

Proposed Assembly Agenda June 13- 15, 2019

**Thursday Morning**

8:00 AM Registration Opens

9:00 AM Executive Committee

11:00 AM Opening Eucharist

12:00 PM Lunch

**Thursday Afternoon**

1:30 PM Opening Prayer with Opening of Synod Assemblies

Orientation

Report from Registration

Synod Council Recommendation #1 Agenda

Greetings from Thiel College

Introduction of New Rostered Leaders

Report of Nominations

First Ballot for Bishop

Report of Reference and Counsel

Report of the Bishop

Report of the Treasurer

Synod Council Recommendation #2 Budget Parameters

Report of First Ballot for Bishop

Keynote Presentation

5:00 PM BREAK

**Thursday Evening**

6:00 PM Bishop Jones Retirement Banquet

**Friday Morning**

7:30 AM Breakfast

8:30 AM Opening Prayer

Elections (Ballot 1)

World Hunger Report

SWO Report

Seminary Report

Green Team

Second Ballot for Bishop

Report from Camp Lutherlyn

Committee on Church Vocations

Synod Council Recommendation #3 Compensation Guidelines

Leadership Support Committee Report

Synod Council Recommendation #4 Mission Support Formula

LEIRN Report

Report of Second Ballot for Bishop

12:00 PM Lunch

**Friday Afternoon**

1:30 PM Opening Prayer

Candidates for Bishop Presentations

Bethesda Lutheran Services

Report of Foundation Gift Planner

Portico

Third Ballot for Bishop

Elections (Ballot 2)

Keynote

Report of the Third Ballot for Bishop

Time for Resolutions

4:00-5:00 PM Forums (various locations)

6:00 PM Dinner

**Friday Evening**

7:30 PM Festival Liturgy of Word and Sacrament- Chapel

**Saturday Morning**

7:30 AM Breakfast

8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Candidates for Bishop Presentations

Synod Council Recommendation #5 Budget

Fourth Ballot for Bishop

Report of ELCA Representative

Mission Support Gifts

Rostered Leaders Anniversaries

Congregational Anniversaries

McCoid Order

Report on Fourth Ballot for Bishop

Fifth Ballot for Bishop

Unfinished Business

Installation of Synod Council

Report on Fifth Ballot for Bishop

Order for Closing the Synod Assembly

12:30 PM Adjournment

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod with the order for the Opening of a Synod Assembly by Bishop Jones at 1:30 PM.

Dr. Susan Traverso welcomed the Assembly members to the campus of Thiel College and brought greetings from the college and from the ELCA Network of colleges.

Bishop Jones conducted an orientation session for the assembly. Registration is necessary to be part of the Assembly. If a person is not registered as a voting member, you may not vote. There have been problems in other synods with ballots. Only voting members are permitted to vote. Keys to the dorm and townhouse rooms must be returned to the office or the box at the end of the Assembly.

Pastor John Coleman is the chaplain for the Assembly. He will be praying for us during the voting process for Bishop. Prayer and meditation space is in the Friends of Arts room.

Process of electing a bishop in the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod. The first ballot is a blank card. On that blank card any pastor on the roster of the ELCA may be nominated. After the first ballot of voting, pastors need to fill out a bio form or the form that removes oneself from the ballot. Those persons who do not remove themselves will be placed on a second ballot for tomorrow morning. After the first ballot, you may not be removed from the ballot. The second ballot will be all those who do the bio forms. Both first and second ballot require 75% for election. Before the third ballot, up to 7 top vote getters will be given the opportunity to speak for 5 minutes. The third ballot requires a 2/3 vote of those voting to elect. Saturday morning, the top three vote getters will speak for 10 minutes. The fourth ballot will then be cast and requires 60% for election. On the fifth and sixth ballot (if needed) a simple majority is required.

Pastor Albert Gesler from Christ the Redeemer, Erie and St. Mark's Waterford questioned if a full communion partner not rostered on the ELCA may be nominated. Bishop Jones responded a full communion partner must be rostered already in order to be eligible for election.

### **Introduction of Rostered Leaders**

New pastors to the Synod were introduced. Pastor Jean Kuebler Faith, Haroborcreek, Pastor Sarah Aasheim, Trinity 3-2-1, Pastor Christina Jensen, who serves Zion, Shannondale, and Bethlehem, Ohl, and Pastor Judith Lamb who serves Grace, Franklin.

