

**Minutes of the Twenty-Third Annual Synod Assembly
of the
Southern Ohio Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Theme: God's Work, Our Hands – Working Together
Biblical Text: Luke 5: 1-11**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
Cincinnati, Ohio**

June 9, 2012

Opening of Assembly

The Rev. Katrina Kerrigan and The Rev. Donna Kraus led the assembly in the order of worship for the Opening of the Synod Assembly at 9:10 am. At the end of the worship service, Bishop Callon Holloway, Jr. declared the Assembly opened.

Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

**VOTED:
SA.12.6.1**

**To adopt the Rules of the Procedure for the Assembly (Moved
by Synod Council and Seconded) APPROVED**

Report of the Elections Committee

Bishop Holloway introduced Rev. Steve Kimm as a representative of the Elections Committee. Rev. Kimm explained the voting procedures to the Assembly and how to use the voting pad. Rev. Kimm then reported that 248 voting members were in attendance at the beginning of the assembly.

Adoption of the 2012 Assembly Agenda

**VOTED
SA.12.6.2**

**To adopt the printed agenda for the Assembly (Moved and
Seconded) APPROVED**

Report of the Synod Officers

Report of the Synod Council Secretary

Bishop Holloway called upon Mr. Roy E. Hart, Secretary of the Southern Ohio Synod Council, to present the report of the Synod Council.

Mr. Hart reported that the 2011 Synod Assembly minutes were reviewed, amended, and approved as amended by the Synod Council at its March 10, 2012 meeting. These minutes were made available to the voting members on the synod website.

Mr. Hart also reported that the following rostered leaders of the Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA, had entered the Church Triumphant since the 2011 Synod Assembly: Pastor Joseph Bradley, Pastor Esther Kuhre, Pastor George Neiman, Pastor Howard Nolte, Pastor Lawrence Rugh, Pastor Robert Secrist, and Pastor John Tickner.

The Secretary then reported that two congregations have joined the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to-wit:

1. Arise in Christ Lutheran Church, Donnelsville
2. Calvary Orthodox Lutheran Church, Lancaster

The Secretary then reported that the Synod Council voted April 28, 2012 to support the 2012 Synod Assembly Resolution, “A Call to Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict with Iran”.

Mr. Hart then thanked the Bishop and the members of the Assembly for their attention.

Report of the Synod Council Vice President

Bishop Holloway then introduced Mrs. Barbara Klatt, Vice President of the Southern Ohio Synod Council, who presented her report to the Assembly.

As Vice President, Mrs. Klatt interacts with other synod vice presidents on a national basis by supporting each other and discussing issues touching each synod of the Church. She reiterated her comment of a year ago that in comparison to the other synods, our synod is a healthy example of how a bishop, staff, and synod council can work together with respect and solidarity while allowing ideas and opinions to be voiced.

This past spring Mrs. Klatt attended a conference in Chicago to learn how to implement LIFT (Living Into the Future Together) which was created in 2009. LIFT is about defining the future identity of this church as it faces the challenges posed by the major changes that have occurred in both our culture and the ELCA. At that conference, Neil Harrison, Director for Renewed Evangelizing Congregations updated the Vice Presidents of the various synods regarding LIFT priorities, including the encouragement of congregational leadership to listen to God through prayer and scripture, identifying tools

for congregations to realize their unique spiritual gifts, and developing guiding principles for congregational mission planning. The several Vice Presidents focused on the vitality of their own congregations and the development of their own congregations' unique mission plans. Mrs. Klatt stated that in order to accomplish those tasks, a synod strategic plan needs to be in place. The Southern Ohio Synod has a such a strategic plan in place for and has had one in place for a long time. The Vice President noted that the Southern Ohio Synod is not just surviving but thriving thanks to the dedicated leadership of Bishop Holloway and the Assistants to the Bishop.

Mrs. Klatt further reported that the ELCA, the Southern Ohio Synod, the various and many congregations, and individuals are challenged with the questions, "How do we build community?" "How do we reach those who may not yet realize that they are hungry for the Word?" "How do we bring the outside community into our household of faith?" "How do we support our congregations in order to help them meet the LIFT recommendations and thrive within the Synod and the greater church?"

