of its short, flat roof. Flanked by the ELCA and St. Andrew's logos, it reads "God's Work. Our Hands" and can be seen clearly when walking due west from the middle of the main quad of the university. This banner has surely put St. Andrew's on the map in a new and bright way.

In my first week in the office, at least five students and other congregational members stopped in to greet me. *Location location*, thought! On the edge of the quad, this location could not be more ideal for access and availability. Also in my first week, when temps were still low, other students and university staff not officially affiliated with us dropped in to keep warm while waiting for a bus, to use our bathroom, and to pray in our sanctuary. St. Andrew's is not only ideally located for our own people, it is also a place of welcome and shelter for others.

After my first Council meeting, a student offered to partner with me to plan a unique Good Friday service for which she had ideas. That week, a student who got involved with the congregation when he came here to study from China asked me to meet to talk about his desire to be baptized. *Vocation, vocation, vocation*, I thought! St. Andrew's knows to what it is called, its ministry is done for the sake of the Gospel, and the community welcomes others into a life in Christ. From quad day in the fall, where incoming students first make contact with us on the lawn as we give out food and freebies, to blessing seniors on their way in the spring, the year is packed with the ministries critical to university students: worship, prayer, music, Bible study, service both near and far, leadership development, exploration of the intersection between faith and science, a close and supportive community, laughter, a lot of food, and a lot of fun.

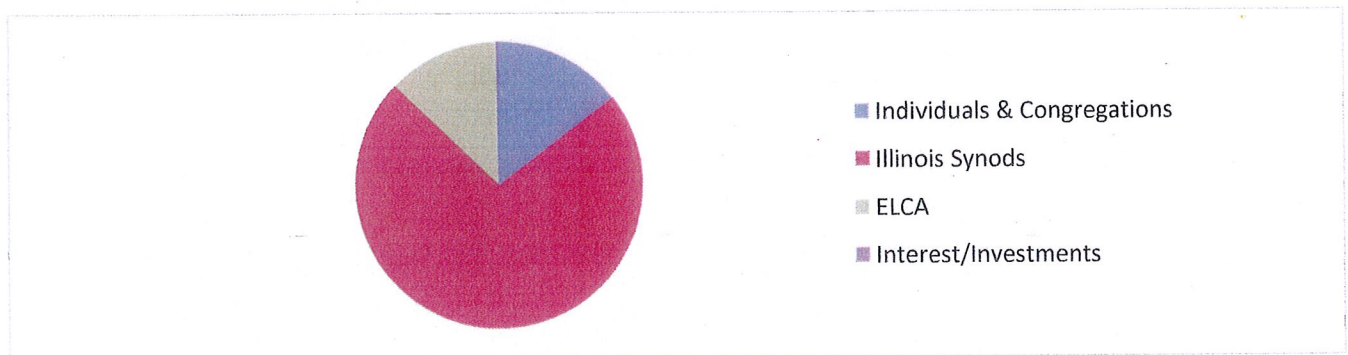
St. Andrew's is currently in the call process for a permanent, full-time pastor. Board President Roger Digges reports the following regarding that process:

"Pastor Elaine Olson transitioned from being the Executive Director of the Lutheran Campus Center/Pastor of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church to enjoying retirement, effective December 31, 2014. LCC/Saint Andrew's was served part-time during January and February by the Rev. Barbara Ziah, and is currently being ably served full-time by Interim Pastor Amy Thoren. Members of the Board of LCC and Council of Saint Andrew's met with Central/Southern Illinois Synod Bishop John Roth on February 28, 2015 to clarify the call process. The center/congregation has already submitted its Ministry Site Profile, and the Board elected seven members to the Call Committee, six nominated by the Congregation Council. Graduate student Brian Gibbons, a member of the Council, chairs the Committee. The Call Committee, Council, and Board will all be involved in the process of approving a candidate before she or he is recommended to the congregation for a final vote. Should the congregation accept the recommendation, the Synod Council will issue the call, and a new chapter will begin in the Lutheran Campus Center/Saint Andrew's life together."

The ministry at St. Andrew's is exciting and vibrant! Many thanks to local congregations: Grace, Good Shepherd and St. Matthew's, for their support of this ministry. Thanks also to you, the synod, for your support and prayers. All are welcome to drop by the center and say hello or worship with us Sunday mornings at 10:30am.



The three synods in Illinois remain the primary funding partners for our six staffed campus ministry agency sites, Illinois State, Normal; Northern Illinois University, DeKalb; Northwestern University, Evanston; South Loop, Chicago; University of Chicago, Chicago; and University of Illinois, Champaign. Thank you!



In addition, there are about twenty cooperating congregations in campus ministry, who intentionally engage with students, faculty, and staff at nearby colleges and universities.

Please make sure you visit the Campus Ministry display table and learn more about this vital ministry we support together. We invite your support at every level of our work, helping the local site, supporting your synod, and contributing directly to LCMI (blue portion of the pie above).

On behalf of Bishops Miller, Roth, Wollersheim and our fellow board volunteers, thank you for your steadfast support!

Mark Van Scharrel
President

Carey Mayer
Treasurer

Trent Gordon
Vice-President

Tammie Farley
Secretary



2014 Annual Report Illinois Conference of Churches

The Illinois Conference of Churches (ICC) is a state-wide ecumenical organization of 27 member Judicatories of 14 denominations representing the Protestant, Anglican, Catholic, and Orthodox Christian traditions. The ICC is an ecumenical table that brings together religious leaders, judicatory staff, clergy, and lay representatives from the member churches for dialogue, deliberation, and decisions to celebrate and make visible our sacred bonds of unity in Christ. The ICC is an institutional expression of the ecumenical movement, a vehicle for the church's mission in Illinois for bearing witness together to the gospel of reconciliation. The Illinois Conference of Churches website is located at www.illinoisconferenceofchurches.org.

Illinois Conference of Churches Mission Statement:

The Illinois Conference of Churches seeks to be an inclusive community of churches that celebrates and makes visible our sacred bonds of unity in Christ. We will do this by promoting an honest sharing and understanding of both our common and divergent theological convictions; and making public, prophetic witness to Christ's love for all people, particularly by addressing poverty and racism.

The Illinois Conference of Churches is comprised of one full time staff position – Laurie Vial, Executive Director. In addition, the ICC is comprised of teams of judicatory representatives and delegates who dedicate their time to furthering the mission and vision of the Illinois Conference of Churches.

Leadership Team – The Leadership Team governs the ICC as needed including all personnel matters and planning the ICC Annual Assembly. The Leadership Team is led by two co-chairs, at least one of whom is a Judicatory Executive. The chairs of the other four teams also sit on the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team consists of the following members Rev. Gary McCants, African Methodist Episcopal and Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver, United Church of Christ – co-chairs; Dr. John Charlton, American Baptist - treasurer; Rev. Sharon Patton, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Fr. Kevin Laughery, Catholic Church; Dr. George Johnston, Presbyterian Church USA; Rev. Wally Carlson, United Methodist Church; Rev. Megan Dean, United Methodist Church; E. Garnet Fay, Society of Friends and Rev. Galda McCants, African Methodist Episcopal.

Public Policy Team – The Public Policy Team (PPT) takes a leadership role on public policy issues that impact ICC member judicatories. The team is vocal on concerns primarily before the Illinois General Assembly and Congress. The team carries out the portion of the ICC's mission statement, *"to make public, prophetic witness to Christ's love for all people, and to address in particular, issues of poverty and racism."* It is this part of the mission statement that guides the PPT's efforts as it works in consultation with the ICC's Leadership Team and the Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) Team. The Public Policy Team consists of the following members: E. Garnet Fay, Religious Society of Friends - chair; Robert Gilligan, Catholic Conference of Illinois; Rev. Gary McCants, African Methodist Episcopal Church; Rev.

Michael Winters, Presbyterian Church USA; Rev. Jim Nolan, United Church of Christ and Rev. Dr. John Rickard, Presbyterian Church USA.

Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) Team – The Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) Team is a ministry focused on dismantling systematic racism and building bridges to racial wholeness within churches, institutions, and communities. ICER implements its mission by offering training to members within the ICC network of churches as well as to the community. The ICER Team consists of the following members Rev. Kevin Laughery, co-chair, JCL, Catholic Church; Rev. Galda McCants, co-chair, African Methodist Episcopal; Rev. Dwight Bailey, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Rev. Mark Harkness, United Methodist Church; Martha Herrin, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Rev. Don Jones, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Rev. Jim Nolan, United Church of Christ; Rev. Megan Dean, United Methodist Church and Rev. Christine Hopkins, Episcopal Church.

Annual Assembly Forum– The Annual Assembly Forum Team plans and implements a forum annually to engage denominational representatives and judicatory executives in meaningful dialog at the Annual Assembly. The Forum Team consists of the following members: Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver, United Church of Christ, chair; Rev. Catiana McKay, United Methodist Church; Fr. Robert Flannery, Catholic Church and Marianne Stowers, Christian Church Disciples of Christ

Recap of activities

- The Leadership Team met quarterly.
- The Leadership Team worked closely with the Public Policy Team to strengthen and bring forward those strategies agreed upon at the Annual Assembly.
- Held the 9th Annual Assembly in Champaign focusing on “Has Christ Been Divided? Emerging New Ecumenism: Evangelical Engagement with Catholics and Protestants”
- Renewed commitment to public outreach and extended offers to speak in person with any and all judicatories and churches who are interested in our mission and vision.
- Decreased our operational budget, seeking ways to become better stewards of our donations.
- Newsletter was published quarterly.
- Updated our website.
- Invited our 13 member denominations and their members to anti-racism training offered by the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.
- Held a dinner for Judicatory leaders the evening prior to our Annual Assembly.
- Sent executive director to annual meetings of all denominations to bring greetings and participate in the exhibition space.
- Sent executive director to the national gathering all of state ecumenical executives.
- Adopted the following public policy statement “The Illinois Conference of Churches supports an increase in the minimum wage in Illinois so that working people can better support themselves and their families and not live near the poverty line, while also encouraging the state of Illinois to continue to work on job creation as a major focus.”
- The ICER Team met frequently by conference call and developed the 2015 Joint Teams Meeting held in February to address national racial tension and what can be done about it.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

Annual Report to the Central Southern Illinois Synod (CSIS)

Dear Friends in Christ,

We give thanks to God for a blessed year of ministry in 2014! Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) serves the three synods in our state. This year, more than 10,000 guests came to our 640-acre site near Oregon, Illinois. Over 170 ELCA congregations sent and supported youth and adults to our camp for immersive Christian leadership development, learning God's word, growing in healthy self-esteem, strengthening faith in Jesus, bonding with fellow believers, and building stronger connections to their home congregations. People enjoyed congregational retreats, summer camp, outdoor education, confirmation retreats, family reunions, concerts, volunteer work events, Autumn Fest, adult enrichment programs, trainings, and much more.

A wonderful, devoted team of 32 youth ministry staff shared God's love with over 1,000 campers in 32 unique summer programs. In addition, "Vacation Bible Camp" teams led Vacation Bible Schools at six churches, with praise songs, games, Bible studies and camping traditions for over 200 more kids. Bringing new campers this year was Harry Potter Camp, where kids had fun with selected themes, language, and characters from the popular books while learning about the real-life Biblical message of God's grace, given to us through Jesus Christ.

This year marked the 40th year of God's work at LOMC! Our annual "AutumnFest" welcomed over 400 people for family activities including hayride tours, food, games, worship, and Zip-Lining. The camp community was especially honored by the attendance of our three Bishops; each played an important role in the day. Bishop John Roth presided at our 40th Anniversary Worship Service, where those gathered gave thanks for the Holy Spirit's workings in people's lives through scripture, relationships, and the natural surroundings at camp. The event celebrated hundreds of thousands of lives touched by LOMC over the years and the future gospel work to which we are still called.

