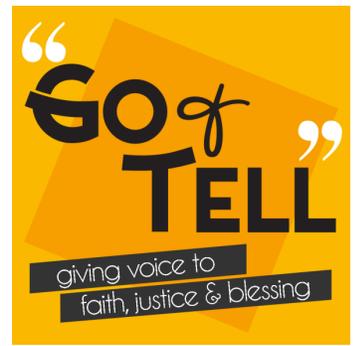


Pacifica Synod



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

Final Review



31st Annual Synod Assembly—May 18-19, 2018—Hope Lutheran, Palm Desert

Go & Tell: Giving Voice to Faith, Justice & Blessing

The 31st Annual Pacifica Synod Assembly was held on the campus of Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert. A change from our history of holding synod assemblies at hotels, the expansive church campus and warm hospitality of the members of Hope Lutheran provided the perfect location for our synod to gather. We are extremely grateful for their hard work both prior to and during the assembly. Our theme of "Go & Tell: Giving Voice to Faith, Justice & Blessing" shaped our time together as we heard the stories of others, along with sharing our own stories, of God's presence in our lives and in our world.

The ELCA's Churchwide Representative for this assembly was Mr. William "Bill" Horne II, ELCA Vice President. This year's keynote addresses were provided by four of our synod rostered ministers, who shared examples of giving voice to faith, justice and blessing in their lives and ministry, through their heartfelt and moving reflections.

Throughout the assembly, we were given the opportunity to hear the many stories of God's faithful people from across our synod. Business of the assembly was conducted through elections, resolutions, memorials and budgets. Reports were shared, grant recipients celebrated and ministries lifted up. We were blessed to close our day on Friday with an inspiring worship service.

We give thanks to all who attended this assembly. Your participation and dedication to the ministries of and through this synod are a gift to this synod and the wider church. We also are grateful for those who prayed for this assembly. We especially give thanks for the village it takes to hold a synod assembly - our Assembly Planning Team, Synod Council, worship team and the MANY on-site volunteers and staff from the two local congregations (Hope and St. John's) and elsewhere. We ARE church together for the sake of the world!



Bishop Andy Taylor opened the 31st Annual Pacifica Synod Assembly with a call for us to share our stories of God working in the world through faith, justice and blessing.

On Saturday, Bishop Taylor's report was focused around the Bible story of the widow who gave Elijah all the meal and oil she had to make one last cake, and her generosity and trust in God allowed God to do a miracle where her meal and oil did not run out. We considered how God might work in our ministries if we trust and share. Bishop Taylor called for justice in our immigration policies, particularly around children being separated from their parents as they cross the border.

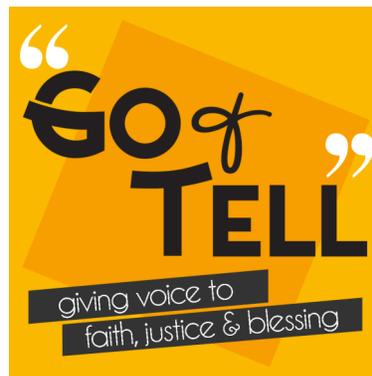
SPEAKERS & ELCA CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE



To Left: and Right: ELCA Vice President Bill Horne described the joys of ministry shared with our wider church and celebrated the “grass roots expression” of our faith in local communities. He also lauded the “highest levels of hospitality which are in our DNA”.



Left: Pastor Hyunho Hong (Church of Dream Builders, Anaheim and St. Luke's, Fullerton) shared about his unique ministry which includes teaching Korean children Spanish. He talked about his own realization that in time of trouble, he had not prayed. Once he realized God was answering prayers, although not necessarily in the way Pastor Hyunho imagined, his faith deepened.



Right: Pastor Ramon Zarate (First, Vista) opened with a delightful story of his daughter being impressed that he was going to preach to pastors and insisted he take a selfie. Pastor Zarate shared about his call to ministry, which had gone very easily until he became a pastor. At that point, he found many people found it hard to believe a Latino was actually a pastor and even more amazed he was a Lutheran pastor. His journey has shown him much about justice and God's love throughout.



Pastors Cate Luehr (at right, Emanuel, La Habra) and Sarah Sumner-Eisenbraun (at left, St. Andrew's, San Diego) celebrated their similarities and differences as pastors and Christians and considered how blessings flow to and through us.



SYNOD GRANT & SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITIONS



During the assembly, we had the opportunity to recognize congregations and organizations who received synod and ELCA grants in 2017-2018:

- *Upper Left*—Warner Trust Grants for youth and education programs
- *Upper Right*—ELCA Hunger Grants to assist those who experience poverty and hunger
- *Lower Left*—Murray & Rhoda Finck Global Engagement Mission Fund Grants to assist with global mission efforts
- *Lower Right*—Catherine Wright Stephen Ministry Scholarship Awards for Stephen Ministry Lay Leaders
- *Bottom*—Matthew 25 Grants to help the hungry, homeless and others in need

We give thanks for the varied ministries of the congregations in the Pacifica Synod and for the opportunity to contribute funding grants and scholarships through the synod to help congregations establish and maintain ministries in their communities.