The Vice President indicated that to me missional is not to do mission but to be missional in everything that we do. She stated that if we are to do God's Work, with Our Hands – Working Together, we must ask ourselves, "What does God want us to do?"

She also reported that this Synod is the only synod to have a Leadership Institute that helps both pastors and lay leaders realize their leadership potential as they lead their individual congregation. Mrs. Klatt then encouraged the Assembly members to continue to lift up the lay ministry and to help them identify their leadership gifts and to use them for the benefit of their church, their community, and their Synod.

The Vice President then spoke of the concept of "change" and how it is necessary in order to evaluate and to rethink our walk with Christ. She reported that our synod has demonstrated an example of trying something new, of change in the form of our SynodFest assembly. SynodFest is a leap of faith to enact change and to challenge our Lutheran family to come together in a new and renewing way.

Mrs. Klatt closed her report with a challenge to the members of the Assembly to be a part of change in order to seek new ways to approach the age-old questions.

Mrs. Klatt then thanked the Bishop and the members of the Assembly for their attention.

Report of the Synod Council Treasurer

Bishop Holloway introduced Mr. Mike Knilans, Treasurer of the Southern Ohio Synod to the assembly. Mr. Knilans proceeded with his report to assembly.

Mr. Knilans reported that the actual unrestricted income for the Synod from Feb. 2011 to Jan. 2012 totaled \$1,852,078; that the revised 2012 Expenditure Authorization for unrestricted income was \$1,817,500; and that the 2013 Fiscal Proposal amounted to \$1,844,000. Actual payments to Churchwide Mission Support from Feb. 2011 to Jan. 2012 totaled \$722,977; that the revised 2012 Expenditure Authorization for payments to Churchwide Mission Support totaled \$726,000 (40%); and the 2013 Fiscal Proposal for Churchwide Mission Support was set at \$737,000 (40%).

The Treasurer reported that expenses outpaced income and therefore, during the last year, the Synod eliminated a bookkeeper and one Assistant to the Bishop in order to manage expenses. Mr. Knilans then reported that the Synod no longer has enough staff to do the job that is required.

The Synod is planning to give 40% of its unrestricted income to Churchwide after consultation with the ELCA.

He also reported, as requested under a standing resolution, that the current salary for the Bishop remains at \$100,646 and that the current salary for assistants remains at \$76,867.

Mr. Knilans thanked the Bishop and the members of the Assembly for their attention.

Report of Assembly Committees

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Bishop Holloway then introduced Rev. Peter Kruse and Rev. Suzanne Dillahunt. Rev. Kruse presented the report of the committee to the assembly. He noted that two resolutions would be presented to the assembly at a later time during the assembly.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Bishop Holloway explained that voting members to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA would be elected at this Synod Assembly. The Bishop then introduced Mrs. Jane Lane and Rev. Ed Williams. Mrs. Lane, the chair of the Nominating Committee, explained the process for nominations from the floor. The voting members of the assembly were asked to submit any additional nominations immediately to the podium.

Mrs. Lane then made the following nominations on behalf of the Synod Council from the floor of the assembly and after each person's name a second from the assembly was given.

Synod Council, Northwest Conference - Clergy (Term 2012-2016)

Jonathan D. Bull

Susan Nelson

Synod Council, Central Ohio Conference - Clergy (Term 2012-2016)

Alexander Sumo

Mark Wildermuth

Synod Council, Central Ohio Conference - Lay Female (Term 2012-2016)

Marjorie Ellis

Judy Miller

Synod Council, Muskingum Conference - Clergy (Term 2012-2016)

Brian George

Philip Van Dam

Synod Council, At Large - Clergy (Term 2012-2016)

Robert (Bob) Abrams

Dona Johnson

Trinity Seminary Board of Directors – Lay Female (Term 2012-2016)

Barbara Kaiser

Kimberly Chatman

Trinity Seminary Board of Directors – Lay Male (Term 2012-2016)

Scott W. Krizner

David Wynkoop

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Central Ohio Conference – Clergy