Financials were slightly lower this year, along with summer attendance and gifts to the annual fund. Three sources account for approximately 60% of income: summer camp, outdoor education classes and retreats. Synod grants, congregations, individual and Thrivent Choice donors account for another 32%. The remaining 8% came from land rental fees and donations for designated capital projects. Expenses in 2014 were \$24,000 more than in 2013. We are grateful to be financially stable with plans for growth in the coming years. LOMC practices faithful stewardship of resources including money, land, and people, as we strive to strengthen God's love among all our guests.

We are excited that awareness is now growing among congregations about the powerful impact of a modern Lutheran camp experience. Looking to the future, we are optimistic in adapting our programs to the evolving needs of the Church and world, while exploring new retreat program paradigms and unreached populations with a renewed focus on facilitating vibrant faith formation through intergenerational ministries. Gifts to Campership funds allow us to continue our policy that no child is ever denied a summer camp week due to family finances. While cross-denominational trends in America show church attendance in general continuing to decline, this underscores the

vital need for LOMC as a stronghold of life-changing relational ministry, and a “springboard” where people are equipped to more actively participate in the life and ministry in their home churches.

Facility updates this year included work in the hilltop and maintenance areas. Several old trailers, two storage buildings, and an abandoned house were removed, with the scrap metal recycled. We solidified plans to improve the hospitality and appearance of the administrative building where guests are welcomed, including a more accessible restroom. Tiles in the Dining Hall, retreat buildings and office kitchen were repaired. On Memorial Day Work Weekend, about 150 volunteers helped to clean, make repairs, and clear trails for summer camp. We also made plans for the John Califf Memorial Garden, which will brighten the area with a beautiful park-like landscape in front of the Dining Hall. John was Interim Director of LOMC, later serving faithfully as Development Director until his passing in 2013. Thanks to all our volunteers of time and resources for helping LOMC to be a more clean, safe, beautiful place in which people connect the Word of God with the world of God!

In the spring of 2014, LOMC installed the longest single-span Zip Line in the Midwest – almost a quarter mile long! The Zip Line was provided by the family of Rev. F. Leonard (“Len”) and Carol Peterson. Over a thousand people have now experienced it, including all three Bishops! Hundreds of summer camp youth, as well as church retreat groups including a WELCA group with a few members in their 80’s, took this tangible “leap of faith” this year at camp.

LOMC continues its partnership with Freedom Lutheran Church, a Mission Congregation under Development, by providing Sunday worship space in the Ragnar Moline Dining Hall at no cost.

We recently assembled a team to design a new Family Camp for Lutheran pastors’ families with children or grandchildren who have Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Family Camp will take place August 6-9, 2015. More details will be coming soon.

The “2014 Annual Ministry Report” offers more detailed ministry stories, program information, facility improvements, and financial reports from the past year in an easy-to-read format with photos and feature articles. Please email or call the camp office if you would like a copy.

The LOMC Board of Directors thanks you, the congregations of the CSIS, for your continued support of God’s work at LOMC! Board members serving from the CSIS in 2014 were Bishop John Roth, Jason Fisher, John Gregg, Rob Gieraltowski, Rev. Dennis O’Brien, and Rev. Julia Rademacher.

As we look to the future, we aim for growth for the sake of the Church – both physically as your camp facilities develop and improve, and constantly in the quality and effectiveness of your camp program. Toward this goal, the LOMC Board, staff and constituency are preparing to “Restore and Refresh” several areas of the camp, including the addition of a year-round Program Center. Your important prayers and gifts to God’s work will make the difference. Thank you for your continued partnership in ministry!

In His Service,

Russ Senti, Executive Director

Jesse Klosterboer, Development Director



CONNECTIONS

The annual ministry report from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

2014

The purpose of LOMC is to be the church in outdoor settings, nurturing Christian faith and providing experiences connecting the word of God with the world of God.

40 YEARS of Ministry Celebrated

In 2014, LOMC celebrated 40 years of God's work in this special place! Our annual Autumn Fest brought over 400 visitors to worship, party, explore, and give thanks for the hundreds of thousands of lives touched through your camp's programs.

The day was blessed by beautiful weather, smiling faces, great food, and volunteers leading family activities. LOMC is owned and operated by the three ELCA synods of Illinois. We were blessed by all those in attendance, and especially honored that *all three bishops* in Illinois attended our event, each playing an important role in the day's activities:

Bishop Gary Wollersheim (Northern IL) presided and offered a message at morning worship with Freedom Lutheran Church and event guests in the Dining Hall. Bishop Wayne Miller (Metro Chicago) rode down the new Zip Line to provide the official blessing and dedication at the landing platform. Bishop John Roth (Central Southern IL) closed the day by leading our 40th Anniversary Worship Service.

The day in numbers: 350 people for lunch, 168 pumpkins (most carved!), 200 wagon riders (including Florence Pfundstein who made 22 Autumn Fests in a row!), 82 people on the Zip Line (including ALL 3 bishops), 160 cars, 400 apples made into cider using the apple press, 30 Swing Choir Tour alumni performing, 170 people worshipping God at 2 worship services giving thanks for 40 years of outdoor ministry. Come and see what God has planned for you and your family at camp through the next 40 years!



What's inside . . .

• Real Connections	2
• Zip Line Addition	3
• A Program Retrospective	4
• Counselors of the Year	6
• From the Kitchen	7
• Property Report	7
• Financial Report	8
• Sneak Peek into 2015	10

Real Connections, Real Life



Kaitlyn O'Brien on "Swing Choir Tour"

Kaitlyn has done three tours with SCT.



For high school senior Kaitlyn O'Brien, this wasn't her first time at summer camp. Yet Swing Choir Tour (SCT) offered big surprises to even this seasoned LOMC camper.

"I've been going to LOMC since I was in 3rd grade," Kaitlyn explained. For her, the experience was fun, but it was more than that. SCT proved to be a way to carry the joy of camp life – the joy of Christian community – out into the world.

"This might sound cliché, but it's what I really feel – I like seeing the audience's faces, actually touching people with a gift that God gave me. I like the effect of it, what it did to people, sharing God's love through music."

Decades of history and tradition have fine tuned this program in more ways than one. Designed for youth in grades 9-12, the two week trip begins at camp. Before touring the Midwest to offer uplifting performances, participants spend the first week bonding and learning through outdoor adventure, Bible studies, team-building camp activities, and making music.

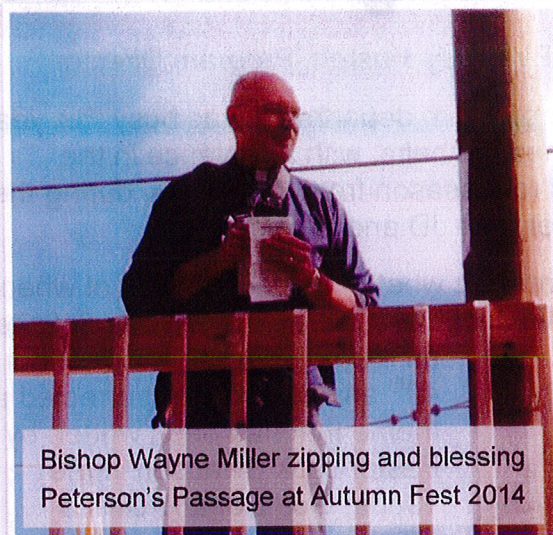
"We have a Prayer Labyrinth at LOMC," said Kaitlyn. "My first year we walked through it. We sat around the cabin and told stories – just crying and laughing. We got so much closer. The next day we performed for the whole camp, and it was fantastic! We grew so much closer, letting our hearts out, being open – and it was beautiful."

Asked if she has any advice for first-timers, Kaitlyn encourages them to go for it: "The first time I was nervous to do it, but my parents made me – and I'm glad they did! It has been the best experience of my life. I wasn't expecting to get so close to everyone. It was like a family... and so hard to say good-bye."

1200' Zip Line

by Chris Senti

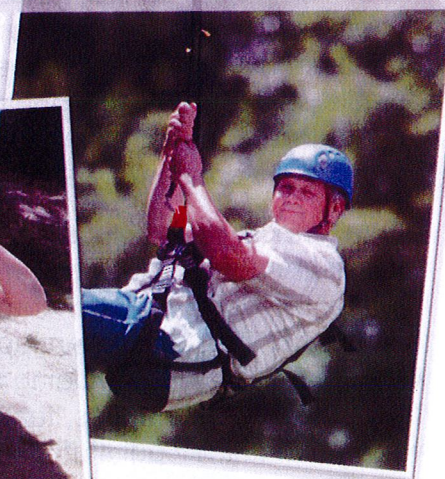
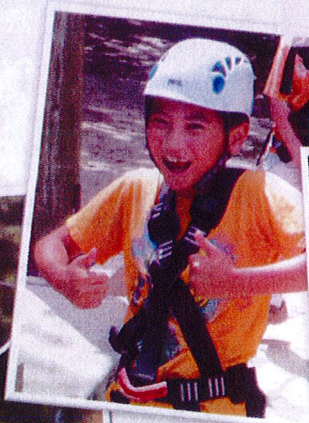
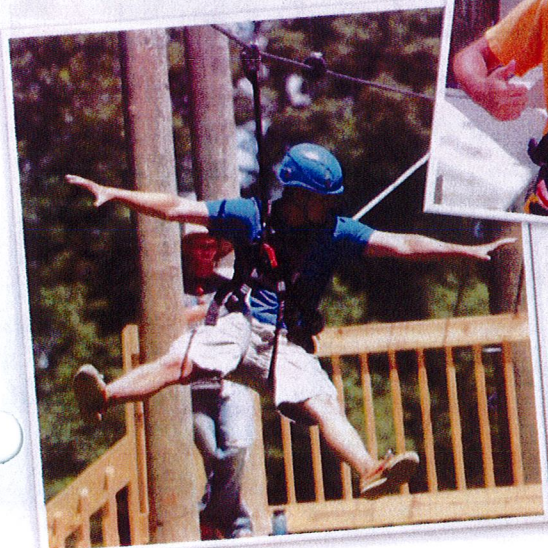
LOMC was blessed with a new Zip Line donated by the Peterson family in remembrance of their parents, Rev. F. Leonard and Carol Peterson. "Peterson's Passage" was installed and tested by ABEE, Inc. in April. In early June, it opened after a 2-day training and soon campers, grandparents, youth leaders, pastors, bishops, and many more have experienced Peterson's Passage. This 1200-foot Zip Line only takes 30-45 seconds to ride, but it is awesome. The participant has nothing to do but enjoy the ride, as Peterson's Passage has a self-regulating braking system. This means that there is a magnetic force that calculates the rider's weight and speed allowing them to arrive at the landing in a smooth, comfortable fashion. Many have gotten a second ride and it is really neat to see them go "hands free" just trusting the system. Peterson's Passage was blessed by Bishop Wayne Miller during Autumn Fest on October 12, 2014. Bring your friends, family or even groups out for a great experience! For Boy Scouts, snow blazers, WELCA meetings, youth groups, school groups and more, you are more than welcome to come experience Peterson's Passage at LOMC.



