Minutes
Twenty-Fourth Annual Assembly
Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Mission Territory
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Meeting: April 27-29, 2012
Sheraton Grand Hotel, Irving, TX

Session I, Friday, April 27, 2012

Call to Order

The 2012 Assembly opened at 1:30 p.m. with music provided by a group of ELCA Glocal Musicians, part of the ELCA's Global Formation Program led by Sunitha Mortha.

The Opening Worship began at 2:00 p.m. Bishop Kanouse presided, and Pr. Kate Warn, our three-year Pastor-in-Residence from Sierra Leone preached. The Worship included a Thanksgiving for Baptism, Communion, songs from across the world, and ended with the Order for the Opening of the Assembly.

Business Session I

Bishop Kanouse opened the Business session of the Assembly at 3:45 p.m. Bishop Kanouse thanked Pr. Debra Loudin-McCann for co-chairing the Assembly planning team. Pr. McCann explained that the Global Mission team has been integrated into the planning of the assembly to provide us with a "glocal" assembly experience where we are brought closer together in celebration of our diversity. The global mission field has become our own backyard. According to Pr. McCann, the Assembly will move us out of our comfort zones, but will take us to places with new perspectives; she welcomed everyone to the experience.

David Timmons, from Calvary Lutheran Church, Co-Chair of the Assembly planning team, described the social media component of the Assembly and invited everyone to participate in the U-Tube, Blog, Facebook, and Twitter. The links are found on the NT-NL website and in the newsletters. Bishop Kanouse announced that we have about 345 friends on our NT-NL Facebook page.

Another member of the planning team, Pastor Kyle Rouze of Calvary Lutheran Church, Richland Hills, described the geocache/scavenger hunt game. A table near the registration window has ground rules and information.

Bishop Kanouse welcomed guests: Bishop Thomas J. Barnett of the ELCSL; her Excellency, Rev. Marie Barnett, Sierra Leone Ambassador to Liberia; The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, the Global Mission Director for the ELCA; Pr. Kate Warn, back from her missionary work in Sierra Leone; Sunitha Mortha, ELCA Global Formation Director; Bishop Ray Tiemann, Southwestern

Texas Synod; and Bishop Mike Rinehart of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod. Bishop Kanouse extended thanks to Becky Brakke, Assembly planner, for her work.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Mr. Myron Knudson, chair of the Credentials Committee, announced the following:

Committee on Credentials Preliminary Report
Day: Friday, April 27, 2012
Time: 4:40 p.m.

Rostered Ministers:	100
Lay persons:	168
Total:	268

Bishop Kanouse declared a quorum present and reviewed the use of the electronic voting pads with the members of the Assembly.

Adoption of Assembly Agenda, Rules, and Committee

Vice President of the Mission Area, Stephanie Varnum, referred the group to page 5 of the Book of Reports for the proposed Agenda, Standing Rules, and Committee Members.

VOTED SA 12.04.01	*To adopt the Agenda for the Assembly.* *APPROVED*

VOTED SA 12.04.02	*To adopt the Standing Rules for the Assembly.* *APPROVED*

Bishop Kanouse introduced the Assembly Parliamentarian from Christ Lutheran Church, in Dallas, Mark Bradley.

Ms. Varnum explained the proposed constitutional changes, described in Part B, pp. 26-27 in the Book of Reports and supported by the Mission Council.

VOTED SA 12.04.03	*To adopt the proposed changes to the Mission Area Constitution, found on pp 26-27 in the 2012 Book of Reports.* *APPROVED*

Ms. Varnum presented the names of the members of the standing committees for the Assembly, as follows:

Bishop Election Committee:
Pr. Yvonne Kiebler – MID – Chair
Ron Gubrud – NED
Steve Hogan – RPL
Pr. Bonita Knox – PAN
Gail Pearce – ETNL

Committee on Reference and Counsel:
Linda Ness – MID - Chair
Sara Brown - WAC
Pr. Laird Duran – CTX
Don Heller - RPL
Pr. Mike Holmes – PAN
Pr. Peggy Ogden-Howe – Retired
Dan Pearce – ETNL

Committee on Credentials:
Myron Knudson – NCE – Chair
Pr. Faith Jenson – GFW
Betty Thane – WTX

Committee on Minutes:
Todd Weiss – NED – Chair
Pr. Stan Larson – ETNL
Linda Waggener, CTX

Committee on Elections:
Tammy Mast – SDA – Chair
Pr. Kathryn Cox – GFW
Robert Ekblad – NCW
Pr. Paul Krupicka – WAC
Elizabeth Kunkler –GFW

VOTED SA 12.04.04 *To adopt the Assembly Committee members.*

APPROVED

Bishop Kanouse thanked the members of the standing committees.

Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor

Pr. Pat Dietrich, Chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced the slate of ballots, found in Part C, p. 47, of the Book of Reports. In addition, a stapled page was placed on all tables.

Bishop Kanouse asked for nominations from the floor as Pr. Dietrich read the ballots.

Ballot A, Mission Territory Vice President

Stephanie Varnum

There being no additional nominations, Ballot A was declared closed.

Ballot B, Mission Territory Secretary

Lew Todd Weiss

There being no additional nominations, Ballot B was declared closed.

Ballot C, Central Texas Conference

Rev. Suzanne Guinn

There being no additional nominations, Ballot C was declared closed.

Ballot D, North Central East Conference

Rev. Gordon Illausky North Central

There being no additional nominations, Ballot D was declared closed.

Ballot E, Lay Male, West Texas Conference

Fred Behnken

There being no additional nominations, Ballot E was declared closed.

Ballot F, South Dallas Conference

Betty Dollar, Melanie Jones

There being no additional nominations, Ballot F was declared closed.

Ballot G, Greater Fort Worth Conference

Martha Patricia Rodriguez

There being no additional nominations, Ballot G was declared closed.

Ballot H, Youth Male for Mission Council

This name will be coming forward from the Youth Convo and was left standing open for the Youth Convo to bring forward.

Ballot I, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member--Ordained Male

Rev. Joel Burkholder

There being no additional nominations, Ballot I was declared closed.

Ballot J, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member—Ordained Female

Rev. Kendra Mohn

Pr. Debra Loudin- McCann was nominated from the floor.

Ballot J was declared closed.

Ballot K, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Lay Male

Ken Mingus

Jonathan Lys

There being no additional nominations, Ballot K was declared closed.

Ballot L, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Lay Female

Angela Lee

Parma Kirsten and Ann Hafften were nominated from the floor.

Ballot L was declared closed.

Ballot M, Churchwide Assembly Lay Male Person of Color or Primary Language Other than English

Hung "Herry" Hwie

Arthur Momo was nominated from the floor.

Ballot M was declared closed.

Ballot N Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Female Up to Age 30

Elizabeth Holschuh

Lauren Lys was nominated from the floor.

Ballot N was declared closed.

Bishop Kanouse announced that he would entertain a motion to elect by acclamation those running unopposed on the election ballots for 2012. A motion was made from the floor to do so.

VOTED SA 12.04.05	*To elect by acclamation those running unopposed on ballots A, B, C, D, E, G, and I.* *APPROVED*

Bishop Kanouse thanked Pr. Pat Dietrich and the nominating committee for their work on building the election ballots and bringing them forward. He then thanked Stephanie Varnum for her willingness to continue serving as Vice President.

Bishop Election, Ballot 1

Vice President Stephanie Varnum assumed the chair of the Assembly to introduce Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla of the ELCA. Pr. Padilla explained the process for the Election of the Bishop. He began with a reflection on the role of the Bishop in the ELCA and the process of electing a bishop. At the core, Pr. Padilla explained, this is a spiritual decision, not fundamentally a political process. Reading from scripture, Pr. Padilla talked about a Bishop being a pastor, a shepherd, one who leads by example; a servant; a unifier; a guarder and protector of the teaching of the faith of the church; a leader and administrator; and an evangelist, one who calls us to reach out to people around us, through the synod, and to the world through our Churchwide ministries.

Pr. Padilla explained that the first ballot is a nominating ballot. All ELCA pastors in the ELCA are eligible to be nominated, and a 75% vote for election is required on this ballot. As the election committee handed out the ballots, Pr. Padilla asked visitors to move to the walls at the side or to the back so that voting members would be the only ones at the tables.