Charles Peterson

Kevin Dudley

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Central Ohio Conference – Lay Female

Julianne Johnson

Kathie Skamfer

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Cincinnati Conference – Clergy

Patricia Badkey

June Fryman

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Cincinnati Conference – Lay Male

James (Jim) Matthews

Neil Palmer

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Dayton Conference – Clergy

Steve Kimm

Brian Nunnally

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Dayton Conference – Lay Female

Jane Lane

Lynn Spatz

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Muskingum Conference – Clergy

Mark Combs

Donna Kraus

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Muskingum Conference – Lay Male

Tom Haugsby

Steven Schnittke

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Northwest Conference – Clergy

Leslie Fox

Cheryl Siegenthaler

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Northwest Conference – Lay Male

Kenneth Wells

Lynn Zechman

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Scioto Conference – Clergy

Brian Dillahun

Violet Meek

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Scioto Conference – Lay Female

Nancy Hoffman

Kara Mendenhall

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, At Large – Lay Male

Neal Coryell

Michael Wood

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Young Adult – Lay Female

Mary Ellen Helms

Julia Konkler

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Young Adult – Lay Male

Brandon Huston

John Werzinske

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English

Carmen Colón Brown

Shawn Krumm

After nominations were made for each position, Bishop Holloway declared the nominations closed.

Recognition of Leadership Milestones

Bishop Holloway reported that the following individuals celebrated their 25th anniversary of ordination:

Rev. Steve Brown

Rev. Carol Hertler

Rev. Mark Diemer

Rev. Karen Kepner

Rev. Suzanne Dillahun
Rev. Diana Gugel
Rev. William Hartfelder

Rev. Timothy Muller
Rev. Ken Severa

Those individuals celebrating their 50th anniversary of ordination are:

Rev. Allen Dietz	Rev. Brian Matevia
Rev. Glen Gronlund	Rev. Donald Moeser
Rev. John Johansen	Rev. J. Peter Pelkonen
Rev. David Markowich	Rev. Andrew Wilch, Jr.
Rev. Richard Match	

Those congregations celebrating their 50th anniversary are:

All Saints Lutheran Church	Bethel Lutheran Church
----------------------------	------------------------

Those congregations celebrating their 125th anniversary are:

First English Lutheran Church	St. Paul Lutheran Church
Rockway Lutheran Church	

Those congregations celebrating their 150th anniversary are:

Emanuel Lutheran Church	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Willowdell
-------------------------	--------------------------------------

Those congregations celebrating their 175th anniversary are:

Peace Lutheran Church	Zion Lutheran Church
-----------------------	----------------------

Those individuals newly assigned to the Southern Ohio Synod since the last Synod Assembly are:

Rev. Robert Abrams	Ms. Mary Lasits
Rev. K. Bernell Boehm	Rev. Bret Rizzo
Rev. Alex Brown	Mr. Janelle Rue
Ms. Tammy Eady	Rev. Christina Scheuller
Rev. Jay Jackson, Jr.	Rev. Kevin Scheuller
Rev. Gerald Jacobson	Rev. Robert Swanson
Rev. Rudolph Kolberg	

Those individuals newly retired from the Southern Ohio Synod since the last Synod Assembly are:

Rev. Ward (Skip) Cornett

Rev. Andrew Mazak

Rev. Paul Daniel Fant

Rev. Thomas Prochaska

Rev. Kurt Keljo

Rev. Ronald Timmons

Special Order: Advancing God's Mission Update Report

Bishop Holloway then introduced Rev. Ed Williams who presented the Synod Report involving the Synod's Strategic Plan known as Advancing God's Mission.

Rev. Williams reported that AGM continues to grow and change. A video featuring Bishop Hanson was presented. The featured congregation, First English of Columbus had been in a long slow decline. The congregation took leap of faith with the assistance of the Synod, God provided, and First English now is redeveloping and is growing new missions.

Amazing Grace Day Camps program, a collaboration by G.R.A.C.E. Partners and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio, continues to effectively carry the Gospel to unchurched children living in Appalachia and the inner cities.