Bishop Wayne Miller zipping and blessing Peterson's Passage at Autumn Fest 2014



Tim Peterson, Kim Zajec, Paula Anderson, Todd Peterson at Autumn Fest dedication of Peterson's Passage



Photos featured are from Freedom Lutheran's 'Love Your Camp' Sunday

A Program Retrospective

By Kelley Huston, Program Director

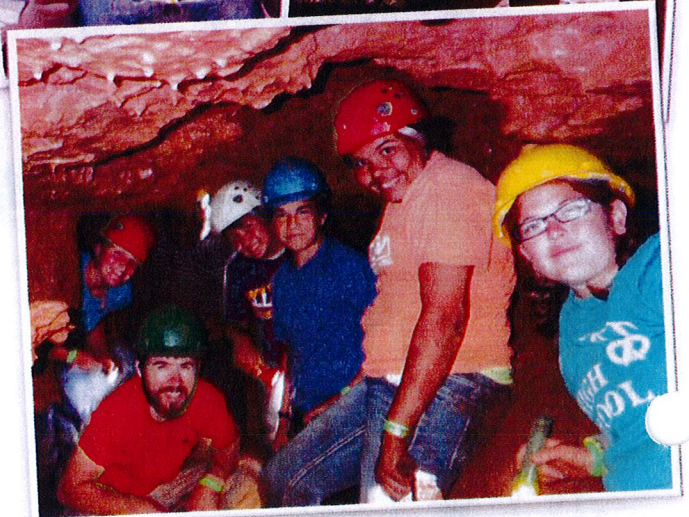
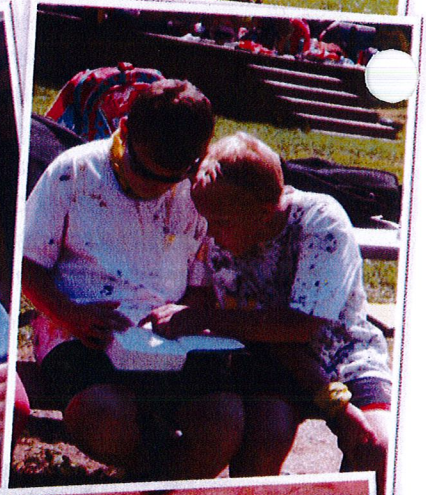
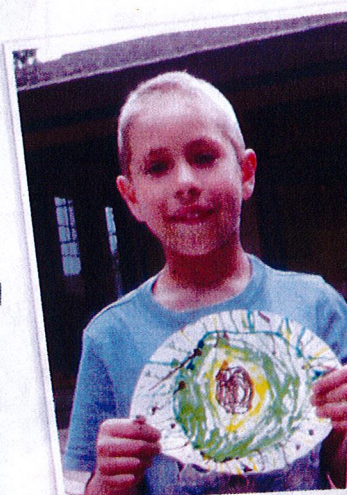
The program department was busy this year. I manned the helm, with assistance in the retreat (off) season from Jarrett and during the summer from JD and Nicole.

Summer is what most people think of when they think of LOMC. This summer was definitely an exciting one. In honor of our 40th anniversary, I resurrected a theme that had been written by Pastor Jack Swanson in the 1980s, ***God Doesn't Own a Cookie Cutter!*** This theme focused on the diversity of not only us as humans but the diversity that can be found in our natural world. The theme verse was **Ephesians 2:10:** *¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* Each day we focused on a different aspect of diversity.

During the nine weeks of summer we offered 39 different themes. 372 campers came to the Bible camp side of the shop this summer. We also hosted 175 Faithworks (Confirmation) campers, 55 4-H campers, 35 TTT campers, and 30 campers from Hephzibah in Chicago. All of these youth (and adults) found God's word and leading with the assistance of our 30 capable staff members. In addition, the youth and adults at 8 churches experienced camp through our Vacation Bible Camp.

One special group of campers we have every summer are our Thekans. These are high school campers who come to camp for two weeks. These campers spend the first week learning all about being a counselor, how to lead Bible studies, teach songs, and where to find the cool stuff campers like to see. The second week they are paired with a counselor and are mentored as they practice the stuff they have learned. Twenty youth successfully completed the program, and I look forward to the time when they become full counselors.

We tried out two new themes this year. The first was experiencing camp for those entering first through third grades. I have watched these campers in the past, and by Wednesday they are exhausted – but in a good way. And for many of these campers this is the longest amount of time they have been away from home, so sometimes homesickness can happen. For this reason, we decided to have these campers come on Sundays like everyone else but go home on Wednesday after lunch. It was a successful program and will be continued in the future.



continued

The second new theme was Harry Potter/Hogwarts Illinois Week. For this week, Nyssa and I turned the entire camp into Hogwarts Illinois. Campers upon arrival were sorted into houses (Califf, Pederson, Hawkins, and Swanson) and given buffs to represent their house. They worked all week to earn points for their house through various tasks. Each house had times for flying (Zip line), herbology, care of magical creatures (honeybees), and Religious Studies (Bible Study time each day), as well as doing the usual camp fun. Every camper and staff member spent Thursday night camping out on the prairie and competing in the quad wizard tournament. For most of the campers and staff this was a definite highlight of the summer and I (Headmistress Huston, as I was known that week) have made plans to resurrect it again.

Our summer is bookended by outdoor education (OE). This is a small but mighty part of the portfolio. The groups come out to spend anywhere from one day to three days experiencing all things LOMC. Some highlights of OE are our indoor beehive (and the corresponding class), managing to get your whole group over the teambuilding course's 10-foot wall, and of course seeing the amazing amount of stars without all the light pollution that folks from the city deal with. Approximately 500 kids and adults spent time in OE in 2014, "Learning Outdoors, Making Connections (LOMC)."

A favorite retreat of the school year season is our annual Peder Eide junior high retreat, which welcomed 200 youth and adults. Peder comes to camp and uses song to spread the word of God to our young people. We are looking forward to his return in 2015.

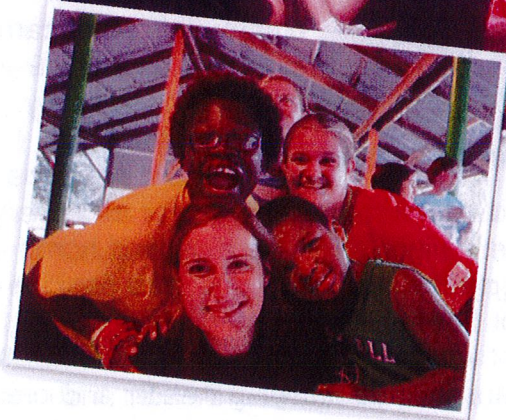
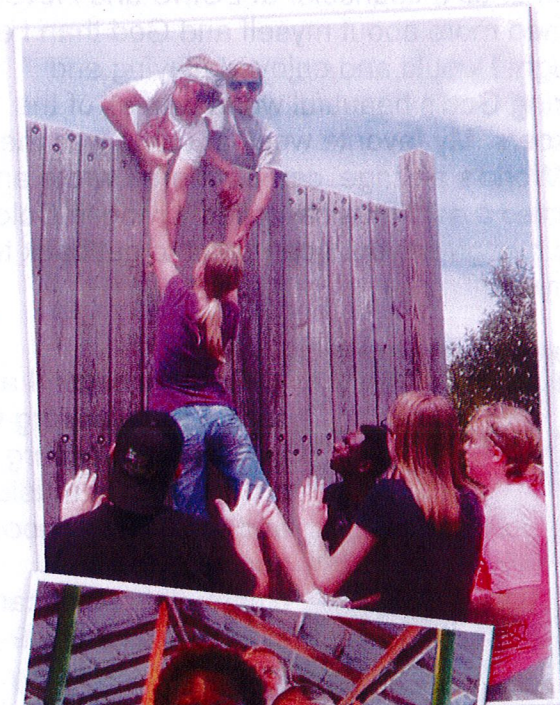
Our camp spent its first complete year as a Christian Camp and Conference Association (CCCA) member. This organization is much like the American Camp Association we previously held membership with, but is specifically for Christian camps. We must still follow many of the same guidelines as with

ACA, but have the added bonus of prayer support from other camps. It means a great deal to us when someone from the CCCA board calls before their meetings and asks for prayer requests.



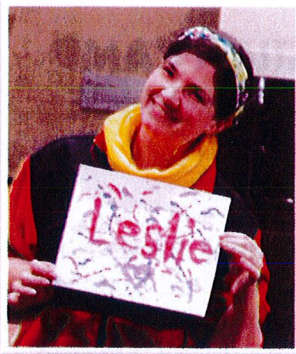
**CHRISTIAN CAMP
& CONFERENCE
ASSOCIATION**

I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your continued support of program here at LOMC. Without all of you, much of the ministry here would fail. I thank you in advance for your continued prayers and blessings to the program department and LOMC as a whole.



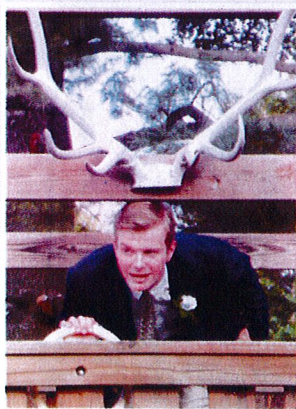
2014 Counselors of the Year

It is a pleasure to announce the male and female counselors of the summer for 2014: Leslie Kane and Graham Holmes. Counselors of the year are selected based on criteria which includes ability to work within our mission statement, being able to directly influence young people in their faith, being a team player, and of course being an excellent leader.



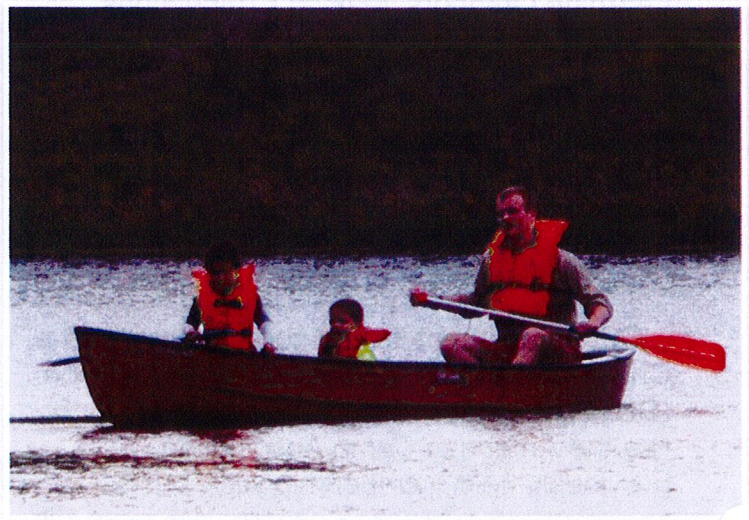
Leslie wrote the following about herself: "I am a Senior at Augustana College and will graduate in May with a double major in Psychology and Theatre and a minor in Sociology. I'm very interested in drama therapy and counseling and am

currently looking at Graduate programs in Mental Health Counseling. This was my first summer as a counselor at LOMC and I loved it! I learned more about myself and God than I ever thought I would and enjoyed playing and sharing God's beautiful world with all of the campers. My favorite week at camp was the 'All the World's a Stage' camp, where I wrote and directed a mini-musical called 'Living in Color' about always being yourself and using the gifts that God has given you. I can't wait to get back to LOMC to reconnect with all of the staff! Happy Fall everyone!"



Graham says: "I am a senior at Galesburg High School in Galesburg IL. I am involved in music and theater in school and around the community. I first came to LOMC as a shy 9-year-old who cried every night the first week. I said I would never be

back. I did return the following year and every year since. I view LOMC as a second home and was overjoyed when I was offered a position of counselor. It was the best summer of my life, and I can't wait to come back next summer. My future plans include studying theater and creative writing in college."



From the Kitchen

Nyssa Serrano, Food Service Manager

In 2014, the LOMC Kitchen made a big change in the way we serve during summer camp. We went from our traditional family style of serving to a cafeteria style of serving with a goal to cut food cost and waste. And boy, did we meet that goal. We had always served family style for as long as I could remember, so taking on the challenge of trying something new was kind of scary. It could only go good or bad; there was no middle ground. So, we put a plan in place and went for it knowing there would be adjustments to be made as we went along. I think the overall experience has been great. As a kitchen we are cooking less, throwing away less, and saving more. We have been able to purchase more fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and other options as alternatives for the "picky" eaters or those with specific dietary needs. We can keep track of the amounts that have been served and take note for the next time on what we need to prepare more or less on. Pictures with this article show a few of our special event features from 2014.