After a prayer, Pr. Padilla declared voting open. Voting members completed the paper ballots, which were collected by the election facilitators and turned in to the Bishop Election Committee.

Pr. Padilla returned the chair of the Assembly to Bishop Kanouse.

Thanksgiving for the Hay Lift

Bishop Kanouse asked Vice President Varnum to come to the podium to describe the hay lift that began last August with partnerships from Pr. Dianne Eggemeyer, Pr. Jesus Escamilla, Pr. Ruth Hetland, and Pr. Teresa Davis. The need for hay for livestock was huge across the southwest. With the guidance of Lutheran Disaster Response, conferences in Texas in need of hay partnered with conferences in Iowa, which sent hay to Texas to relieve life stock and ranchers in the midst of one of the worst droughts in recent memory in Texas. A video captured the story of families in Clifton, TX, who received hay from farmers in Dunlap, IA. 51 families in West Texas

received help. Recipients of the hay saw the church at its best last fall and were so grateful to the farmers in Iowa who helped them. A sense of unity and of being the body of Christ together was also felt. The walls of "us" and "them" were broken down.

Pastor Harold McMillin of Luana, Iowa organized the logistics for soliciting donations of hay, and transporting hay to Texas. He was presented with a thank you plaque that included photographs of the hay lift event. Pastor McMillin spoke to the Assembly and shared that through helping others, we become the disciple that Christ wants us to be. Unless we talk to each other and share our stories, we cannot know each other's needs. Once we know each other's needs, we can share our gifts to bless others. He thanked God for giving them the opportunity to respond to the disaster. He pointed out that the lesson we all learned is that the church is larger than our four walls, conferences, and synods.

The Business Session adjourned for dinner with a prayer at 5:47 p.m.

After dinner, the session resumed at 7 p.m. with glocal music.

Celebration Moment I

The Parish Lay Ministry Academy was celebrated through a video presentation highlighting the benefits of the PLMA. The faculty of the PLMA were introduced. Participants in and graduates of the PLMA were asked to stand to be recognized. Irma Bañales is leading the Spanish language track of the PLMA, which is being used as a model for a national Spanish-language program.

Bishop Kanouse congratulated pastors who have reached their 5-year, 10-year, and 15-year anniversaries.

The directors of the DiscipleLife Alive! campaign, AIM Stephanie Varnum, Pr. Phil Geleske, Pr. Jon Lee, and Pr. Kathy Cox, were asked to come forward to provide a report. Bishop Kanouse provided an overview of how the campaign began three years ago, with a vision of preparing disciples and leaders for missional work within a glocal setting. Campaign directors provided details of the work already done within DiscipleLife. The development of the Mission Center at Briarwood, the Mission Endowment's DiscipleLife Leadership Formation Endowment, and the Jubilee Center for the ELCSL.

The Master Site Plan for the updated Mission Center at Briarwood was shared. The facility has inspired schools of theology to conceive of new plans for training ministers and church leaders through partnerships at the facility. The site will be equipped to broadcast events throughout the region and world, and facilities will be renovated and expanded. Equipping mission centers in distant locations to participate in on-line activities as they are happening at Briarwood is of primary importance.

Of the $3 million dollars we anticipate raising through DLA, $300,000, a tithe, will be shared with the ELCSL so the Jubilee Centre can be completed. The Centre, to serve as a center for worship, attracting those who want to become part of a Christian community of faith, will include a women's training center and much more. Several trips from NT-NL to Sierra Leone are being scheduled in the next two years.

The NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund provides many grants for a variety of purposes—112 grants, nearly $330,000 have been given to date to congregations for mission and ministry. The dreams for our future require more than just facilities. Carrying them out requires training leaders, not just building buildings. A portion of the DLA funds are committed to the MEF Endowment for Leadership Formation. The funds will offset a variety of training costs. We are already beginning to use the Leadership Formation funds for the Table Talks series. We are reaping the fruits already and looking forward to the great things that are coming.

Congregations are asked to continue or start up their local fund raising campaigns. At this point, the DLA! campaign has received funds or commitments over the next three years totaling $1,504,754. The committee thanked everyone for supporting the campaign.