Rev. Williams further reported that the Southern Ohio Synod participates in the ELCA Companion Synods Program which connects sixty-five ELCA synods in over one hundred twenty international companion relationships. The Southern Ohio Synod collaborates internationally with the companion synods of East of Lake Victoria Diocese in Tanzania, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenberg, Germany, and the Sinodo Espirito Santo a Belem in Brazil.

Rev. Williams then thanked the assembly for its stewardship in promoting the Synod's strategic plan.

Report of the Bishop

Bishop Holloway opened his remarks with observations about SynodFest. He noted that the assembly has been blessed by many God-centered activities including the ELCA Global Mission Department's "Glocal Mission" event connecting our synod's members with members of other synods. The Professional Leaders Conference for Ordained and Commissioned Leaders was led by Peter Steinke who helped our leaders in rediscovering the functions of leading and ministering to the communities that our leadership serves. During SynodFest, the Bishop was privileged to bless and commission almost 1000 young people and leaders from the Synod's congregations as they depart to participate in the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The Synod was likewise blessed by the presence of Joseph Levinson, President of the Lutheran Church in Haiti, who with Bishop Holloway, proclaimed the Word at an Open-Air worship service. And Pat Taylor Ellison led a special gathering primarily for lay leaders, "Dwelling in the Word". Servant opportunities such as home construction and clinical assistance also were provided.

While stressing the importance of education, legislation, and celebration at our synod assemblies, Bishop Holloway introduced the importance of motivation as a synod assembly goal because if the synod is to truly be as missional as the synod talks about doing mission, then motivation is a necessary element of being missional. The Bishop reminds us that during these trying economic times, we feel the pain of people who are hungry, oppressed, living with war, disease, and corruption. We are the people of the Word, the Good News People, the People of the Word in a mission among the People of the World. The Church should and can be the intersection where all the Creation of God, the Creatures of God, and the People of God come together. When times are the toughest, that is when the Church is at its best.

Bishop Holloway challenged the members of the Assembly to become more familiar with their congregational mission statements in order to become more effective in doing congregational mission work. The Bishop then asked if each of the Assembly members had a personal mission statement as an individual disciple for doing personal ministry.

The Bishop emphasized that one of the goals of the Synod is to bring congregations together in order to build relationships between leaders so that ideas, hopes, dreams, and a new sense of personal partnership for the greater mission of God can be shared. The Synod is doing this very thing through the Faith Trek Program and through the ELCA Companion Synods Program. Likewise, the Bishop reminds us that Dwelling in the Word builds Scripture-Based ministry partnership of mutual trust among congregations .

Bishop Holloway then closed by thanking the members of the Assembly for privilege to serve the Southern Ohio Synod.

Report of the Synod Council

2013 Fiscal Proposal

Mr. Mike Knilans, Treasurer of the Synod Council, provided the assembly with the Synod Fiscal Proposal for 2013 which is attached to these minutes. He reported a proposed total decrease of five percent for 2013 because of lower expectations for income for the upcoming year. Discussion about the 2013 Fiscal Proposal followed. Mr. Knilans stated that the Synod cannot continue to deficit spend on a long term basis.

VOTED: **SA.12.6.3**

**To adopt the 2013 Southern Ohio Synod Fiscal Proposal
(Moved by Synod Council and Seconded) APPROVED.**

2013 Compensation Guidelines Recommendation

Bishop Holloway then introduced Desiree Tryloff, a member of the Synod Council, who then presented the 2013 Compensation Guideline Recommendations to the Synod Assembly for its consideration and vote. The Guidelines under consideration are attached to these minutes. She reported that the Synod Council recommends that the Base Salary portion of the Compensation Guidelines for both Ordained Ministers and Rostered Lay Leaders be increased by two percent(2.00%), and that all other portions of the Guidelines are to remain the same. Discussion followed.