Property Report

by Ken Dilbeck, Property Manager

In the Spring of 2014 we worked with ABEE to install a 1200' Zip Line. We removed about 30 trees and installed a launch and landing platform. (Read more in the Zip Line article.)

We also made plans to create the John Califf Memorial Garden, which will brighten the area in front of the Dining Hall.

The winter of 2014 gave our snowplow and new transmission a workout. With help from Chris and Buddy and his snow blower, we kept the camp safe, clean, warm, and operational for guests.

The rest of the broken tiles in the dining hall and retreat buildings have been replaced as well as the tiles in the kitchen area of the administrative building (office). The Property Committee on the Board would like to encourage creating a fresh look for the administrative building where people are welcomed, plus prior updates.

We removed the old trailers, an abandoned house and two storage buildings at

the top of the hill with the help of Bill Nordman. The metal in these buildings and trailers was recycled, and the metal scrap income helped offset this work. On Memorial Day Work Weekend, we did a lot of cleaning, repairs, upgrades and summer preparation – especially on top of the hill. Thank you to all our volunteers.

Jo D as always did a great job with all the housekeeping turnovers: cleaning, laundry and everything else she does. Her work ethic and positive attitude is a blessing to not only me but to the camp as a whole.



2014 Financial Report in Review

Past and Future

We are thankful to report another successful season of *your* many ministries at LOMC. In 2014, we heard countless stories of life change, Christian leadership development, new personal connections, and strengthening of faith in Jesus, for thousands of guests and campers.

Summer camp numbers were down this year, as well as gifts to the annual fund. Following a long-term trend in all Christian denominations, church goers are decreasing in numbers and many are less involved with their home churches. This underscores the vital need for LOMC as a stronghold of life-changing relational ministry and a springboard for campers (of all ages) to re-engage with their home congregations.

As we look to the future, we aim for growth for the sake of the Church – both physically as your camp facilities develop and improve, and constantly in the quality and effectiveness of your camp program. Toward this goal, the LOMC Board, staff and constituency are gearing up to “Restore and Refresh” key parts of the camp. Your important prayers and gifts to God’s work here will make the difference. Thank you for your continued partnership in this work.

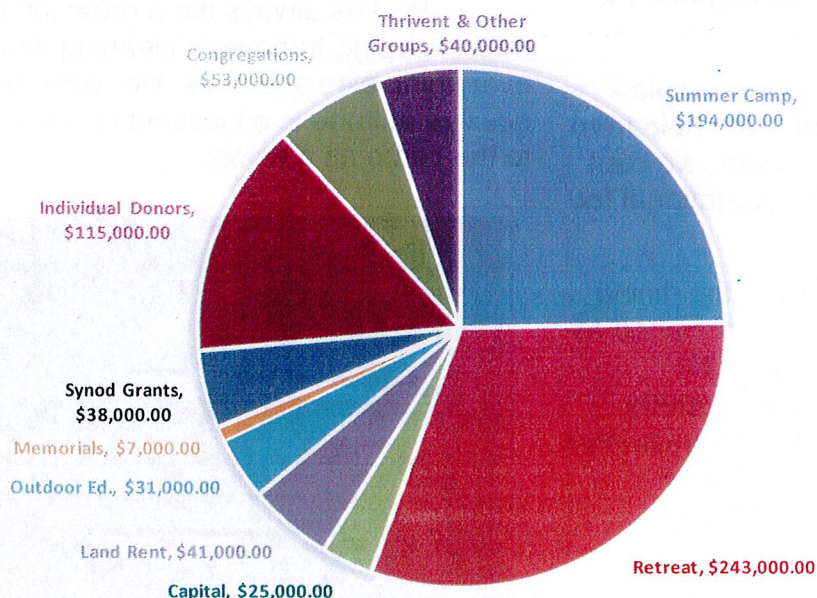
Income

The 2014 LOMC budget was nearly \$800,000. Where does the money come from? How were those dollars spent? A look at the income and expense graphs tells the story. LOMC is fortunate to have very diversified sources of income. Our guests at summer camp, retreats, and outdoor education account for 60% of the annual income.

We are very grateful that another 32% of LOMC’s annual income comes from our donors, congregations, synods and Thrivent Financial making

it possible for LOMC to charge an affordable rate for retreats and summer camp. For example, the base registration fee for a week of summer camp is \$380, but the actual cost is more than \$500 per camper. This marvelous balance of multiple income sources allows LOMC to continue a policy of not turning away any child for economic reasons.

The final 8% of LOMC’s total income came from land rental fees and money donated for capital projects.



2014 Financial Report in Review... continued

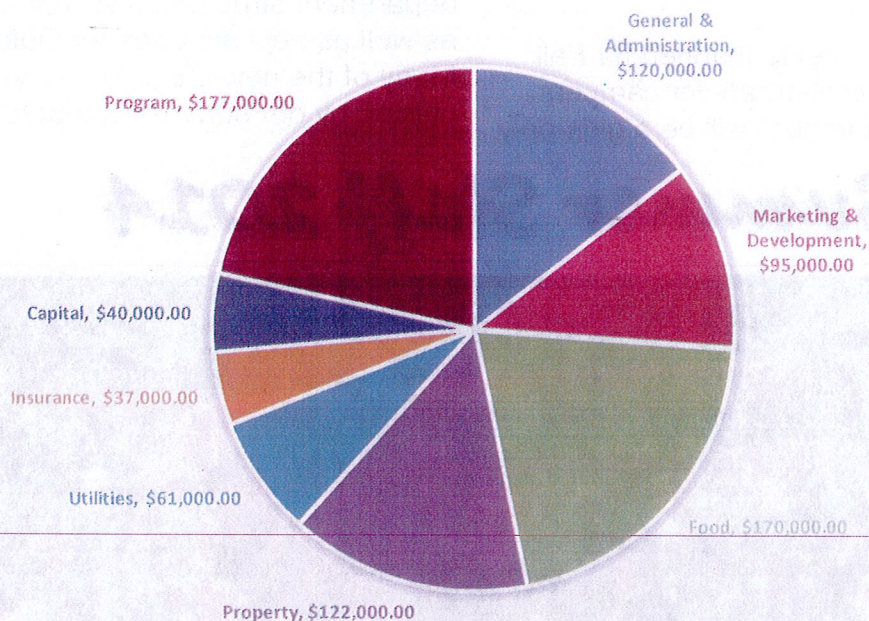
Expenses

On the other side of the ledger, it is noteworthy that LOMC has minimal administrative expense while the vast majority of expenses are for program and related services.

We are very grateful to the Peterson family that donated the monies to build our new zip line, Peterson's Passage. Also for the generous giving by congregations, individual donors and synods

that made it possible for LOMC to purchase a new snow plow, demolish and clean-up the Barber House, remove the old trailer and replace the pool pump.

Thank you for making a difference and for new beginnings in the life of young people who, through your generosity, will attend summer camp and youth retreats.



Sneak Peek into 2015

By Kelley Huston, Program Director

Our adult retreats, for the most part, took a year off in 2014 to be reworked. We did hold a men's ministry retreat titled "High Deep and Wide" in partnership with Lutheran Men in Mission and GPS Faith Community in Rockford. We had an adult only Peder Eide retreat this spring and are looking forward to an older adult retreat being offered in partnership with Dr. Prabhakar, "Godly Living in the Golden Years." This September, he will share Bible study, stories, and inspirations for the older generations.

Other new retreats being planned for Fall 2015 include Reunion Retreats for campers. One weekend in September will be a girls-only

weekend for female campers to come back to camp with an adult female in their life. The following weekend will be a boys-only weekend for male campers and an adult male in their life. These weekends will feature activities geared towards each gender with Bible Studies from summer's theme, *A Love That Never Ends*.



**A LOVE THAT
NEVER ENDS.**
DEUTERONOMY 6:5

2015 promises to be an exciting year. We have already made some changes in the program department structure. New retreats are planned as well as new activities for Outdoor Education. Many of the new OE activities will most likely be utilized by our summer campers as well.

Summer Staff 2014



All of the amazing stuff that takes place in the summer would not be possible without the incredible young people God sends every summer to share his love in this place. These counselors spend two weeks before camp begins learning how to lead Bible studies, getting first aid and CPR trained, and coming together as a family. They shared the love of God not only through Bible studies but through their caring actions.

Standing from left to right: Shamiese, Tom-Tom, Chris, Callie, Sarah, Leslie, Emma, Moose, Danielle, Tom, Miranda, Mareon, Grace, Emily, Meret, Tobi Jo, Kaitlin, Brittany. Kneeling from left to right: Dillon, Matt, JD, Nicole, Mary, Christine, Courtney. Laying Down: Josh. Missing: Grant, Graham, David, Wendy, Tim.

Congregational Support

Each of these congregations sent financial support to LOMC during 2014.

Thank you, we appreciate the support.

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Mark your calendar for these
2015 events at LOMC.

Fri. April 17 - Sun. April 19

What is the meaning of life?
Spring Confirmation Retreat

Sat. May 23 - Sun. May 24

Project Connect — ****FREE EVENT****
High School Overnight Service Event
Sponsored by the Northern Illinois Synod
Lutheran Youth Organization

Fri. July 3 - Fri. 10

Swing Choir Tour

Fri. September 11 - Sun. September 13

Godly Living in the Golden Years
presented by Dr. John Prabhaker

Please contact Audrey at 815-732-2220
Or visit our website for more details.

Memorial Day WORK WEEKEND

Friday, May 22 - Monday, May 25



THIS WEEKEND IS A
**SUPER-SIZED
SERVICE PROJECT**

to get LOMC ready for the
summer camp season.

Landscaping, construction,
clean up, painting and more!



Groups, Families, Individuals & Churches are all invited to join us for the weekend.
Housing and camping is available. Meals will be provided.

Contact Ken Dilbeck for more information and to sign up. 815-732-2220



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LSSI.org

Central/Southern Illinois Synod Annual Report from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Dear Valued Partners in Ministry:

As you read this annual report of the activities of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), I am nearing my year anniversary as the organization's Chief Executive Officer, which I began on October 1, 2014.

The work of Lutheran social ministry has been a part of my vocation for much of my career—behavioral health, seniors, child welfare, and persons with disabilities. LSSI's programs go beyond service to others—our staff builds a strong trust with our clients, who in turn invite them into their lives. That's an amazing privilege to happen on a daily basis. This reflects the tradition of our shared Lutheran fellowship—loving our neighbor and welcoming the stranger.

This is an extraordinary time for human services. Amidst the uncertainty and challenges that our state faces in terms of budget constraints that impact our organization, we persevere and work diligently to navigate the realities of our economy, and evaluate and make adjustments to ensure we make the most of our resources to serve people in need.

At the same time, I can't think of a time where there has been such significant national momentum in terms of healthcare reform, child welfare reform, and the focus on a person's wholeness and sense of community. This is what we, with your partnership, are about at LSSI; helping others realize their hopes and dreams, to integrate with community, to maintain independence, and have the opportunity to make personal contributions.

Before I highlight LSSI's program accomplishments from last year, I'd like to tell you a bit about the *people* we have the privilege of serving. LSSI served one in every 176 people in Illinois last year, or a total of 73,000 people, from infants to senior adults. More than 80 percent of our clients report an annual household income under \$15,000, compared to just 12 percent of all Illinois households. Nearly half of our clients have an annual household income under \$5,000.

LSSI is the largest provider of foster care services in Illinois with 13 sites statewide. Approximately 10 percent of Illinois children under the guardianship of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) are served by LSSI.