Resolution in Recognition and Thanks for DiscipleLife Alive!

Presenter of the Resolution:
Linda Ness

WHEREAS this 24th Annual Assembly of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Mission Area recognizes the dedication of the Leadership of DiscipleLife Alive! Therefore be it

RESOLVED that this Assembly further offer heartfelt thanks for the vision of the DLA! directors: AIM Stephanie Varnum, Pr. Phil Geleske, Pr. Jon Lee, Pr. Kathy Cox, and Pr. Bill Waxenberg, and for the drive of Bishop Kevin Kanouse.
Further thanks are offered for the faithful service of the team leaders and team members, the Mission Office staff, and the many volunteers who have supported this effort. And be it

RESOLVED that the generous individuals and congregations who have chosen to support DLA! with financial gifts and pledges be thanked by this assembly. And be it finally

RESOLVED that together, we ask for God's ongoing presence and guidance to carry through with the vision set in place by the leadership of DLA! so that, joyfully and faithfully,we will continue to "run with perseverance' in our mission area and beyond.

And that we rise now to express our thanks by our applause.

VOTED SA 12.04.06	*To accept the motion in Recognition and Thanksgiving for DLA!* *APPROVED WITH APPLAUSE*

Announcement of the Results of Bishop Election Ballot 1

Bishop Kanouse turned the chair of the Assembly over to Vice President Stephanie Varnum, who invited Pr. Yvonne Kiebler and Pr. Padilla to report on the first ballot for Bishop. 244 ballots were cast and two ballots were declared invalid. Pr. Padilla explained that 182 votes (75 %) for any of the nominees is the number required for the election to occur. The following is a listing of the ballots presented:

Rev. Jeff Borgwardt	1 vote
Rev. Diane Eggemeyer	1 vote
Rev. Phil Geleske	1 vote
Rev. Brian Gigee	1 vote
Rev. Mark Hanson	1 vote
Rev. Mark Herbener	1 vote
Rev. Jeff Johnson	1 vote
Rev. Jason Korthauer	1 vote
Rev. Pedro Portillo	1 vote
Rev. Peder Sandager	1 vote
Rev. Franz Schemmel	1 vote
Rev. Kate Warn	1 vote
Rev. Mae Jean Zelle	1 vote
Rev. Paul Ziese	1 vote
Rev. Ray Zischang	1 vote
Rev. Norma Cooper	2 votes
Rev. Doris Dupree Harris	2 votes
Rev. Russell Vardell	2 votes
Rev. Marc Hander	3 votes
Rev. Chuck Hubbard	3 votes
Rev. Jane Mar	3 votes
Rev. John Schelter	3 votes
Rev. Pat Dietrich	4 votes
Rev. Douglas Schoelles	6 votes
Rev. Phil Heinze	9 votes
Rev. Kevin Kanouse	190 votes

Pr. Padilla declared the Rev. Kevin Kanouse elected to the office of Bishop of the NT-NL ELCA.

Bishop Kanouse expressed his feeling that he has been called to lead NT-NL and felt that the support for the vision of DiscipleLife Alive! was strong. He thanked his staff and asked them to come forward to be recognized for the hard work they do. He thanked Mrs.Tyna Oslie, NT-NL administrator; Pr. Stan Meyer, Assistant Bishop, Ms. Judy Rommel, Administrative Assistant; Ms. Irma Banales, Hispanic / Latino Ministry Coordinator; Pr. Steven Kanouse, Director for Evangelism and Mission (ELCA); Pr. Jane Mar, Assistant Bishop; and his wife, Mrs. Billye Jean Kanouse.

Bishop Kanouse shared his ideas about the future, renewing the DiscipleLife themes for the 21st century. He presented themes and asked what voting members would like to learn about and develop. His ideas included "media and message," "emerging forms of worship," "stewarding life and creation," "rooted in the word of life," "welcoming the next generation," and "in the world, for the world."

Brief Service of Reaffirmation of the Bishop's Call

Pr. Loudin-McCann and Pr. Padilla led the Assembly in the reaffirmation of Bishop Kanouse's call.