VOTED:
SA.12.6.4

**To adopt the 2013 Southern Ohio Synod Compensation Guidelines (Moved by Synod Council and Seconded)
APPROVED.**

ELCA Report

Bishop Holloway introduced Mr. Kenneth Inskeep, the ELCA representative, who brought the ELCA Report to this Synod Assembly. Mr. Inskeep noted that 5.6 million people reside in Southern Ohio; however, less than 1 % of the Southern Ohio population attends worship of any kind. He further noted that 61% of the synod population are unchurched, and 4.5 million do not go to church on a regular basis. If one percent of the population is energized, the whole church dynamics change. The population is young, disaffected, and educated, who view church leadership as being too concerned with money but not the truth. They may be correct.

Mr. Inskeep speaks of a small voice that can be faintly heard that comes to us through Jesus. That voice is nonjudgmental. The Church need to engage the 61% of unchurched.

Mr. Inskeep cited the “Top Ten Reasons” to be a Lutheran:

10. Because Cal is cool
9. Because you can keep your brain when studying the Bible
8. Because Lutherans serve people in need. \$186,000 was spent in the Southern Ohio Synod on disaster relief
7. Because as a Lutheran you are permitted to fail
6. Because Lutherans are involved in the World Hunger Program
5. Because the Lutheran Church serves others
4. Because of the Stewards of Abundance Project
3. Because Lutherans are directors of mission development
2. Because the ELCA has a great Mission Investment Fund
1. Because Martin Luther knew how to answer the questions of 21st century people by staying focused on faith in Jesus Christ!

Report of the Elections Committee

Rev. Steve Kimm returned to the podium and the election of voting members to be sent to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly took place. He reported that 248 voting members of this Synod Assembly were eligible to vote in this election. The results were as follows:

Synod Council, Northwest Conference - Clergy (Term 2012-2016)

Jonathan D. Bull	130	Elected
Susan Nelson	<u>107</u>	
	237	

Synod Council, Central Ohio Conference - Clergy (Term 2012-2016)

Alexander Sumo	138	Elected
Mark Wildermuth	<u>96</u>	
	234	

Synod Council, Central Ohio Conference - Lay Female (Term 2012-2016)

Marjorie Ellis	142	Elected
Judy Miller	<u>79</u>	
	221	

Synod Council, Muskingum Conference - Clergy (Term 2012-2016)

Brian George	152	Elected
Philip Van Dam	<u>76</u>	
	228	

Synod Council, At Large - Clergy (Term 2012-2016)

Robert (Bob) Abrams	99	
Dona Johnson	<u>136</u>	Elected
	235	

Trinity Seminary Board of Directors – Lay Female (Term 2012-2016)

Barbara Kaiser	96	
Kimberly Chatman	<u>128</u>	Elected
	224	

Trinity Seminary Board of Directors – Lay Male (Term 2012-2016)

Scott W. Krizner	153	Elected
David Wynkoop	<u>73</u>	
	226	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Central Ohio Conference – Clergy

Charles Peterson	102	
Kevin Dudley	<u>126</u>	Elected
	228	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Central Ohio Conference – Lay Female

Julianne Johnson	104	
Kathie Skamfer	<u>111</u>	Elected
	215	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Cincinnati Conference – Clergy

Patricia Badkey	120	Elected
June Fryman	<u>113</u>	
	233	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Cincinnati Conference – Lay Male

James (Jim) Matthews	161	Elected
Neil Palmer	<u>67</u>	
	228	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Dayton Conference – Clergy

Steve Kimm	142	Elected
Brian Nunnally	<u>74</u>	
	216	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Dayton Conference – Lay Female

Jane Lane	140	Elected
Lynn Spatz	<u>90</u>	
	230	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Muskingum Conference – Clergy

Mark Combs	107	
Donna Kraus	<u>122</u>	Elected
	229	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Muskingum Conference – Lay Male

Tom Haugsby	107	
Steven Schnittke	<u>117</u>	Elected
	224	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Northwest Conference – Clergy

Leslie Fox	134	Elected
Cheryl Siegenthaler	<u>96</u>	
	230	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Northwest Conference – Lay Male

Kenneth Wells	122	Elected
Lynn Zechman	<u>96</u>	
	218	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Scioto Conference – Clergy

Brian Dillahunt	143	Elected
Violet Meek	<u>98</u>	
	241	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Scioto Conference – Lay Female