The critical services Lutheran Social Services of Illinois provides assist our state's most vulnerable residents. Here are a few program highlights from LSSI's last fiscal year:

- LSSI's Intouch Home Care services allowed more than 2,000 seniors to age in place, maintaining independence and dignity. LSSI's Intouch Services offers an alternative for living in a nursing home. Home care workers come to seniors' homes, assisting with light housekeeping, meals, personal hygiene, and companionship.

- At LSSI's 21 affordable housing communities across Illinois, 1,692 low-income seniors and adults with disabilities were able to live in their own apartments.
- LSSI served 2,513 children in foster care statewide; 184 of those children were adopted, finding forever homes. Additionally, our Intact Family Services provided crucial support for 902 parents and children at a crucial time in their lives when the children were found to be at-risk for abuse and neglect.
- As part of our Prisoner and Family Ministry, LSSI expanded its programming for previously incarcerated men and women—returning citizens—with the establishment of Re-Entry Services in Rockford and expanded services in southern Illinois.
- LSSI served 2,559 clients with alcohol/drug issues in 2014. Our programs consistently outperform other comparable services in the region and state. We provide a full continuum of targeted services for individuals with alcohol/drug issues, beginning with medically-monitored detox, all the way through residential care and transitional housing.

LSSI works collaboratively with the ELCA and other Lutheran-based organizations to extend our reach to people throughout Illinois, through Lutheran Disaster Response, our regional disaster preparedness training, which helps congregations plan for and respond to disasters in their communities. Lutheran Advocacy-Illinois, the ELCA state public policy advocacy office, has been crucial in helping advocate for public policies that promote the importance of human services.

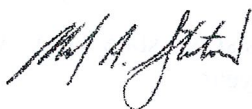
Lutheran Day, held April 14, was an important showing by Lutherans and other people of good will who came together to exercise our Christian vocation to speak out for justice and compassion for all people, and especially for those who are most vulnerable.

We are grateful for the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, along with the other two synods in Illinois, and your congregations that participated in this year's Good Shepherd Sunday on April 26. This is traditionally the day when ELCA congregations lift up their ministry through LSSI. Through your generosity, we raised awareness and support for LSSI's Lifebook program. LSSI's goal is to provide each foster child in our care with a Lifebook—a therapeutic "scrapbook" that allows the child to document their life journey and process the disruption in their home life.

LSSI wishes to express its gratitude to Bishop John Roth, and the following board members from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod who currently serve on the LSSI Board of Directors: A.J. Mike Schwindenhammer and Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger.

Our work is of great importance because it is an expression of the love of Christ, enabling LSSI to live out its mission to bring healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities. We do our work in the name of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod and all of its people, and we remain grateful for your ongoing involvement and support.

In faith,



Mark A. Stutrud
Chief Executive Officer



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Serving Illinois since 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is the largest social service provider in the state.

Last year we served **73,000** people

LSSI provides critical programs for the state's most vulnerable residents including foster care, adoption, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, home care services for seniors, affordable senior housing, residential programs for people with developmental disabilities, and programs that help formerly incarcerated individuals integrate back into society.

LSSI serves **1** in every **176**



More than 80% of our clients report an annual household income under \$15,000... Compared to just 12% of all Illinois households.

10¢

of every dollar goes towards administrative costs.

The remaining **90¢** is used to provide services to those in need.

Stewardship

LSSI is accredited by the Better Business Bureau and is a Silver Shield holder with the GuideStar Exchange. This is achieved by a deep and rigorous review of all of our policies, our financial documents, and our reputation for doing business with integrity and transparency.

Prisoner and Family Ministry

LSSI's Prisoner and Family Ministry serves those who are incarcerated, their families, and people released from prison throughout the state. The goals range from maintaining or building a relationship with their children to developing life and employment skills, and returning to their community. These programs are funded primarily through private donations and foundation grants.

1,116
Incarcerated women

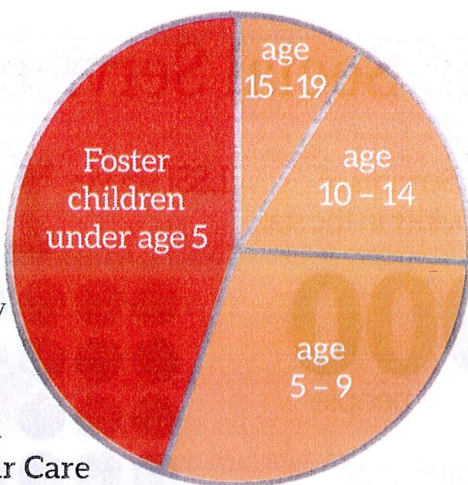
2,959
Incarcerated men

7,069
Children

Last year LSSI provided services to ...

Foster Care Services

LSSI is the largest provider of foster care services in Illinois with 13 sites statewide. Approximately 10 percent of Illinois children under the guardianship of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) are served by LSSI.



We consistently serve over

2,500

foster children on a yearly basis.

50% of closed cases were children reunified with their family

28% of closed cases achieved permanency through relative adoption or guardianship

We Provide Additional, Targeted Services to Foster Children in Our Care

Foster care provides a secure and caring temporary home for children removed from their biological family due to abuse or neglect. Foster home placement protects a child while working with the birth family toward the ultimate goal of returning the child home.

LSSI offers additional services for these children, including counseling and educational support. Every child in LSSI's foster care program receives a Lifebook—a fun and therapeutic tool to help foster children celebrate special milestones and understand difficult aspects of their lives.

Intouch Home Care

Since 1981, LSSI has been offering home care services for seniors in need of assistance to help them safely remain in their homes as long as possible. Home care assistants provide non-medical support such as housekeeping, personal care, and transportation.

98% of survey respondents credit Intouch Home Care with helping them to stay in their home

Alcohol and Drug Treatment

LSSI provides a full continuum of targeted services for individuals with alcohol/drug issues, beginning with medically-monitored detox, all the way through residential care and transitional housing.

LSSI served 2,559 clients with alcohol/drug issues in 2014, and our programs consistently outperform other comparable services in the region and state.

62% of individuals who entered into an LSSI alcohol/drug treatment program successfully completed it.

That is **1,579 individuals** LSSI helped to end their dependence on alcohol and/or drugs in 2014.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Funding provided in part by the Department of Human Services/
Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse
Illinois Licensed Child Welfare Agency - License #013005

LSSI does not discriminate in admission to programs or employment in compliance with the law.





Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

lwr.org programs.lwr.org 800.597.5972

Lasting Partnership: Central/Southern Illinois Synod

Since 1945, Lutherans have supported their brothers and sisters in need through Lutheran World Relief. Today, your support continues to reach out to people living in poverty around the world with long-term, sustainable development projects that make a lasting impact.

LWR is thankful for your partnership. Here is a snapshot of what we were able to accomplish together!

Your Gifts at Work

Your gifts in 2014 contributed to a year of life-sustaining work. With your help, LWR:

- Reached more than 4.7 million people through 153 projects in 35 countries.
- Distributed \$12.4 million worth of LWR Quilts and Kits to more than 570,000 people in 20 countries.

In 2014, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) directly supported LWR with more than \$4.3 million, helping to fund 30 projects in 14 countries. Thank you!

Your Gifts at Work

FIGHTING POVERTY TO END MALARIA DEATHS

In 2014, the ELCA contributed \$300,000 to support LWR's work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania to fight malaria and the poverty that causes it. With your help we are working in three parishes to help farmers increase their production, quality and income from onion crops. Your gifts have also helped train farmers to serve as "paraprofessionals" who give fellow farmers technical advice and information about malaria control.

Hope After Haiyan

Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines in November 2013 as one of the most powerful storms to ever make landfall. The ELCA generously contributed \$2 million to support LWR's response, helping families repair and rebuild their homes, providing clean water and opportunities to earn much needed income through cash-for-work programs that paid community members to help clear debris. Now in its second phase, your continued support is helping reach local fisher folk to replace boats and equipment and provide training on alternative sources of livelihood, like seaweed production.

TAKING A COFFEE BREAK?

Go to lwr.org/coffeebreak to meet Leonida, who participated in LWR's cash-for-work project!

Thank You!

We thank you for your continued partnership!

LWR invites you to stay in touch so you can see how your support is changing lives. And we welcome your feedback!

You can find us:

800.597.5972

lwr@lwr.org

[facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief](https://www.facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief)

twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief

[youtube.com/LutheranWorldRelief](https://www.youtube.com/LutheranWorldRelief)

blog.lwr.org



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

About the Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF), a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, makes low-interest **loans** to established ELCA congregations, new-start congregations and ELCA-related ministries for capital projects.

Established congregations use MIF loans to renovate, expand or relocate. New-start congregations rely on MIF loans to buy land and construct their first church buildings. ELCA-related ministries use MIF loans for a variety of capital projects.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a variety of **investments** for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. MIF investments offer adjustable- or fixed-rate terms and earn interest at competitive rates.

The Mission Investment Fund is **financially strong and stable**, with a record of steady, controlled growth:

- With total assets of \$661 million and net assets of \$192 million at year-end 2014, MIF achieved a capital ratio of 29 percent—maintaining MIF's position in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.
- At year-end 2014, loans for capital projects for more than 780 ELCA congregations and ministries totaled \$461 million. MIF investments by congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries totaled \$464 million.

Investments and Loans in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod

As of December 31, 2014:

- 5 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of **\$1,668,730**, are at work throughout the synod.
- Investments in the Mission Investment Fund by 85 individuals, 44 congregations, 3 ministries and the Central/Southern Illinois Synod totaled **\$5,509,862**.

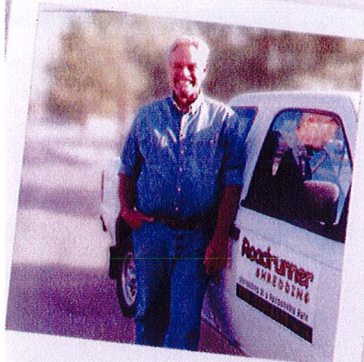
MIF representative for the Central/Southern Illinois Synod:

Enrique Rojas, Regional Manager: Tel. (773) 682-1793; e-mail: enrique.rojas@elca.org



Mosaic in 2014:

a message for the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, where Mosaic provides services in Macomb and Pontiac



Tom now owns his own business

Mosaic grew in 2014 to serve more than 3,900 people. The focus of everything we do is the person we serve, providing personalized services that stem from their desires, wants, needs and goals. Forming life around our choices is something most of us take for granted, but this has not been the norm for people with disabilities. We are working to change that.

Last year we also introduced a guiding vision, called "Forward in Faith." It is the foundation for our second century of service, after celebrating our centennial in 2013. Forward in Faith grounds Mosaic in service and advocacy, what we've always done and always will do.

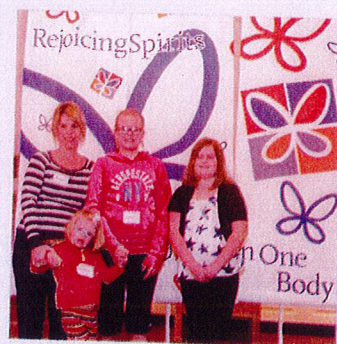
A highlight of the year was acquiring the Rejoicing Spirits ministry. This innovative worship model is set up for people with disabilities to be not only active participants, but leaders. Key to success is a 'no shush' policy that allows people to be themselves. The number of Rejoicing Spirits communities has grown and now spreads from Maine to California. Learn more at rejoicingspirits.org.



Sareta and others share their stories at Discover the Possibilities events

In 2014, more than 3,400 people attended Discover the Possibilities events to learn about Mosaic. Many chose to become involved with our mission. We also had a record number of volunteers, and our Partners in Possibilities Giving Society (people who pledge to support Mosaic annually) has grown to more than 300 members. We invite you to come and learn more. Call any location or 877.366.7242 for information.