Bishop Kanouse offered a sending prayer for the LYO Convo group, which is providing service work in Dallas on Saturday.

The Business Meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

The day closed with a Taize prayer service led by Pr. Stan Meyer and Pr. Deb McCann.

Business Session II, Saturday, April 28, 2012

Bishop Kanouse called the Business Session to order at 8:35 a.m.

General Election, First Ballot

Ms. Tammy Mast, chair of the elections committee, led the group through the ballots and elections.

<u>Ballot F, Mission Council, South Dallas Conference, Lay Female</u>

Betty Dollar 79 votes
Melanie Jones 124 votes
Bishop Kanouse announced Melanie Jones duly elected to the Mission Council.

Ballot J, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Ordained Female

The Rev. Debra Loudin-McCann corrected her degree, which should be an M. Div., not a D. Min., as written on her vita form.

Rev. Debra Loudin-McCann 98 votes
Rev. Kendra Mohn 128 votes
Bishop Kanouse announced the Rev. Kendra Mohn duly elected.

Ballot K, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Lay Male

Jonathan Lys 114 votes
Kenn Mingus 111 votes
Bishop Kanouse announced Jonathan Lys duly elected.

Ballot L, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Lay Female

Ann Hafften 48%
Parma Kersten 32%
Angela Lee 19%
Since none of the candidates received a majority vote, a run off will be held tomorrow between Ann Hafften and Parma Kersten.

Ballot M, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Person of Color or Primary language other than English

Hung "Herry" Hwie 136 votes
Arthur Momo 98 votes
Bishop Kanouse announced Herry Hwie duly elected.

Ballot N, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Female (Up to Age 30)

Elizabeth Holschuh 57%
Lauren Lys 43%
Bishop Kanouse announced Elizabeth Holschuh duly elected.

Report of the Treasurer

Mr. Weir updated the Assembly with a report on the 2011 budget. We ended the year with a surplus of about $7,000. The more specific numbers are included in the Book of Reports, Part B. The audit from last year is not complete, but the company reported orally to Mr. Weir that there are no negative findings and we will be given a clean bill of health.

Any amendments to the mission strategy are due to the Synod Secretary at 6 p.m. tonight. The mission strategy proposed for 2013 is the same as that prepared for 2012. If people have any questions, let Mr. Weir know, and he will clarify any details.

Celebration Moment II

Director of the Lutheran Seminary Program of the Southwest, Rev. Jay Alaniz, announced a new agreement to allow Hispanic candidates throughout the country into the new Episcopalean E-TEEM (an Episcopalean group training Hispanic pastors). The E-TEEM is starting a distributive education program again with an M. Div. program on-line and is currently serving 30 students from 8 states through an intensive Spanish language training, theology, and salsa dancing curriculum. The potential is great for the LSPS to serve the three Texas synods and the region through this collaborative effort. LSPS is also doing better this year financially—last year was a difficult year. LSPS is also in talks with the Presbyterian Seminary in Austin for education programs.

The Rev. Liz Stein, LSPS Development Director, is working hard to get LSPS on a sustainable track. She asked alumni and current students to stand. Many of the alumni shared that they would not have been able to attend seminary without the presence of LSPS. She thanked everyone for their support of all kinds.

Bishop Kanouse introduced Bishop Ray Tiemann and Bishop Mike Rinehart and asked them to greet the Assembly. Bishop Tiemann brought greetings from the Southwest Texas Synod and congratulated Bishop Kanouse on his re-election, the vision of the NT-NL, and the Glocal Assembly. Just as the glocal mission event is looking for partnership opportunities throughout the world, the three synods work together, too, in our support for LSPS, the tri-synodical conference, and the San Antonio event, "Baptized and Set Free" in June. The San Antonio worship event is an opportunity to get to experience new styles of worship services.

Bishop Rinehart, TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod, congratulated the group on their vibrant Assembly and thanked Bishop Kanouse for his mentoring. Bishop Rinehart called for us to celebrate what our Synods share in common, the faith, the context of the Southwest, Latinos, Texas Lutheran University, and Cajuns. He issued a challenge: $150,000 is the goal set for the malaria campaign in his Synod, and he challenged the NT-NL to raise more.