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

To Left: Celebrating 25 years of ordained ministry (from left to right): the Rev. David Nagler, the Rev. Terry Tuvey Allen, and the Rev. Marty Jacobson.

The assembly also celebrated the 50th anniversary of ordination of two rostered ministers who could not attend: the Rev. A. Joris Watland and the Rev. Gary Miller.



SHARING OUR STORIES



Continuing a "tradition" that began last year, storytellers were once again a part of this assembly. Storytellers universally told of coming to the Lutheran faith through family members or through their own journey from a judgmental God to a loving one found through grace. We heard from a wide variety of experiences and cultures.

A unique activity of this assembly was an extended time of the entire assembly sharing stories with each other of where they had seen God that week and when they had prayed for another or when someone had prayed for them. These conversations taught us much about sharing our faith in simple, friendly conversations.

Our thanks to ALL who allowed us to witness God at work in your life. *Pictured above-Upper row:* the Rev. Jeff Frohner (Our Savior, San Clemente); Katie Krogstad (First, Redlands); Lindsey Bell (Lutheran Church of Honolulu); the Rev. James Pike (Resurrection, Huntington Beach); Micki McCassey (St. John, Kailua); the Rev. Maria Santa Cruz (Our Savior/Nuestro Salvador, San Diego); Moses Barrios (Crave Life, Whittier); and the Rev. Berhanu Refera (Calvary, San Diego).

SYNOD ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

SA18.05.01 VOTED to accept the amendment to the standing rules of 30 minutes discussion, with two 10 minute periods to follow if approved by the assembly.

SA18.05.02 VOTED to approve the rules and agenda for the 2018 Pacifica Synod Assembly.

Synod Council Recommendations:

Baseline Salary Increase for Rostered Leaders

SA.18.05.03 VOTED to approve a 2.5% increase* in the Baseline Salary for Rostered Leaders (Ministers of Word and Sacrament & Ministers of Word and Service) of the Pacifica Synod for the year 2019. This action would bring the current baseline salary (including salary and housing allowance) to \$65,596 for Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Constitution and Bylaw Update

SA.18.05.04 VOTED to accept the amendment to constitution S10.06.

SA.18.05.05 VOTED to accept the bylaw change S10.07.01, S10.07.02, S10.07.03, S10.07.05, S10.07.06, S10.07.07.

Resolutions:

Resolution 18-01:

SA.18.05.06 VOTED to pass Resolution 18-01, First Call Theological Education.

Resolution 18-02:

After discussion regarding the resolution,
SA.18.05.07 VOTED to pass Resolution 18.02, Encouragement to Study "Woman and Justice".

Synod Budget:

SA.18.05.08 VOTED to adopt the 2019-2020 Budget.

Memorials:

Memorial 18-03:

SA.18.05.09 VOTED to pass memorial 18.03: Towards an Open and Healthy Articulation of Human Sexuality.

Memorial 18-04: Appropriate Social Media Conduct Amendment:

SA.18.05.10 VOTED to amend the memorial, and the final resolved to read:

RESOLVED, that this synod assembly submit ~~the following~~ **this memorial** for consideration at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Amendment:

RESOLVED, that the Bishops, Seminaries, and their committees be ~~empowered to impose per discipline~~ **encourage to engage counseling and correction** for those whose actions are incompatible with the character required by the constitution and/or by-laws of the ELCA. Be it finally

Amendment:

RESOLVED, that the Bishops, Seminaries, and their committees be ~~empowered to impose proper discipline~~ **encourage to engage counseling and education** for those whose actions are incompatible with the character required by the constitution and/or by-laws of the ELCA. Be it finally

SA.18.05.11 VOTED to cease debate.

SA.18.05.12 VOTED to accept the memorial as amended

After further discussion of the memorial

SA.18.05.13 VOTED to defeat the amended memorial



At left: We give thanks for the Rev. Laura Ziehl (Bethlehem, Encinitas), Resolutions Committee Chair and her ability to amaze the assembly with the Audible version of "Robert's Rules of Order".