In September, we partnered with several churches around the country for service projects on "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday." Through these projects, people served by Mosaic showed their desire to give to others as part of a community.



Rejoicing Spirits ministries now reach coast-to-coast



God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday brought people we serve into the community to volunteer



Dear Partners in Ministry, There are so many good things happening at Mosaic, it is challenging to choose just the highlights to share with you through the synod report. Every day, great things are happening for people we serve. Please visit any Mosaic agency or www.mosaicinfo.org to learn more about the life-changing ministry of Mosaic. Thank you for the many ways you support us. Please continue to keep Mosaic in your prayers as we embrace God's call to serve in the world! Linda Timmons, President and CEO



A life of possibilities for people with intellectual disabilities.

4980 S. 118th St. | Omaha, NE 68137-2200 | 877.366.7242 | www.mosaicinfo.org

Portico Benefit Services — 2015 Report to Synod Assemblies

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Healthy, resilient leaders shape healthy, resilient faith communities. This ELCA core belief is referenced in guiding church documents, and explains the enduring partnership between ELCA organizations, their leaders, and Portico Benefit Services. As one community, we're called to strengthen ministry.

ELCA organizations are expected to provide sustainable livelihoods for their leaders, and give them time to tend their well-being. Leaders are expected to tend their well-being so they are able to shape healthy congregations in changing, often challenging, times. Portico delivers cost-effective benefits, resources, and inspiration, helping leaders use services and tools to strengthen their financial, emotional, and physical well-being.

This partnership comes to life in a story Portico shared during last year's Open Enrollment. Erik Heskin, pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Escanaba, Michigan, required an organ transplant in 2013. Supported by his congregation and the benefits it provides, Pastor Heskin is now reclaiming his role in parish ministry.

Yes, his care was costly — in fact, about 1% of members incur one-third of annual health claims. But on any given day, through illness or injury, any of us could find ourselves in Pastor Heskin's shoes. By standing together as a community, purchasing health care wisely, and maintaining healthy lifestyles, we're better able to shape resilient faith communities and afford quality care for leaders in need.

To Strengthen Ministry — ELCA Organizations Support Their Leaders

Benefits are an investment in God's ministry as carried out through the lives of rostered leaders and lay employees.

— ELCA Philosophy of Benefits

Last year, 7,085 ELCA organizations partnered with Portico to sponsor one or more leaders in the ELCA benefit program, honoring the ELCA's long-standing commitment to protect members and their families against the impact of aging, illness, injury, disability, and death. Since the ELCA's founding, the number of its pastors enrolled in the ELCA benefit program has remained above 90%.

This commitment was evident during last year's Open Enrollment. Ninety percent of sponsoring employers chose to offer the Gold+ health benefit option for 2015, despite an 11% health contribution rate increase triggered by higher than expected health claims. While this kind of increase isn't typical for Portico, it is typical in the marketplace. Since 2007, Portico's average health contribution rate increase has stayed well below the average U.S. employer rate increase, saving millions of dollars for ministry.

ELCA sponsoring organizations also partner with Portico to administer benefits efficiently. In 2014, we automated several manual processes and encouraged sponsors to save time and increase accuracy by paying their monthly bill online. Currently, 48% use this simple, cost-saving process, and we're encouraging the rest to take this stewardship step in 2015.

"In every respect, I have been thankful to our church for providing such a superb retirement program. As a third generation pastor in our family, I am pleased with the way in which our denomination has progressed in its care for all of her pastors and lay professionals. Thank you!"

Pastor Ken Gamb, Retired
Iowa City, Iowa

To Strengthen Ministry — Leaders Strive to Live Well

The ordained minister needs to be an example of self-care, as well as caring for others.

— ELCA Vision and Expectations

Annually, Portico invites health plan members and spouses to take stock of their health, and then take a small step to improve their emotional or physical well-being. In 2014, our members responded in force.

Eighty-one percent of ELCA-Primary health plan members took the Mayo Clinic health assessment, up from 77% the year before. This increase helped the number of sponsors earning the 2% discount on ELCA health contributions jump for the sixth consecutive year to 97%, saving the ELCA \$2.3 million collectively.

Even more impressive, over 51% of ELCA-Primary health plan members earned all their wellness dollars by completing last year's featured wellness activity, up from 44%. One result of these healthy steps: Among those taking the health assessment each year from 2010 to 2014, 5.4% are no longer at risk for poor nutrition, and 7% are no longer at risk for poor emotional health.

Other ways leaders stepped up their use of ELCA benefits in 2014:

- In an average month in 2014, 769 ELCA-Primary health plan members received the fitness center discount by visiting a fitness center at least eight times during the month — an 11% increase from 2013.
- As of Jan. 1, 2015, 47% of plan members are now partnering with Portico to strengthen their future financial well-being by making pretax retirement contributions, up 8% from last year. Forty-eight percent of plan members who made pretax retirement contributions in 2014 increased their contribution amount for 2015.
- 955 sponsored members and 24 retirees purchased a discounted long-term care insurance policy as part of Portico's first-year offering.

To Strengthen Ministry — Portico Helps Leaders Tend Their Well-being

Benefits should support and enhance the unique needs of this church.

— ELCA Philosophy of Benefits

To best serve ELCA sponsoring organizations and leaders, Portico routinely asks the ELCA community for feedback. In 2014, we gathered survey responses from members and sponsors, as well as input from our advisory committees, the Conference of Bishops, synod assembly participants, synod office staff, theological conference attendees, our own Live Well ELCA Facebook page, and the ELCA Clergy Facebook group.

Through this intentional listening, we improve our offerings. For example, after hearing a number of members request long-term care insurance, we used our collective purchasing power in 2014 to offer it at a discounted rate. Another example: Using Customer Advisory Committee feedback, we were able to streamline last year's Open Enrollment process, a clear benefit for time-strapped sponsors and members.

"I have let my 'be still' practice spill over into the church I serve and it is having GREAT effects. We gather for guided silence now before the Lenten Wednesday evening services."

Keith Weber, Dir. of Music
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Houston, Texas

Portico continues to steward the ELCA investment program with efficiency and precision, carefully selecting managers and calibrating asset allocation to enhance the performance of the funds. In 2014, more than 70% of Portico's investment managers exceeded their benchmarks. This was not the case for most of the investment industry. Morningstar reported that fewer than 20% of U.S. stock mutual funds exceeded their benchmarks during 2014.¹ What's more, our actively managed funds, with few exceptions, performed better than comparable mutual fund peer group benchmarks during the year — in some cases, by a wide margin. Importantly, this also holds for 10-year and longer time periods.²

Beyond the ELCA, Portico's ongoing involvement with multi-denominational church benefit organizations like the Church Alliance continues to deliver value. When a federal district judge struck down the clergy housing allowance exclusion as an unconstitutional preference for religion under the First Amendment in Nov. 2013, Portico, as part of the Church Alliance, jointly filed an amicus brief urging the court to uphold the exclusion's constitutionality. Thanks, in part, to our effort, the U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit, acted in Nov. 2014 to preserve the clergy housing allowance exclusion.

"A few of our staff members petitioned our local gym to be on the Fitness Center discount list, and I can now continue my daily workouts (aka sanity sessions) and save money, too! Thank you for such great benefits to help keep me healthy, ELCA!"

Pastor Amy Stewart
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Manchester, Missouri

Together, for Life

Our partnership with sponsoring organizations and members is enduring. In 2015, we're partnering with synods to learn how Portico can better support sponsors and leaders in the ELCA call process. And to simplify things for our members, we've begun to enable "single sign-on" access to our benefit partner websites. As of Jan. 2015, members can access Mayo Clinic's new Healthy Living website directly from myPortico, and we intend to expand single sign-on to other health benefit partners later in the year.

As always, we thank you for your partnership in this shared call to strengthen ministry.

In Christ,



The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann
President and CEO

1. Source: Return of the Stockpickers, S. Max, Barrons — The Dow Jones Business and Financial Weekly, Jan. 12, 2015.

2. Find specifics about ELCA Retirement Plan investment fund performance at myPortico.PorticoBenefits.org.



Region 5

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Report for 2015 Synod Assembly

Dear partners in ministry,

I am delighted to provide this brief report of our shared ministry in Region 5. As regional coordinator, I support the work of synods to address mission and leadership needs in your synod and throughout the region. Most of my time is spent working with synod candidacy committees. "Candidacy" is the term used to describe our process of forming and preparing people to serve as a rostered leader in the ELCA-either as a pastor, diaconal minister, associate in ministry or deaconess. Like the many faithful volunteers that serve on your synod candidacy committee, I am honored to accompany students, help them develop as leaders, and explore with them how God is calling them to service in the world. In my role as coordinator, I also provide training for synod staff and committees on the candidacy process, work in partnership with Wartburg Theological Seminary and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (our ELCA seminaries located in region 5) and act as a liaison for the region in the area of candidacy to the ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit.

This past year, the ELCA CSM unit has been working on revising our candidacy manual. This is a document for candidacy committees that describes the process and standards expected of those seeking to become an ELCA rostered leader. As part of the revision team, I have worked to listen well to the various partners in the region, and communicate our good ideas and input. At this time, the new proposed manual is being considered by both the ELCA Church Council and the Conference of Bishops. It is expected that our new candidacy manual will be available the end of 2015.

I am also a representative of the region in the ELCA assignment process. I work with your bishop and other synod staff to request seminary graduates for the region and into your synod for their first call. This work takes into consideration the needs of the whole church, the preferences of seminarians, and the particular needs identified within the region. Region 5 also convenes an annual mobility conference, and works with synods in region 5 to facilitate call possibilities beyond synod boundaries.

Region 5 gathers leaders for shared ministry efforts from time to time, including Global Mission network meetings, world hunger networking, churchwide consultations, bishops and bishop assistants meetings. It's been my pleasure to provide avenues for connecting your people-resources to one another for the sake of mission.

Another resource we share in Region 5 are the regional archives, housed on the campus of Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque. Our archivist, Nancy Carroll, receives records from disbanded congregations in the region, maintains a database of congregational records and provides research assistance on requests for information such as copies of genealogical records or other historical materials. Information on records retention can be found at <http://www.elca.org/Resources/Archives>, by contacting your synod staff or the region 5 archivist.

Thank you for your synod's participation in this shared ministry and for the privilege to serve among you.

In Christ,

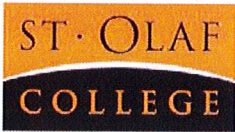
Rev. Ramie L. Bakken

Region 5 ELCA office
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Black River Falls, WI 54615
Rev. Ramie Bakken, Coordinator
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Judy Luttio, Office Manager (part time)
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Region 5 Archives
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Dubuque, IA 52003

Nancy Carroll, Archivist (part time)
ncarroll@wartburgseminary.edu
office 563.589.0320



ELCA Synod Assemblies 2015

Greetings from St. Olaf College!

Since 1874, St. Olaf College has provided a distinctive education grounded in academic rigor, residential learning, global engagement, and our vibrant Lutheran faith tradition. Students work closely with dedicated faculty who challenge them to grow in mind, body, and spirit. In both the curriculum and the co-curriculum, they explore theological issues and are challenged to choose their vocations in light of this exploration. All St. Olaf students take two religion courses, one focusing on the Bible and the other on Christian theology, as well as a third course introducing Christian and other ethical systems. The Harry C. Piper Center for Vocation and Career assists students in discerning their vocations and preparing for their careers during their four years at St. Olaf.