Representatives were introduced. Lori Fedyk who is treasurer of the ELCA will lead the electoral process is our ELCA representative. Keynote speaker Bishop Sean Rowe of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Provisional Bishop of the Upper New York Diocese. Bishop Benson Bagonza from the Karagwe Diocese Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The third guest is Charlotte Weber from the Protestant Church of Central Germany (EK im Mittel Deutschland).

**SA.19.06.01** Synod Council recommendation # 1 to accept the proposed agenda.  
Seconded Motion passed.

**Report of Registration** 23 guests. 57 clergy 82 voting members 8 youth, with a total of 147 voting members.

**SA.19.06.02** Ron King, Holy Trinity, Erie moved to give youth members of the Assembly voice and vote for the Assembly. The motion was seconded Motion adopted.

### **Report of Nominations**

Agape Cluster-Lay person—vote for 1—Mary Alice McMunn

Cameron/Elk Cluster-Clergy—vote for one Pr. Stephen Fair

McKean/Potter—lay person vote for 1—Rob Sundberg

Indiana Jefferson Cluster—clergy, vote for 1—Pr. Sarah Aasheim

Lutheran Board at Kane—Clergy or Lay vote for one

Carol Lundgren

**SA 19.06.03** Pastor Tom Perrotti from Emmanuel, Bradford nominated John Kearns for the McKean Potter cluster.

**SA 19.06.04** Pastor Al Gesler moved the nominations be closed. Seconded. Motion adopted.

**SA 19.06.05** Pastor Ben Austin moved to cast a unanimous ballot for those who are running unopposed. Motion seconded. Motion adopted.

### **Bishop's Report**

Bishop Jones reported on his activities in this past year which included a visit to Tanzania for the consultation, and a visit from Pastor Oscar Samwel from the ELCT in January. Pastor Samwel wanted to see snow. He got his wish.

Pre-certificate program. This allows persons without a bachelor's degree program to pursue the TEEM process toward ordination. Only 10% of the members who live in the NWPA synod have a bachelor's degree. We will try a pilot project providing some instruction to prepare students to take seminary level courses.

Trinity 321 is a new parish with three Christian communities, with two pastors, with one mission. Pastor Ted Cogar is lead pastor and Pastor Sarah Aasheim is co-pastor.

Four of our Region 8 synods have elections for Bishop.

Consultation with our German partners met in Chicago this past year. The consultation happens every other year.

Convocation began our responsibilities to address the issue of racism.

Bishop Jones attended the LAMPa (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pa) twice in the past year. It is the only time the bishops of the seven synods of Pennsylvania get together. Lutheran Day at the Capitol was held in May.

Bishop's Academy met in San Antonio in January concerning the environment. Course on how to be better stewards of the earth.

Attending the last Conference of Bishops gathering. Bishop Jones attended, but came home short of the end because of the fire at Harmony Grove Lutheran Church.

### **FIRST BALLOT FOR BISHOP**

Lori Fedyk, representative of the ELCA discussed the importance of the election process, that this is a call process which relies upon the work of the Holy Spirit. She discussed the work of the Bishop.

Pastor Jean Kuebler, Faith Harborcreek asked how the biographical information will be disseminated. They will be printed and passed out.

Pastor Eric Young, St. John's, Erie asked if more than one name can be written. The answer was no.

Report of Credentials—Ellen Shulin Rutherford reported that there are no change. With the youth there are 147 registered voting members.

Chaplain John Coleman came forward for prayer.

The first ballot was cast. Ms. Fedyk declared the ballot closed at 3:14 pm.

### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Ron King presented the budget for 2020. Ron thanked the members of the Finance and Property committee. Ron presented the report of fiscal 2017-2018 that we are down because of losses in the stock market.

Pastor Albert Gesler, Christ the Redeemer, Erie and St. Mark's Waterford raised a concern that the adjustments within the parameters are open except for payroll.

Question from Pastor Jean Kuebler asked if the drop in Mission Support is comparable to other synods.

A little more than half of the synods are expected to increase their mission support. A little less than half are looking to decrease their support, according to Bishop Jones. Our practice is a percentage—we give 50% of whatever we get. We are above average with the other 65 synods.

Pastor Kristina Jensen, Mayport thanked Ron King for the job he did on presenting the budget.