Bishop Kanouse announced that the NT-NL Mission Assembly Facebook page now has 366 friends. In addition, the Youth Convo was already up working before 7 a.m. this morning with their service project in Dallas.

Bishop Kanouse asked lay people to turn to their pastors and ask them if they have taken the Health Risk Assessment yet, and if they have not, to then ask them, "Why not?" One of the benefits of Portico is the HRA. Every plan member who takes the Health Risk Assessment gets $500 in flex dollars to be used for medical expenses; $500 for spouses, too. As of three days ago, only 35% of NT-NL pastors had taken the assessment. Additional incentive for encouraging participating includes the fact that if we reach a certain percentage of participation, the Mission Area will get $25,000 and congregations will get a reduction in premiums. There is no reason not to do this. Last year, we were the fifth worst in the ELCA in completing the HRA.

Response packets for DLA! were placed on the tables and includes a pledge card. Bishop Kanouse encouraged participants to make a pledge or, if they have already made a pledge, to take the packets back to their congregations.

The 11:00 a.m. worship service will feature Anthony Tucker, a young man who was with the Jubilee Singers in 2006 when they toured the US, as preacher. He came back to the US two years ago to work on an MBA at UT-Arlington. Mr. Tucker is a very faithful young adult leader from Sierra Leone.

Glocal Gathering and Welcome

Pr. Deb Loudin-McCann described the Glocal Celebration. Global mission no longer takes place over there or far away. Because of increasing diversity, the biggest global mission area is in our backyard.

Keynote Address

The Rev. Sunitha Mortha, who was trained in India and works in ELCA Global Mission, delivered the keynote address. She brought a thought-provoking perspective to issues of culture that most of us do not consider. Her keynote address focused on the importance of culture, which is learned, creates blind spots, creates attitudes and perspectives that hold us together, but also separate us if we are not aware. A good way to understand a culture is to look at the symbols for their culture because they reflect their values. In doing mission, relationship needs to be at the core, and cultural understanding has a huge effect on the relationship. Americans need to be aware of our tendency towards Imperialism, where dominant cultures, because of power, impose their culture on those of others without concern for the suppressed culture. God invites us into the journey of relationship and diversity and to see diversity as an asset, not a liability.

Celebration Moment III

Bishop Kanouse thanked Pr. Sunitha Mortha for her address.

Deb Lemon, the chair of our companion synod team, introduced Bishop Tom Barnett of the ELCSL and Pr. Kate Warn. Bishop Barnett brought greetings from the brothers and sisters in Christ in the ELSCL. He thanked the people of NT-NL for supporting Pastor Kate Warn, who challenged the ELSCL to see themselves as servants of God and servants of all and to recognize the gifts of language and diversity, in particular the translation of the liturgy and Bible into the Krio language. He looks forward to our shared journey with anticipation for next year and wants to have many of us in Freetown to give thanks for the Jubilee Center, a visible sign of their ministry in Sierra Leone.

Pr. Kate Warn served for three years in Sierra Leone as Pastor in Residence. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to be engaged in mission and partnership, through NT-NL, ELCA, and ELCSL. She thanked the people of NT-NL for the great privilege, the support, and the opportunity to be a bridge and learn together. She also thanked the ELCSL for helping her and supporting her while she was in Sierra Leone. She closed by saying that walking hand in hand is in the true spirit of accompaniment.

Keynote Address

Bishop Kanouse introduced the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla Director of ELCA Global Mission. Pr. Malpica Padilla talked about the notion of mission, discussing the recent engagement of congregations in mission trips and mission projects. He pointed out that mission trips are not new, but are an ancient tradition, older than Christianity, like the Book of Jonah, where Jonah is sent to the capitol of the Assyrian Kingdom, Ninevah. Jonah did not like this choice of destination for his mission trip, so he tried to avoid it by heading to the furthest outpost of civilization. Unfortunately for Jonah, but fortunately for Ninevah, God changed Jonah's plans and got him back on track.