The appointment of the Rev. Dr. Darrell Jodock '62 as Martin E. Marty Professor of Religion and the Academy, which began in Fall 2013, has been extended through the 2014-15 academic year. Dr. Jodock continues to engage faculty and staff in exploring the distinctive contributions of Lutheran theological principles to our educational practices and community commitments. In July 2014, following the departure of Dr. Paula Carlson to assume the presidency of Luther College, Dr. Jo Beld, Professor of Political Science and former Director of Evaluation and Assessment at St. Olaf, was appointed Vice President for Mission. In early August, St. Olaf also welcomed a new Associate College Pastor, the Rev. Katherine (Katie) Fick, to the College Ministry staff. A graduate of Augustana College (Sioux Falls) and Luther Seminary, Pastor Fick previously served as pastor of Hayward Lutheran Church and Trondhjem Lutheran Church in southern Minnesota.

In response to the recommendations of a Board of Regents Task Force on St. Olaf's Lutheran Tradition, the college is currently working to enhance both internal and external understanding of the ways in which that tradition enriches all that we do at the college. A recent contribution to that effort is the July 2014 publication of *Claiming Our Callings: Toward a New Understanding of Vocation in the Liberal Arts* (Oxford University Press), edited by L. DeAne Lagerquist and Kaethe Schwehn, in which fourteen St. Olaf faculty members across nine different departments reflect on their own callings as professors and their practices for fostering vocational discernment among their students. Finally, plans are well underway for the next St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts, scheduled for July 18-22, 2016 (stolaf.edu/cwta/).

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Olaf. Come to campus to join us at concerts, lectures, conferences, or summer camps. You can also visit the St. Olaf multimedia website (stolaf.edu/multimedia/) to join in a wide variety of live and archived streamed events, including daily Chapel and Sunday morning worship services during the academic year, the weekly Sing for Joy radio program, and vocal and instrumental concerts and recitals.

We encourage you to send students to St. Olaf, we thank you for your prayers and support, and we offer you ours as well.

David R. Anderson '74
President

Dear Friends:

March 2015

Augsburg College has focused this past year on advancing our Augsburg2019 strategic vision (www.augsburg.edu/augsburg2019), which states that, in 2019 (our sesquicentennial year), Augsburg College will be **a new kind of student-centered, urban university that is small to our students and big for the world.**

One of the most significant advancements toward that vision is the progress made in the past year in **fundraising for our newest academic building, the Center for Science, Business, and Religion (CSBR).** In January, we announced a \$10 million naming gift—the second gift of this size in the College’s history—which brings total fundraising for the building to more than \$40 million and puts us on track to meet our goal of raising \$50 million by 2016. The CSBR will house a number of the College’s academic programs—including biology, business, chemistry, computer science, math, physics, psychology, and religion – and will support every student in their journey of vocational discernment and pursuit of careers in teaching, civic leadership, service to the church, scientific research, law, medicine, privately owned startup companies, and large corporations. At its May meeting this spring, the Augsburg Board of Regents will discuss timing for ground-breaking and construction on the building.

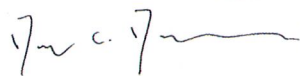
Augsburg also continues to gain national recognition for its work in community service and engagement. In 2014, Augsburg was one of four colleges in the country to be named a **finalist in the interfaith category of the President’s Higher Education Community Service award.** The award recognized Augsburg for its institution-wide interfaith work, including the College’s collaboration with the Interfaith Youth Corps, a group devoted to building the interfaith movement on college campuses; the work of the Augsburg College Interfaith Scholars, a group of Augsburg students who engage in interreligious dialogue and explore the religious diversity of the College, the Twin Cities community, and the United States; and an Inclusiveness Reading Circle, a group that supports interfaith intergroup dialogue.

In addition to the interfaith award, Augsburg also was the only Minnesota college or university named to the **President’s Higher Education General Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction.** The Honor Roll recognizes institutions for exemplary, innovative, and effective community service programs. Honorees are chosen based on a series of factors, including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

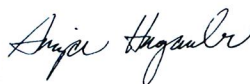
Two important stewards of the College’s interfaith and service work are the **Bernhard M. Christensen Center for Vocation and the Office of Campus Ministry.** This past fall, the Rev. Mark Hanson ’68 joined Augsburg College as a Distinguished Fellow in the Christensen Center for Vocation, working to advance the College’s commitment to vocational discernment—one of the four core commitments named in the Augsburg2019 strategic plan—and continuing his international efforts on interfaith dialogue as it relates to peacemaking. Hanson’s connections to Augsburg run deep, and he truly understands how Augsburg, as a Lutheran college immersed in an urban setting, helps students explore what it means to live and serve in a radically changing world. In Campus Ministry, Augsburg’s chaplain to student athletes, the Rev. Mike Matson ’07 (who also serves as football assistant coach and as a strength and conditioning coach), began his call this past fall at Bethany Lutheran Church. Matson serves Bethany half time and continues his half-time ministry at Augsburg, further enriching our church relationships in the Seward neighborhood.

As these initiatives and accomplishments show, Augsburg is truly living out its calling to serve our neighbor and is demonstrating the role and the impact of Lutheran higher education in the 21st century. We look forward to continuing this important work in 2015.

Yours in faith and service,



Dr. Paul C. Pribbenow
President



The Rev. Sonja Hagander
College Pastor and Director of Ministries

2211 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454
612-330-1212

augsburg.edu



CARTHAGE
COLLEGE

2015 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SYNODS

Seeking Truth, Building Strength, Inspiring Service—Together. These seven, simple words are the Carthage mission statement. They serve as the foundation for everything we do here as we seek to educate young men and women. We proudly embrace our Lutheran heritage, even as we welcome all to our beautiful, lakefront campus. We challenge students, faculty, and staff to seek excellence in every endeavor, and we affirm that the privilege of an education carries with it the responsibilities of social awareness. We are, in short, *your* college.

But what *is* your college? Physically, Carthage comprises an 80-acre campus on the shore of Lake Michigan. The campus is in Kenosha, a city of 100,000 in southeastern Wisconsin—an hour from downtown Chicago, a half-hour from downtown Milwaukee. Intellectually, Carthage is more than 150 full-time faculty—no graduate assistants teach our students—with degrees from some of the most prestigious universities in the world. 91% of the full-time faculty have the terminal degree in their field. The average class size is 18; there simply are no large lecture halls on campus. Carthage was named a **Best Midwestern College** by *The Princeton Review* (2014), and a **Tier 1 National Liberal Arts Institution** by *U.S. News & World Report* (2014).

Your college has enjoyed a spectacular year, which simply challenges us to reach ever higher. Here are a few of the highlights of our work this year:

- When the present school year opened in September 2014, Carthage set an all-time record enrollment with 2,599 full-time undergraduate students. Thanks to the very hard work of our admissions officers, we were among the 13% of colleges nationally that reached their enrollment targets this year.
- Each year, some 800 adult learners enroll in undergraduate, graduate, or professional development classes at Carthage.
- We are good stewards of our resources. The College is on track to end this fiscal year with its 27th consecutive balanced budget.
- The endowment fund was at an all-time high of some \$82 million as of December 31. Still, this is well below the average of colleges our size, and well below what we need in order to truly support student financial aid and innovative academic projects.
- Phase I of the \$43 million renovation of our science facilities was completed in January 2015, and faculty and staff have moved back in to their new offices, classrooms, and labs. Phase II began even before Phase I was formally complete, and should be completed by June 1, 2015. Phase III takes place this summer, and will be completed by September 1, 2015. The project includes a major renovation of the 70,000-square-foot David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Natural and Social Sciences, and creation of a new 35,000-square-foot wing to the south and east, embracing the Center's lakeside location. This will increase classroom and laboratory space by more than 40%, which is essential, given that more than 25% of Carthage students major in the natural sciences.
- As part of this renovation project, Carthage received the second largest gift in its history, a \$10 million grant from the Tarble Family Foundation of Los Angeles.
- Carthage is the new home for NASA in Wisconsin. Carthage was named the lead institution for the Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium, which funds education, research, and informal education projects through a national network of university-based Space Grant consortia.

- After a lengthy process of research and preparation, Carthage launched a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The founding director of the program is working to satisfy all educational, regulatory, and accreditation requirements. We hope to welcome our first students this September.
- The American Institute of Physics (AIP) recently selected Carthage's Department of Physics and Astronomy for its new study on effective undergraduate physics programs. Carthage is among the best in the country at preparing undergraduate physics students for careers in STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—according to the AIP. Carthage is one of six colleges and universities nationwide selected for the project.
- Over the past fifteen years, Carthage has invested close to \$200 million in new campus facilities. There is no deferred maintenance.
- The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has given Carthage high marks and granted reaccreditation without condition.
- The latest strategic plan is nearly complete. More than 125 faculty and staff members, and some 75 or so members of the greater community, have been working in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, which is fashioning its next five- and ten-year strategic plan for the College. The Board will approve the plan later this year.
- When it comes to critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication, Carthage seniors are in the top 11 percent nationwide among colleges and universities using the Collegiate Learning Assessment, a national tool administered at institutions across the country to assess their impact on student learning.
- Carthage is ranked seventh nationally for student participation in short-term study abroad by the Institute of International Education (Open Doors 2013 Report).
- Carthage students studied on five different continents during the 2015 January Term. The Carthage Choir went to Spain, and the Women's Ensemble sang in China. Students studied economics and business in South Africa; the tropical ecology of Costa Rica; religion and society in India; the economics and science of rural development in Guatemala; business and marketing in Sweden; and biology and geography in Nicaragua, among other J-Term trips.
- Carthage students volunteered their time and effort in thriving partnerships with the United Way campaigns in both Kenosha and Racine Counties, as well as Kenosha's Boys and Girls Club, Women and Children's Horizons, Shalom Center, and other non-profit agencies. Students also supported national efforts such as the ALS "Ice Bucket Challenge" (more than 75% of the incoming freshman class participated!), the Relay for Life, and Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.
- Finally, and most importantly, within six months of graduation, 95 percent of graduates report landing a satisfying career position or enrollment in graduate school.

The Lutheran concept that God gives us our vocations, that we strengthen them through the attainment of skills and knowledge, and that we use these strengths in the service of others, is essential to our mission, inspiring and leading students to find their own particular way in this complex world. Carthage is proud to be a college of the church, and proud to provide a challenging and rewarding liberal arts education in a Lutheran context. Thank you for your partnership with us!



Gregory S. Woodward
President



Paul R. Hegland
Executive Director, Church and Professional Relations

• ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2014 •

Greetings to you from Gustavus Adolphus College! We consider ourselves your partners in ministry as we carry out our calling to help students attain their full potential as persons, develop a passion for lifelong learning, and launch into life prepared for lives of leadership and service. Our Lutheran identity is central to who we are as a college. We are proud of the tangible connection we maintain with the Lutheran Church and seek to be intentional in our efforts to involve the congregations in the life and governance of the College with more than 540 congregations that make up the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations. This Association is important as the place where official governing boards of the College are elected each April. Within this Association, key relationships are formed that help us maintain and grow this connection.

On July 1, Rebecca M. Bergman officially began her duties as the 17th president of Gustavus Adolphus College. The College's Board of Trustees announced in late February that Bergman would replace Jack Ohle, who retired after serving as president since July 2008. Bergman is the first woman in the 152-year history of the College to be named president. Bergman served on the College's Board of Trustees from 2007 to 2014 in a lay representative role from the Gustavus Association of Congregations. "Gustavus Adolphus College is a special place. Because I have been on the Board, I know firsthand the important role the Association of Congregations plays in the life of the college. I look forward to strengthening the partnerships with our congregations and continuing to bring the College to the Church and the Church to the College."

As you gather for your annual assembly, we hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk along side you in mission. We are blessed to be able to share numerous resources with your congregation. Thank you to the many of you who have made good use of our ministry partnership.

