



the Conference of Bishops; that Pastor Frederica K. Meitzen be retained on “on-leave-from-call” status until March 1, 2009; that Pastor Sandra R. Mackie be retained on “on-leave-from-call” status until April 1, 2009; that Pastor Lillian Russell-Nicolai be retained on “on-leave-from-call” status until February 5, 2009; that Pastor Andrew W. Russell be retained on “on-leave-from-call” status until February 15, 2009; that Pastor Scott K. Davis be given “on-leave-from-call” status, effective December 5, 2007, until December 5, 2008; that Pastor Eloise M. Shanley be given “on-leave-from-call” status, effective January 14, 2008, until January 14, 2009; and that Pastor Mark A. Werner be given “on-leave-from-call” status, effective May 1, 2008, until May 1, 2009.

The bishop moved the following approval for retirement request:

**ADOPTED:** That the Synod Council approve the retirement request of Pastor William SC08.03.06. H. Beck, effective June 30, 2008.

Bishop Hoover moved the following Synod Council calls.

**ADOPTED:** That the Synod Council issue a call to Pastor Lisa A. Hair to serve as part-time chaplain of York College of Pennsylvania, effective January 20, 2008. SC08.03.07.

**ADOPTED:** That the Synod Council issue a call to Pastor Nancy J. Werner to serve as full-time chaplain with Lutheran Social Services of South Central Pennsylvania at the Lutheran Retirement Village at Utz Terrace in Hanover, effective January 14, 2008. SC08.03.08.

The bishop also reported that Pastor Scott K. Davis who had been under Synod Council call to serve as CPE Supervisor at Lancaster General Hospital has been terminated from that position and therefore is no longer under call by Synod Council.

Bishop Hoover moved the following elections and appointments:

**ADOPTED:** That the Synod Council elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Social Services of South Central Pennsylvania Judith L. Garber to fill an unfulfilled term, expiring December 31, 2009; Pastor Judith A. McKee to fill an unfulfilled term, expiring December 31, 2008; and Buff Carlson and Elizabeth Dellinger to a first three-year term, expiring December 31, 2010; and reelect Joel Persing to a second three-year term, expiring December 31, 2010; SC08.03.09.

That the Synod Council elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania Stacey Green, Chelle Huth, Pastor James E. Person, and Pastor James D. Polanzke to a first three-year term, expiring in 2010, and reelect Holly Freas-Webster to a second three-year term, expiring in 2010;

That the Synod Council elect to the board of directors of Luthercare David K. Stoudt to a first three-year term, expiring April 25, 2011; and reelect

**Glenn R. Achey and Wayne R. Gongaware to a second three-year term, expiring April 25, 2011;**

**That the Synod Council appoint to the Church in Society Committee Pastor Rochelle E. Lewis to a first three-year term, expiring in 2011; and**

**That Synod Council reappoint to the Compensation and Benefits Committee Pastor Martin H. Horn and Nancy Martin to a second three-year term, expiring in 2011, and name Bruce Senft as a consultant to this committee.**

Bishop Hoover reported that he will be attending the Conference of Bishops' meeting in California March 6 through March 11, 2008. The bishop also provided an update on his health. He has graduated from Intensive Outpatient Therapy at Mazzitti and Sullivan in Harrisburg. The next step will be for him to attend a weekly one-and-a-half-hour meeting of a therapy group. The bishop stated that he is feeling well. He thanked the members of the Synod Council for their prayers and support.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Linda Lubold, administrative assistant in the treasurer's office, provided a report of mission support for one month ended January 31, 2008 and 2007, and a statement of activities through December 31, 2007.