Nancy Hoffman	94	
Kara Mendenhall	<u>128</u>	Elected
	222	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, At Large – Lay Male

Neal Coryell	85	
Michael Wood	<u>147</u>	Elected
	232	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Young Adult – Lay Female

Mary Ellen Helms	89	
Julia Konkler	<u>141</u>	Elected
	230	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Young Adult – Lay Male

Brandon Huston	76	
John Werzinske	<u>156</u>	Elected
	232	

2013 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Person of Color/Primary Language Other Than English

Carmen Colón Brown	180	Elected
Shawn Krumm	<u>62</u>	
	242	

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Rev. Peter Kruse, Co-chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, returned to the speaker's platform and presented two proposed resolutions which were submitted to the Reference and Counsel Committee. The first resolution was "A call to Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict with Iran". Discussion ensued. It was moved and seconded that references to specifically named officeholders in the three "RESOLVED'S" be deleted.

VOTED:

SA.12.6.5 To delete references to specifically named officeholders in the three "RESOLVED'S" of the "Iran" resolution. (Moved and seconded)
APPROVED

The amended resolution, "A Call to Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict with Iran" reads as follows:

WHEREAS we are living in fearful, unstable times when the drumbeat of war and the rhetoric against Iran escalates and the leaders of our nation are tempted toward militarism as a solution to this conflict much as they were in the conflict with Afghanistan and Iraq a decade ago; and

WHEREAS the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is called to be a public church giving witness to the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ in the public square; and

WHEREAS the Holy Scriptures are very clear about the Judeo-Christian call for peace; the Old Testament prophets envisioned the kingdom of God as characterized by peace (e.g., swords beaten into plowshares, nation not lifting up sword against nation, and no more war – Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3-4) and Jesus taught peace (e.g., blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God – Matthew 5:9; love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you – Matthew 5:44; all who take the sword will perish by the sword - Matthew 26:52; peace I leave you; my peace I give to you - John 14:27); and

WHEREAS the ELCA social statement “For Peace in God’s World,” says among other things, “We confess that too often we have fallen short in our responsibility for peace When the Church fulfills the mandates of its divine calling, it helps in word and deed to create an environment conducive to peace The Church is a disturbing presence when it refuses to be silent and instead speaks the truth in times when people shout out, ‘Peace, peace when there is no peace.’ (Jeremiah 6:14) As citizens we are to seek to influence our nation’s actions for peace among the nations We also affirm that governments should vigorously pursue less coercive measures over more coercive ones: consent over compulsion, nonviolence over violence, diplomacy over military engagement, and deterrence over war First and foremost, love of neighbors obligates us to act to prevent wars and to seek alternatives to them, especially in view of modern weapons and their proliferation.”; and

WHEREAS the public demonization and caricature of the people of Iran mitigates seeing them as created in the image of God with the same hopes for opportunity, peace and the possibility of abundant life that we have; and

WHEREAS our growing national debt magnifies the need for a “peace dividend” (i.e., sword to plowshare theology); and

WHEREAS a policy of containment toward nations that are nuclear threats has proven successful in resolving international conflict, for example, the Cold War containment of the Soviet Union and its allies for over forty years; and

WHEREAS the pursuit of peace is less about what happens after war breaks out than it is about what should happen long before war begins, therefore time is of the essence in order to avoid war; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly memorialize the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and ask the Synod Council of the Southern Ohio Synod to urge the ELCA Church Council to direct the appropriate Churchwide Units to contact the President of the United States of America and the Congress urging the United States and its allies to work with the leaders of Iran for a peaceful resolution to the conflict over nuclear proliferation. Included in this memorial would be communication of an express prohibition of a United

States first strike against Iran, and acceptance of military engagement as a last resort only after every effort of sustained, direct, bilateral and comprehensive talks with Iran on the nuclear issue and other issues of mutual concern have been exhausted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly likewise direct the Southern Ohio Synod Council to contact the Ohio Senators as well as all United States congresspersons serving districts in the geography of the Synod asking them to support working with the leaders of Iran for a peaceful resolution to the conflict over nuclear proliferation. Such communication would include an express prohibition of a United States first strike against Iran, and acceptance of military engagement as a last resort only after every effort of sustained, direct, bilateral and comprehensive talks with Iran on the nuclear issue and other issues of mutual concern have been exhausted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly encourage Bishop Holloway and all rostered leaders of the Synod to be a public voice for peaceful resolution to the conflict with Iran through personal and congregational prayer, teaching, and public communications including editorials in newspapers.