MARK YOUR 2015 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

• **Annual Gustavus Faith Conference — APRIL 25, 2015**

The theme for the 2015 conference will be "*Road to the Reformation: Deepening our Lutheran Theological Roots.*" Dr. Samuel Torvend, Endowed Chair in Lutheran Studies and professor of religion at Pacific Lutheran University will speak on the topic, "*Lutheran Convictions and Economic Justice: Biblical Themes, Current Realities, and Ethical Choices.*" Dr. Kathi Tunheim, Endowed Chair in Management and Leadership and associate professor of economics and management at Gustavus Adolphus College will speak on the topic, "*Generosity as a Response to a Culture of Greed.*" The Gustavus Faith Conference is open to the public. The Annual Business Meeting of Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will take place during the luncheon meeting. Thank you for sending your lay and clergy delegates to this important annual meeting.

• **MAYDAY! Peace Conference—APRIL 29, 2015** "*The War Within: How can the Soldier be at Peace?*"

• **Annual Nobel Conference®—OCTOBER 5-6, 2015** "*Addiction: Exploring the Science and Experience of an Equal Opportunity Condition*"

• **Step Up — NOVEMBER 2015**, a day-long workshop opportunity for congregations to draw upon the leadership development resources of Gustavus to equip key high school student leaders for ministry in the congregation. Students will interact with other student leaders from across the upper Mid-west region.

• **Christmas in Christ Chapel—DECEMBER 4-6, 2015**

For more information about these events and the many resources we offer congregations, please contact Church Relations in the Center for Servant Leadership (507-933-7001) or visit us on-line at: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Rev. Grady St. Dennis
College Chaplain/Director for Church Relations

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT

LUTHER COLLEGE

Greetings from the campus of Luther College. As the new president of Luther College, I am pleased to submit this synod assembly report for the college. At Luther, students discern their vocations and prepare for their careers in a college community committed to the life of faith and learning. We value your partnership in this important work.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, Luther's Office of College Ministries is engaged in a "Year of Listening" with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the college. The ideas and insights gathered in our listening process will shape our future vision for serving college students in the contemporary changing landscapes of congregations, faith communities, and ministry with young adults.

In January, we wished godspeed to the Rev. Dr. David Vasquez, a college pastor at Luther who accepted a call to serve as president of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. Pastor Vasquez served as college pastor at Luther for thirteen years. We are grateful for his ministry with Luther students, faculty, and staff. We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Judd Larson (Luther class of 1974), Interim College Pastor, to Luther for the spring term 2015. Pastor Larson joins college pastors Michael Blair and Amy Zalk Larson on the college ministry staff this semester.

Every year, nearly 300 Luther students receive EPIC (Education Partners in Covenant) grants from their congregations—a wonderful affirmation of a young person's decision to attend Luther College. In 2014, these grants totaled \$260,000. Beginning next year, Luther's match of EPIC grants will increase 30 percent, to \$1,000 per year in support of a current student. If your congregation participates in the EPIC program, thank you for your vital support. More information can be found at www.luther.edu/financialaid/current/scholarships/

This year our campus pastors and several faculty members have served as resource persons at synod events and assemblies on topics such as spiritual practices and contemplative leadership, men's spirituality, church music, and "greening" congregations. In February 2015, Luther partnered with Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center in Arizona to offer a "Blessed to be a Blessing" retreat focused on vocational discernment in the third chapter of life.

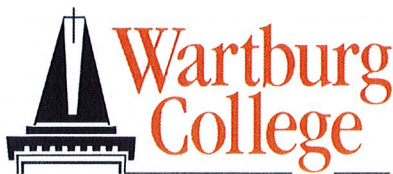
We invite you to visit us on our beautiful campus in Decorah, Iowa and to learn more about Luther College at www.luther.edu/about/lutheran-college/

Thank you for your prayers for the college, for sending students to Luther, and for your financial gifts in support of the college's mission.

Sincerely,



Paula J. Carlson, Ph.D.
President



2014 Annual Report to ELCA Synods and Congregations

Mission Statement

Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.

Wartburg College helps students discover and claim their callings connecting their learning with faith and values, their understanding of themselves and their gifts, their perspective on life and the future, and the opportunities for participating in church, community, and the larger society in purposeful and meaningful ways.

Enrollment

Fall 2014 enrollment at Wartburg College was 1,661 students. 10.1% are international students from a record 69 countries. 66.2% of our students are from Iowa, 8.2% are from Minnesota, and 6.9% are from Illinois. More than 25 Christian denominations and eight world religions are represented on campus, with 29.4% of the student body affiliated with the Lutheran church. The top five majors are biology, business administration, communication arts, elementary education, and music education, followed closely by psychology, engineering science, and fitness management.

Strategic Plan 2010-2020

Living our Learning, Claiming our Calling, Transforming Tomorrow

The Wartburg College Strategic Plan embraces six goals: integrative learning, commitment to vocation, mentoring community, outstanding infrastructure, investing in people, and telling the Wartburg story. Additional information about the plan is available at <https://www.wartburg.edu/strategicplan>.

Transforming Tomorrow

The \$75 Transforming Tomorrow comprehensive campaign was publicly launched in 2014 and developed out of Wartburg's strategic plan to enrich the campus community through three components: investing in **people** to ensure student access, investing in **places** to enhance student living and learning, and investing in **programs** to enable student success. Additional information about the campaign is available at <http://www.wartburg.edu/transform>.

Commitment to Faith

Wartburg is an inclusive community of faith rooted in the ELCA Lutheran tradition. Spiritual Life & Campus Ministry accompanies students, faculty, and staff from all traditions on their spiritual journeys. Church Relations supports the work of the Center for Community Engagement by connecting college resources to faith community partners and identifying opportunities that provide student learning, meet community needs, and enrich the Wartburg mission.

The Saint John's Bible, Heritage Edition

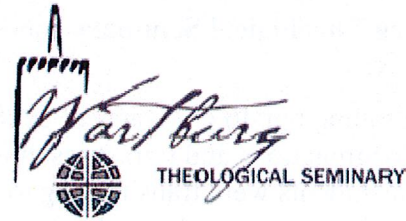
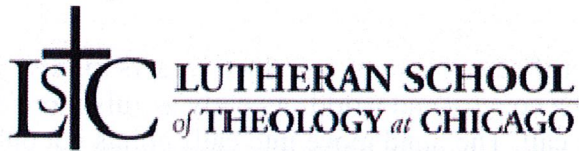
The Saint John's Bible ignited the imaginations of people of all ages during the yearlong program at Wartburg College. Students, faculty, and staff collaborated across disciplines to provide educational opportunities to the campus and greater community. Thousands of people explored the handwritten, illuminated 21st century Bible in the art gallery, at Vogel Library, through campus and community programs, and at Christmas with Wartburg. Additional information is available at <http://knightguides.wartburg.edu/bible>.

Many Blessings

At Wartburg, students take a journey of discovery, embracing their passions and unlocking their potential to realize their purpose. Our Lutheran identity is central to who we are as a college. Thank you for your continued ministry, partnership, and prayers.

Dr. Darrel D. Colson
Wartburg College President
100 Wartburg Blvd., Waverly, IA 50676
319-352-8450 – president@wartburg.edu

Gail Sexton
Coordinator of Church Relations and Faith Community Outreach
100 Wartburg Blvd., Waverly, IA 50676
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2015 Report to the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly

Dear Friends,

We give thanks for the many gifts that you, the people of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, send to the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC) and Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS). We couldn't carry out our mission without

- the ***financial support you offer*** as individuals, congregations, and synods. Your support is the foundation for the economy of leadership formation in our ELCA.
- the ***people you send who may become seminary students***. By saying to someone, "Have you considered being a pastor or another church leader? I think you have the gifts," you plant the seed of discernment. Seminaries rely on you to identify those gifts of leadership among people in your congregations and in your families and friendship circles.
- your ***prayers and care for your seminaries and their students***. You encourage and inspire us in the work of forming leaders who are well-prepared to inspire others in living out their faith.

The **Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago** continues to fulfill its mission of forming visionary leaders to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ by:

- Sending out 55 students from six degree programs at the May 2014 Commencement. Half of our Master of Divinity graduates were in a call process or had a call in hand as of Commencement, and nearly all are now ordained and serving in congregations across the country.
- Launching a new curriculum to form leaders for a "public church" that offers a distinctive Christian witness in the world. The curriculum balances theological study with practical skills to build competencies in cultural context, spiritual formation, religious heritage, and ministerial leadership.
- Welcoming an incoming class of master's degree students that is 16% larger than last year's class. This is the third year in a row at LSTC that the entering class is larger than the previous year.
- Beginning the quiet phase of the seminary's second comprehensive campaign with a \$5 million unrestricted gift. In making this remarkable lead gift, the donors said they hope to encourage others to give generously to LSTC.
- Awarding 30 full-tuition scholarships to first-year and returning master of divinity students and providing scores of other partial-tuition scholarships to students in every year of their studies. Over 90% of LSTC master's degree students receive a scholarship from LSTC. Thanks to this financial assistance, total student borrowing has fallen a third year in a row and is at its lowest level in over a decade.
- Beginning research to identify pathways to lower seminarian debt, a three-year study made possible through a \$250,000 Lilly Endowment grant.
- Hosting dozens of biblical scholars and theologians from around the world at the Lutheran World Federation International Hermeneutics Conference at LSTC in September 2014.

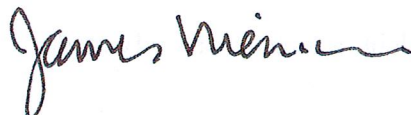
Wartburg Theological Seminary continues to live out its mission of forming valued leaders for God's mission by:

- Sending out 46 graduates of degree and certificate programs as valued leaders to serve in congregations and ministries throughout the country and world. As early as July more than 75% of students were transitioning to their first call. The rapid move into calls points not only to the quality of our graduates but also to the church's increasing need for pastors and other leaders.
- Offering a Distributed Learning program that continues to grow with 17% of Wartburg degree students participating in this program. By successfully combining online coursework and on-campus intensive courses, the DL program has opened formation for ministry to gifted people who previously could not consider beginning theological education.
- Launching a new "Learning for Life: Seminary for Everyone" program to meet the ever-changing needs of the church. "Learning for Life" is built on the core belief that theological education is for everyone. For more information about this exciting new learning initiative that includes online courses and learning events, visit our website at **www.wartburgseminary.edu**.
- Meeting the needs of diverse ministry contexts by providing a summer Spanish language intensive, a Master of Divinity Hispanic Ministry Summer Term, TEEM programming (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) as well as a certificate in Hispanic Ministry at LSPS (Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest) in Austin, TX. LSPS is a program of Wartburg Seminary and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- Providing 100% of eligible students with seminary financial support for their education as a result of generous gifts from congregations, individuals, and other organizations that provide financial support for theological education at Wartburg Seminary.
- Launching the public phase of the \$22 million *Engaging God's Future* campaign which seeks to strengthen the church through the formation of future leaders at Wartburg Seminary.
- Renovating ten single-family housing units for to improve energy efficiency. This project was made possible through donations and contributed labor from members of Nazareth Lutheran Church (Cedar Falls, Iowa) and from other individuals and churches of the Northeastern Iowa Synod.

We invite you and members of your congregation to visit our seminaries and attend worship, participate in a continuing education event, discern a call to ministry, or visit with some of the future leaders that you and your synod support through your gifts to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and to Wartburg Theological Seminary. To learn more about the seminaries, their faculty, programs and upcoming events, visit www.lstc.edu and www.wartburgseminary.edu.

Your partnership is essential for LSTC and Wartburg to continue their shared mission of providing dynamic theological education for present and future leaders of your congregations and ministries in your synod, for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to the glory of God.

Yours in Christ,



President James Nieman
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago



President Stanley N. Olson
Wartburg Theological Seminary