Pastor McKee noted a 19.1% increase in receipts from congregations during the month of January as compared to last January. He also noted a 24% increase in total mission support. Through December 31, 2007, revenue is \$3,796,256 while disbursements are \$3,732,299.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Vice President Price informed the members of the Synod Council about an e-mail he had received from Nicholas Lamberti, a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, New Cumberland, expressing his concerns about the changes in the treasurer's position. While agreeing that Lower Susquehanna Synod had a "Cadillac" of a treasurer's office, Mr. Lamberti feared that Synod Council has gone too far on the other extreme. He proposed that the treasurer's position be a stipendiary position, but that the stipend for this position be \$39,000 per year, with the stipulation that the treasurer work 64 hours per month. Mr. Lamberti misunderstood when he stated that the treasurer already must be a member of Synod Council; according to our constitution, he will become a member of Synod Council when he or she is elected treasurer. Mr. Lamberti also did not realize that this synod had contacted, through Pastor Kathie Bender Schwich in synodical relations, all the other synods in the ELCA to find that only the Lower Susquehanna Synod had a full-time salaried treasurer. Two synods reported information about stipendiary treasurers: Southwestern Washington Synod gives a \$3,300 stipend to its treasurer; Southwestern Synod did provide a \$3,000 stipend to its treasurer at one time but now provides instead \$6,000 to a former treasurer to serve as a fiscal advisor. Most of the synods have volunteer treasurers who receive no stipend. Mr. Lamberti perhaps did not know also that Parente Randolph had provided written recommendations about the future staffing of the treasurer's office, recommendations that were considered when Synod Council made its decision about the treasurer's position. Mr. Lamberti asked why were not all of the baptized members of this synod contacted about the treasurer's office. Correspondence has gone out to our congregations through their rostered leaders, lay presidents and treasurers, about the developments in the treasurer's office, and additional

information will be provided as the situation unfolds. Mr. Lamberti also provided four additional pages of description and one page listing the treasurer's responsibilities. The vice president will provide a written response to Mr. Lamberti.

Melissa Hoffman at this time distributed the questions she had received about the treasurer's office and the answers that she had written to address these questions. Pastor McKee will provide the dates needed for those answers and provide additional advice about the answers. She was unable to provide answers to two questions: "When does the perceived need for confidentiality or privacy become our participation in the 'Conspiracy of Silence' – that is defined as 'a secret agreement to keep silent about an occurrence, situation, or subject, especially in order to promote or protect selfish interests'?" and "How can we restore and build trust in the church?" Pastor David Ritterpusch expressed his opinion that these two questions are beyond the scope of the questions that can be answered on a question and answer brochure.

Jon Adams added that he hopes Mr. Lamberti's other questions will be addressed. Because Mr. Lamberti did not have his concerns addressed previously, he brought them to the attention of Synod Council.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Pastor McKee informed the members of the Synod Council that the letters asking congregations to certify their voting members to the Synod Assembly had been mailed; responses are due by March 31. Both the congregation reports and the confidential reports to the bishop are due now. Reports of committees, agencies, and institutions for the Bulletin of Reports also are due today. Pastor McKee reminded members of Synod Council that in order for a treasurer to receive a stipend rather than a salary that bylaw **S8.41.01** needed to be amended or deleted. Deleting the bylaw would enable Synod Council to make decisions or recommendations to the Synod Assembly about whether the treasurer should receive a salary or a stipend or whether the treasurer would serve as a volunteer.

Melissa Hoffman moved the following recommendation to the Synod Assembly:

**ADOPTED:** That bylaw **S8.41.01** be deleted from this synod's governing documents.  
**SC 08.03.10.** ~~*The treasurer shall receive a salary for the performance of the duties of the office.*~~

#### **DEVOTIONS**

Pastor Paula Murray led the members of the Synod Council in devotions using the writings of Dr. Mark Allen Powell. Pastor Powell urged his readers to give their time to God, and informed them that giving their hearts to God will follow. He encouraged everyone to begin this process by devoting at least one-half hour each day to Scripture reading, reading the works of the saints, meditation, and prayer. Pastor Murray led the members of Synod Council in prayer.

#### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee provided minutes of its February 11, 2008, meeting. Vice President Ronald Price led the members of the Synod Council through the minutes.