**SA.19.06.06** Pastor Albert Gesler moved that staff salaries be omitted from changes to the budget parameters. Seconded Approved.

**SA.19.06.07** Synod Council recommendation # 2 that the budget parameters be set as presented. The recommendation was seconded. Motion approved.

### **KEYNOTE # 1 BY BISHOP SEAN ROWE, EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ERIE**

#### **REPORT OF THE FIRST BALLOT OF BISHOP**

Pastor Arlene Schweitzer reported the first ballot results;

Number cast 123                      Number of legal votes 121    Number of illegal votes 2

Number of votes needed for election 92

Harold O Jake Jacobson    36

William Coleman            16

Michael Lozano             15

Brian Riddle                11

Mark Fischer                10

John Coleman               6

Steven Bond                 5

Thomas Perotti              3

Julia Fraser                 2

Lee Penvose                 2

Owen Rhodes                2

Ben Austin                  1

Joe Boomhower             1

Andrew Edwards	1
Brian Eiss	1
Randall Frenz	1
Erik Hart	1
Sandra Jones	1
Kurt Kusserow	1
Allison Leitzel	1
Brian Moran	1
Michael Parsh	1

The second ballot will be held on Friday morning.

**FRIDAY MORNING SESSION    JUNE 14, 2019**

Bishop Jones opened the session with hymn and prayer.

The ballot for synod council representative for McKean/Potter Cluster was distributed.

Pastor Deborah Jacobson presented the report of the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Pennsylvania (LAMPa). She highlighted the various programs and recommendations on efforts to fight hunger in PA and how to address our state representatives and senators.

Pastor Matthew Dennison presented the report on World Hunger Committee. Last year World Hunger received 23.5 million dollars which is a record of giving. The big boost was in bequests. Our synod gave \$81,000+. Fifteen congregations gave more than \$1000.

Pat Bellingham gave the report on the Synodical Women's Organization.

Pastor Martin Zimmann gave the report on United Lutheran Seminary.

The NWPA Synod Green team gave their report.

## REPORT OF ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Ballot for Synod Council, McKean/Potter cluster:

129 votes cast      No illegal ballots

Rob Sundberg              70

John Kearns                59

Rob Sundberg was declared elected. .

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHURCH VOCATIONS

The process of Candidacy of Rostered Ministry is carried out by the Synod's Committee on Church Vocations according to the policies and procedures of the ELCA. The synodical committee is appointed by the bishop to attend to the tasks and decisions of the process and to build relationships of support with our candidates.

Candidacy is a time of discernment and an interdependent process with a sharing of responsibility and accountability among partners including the congregations, candidates, the synodical committee and seminaries and the candidacy staff of the ELCA. We are blessed in the Northwestern PA Synod to have a number of candidates at various stages of the candidacy journey.

**Malinda K. (Brown) Gilberti**-a member of Zion, Indiana is a student at the United Lutheran Seminar in Gettysburg. In the last year Mandy completed an elective second unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Wellspan Gettysburg Hospital and Cancer Center, was interviewed by the committee and given a positive endorsement decision in the fall, and has now completed all of her academic requirements at the Seminary. Following her marriage this month, Mandy will begin a year-long with PLUM (Pittsburgh Lutherans United Ministries- a shared ministry of 10 congregations) in July. Mandy's supervisor will be Pastor John Gropp.

**Robert M. Eller**-member of St. John's, Erie and a student at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH. He completed his CPE requirement at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus last summer, received a positive endorsement decision in the fall, and had a successful Middler (2<sup>nd</sup>) year at the seminary. Robert's internship begins this summer at St. John's Lutheran Church in Zanesville, OH with Pastor Mark Combs serving as his supervisor.

**Kelsey E. Kresse**- a member of Mt. Calvary, Erie is a student at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Kelsey completed her CPE experience at Advocate Bromenn Medical Center in Normal, Illinois, was given a positive endorsement decision by the committee in November and completed her second academic year at LSTC. This

summer Kelsey is on the supervisory staff at Camp Lutherlyn before moving to Austin Texas for her internship with Pastor Michael Coffey at First English Lutheran Church.

Candidates who have been entranced into the alternative process known as TEEM

**Judith Gosnell-Lamb**-formerly a member of St. John's, Greenville completed all the requirements of the TEEM program and was given a positive approval decision in November 2018. She was assigned to the Northwestern PA Synod and accepted a call to serve as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin. All were pleased to celebrate her ordination to Word and Sacrament ministry in March 2019.