SYNOD ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTION RESULTS

East San Diego Conference Representative, Lay

Ms. Maura Beland: 15 (elected)

Ms. Laura Stephens: 9

West San Diego Conference, Clergy

The Rev. Paul Bieber: 29 (elected)

Raincross Conference, Clergy

The Rev. Linda Brown: 27 (elected)

The Rev. Julie Kelly: 8

Son & Surf Conference, Clergy

The Rev. Brian Taylor: 29 (elected)

Council Lay at Large

Mr. Gerry Marecek: 261 (elected)

Council Clergy at Large, Male

The Rev. Pongtep "Golf" Chutimapongrat: 261 (elected)

Council Clergy at Large, Lay

The Rev. Maria Santa Cruz: 265 (elected)

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER ELECTION RESULTS

Churchwide Assembly, Youth

Mr. Manuel Glenn Retamozza: 129 (elected)

Mr. Travon Thomas: 127

Churchwide Assembly, Young Adult

Hayley Nadolny: 106

Gillian Simmons: 135 (elected)

Churchwide Assembly, Ethnic Lay

Angelina Vasquez: 262 (elected)

Churchwide Assembly, Orange County/Whittier Lay

Kenneth Gilliland: 240 (elected)

Churchwide Assembly, Inland Empire Lay

Jay Finnecy: 114

Gordan Gertner: 121 (elected)

Churchwide Assembly, San Diego Clergy

The Rev. Laura Ziehl: 242 (elected)

Churchwide Assembly, Hukilau Clergy

The Rev. Kathryn Zurcher: 253 (elected)

SYNOD COMMITTEES ELECTION RESULTS

Consultation Committee—Clergy

The Rev. Sandy Bentz: 234 (elected)

The Rev. Linda Brown: 220 (elected)

The Rev. David Jorstad: 234 (elected)

The Rev. Karen Marohn: 241 (elected)

The Rev. David Nagler: 245 (elected)

The Rev. Steve Bieghler: 206 (elected)

Consultation Committee—Lay

Ms. Nancy Aeling: 220 (elected)

Ms. Laurel Hanson: 232 (elected)

Discipline Committee—Clergy

The Rev. Richard Vevia: 230 (elected)

The Rev. Kathryn Zurcher: 229 (elected)

The Rev. John Moody: 238 (elected)

The Rev. Laura Ziehl: 207 (elected)

The Rev. Karin Boye: 206 (elected)

Discipline Committee—Lay

Ms. Jeanette Parr: 234 (elected)

Mr. Michael McCanless: 237 (elected)

Ms. Sheila Wenzel: 206 (elected)

Mission Funds Committee

The Rev. Jonathan Doolittle: 191 (elected)

The Rev. Glen Egertson: 199 (elected)

Mr. Allan Griesemer: 95



Above: Pacifica Synod Council Members were installed on Saturday morning. We give thanks for the gifts and dedication of those who serve on our Synod Council.

Below: Our thanks to the Rev. Karen Mahron (St. Peter's by the Sea, San Diego) who served as our Nominating Committee Chair and the Rev. Brian Taylor (Our Redeemer, Garden Grove), Elections Committee Chair.



ASSEMBLY WORSHIP

During this year's assembly, we were provided with the opportunity to worship in Hope Lutheran's beautiful sanctuary. There we experienced wonderful music, gifted worship leaders, powerful prayers, an inspiring message from Bishop Andy Taylor, and the sharing of the meal together. Our thanks to all who planned, organized and led these inspiring worship services for our synod assembly participants and the community.





Synod Council Vice President, Lori Herman



Pastor Derek Fossey, of Hope, Palm Desert welcomes the assembly



Synod Council Treasurer Gary Kakert



Along with Bishop Taylor, Assistants to the Bishop (from left to right), the Rev. Tom Goehllrich, the Rev. Dennis Laherty, and the Rev. Terry Tuvey Allen, shared personal stories and then invited the assembly to share with one another stories about faith, prayer, God's work in their lives, and how God reaches through them and others to make a difference.

Pastors Gloria Espeseth (retired), Julie Kelly (Hope, Riverside) and Kinndlee Lund (King of Glory, Fountain Valley) introduced the assembly to the ELCA Draft Social Statement on Women & Justice, encouraging members to bring the information back to their congregations.



Please use this resource to help you report back to your congregation on the business of the Pacifica Synod. Links to full video of the assembly business sessions and speakers may be found on our assembly web page at www.pacificasynod.org
With special thanks to Angela Jackson, Synod Council Secretary and Pastor Brenda Bos (Christ, San Clemente) for their help in reporting for the assembly. Photo credit to Paul Coulter (Resurrection, Huntington Beach), Chris Bach (Good Shepherd, Claremont) and Brenda Barrios (Crave Life, Whittier). A complete album of synod assembly photos to be available on our website soon.
We also thank Dale Feine, Pastor Brenda Bos, and Tom Hoegel and Big Dog Sound for their work with our assembly audio/visual production. For questions, feedback or more information, please contact Terri Robertson, Pacifica Synod Administrative Assistant for Communications & Accounting at terrirobertson@pacificasynod.org.