The vice president shared information that he received from David Swartling, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, about the importance of having background checks for the officers of synod and for nominees for synod office (bishop, vice president, secretary, and

treasurer.) If the continuing resolution is adopted, all current officers will have background checks conducted as well as nominees for the treasurer's position.

Ronald Price moved on behalf of the Executive Committee **EC 08.02.03.**:

**ADOPTED:** **That the Lower Susquehanna Synod require background checks for all officers and nominees for officer positions; and that Synod Council adopt the following continuing resolution to formalize the background check process:**

*S9.01.r.A08. The Synod Council Executive Committee shall provide for background checks for persons nominated for synodical office prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will take place or as soon as possible after the Synod Assembly for newly elected officers nominated from the floor who were not identified as nominees prior to the assembly. The process shall be as follows:*

- a. Prior to the Synod Assembly appropriate notice of the background check requirement and protocol will be provided to voting members, potential nominees, and others as directed by the Synod Council.*
- b. Nominees and newly elected officers are required to provide written consent to a background check and all information necessary to complete a background check, which should be completed prior to the Synod Assembly with respect to nominees and prior to installation for newly elected officers, if possible.*
- c. The Synod Council's Executive Committee shall designate one Executive Committee or Synod Council member to obtain the background checks.*
- d. All background checks for nominees and newly elected officers will entail a criminal background check. A financial background check will be completed for nominees for treasurer. The Executive Committee shall decide whether additional types of background checks are appropriate for each officer position.*
- e. The background check results shall be provided to that nominee or elected officer and to the Synod Council's Executive Committee. Further disclosure of the results may be determined by the Executive Committee.*
- f. The Executive Committee may adopt other procedures or protocols as are necessary to provide for background checks for nominees and newly elected synodical officers and shall report such actions to the Synod Council.*

The vice president shared information about the sale of the former St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, church building to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, according to Paragraph 6 of the Amendment to the Declaration of Joint Venture effective April 30, 2003, which the Synod Council approved on May 12, 1993. Jon Adams asked how the amount of fifty-two thousand dollars was determined in Paragraph 6. Pastor Fisher and Pastor McKee answered that this amount was set to reflect the estimated cost of the installation of an HVAC unit and somewhat the agreed-upon schedule which set by year the sale price for which St. Paul's Episcopal Church could purchase the building.

Ronald Price moved **EC 08.02.04.** on behalf of the Executive Committee:

**ADOPTED:** **That Synod Council adopt the following resolutions.**  
**SC 08.03.12.**

**LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD  
OF THE ELCA  
SYNOD COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the "Synod") entered into A Declaration of Joint Venture (the "Declaration") on May 12, 1993, between the Synod and The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, Episcopal Church (the "Diocese") to encourage and support the

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worship ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church ("St. Paul's") in the church building and to provide a joint outreach ministry in the educational building, all located at 248 Seneca Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, formerly known as the St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Synod and the Diocese entered into an Amendment to the Declaration of Joint Venture (the "Amendment") effective April 30, 2003; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Paragraph 3 of the Amendment, the Joint Venture incorporated the St. Barnabas Center for Ministry "as a vital source of Christian mission, reaffirmation and teaching," as a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation, qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which enjoys the common use of the conference room and other rooms and facilities in the educational building on the Property with St. Paul's and other tenants, if any, pursuant to an Outreach Ministry Agreement dated May 24, 1993 ("the St. Barnabas Center Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Paragraph 6 of the Amendment, St. Paul's having undertaken the cost and expense of the building improvements, HVAC replacement and repairs to the property on its own account, on January 23, 2008, exercised its option to purchase the Property for One Dollar (\$1.00) prior to April 30, 2008, the expiration of the extended Term of the Declaration; and