**Timothy K. Wilds**-a member of St. John's, Greenville, is completing classes through the Institute for Ministry Education in the certificate program at United Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg. The flexibility of the TEEM program has allowed him to take a break from the academic preparation to tend to family care -giving needs and a demanding occupation. We are confident that Tim will return to his studies when the time is right.

**Tammy S. Ball**- a member from Faith Lutheran, Venus and an authorized lay worship leader in the synod, completed the five TEEM preparatory courses taught by Bishop Jones. In May, after all the documents were submitted we received official notice from the office of Candidacy in the Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA that Tammy has been accepted as a candidate in the TEEM program. She will begin her seminary studies next month as a student in the certificate for theological studies program at ULS in Gettysburg.

The committee and Pastor Jones are currently working with three individuals in the application stage of the candidacy process.

On behalf of Bishop Jones, I express our gratitude to the committee members who served during the 2018-2019 term. The Rev. Dr. Paul Baglyos (ELCA candidacy manager for Region 7 and 8), The Rev. Dr. Martin Zimmann (ULS representative), Judy Roberts, secretary of the committee (Grace, Clarion), Ed Smith (Hebron, Avonmore), Nancy Cavanaugh (Mt. Calvary, Erie), Timothy Passinger (St. Paul's, Warren), Pastor John Coleman (St. John's, Oniontown). We appreciate the years of service given by Ed Smith who is completing his term at this time.

Bishop Jones has appointed Nicholas Barber from St. Paul's, Erie to the vocations committee. He has agreed to serve and we look forward to working with Nick beginning with our next meeting in July.

I want to thank Pastor Sandra Jones for her faithful and diligent service to the synod and especially this committee. Thanks you to Pastor Sandra for the guidance as I learn how to lead this committee. Our prayers go with you and to the next adventure in ministry we will miss you. Thank you for all your prayers and partnership in supporting our candidates for Rostered Ministry in Christ's church.

The Rev. Karen Thompson, Chairperson

## SECOND BALLOT FOR BISHOP

Four names remain on the ballot. Vote for one by circling the name. Bio sheets will be passed out before the third ballot.

Ellen Shulin Rutherford reported on registered voters. There are 149 registered voters.

Question raised by Pastor Sami Pfaltzgraff that since biography sheets were not passed out and we do not know where the candidates' visions for the church in the future we need to hold off on the ballot

Pastor John Coleman was called to pray for the Assembly.

Ron King treasurer observed that the chair needs to make a motion to amend the agenda since the election was in the order and changing it. The bishop observed that Recommendation #1 gave the bishop the power to amend the order of the assembly. It is a timing piece not a change in the process of the election itself.

**SA.19.06.08** Moved by Joe Byrne, Immanuel, Erie to hold the second ballot now. The motion is seconded.

Discussion ensued.

Pastor Al Gesler moved the previous question. It was seconded. Passed

The motion was defeated.

The names of the four remaining candidates was posted on the screen:

William Coleman

Andrew Edwards

Mark Fischer

Michael Lozano

The biographical sheets will be distributed prior to the second ballot this afternoon.

Pastor Charlotte Weber of the Evangelical Church in Middle Germany gave greetings.

**SA.19.06.09 SYNOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION # 3** that the synod compensation guidelines be approved. Seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion adopted.

**SA.19.06.10 SYNOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION # 4** Mission Support formula. The recommendation was seconded. Motion adopted.

## **Report from Lutherlyn**

Greetings from Lutherlyn! We are busy preparing for another exciting summer of life-changing adventures in faith at camp. There is so much to reflect on from this past year.

The biggest and most exciting news is that all five core areas of ministry experienced growth in 2018. As Lutherlyn continues to live into the Strategic Direction that was adopted by the Board of Directors in 2017, we are working hard to strengthen each of the five core areas of ministry.