Submitted by: Pastor Glen Bengson, Pastor Lisa Bernheisel, Pastor Larry Donner, Pastor June Fryman, Pastor Robert Heiliger, Pastor Bill McGee, Pastor Ray Menchhofer, Pastor Mike Poole, Pastor Monte Stevens, Pastor Erwin Streng, Pastor Tom Stroeh, Pastor Henry Zorn

VOTED:

SA.12.6.6

To memorialize the amended resolution “A Call to Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict with Iran”. (Moved and seconded)

APPROVED

Rev. Kruse then introduced a Resolution to Recognize the 100th Anniversary of Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio that had been submitted to the Reference and Counsel Committee. The proposed resolution reads as follows:

Whereas Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio, begun in 1912, commemorates 100 years of bearing witness to the love of Christ to the world this year:

Whereas during the past 100 years Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio has fed, clothed, housed and loved our Lord Jesus as he is found in our neighbors:

Whereas during the past 100 years Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio has provided counsel, medical care and support, as an expression of God’s love for the world and a sign of God’s reign among us:

Whereas during the past 100 years Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio has given witness to the unity of Christ’s mission to the world by partnering with the many expressions of the Lutheran Church throughout this period:

Whereas during the past 100 years Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio has partnered with the many service agencies, communities, corporations and municipalities of central Ohio for the health and wholeness of all people:

Whereas the above mentioned Lutheran Churches, including the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, have generously supported Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio with their time, talent, and treasure over the past 100 years:

Whereas Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio is committed to the ongoing ministry of Jesus (Matthew 25:40):

Whereas we recognize the goodness and graciousness of God evidenced in Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio's servant ministry, and partnership with them:

Therefore be it resolved that:

1. The Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recognize the ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio with its affirmation and appreciation on the occasion of their 100th anniversary of service in Christ's name.
2. Congregations of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be encouraged to offer thanks to God for the ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio in worship on September 23, 2012.
3. The Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran church in America and its congregations commit ourselves to continued partnership with Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio in order to bear the love of Christ for all the world.

Submitted by:

Rev. Jim Wilson
Rev. Barry Scott
Rev. Craig Swanson
Rev. Gail Swanson
Rev. Ralph Wolfe
Rev. Mike Weaver
Rev. Bob Abrams

Rev. John Morris
Elizabeth Clothier
Rev. Chris Adams
Jennifer Brockman
Rev. June Wilkins
Rev. Larry Baker

Mary Lasits
Rev. Jeff Wise
Rev. Fred Wiese
Rev. James K. Jensen
Rev. Mark Nodo
Rev. John Kindsvatter

VOTED
SA.12.6.7

To adopt the Resolution to Recognize the 100th Anniversary of Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio (Moved and seconded) APPROVED

This concluded the report of the Reference and Counsel Committee.

Housekeeping Announcements

Rev. Katrina Kerrigan and Rev. Donna Kraus reminded the members of the Assembly to return the voting pads to the Registration Table before leaving and to vacate the Assembly Room immediately after adjournment.

Protocol and Response Committee Report

Bishop Holloway introduced the co-chairs of the Protocol & Response Committee, Rev. Katrina Kerrigan and Rev. Donna Kraus, to the assembly. The response is as follows:

Gratitude was extended to all who have made SynodFest 2012 possible. Thanks was extended to Bishop Holloway for his leadership during the last year as well as to Kenneth Inskeep for sharing the Report of the ELCA with this Assembly. The Committee also acknowledged those rostered leaders and congregations celebrating anniversaries this year.

Closing of the Assembly

The assembly concluded with the Order for Closing of an Assembly led by Bishop Holloway, at 12:29:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy E. Hart
Secretary of the Southern Ohio
Synod Council