WHEREAS, the Synod had agreed and now deems it consistent with its mission to accept St. Paul's exercise of its option and to convey the Property to the Rector and Wardens of St. Paul's, their successors and assigns, for One Dollar (\$1.00) and under the other terms as set forth in Paragraph 6 of the said Amendment, subject to the St. Barnabas Center Agreement, as aforesaid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Amendment, the Synod authorizes and directs the conveyance of the Property to St. Paul's for the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) and to pay its share of the Closing Costs, all as defined in and under the terms of the Amendment.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proper officers of the Synod are hereby authorized and directed to execute the deed, affidavit, settlement sheet and any and all documents necessary or convenient to transfer the said Property, in the Synod's name and on its behalf, as aforesaid.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Synod acknowledges the Joint Venture partnership of the Diocese and the Synod expires at the end of the extended Term on April 30, 2008, as provided in the Amendment, but that the St. Barnabas Center for Ministry will carry on a joint ministry at the Property in the spirit of the Declaration, as amended by the Amendment.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proper officers of the Synod are hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary or required to carry out the above resolutions.

Bishop Hoover reported on the first-call candidates that have been assigned to this synod. This synod had requested 13 first-call candidates. The synod received the three candidates that were restricted to this synod plus three additional first-call candidates.

**REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF SYNOD COUNCIL**

**ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE** provided minutes of its January 30, 2008, along with a proposed agenda and proposed rules of procedure for the 2008 Synod Assembly. Pastor David Hefner, committee chair, provided an overview of the work of the Assembly Planning Committee. He noted two changes in the proposed agenda. There will be a welcome from Messiah College at the time of the Order for the Opening of the Assembly at 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning, June 13. The agenda time for the Committee of Reference and Counsel was changed to 10:05 a.m. on Saturday, June 14.

Pastor David Hefner moved the following recommendations to Synod Assembly:

**ADOPTED:** That the proposed agenda be adopted.  
**SC08.03.13.**

**ADOPTED:** That the proposed rules of procedure be adopted.  
**SC08.03.14.**

Pastor Hefner moved the following on behalf of the Assembly Planning Committee:

**ADOPTED:** That the following rates for Synod Assembly be approved: Early registration (prior to May 16), \$100; Registration (May 17-May 30), \$120; lodging, \$50 per night; breakfast, \$6.00; banquet, \$15.00; other lunches or dinners, \$10.00. The complimentary package for retired rostersed leaders, rostersed leaders on leave from call, and seminarians will include Friday banquet, Friday dinner, Friday night lodging, and Saturday breakfast and will be set at \$181. The complimentary package for Synod Council, assembly planning committees and volunteers, and synod staff also will include Thursday dinner, Thursday lodging, Friday breakfast, and Saturday lunch and will be set at \$257.

**ADOPTED:** That the assembly offerings be designated ½ for student scholarships at Manow Lutheran Secondary School and ½ for support of Pastor Imani Chibona, a student from the Konde Diocese studying at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**, Pastor David Ritterpusch, chair, shared information from our auditors that because of the potential for litigation, Hamilton and Musser our auditors cannot conduct an audit of fiscal year 2007 until the results of the investigation are fully known and the issues fully resolved. The Audit Committee fully understands the risk factors involved and agrees with the assessment of James Krimmel of the auditing firm that an audit cannot be conducted at this time. The Audit Committee is mindful that the audit must be completed as soon as it possibly can following the resolution of all the issues involved.

Pastor Ritterpusch moved the following motion on behalf of the Audit Committee:

**ADOPTED:** Further action by the auditors cannot proceed at this time; and we recommend that no date be set at this present time for the completion of the audit.

Pastor Ritterpusch moved the following:

That Synod Council recommend to the Lower Susquehanna Synod the adoption of the following motion at the 2008 Synod Assembly:

1. We direct our Finance Committee to borrow from (or against) our “Permanently Restricted Funds” in the total amount of \$319,376.74 in order to compensate affected synodical staff found to have been underpaid their promised social security allowance and corresponding pension contribution.

2. We direct our Finance Committee to develop a repayment schedule to be approved by Synod Council. The repayment shall include both principal and interest which would have accrued if the funds were untouched. The committee shall recommend a repayment period not to exceed 30 years, and such annual costs shall become a part of the synod's annual budget.