1. Summer Camp grew in camper numbers and our second summer of “tiered pricing” proved to be successful. Presenting families with the option to pay the “true” (non-subsidized) cost of camp has allowed Lutherlyn to offer a \$100 discount to first-time campers and continue to keep the promise that no child is turned away from camp for financial reasons. Over \$50,000 in camperships were granted in the summer of 2018. It is thanks to the generosity of many donors that Lutherlyn is able to provide camperships and offer a subsidized rate for camp to make it financially possible for more families. There is still time to register for the summer of 2019. First-time campers can get \$100 off by using coupon code FIRST19 when they register.
2. The Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program (LEEP) is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and in 2018 it served the largest number of students EVER! 8,000 students, teachers, and chaperones attended a LEEP field trip in 2018. So far, 2019 is looking like it will match or exceed last year’s numbers.
3. The Lutherlyn Equestrian Center served its largest number of students and riders in 2018 and continues to grow thanks to the indoor riding arena. The equestrian center serves students that come for weekly riding lessons, retreat groups, and summer campers.
4. The Adventure Program grew in groups that came just to do group building activities and in retreat groups that added adventure programming to their itinerary. The summer “Adventurer” camps filled and had a waiting list. One new challenge course was added and several of the others received “upgrades”. There is nothing quite like the excitement and joy on a camper’s face when they surprise themselves with their own abilities and accomplishments!
5. Retreats and Events grew in the number of individual participants and the numbers of groups. It is such a joy to be able to provide the space and opportunity for people of all ages to find time away from their normal routine for rest, renewal, fun, and dedicated time devoted to their faith.

The Board of Directors has appointed a Strategic Planning Committee that has been working since January to turn the 2017 Strategic Direction into a Strategic Plan that will guide our decisions and priorities over the next few years. This group is working hard to identify the needs of the future and set goals for Lutherlyn to best care and provide for our campers, guests, congregations, facilities, and land.

There are many projects to complete around camp. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of several volunteers from Butler Area Lutheran Ministries, the office has received a face lift. Several people have visited camp and thought that we built a new office; it looks great! We also put new bathrooms in 2 cabins, replaced a few furnaces, started a “Universal Access Trail” around Upper Lake, added more directional signs, cleaned up many down trees (from the wind and ice over the past year), and hundreds of other little projects to take care of our 660 acres and 90 buildings. We are committed to caring for and maintaining our existing buildings/facilities and working to keep these spaces in the best condition possible. While there is a need for additions/new/updated meeting spaces and cabins, we maintain our commitment to begin these projects only once they are fully-funded.

The less tangible but exceptionally important “Preserving the Future” appeal has been such a blessing to Lutherlyn! The credit line is completely paid off, the debt is half of what it was two years ago, and Lutherlyn has had two consecutive years of a balanced budget and ending the year in positive financial standing; all thanks to the generosity of so many wonderful friends of Lutherlyn. The appeal continues, as we still have \$300,000 remaining in old debt. We continue to need your support as we work hard to serve more people in each core area of ministry, to serve more people that are in need of financial assistance, and to care for our aging facilities.

Lutherlyn is a God-given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent. With each passing year it feels more and more important to accept each person just as they are, to challenge them to grow in their faith and their own sense of self-worth, and to send them out into the world to let their light shine so that other’s may see God in them. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry. Thank you for your support. Thank you for being “home” for so many of Lutherlyn’s campers the other 51 weeks of the year.

If you have comments, questions, ideas, suggestions, or a vision for future ways that Lutherlyn can work with you; please do not hesitate to call, e-mail, or visit. I hope to see you at camp sometime soon!

Your Partner in Ministry,

Deb Roberts  
Executive Director

Pastor Randall Frenz, chaplain of Bethesda Lutheran Services gave a report from Bethesda Lutheran Services highlighting George Trauner’s written report.

### **Bethesda Lutheran Services**

Bethesda Lutheran Services is very proud of the services we offer in support of our mission of being a ministry that provides promising futures to children, youth and families. We are also proud of our willingness to expand our programming into new ter

In 2018, Bethesda participated in the Pennsylvania Council for Children, Youth and Families Services (PCCYFS) sponsored Mandated Reporter Workgroup. This workgroup was designed to talk about the best ways to provide safe placement situations for children while figuring out the best way to deal with investigations without leaving agencies unable to meet the current regulations for care. It is possible that new legislation can come from this. Regardless, we were proud to be a participant in this important conversation.

Bethesda Lutheran Services had been a proactive agency when it comes to being trauma informed. In 2018 we continued on this path by restructuring our residential level system. This new system is one that gives the youth in our residential program more incentives for positive behavior and more clearly defined and meaningful consequences for negative behavior.

We were approached by several counties to open a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF). This program is for young ladies who have more acute mental health issues than our other programs are trained to deal with. There are very few places that can care for this specific population. Our facilities department worked diligently to expand our shelter space into the PRTF. One of the requirements for admittance into the program is that there has to be family involvement with the treatment process. We know from experience that youth and families are most successful when they work together towards a common goal.

Another new program in 2018 in the North Star Mentoring Program. This program aims to match kids with a mentor for a few hours every week. Mentors provide support and can keep kids focused and on the right track. Mentors can role model and help teach valuable life skills to kids who do not have anyone else to do this. The North Star Mentoring Program is run through the Bethesda Lutheran Services Erie County Independent Living Program.

2018 also saw the inception our Truancy Prevention Program. What started out in the Union City School District has expanded into the Erie School District. The truancy prevention specialists work diligently to keep kids in school. As part of the program, the Bethesda Lutheran Services Trinity Center hosts School Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP) meetings which parents can attend to learn their roles and responsibilities in regards to their children's school attendance.

Our reinvigorated spiritual life program has really taken hold and the children and youth really enjoy it. Pastor Randall Frenz holds a weekly service as well as several special services throughout the year. After every weekly service, Pastor Frenz holds a class for those kids who want learn more about the Bible and the teachings of Christ Jesus. In 2018, Pastor Frenz baptized 18 children and youth. Pastor Frenz has also been teaching the youth here to be Christ-like in their deeds. Our youth volunteer at the local retirement community where one of the things they do is help prepare the facility for their annual BBQ chicken dinner and fundraiser. The also accompany the elderly residents to the local fairs and help them maneuver through them.

2018 was definitely a year of growth for Bethesda Lutheran Services. The staff team here is remarkably dedicated and proud of the work we do. We could not do it without them.

Thank you,

George Trauner, CEO

Board of Directors

Rev. James Neal, Chairperson

Mr. Larry Fritz, Director

Rev. Joyce A. Dix-Weiers, Vice-Chairperson

Mrs. Rachelle Fritz, Director

Mr. Christopher Zerbe, Treasurer

Rev. James Arter, Director

Ms. Marci Dickson, Secretary

Rev. Mark Fischer, Director

Rev. Ben Travis, Mutual Ministry

Rev. Brandon Johns, Director

Victor Kwiatkowski, Governance

Alice Dalmaso, Director

Mr. Greg Furer, Director

Synod Representatives

Rev. Peter Asplin, SW PA Synod

Ellen Shulin, NW PA Synod

**RECOGNITION OF CONGREGATIONAL and ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES,  
MISSION SUPPORT AND DONALD J. MCCOID AWARD**

Bishop Jones recognized the Congregational Anniversary of St. John, Emlenton 150 years. Pastors Sandra Jones and Nancy Schwanke were given certificates for 25 years of ordained ministry.

Bishop Jones recognized congregations who met or exceeded their Mission Support for 2018.

Pastor Kim Hirsch was presented with the Donald J. McCoid Order award.

Lori Fedyk gave an announcement on the distribution of biographical sheets and informed the assembly that Pastor Andrew Edwards has not responded to repeated attempts to contact him but he has not either removed or filled out a biographical sheet. He remains on the ballot.

Elections committee will distribute biographical sheets as the assembly goes to lunch.

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION  
JUNE 14, 2019**

The Bishop opened the session with a hymn and prayer.

**SECOND BALLOT FOR BISHOP**

**REGISTRATION REPORT**

**Ellen Shulin-Rutherford**

151 Registered Voting members

Chaplain John Coleman led the Assembly in prayer.

Lori Fedyk, ELCA representative declared the second ballot closed.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Bishop Benson Bagonza**

**RECOGNITION OF ANNIVERSARIES CONTINUED**

**PRESENTATION BY PASTOR RICHARD COOPER**

Pastor Cooper presented Bishop Jones with a painting of Adam and Eve in appreciation for his ministry and for his retirement.