3. Checks for the underpayment of each party should be personally delivered by the bishop or his designee and an apology tendered from Synod Council for this oversight and error. In no case shall the disposition of the underpayment by the recipient be disclosed by this synod.

4. As a matter of policy, this synod shall use only forms and practices for determination of salary and compensation changes for pension determination that are provided by the Board of Pensions.

Pastor Richard Geib thanked Pastor Ritterpusch for his thoughtfulness and care in developing this motion. Dr. Eric Crump stated his opinion that the Synod Council has the authority to make this decision. Jon Adams stressed that the Synod Council must provide leadership, but that it also must keep our constituency informed. Pastor McKee said that he inquired of ELCA legal counsel on behalf of the Audit Committee whether this took Synod Assembly or Synod Council action and that he has not yet received an answer. Pastor Ritterpusch said that counsel told him that with the magnitude of the expenditure it would be wise to take this matter to the Synod Assembly. There was a question about whether this synod had to borrow the money or whether it could work out some type of a payment schedule. The vice president said that he believed it would be wise to refer this matter to the Finance and Budget Committee to develop a plan for the repayment if repayment was approved. There would still be time to take this matter to the Synod Assembly if a recommendation was made at the April Synod Council meeting.

Vice President Price referred this motion to the Finance and Budget with the request that this committee bring a recommendation for a possible repayment plan to the April Synod Council meeting.

**GIFTS DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE** provided minutes of its January 18, 2008, meeting. Secretary McKee urged all the members of the Synod Council to take an active role in recruiting possible nominees for the synod treasurer's position.

#### **TASK FORCES OF SYNOD COUNCIL**

**SPEAKERS' BUREAU:** Pamela Drenner reported that volunteer forms had been prepared for use at CTIM. These forms will be saved and distributed at other times or events including the Synod Assembly.

#### **REPORTS OF THE LIAISONS**

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA** liaison, Kathy Hefner, reported that the women's organization is holding a training event today in the fellowship room of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Harrisburg. Pastor Abigail Leese is the speaker.

#### **REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE STAFF**

**DIRECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY,** Charlie Roberts, provided a written report for Winter 2007-2008.

**ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP**, Pastor Melvin E. Dick, provided copies of the Report of the Committee on Compensation and Benefits. He provided a history of the work of this committee as well as a rationale of how this year's recommendations were developed.

Pastor David Hefner moved the following recommendation to the 2008 Synod Assembly:

**ADOPTED:** That the Lower Susquehanna Synod, in assembly, adopt the minimum salary and housing allowance for 2009 for a pastor serving full-time according to the following table and year of ordination.  
**SC 08.03.18.**

(See the supporting documents for the table "Base Salary and Housing Allowance.")

Dr. Eric Crump moved the following recommendation to the 2008 Synod Assembly.

**ADOPTED:** That the Lower Susquehanna Synod, in assembly, adopt the minimum salary for 2009 for deaconesses, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry who serve full-time according to the following table and years.  
**SC 08.03.19.**

(See the supporting documents for the table "Minimum Salary.")

**DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATION**, Barbara Myers, announced that the first electronic version of the *Bishop's Epistle* has gone up on our Web site on February 20. In addition, thirty hard copies have been mailed to retired pastors who have requested to continue receiving this mailing. The new format for "Carings and Sharings" will be launched in April. Mrs. Myers has begun preparing the Bulletin of Reports for posting on the Web site around April 1.

**RESOURCE NETWORK DIRECTOR**, Pamela Drenner, provided monthly reports for the Resource Center for November and December 2007 and January 2008. She reported that CTIM did not happen on February 23 because of inclement weather. She explained the difficulties that she encountered in making the decision to cancel this event, some of the comments she received, and some of the possible plans to schedule replacement events, such as one that is planned for September 20 when Pastor Peter Rudowski will provide his two workshops at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spring Grove. She announced that the steering committee will meet to evaluate and to plan possible spin-off events. The members of the Synod Council expressed their appreciation to Mrs. Drenner for the careful attention she gave to making the difficult decision to cancel this event and to notifying workshop leaders and participants. They concurred that Mrs. Drenner had made a wise decision to cancel the event in light of the predictions of inclement weather.

**ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP**, Pastor Thomas E. McKee, announced that there will be two hearings on the proposed social statement on human sexuality on the territory of this synod. The first hearing will be held at St. Peter Lutheran Church (Neffsville), Lancaster, on Saturday, May 17, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The second will be held at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg on Saturday, September 20, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

**REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES FOR THE MINISTERIUM**  
**COMMITTEE OF DEANS** provided minutes of its January 14, 2008, meeting.

**REPORTS OF THE SYNODICAL MINISTRIES FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE RESOURCE NETWORK**

**CTIM Steering Committee** provided minutes of its November 13, 2007, meeting.

**MINISTRY FOR WHOLISTIC HEALTH COMMITTEE** provided minutes of its September 24, 2007, meeting.

**REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES FOR MISSION**

**EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE** staff liaison, Pastor David Fisher, assisted by Pastor Richard Geib and Bishop Hoover, provided information about the Sudanese community that has been worshipping at Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Harrisburg. This synod as well as EOCM mission director Beth Yenchko and members of Tree of Life congregation have been working with [the Sudanese people](#) to provide the support that is needed to see if the community would like to move from being a fellowship into being a synodically authorized worship community and to help its worship leader begin his process of seminary training.

**GLOBAL MISSION COMMITTEE** provided information about the Region 8 Global Mission Event which will be held May 23-24, 2008, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill.

**REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES FOR THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** provided minutes of its February 8, 2008, meeting and shared the slate of nominees with the Synod Council.

**REPORTS OF THE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS RELATING TO THIS SYNOD**

**LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG:** Pastor Thomas McKee reported that the Lower Susquehanna Synod is scheduled to initiate the Crossroads Campaign on its territory in 2009. Pastor Kathleen Reed, Director of Advancement, would like to meet with the Executive Committee to begin the groundwork for this campaign. Pastor McKee recommended that she meet with the Executive Committee at its April meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to discuss at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Kim Wittel reported that there was discontent in the North Lancaster Conference over the registration fee for Renewal of Vows service. The complaint was connected to the situation in the treasurer's office. Because of what happened in the treasurer's office, congregations and their leaders will be "nickel and dimed to death," some believed. Pastor Dick responded that there has been discontent in other conferences and among other clergy also although he has most often heard the reason for the discontent to center in the notion that we were asking people to buy the mass. The truth of the situation is that the event costs over \$2,400. In other years there has been a benefactor. However, this year we cannot look to that benefactor to fund this event. In order that we may continue to hold this event, the decision was made to ask participants to share in the cost of the event. Pastor Dick stated that he is responsible for making this decision. Bishop Hoover added that he concurred with Pastor Dick's decision and gave his blessing to it. Pastor Murray responded that this discontent is just one of the signs that this synod is a divided synod desperately in need of the healing work of the Holy Spirit. We need to discern anew who we are as the people of God.

Jon Adams asked Bishop Hoover to comment on Pastor Murray's statement that we are a divided synod. Bishop Hoover stated that he believed that we were a divided synod long before last summer's assembly. Part of this has been centered in our anxiety over the impending statement on human sexuality. Part of this has been centered in the anxiety we have felt over declining memberships and reduced financial support. Part of this has been centered in how we understand ecclesiology, what it means for us to be church together, how we live out our life together. The bishop pointed to a disconnect that has existed in the ELCA since its formation because of the differences in commonly accepted understandings of the ALC and the LCA. Because these issues have never been resolved, they continue to rise to the surface to continue to make divisions in our life together.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Thomas E. McKee  
synod secretary  
3/5/08