**SA.19.06.11 RESOLUTION ON VOICE AND VOTE OF CONGREGATIONAL YOUTH AND ADULT VOTING MEMBERS TO THE NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD**

Whereas our synod constitution states that “it is the goal of this synod that at least 10% of the voting members of the synod assembly, synod council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The synod council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment to service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.” (+S6.04.02.), and

Whereas youth and young adults currently sent by their congregation in support of this constitutional paragraph do not have either voice or vote within the assembly, and

for

Whereas our synod, knowing the importance and value of these young persons perspectives and insights, have moved to give them voice and vote at the beginning of at least the previous two synod assemblies, and

Whereas, though a precedence, this is not guaranteed to these members of our church,

BE IT RESOLVED that the following paragraph be added to the “CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS” of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America...

In order to implement continuing resolution +S6.04.02. each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members may elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult. A congregation with more than 175 baptized members may elect two additional voting members who are youth or young adults, one of whom shall be female and one of whom shall be male.

The resolution was moved by Pastor Eric Young, St. John’s, Erie. It was seconded. Discussion ensued.

**SA.19.06.12** Pastor Karen Thompson amended the motion to say *who may be male or female*. The motion was seconded. Pastor Jean Kuebler amended the amendment by omitting the phrase *whom shall be female and one of whom shall be male* be eliminated. The amendment to the amended motion passed. The original motion was declared moot.

The amended continuing resolution now reads *In order to implement Continuing Resolution +56.04.02 each congregation of fewer than 175 baptized members may elect on additional voting member who is a youth or young adult. A congregation with more than 175 members may elect two additional voting members who are youth or young adults.*

Discussion ensued. The amendment to the amended resolution was adopted. The resolution was adopted.

## **RESULTS OF SECOND BALLOT**

Pastor Arlene Schweitzer reported on the second ballot

Number of votes cast 146

Number of illegal votes 0

Number of legal votes 146

Number of votes needed for election 110 (75%)

Pastor Michael Lozano 61

Pastor Bill Coleman 54

Pastor Mark Fischer 29

Pastor Andrew Edwards 2

## **THIRD BALLOT**

Prior to the third ballot, the three candidates made five minute presentations. The third ballot was then conducted.

Lori Fedyk declared the ballot closed.

Pastor Sandra Jones gave directions for the Forums.

### **SATURDAY MORNING SESSION**

Pastor Jake Jacobson opened the session with the call to Morning Prayer.

Bishop Jones shared announcements. He introduced Barb Debski, representative of Portico Benefits for Regions 7, 8, and 4.

#### **Report of the Third Ballot for Bishop**

Number of votes cast      145      Number of illegal-0      Number of legal votes 145

Number of votes needed 66 <sup>2/3</sup>% 97

William Coleman 75

Michael Lozano 51

Mark Fischer 19

Andrew Edwards 0

#### **Fourth Ballot Candidates**

Pastor William Coleman

Pastor Michael Lozano

Pastor Mark Fischer

Lori Fedyk conducted ballot number four. Sixty percent of the legal votes cast are needed for election.

Report of registration—no change in registration 151 registered voters

The fourth ballot was cast. The ballot was declared closed by Lori Fedyk

**ELCA PRESENTATION**

**Lori Fedyk, ELCA Treasurer**

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH BALLOT**

Pastor Arlene Schweitzer reported

Number of votes cast 134    Number of illegal votes 0    Number of legal votes 134

Number needed at 60%    80

William Coleman 56

Michael Lozano 56

Mark Fischer 22

On the fifth ballot Pastor William Coleman and Pastor Michael Lozano will appear

**SA. 19.06.13 SYNOD RECOMMENDATION # 5**

That the budget for the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod be approved.    Seconded.  
Recommendation adopted.

The Youth made a report of their convocation.

**FIFTH BALLOT**

Lori Fedyk called for Chaplain John Coleman led us in prayer.

The fifth ballot was cast.    The fifth ballot was declared closed.

**RESULTS OF FIFTH BALLOT**

Pastor Arlene Shweitzer

Number of votes cast 132                      Number of illegal votes 0    Number of legal votes  
132

Number needed 67

Pastor William Coleman 61

Michael Lozano 71

Pastor Michael Lozano was declared bishop elect of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod. The bishop elect was received with acclamation.

Bishop-Elect Lozano asked Chaplain John Coleman to pray.

The Bishop-elect addressed the Assembly.

Following the address by the Bishop-Elect, Chaplain John Coleman led the Assembly and Bishop Jones in the order releasing Bishop Jones to retirement. Bishop Jones then led the Assembly in the Order for the Closing of A Synod Assembly.

The Assembly adjourned at 11:15 AM