The only way to successfully walk with another who is different is to walk in solidarity through a practice of interdependence and mutuality. Through this practice, we are able to share gifts to strengthen and deepen our work within God's mission and we see the face of God. Christ pulls our God story together into one. When God comes to us to reconcile us to Himself, He lifts our chins up from our navel gazing, giving us a broader perspective on the world and others. God comes to us to restore community and to say, "I have come to make you vulnerable and open to the other who is coming your way." As we have walked with our companions, we discover the values of accompaniment.

Bishop Kanouse thanked Pr. Malpica Padilla for his presentation. Ms. Becky Brakke reminded everyone about the noon meetings and the meal and the session ended at 11:05 a.m.

Mid-Day Worship

The worship service began at 11:15. Pr. Jesus Escamilla presided, and Mr. Anthony Tucker, graduate student from Sierra Leone, preached.

During lunch, the Folklorico Dancers of Fort Worth performed authentic dances from various regions in Mexico. The group was sponsored by San Gabriel Lutheran Mission.

The afternoon Glocal Village workshops included such topics as short-term mission, immigration issues, radical hospitality, justice and peace in the Holy Land, youth and family ministry resources, music and mission, hunger, stewardship, the ELCA malaria campaign, LSPS, Hispanic spirituality, and the ELCSL.

Celebration Moment IV

The Assembly resumed at 4:15 p.m. with a celebration of the Briarwood Lutheran Ministries and the installation of the new Executive Director, Pr. Phil Geleske.

Pr. Pat Dietrich, Chair of the Briarwood Board of Directors, called the board members and staff of Briarwood Lutheran Ministries to come forward to be recognized. She described the work of Briarwood, including the summer camps for children and retreats for people of all ages. Pr. Dietrich also thanked Pr. Phil Geleske for following his call to serve at Briarwood.

Bishop Kanouse gathered with the group at the baptismal font for the installation of Pr. Phil Geleske as Executive Director of Briarwood Lutheran Ministries.

After the installation, Pr. Geleske addressed the Assembly with words of thanks for the support of camp ministries and the changed lives of children and others who participate. He is grateful for the opportunity given him to be part of Briarwood and to make the ministry the cornerstone of ministry in NT-NL.

Bishop Kanouse reminded the Assembly of the Book of Remembrance for those who have passed away this year. If participants would like to have the names read in worship tomorrow, they should make sure to include them in the Book of Remembrance.

Report of the ELCA Churchwide Organization

Pastor Rafael Malpica Padilla brought greetings from ELCA Presiding Bishop Hanson. He reminded us that we have been called, gathered, and sent to participate in the Christian mission. He thanked the mission area for the support sent to the Churchwide ministries. The funding allows us to engage communities around the US and around the globe. He described funds being directed in two strategic ways: to equip congregations for evangelical mission and to equip congregations to alleviate poverty and work for justice and peace. He brought a message from Bishop Mark Hansen which featured Santa Maria de Guadalupe Lutheran Church in Irving. Pr. Malpica Padilla reflected on the benefits of being together in community and the work of God that can be done. Together we achieve goals on a scale that we could not otherwise dream of. We are the church that says “yes” to the brokenness in the world because we have the confidence in Christ to restore community. He asked that we continue to support the ELCA through our prayers, gifts, and support.

Closing the Glocal Festival

Pr. Sunitha Mortha was called to the podium to close the Glocal festival and to describe the events of the evening. She pointed out that the festival allowed an opportunity to bring what God is doing around the world and in our neighborhood into our midst. We moved out of our

cultural awareness session into a conversation about how to accompany others in the journey Christ sets us on. We feasted at a banquet that calls everyone to it. She asked the group to spend time thinking about some of the things that have struck us today and to reflect on the things already happening in our congregations. She also asked participants to reflect on something that has challenged and inspired us to doing some tweaking in the ministries back at our home congregations.

The Glocal Fest is set up in the atrium area; we should visit the displays as well as the Glocal Marketplace. Dinner is at 7 p.m. and will feature Dr. Michael Hahn, who will take us through the history of the accordion in church music.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Business Session III: Sunday, April 29, 2012

Bishop Kanouse thanked Irma Bañales and Pr. Doris Dupree-Harris for their leadership last night at the banquet.

The session opened at 8:30 a.m. with a Bible study provided by Pr. Kate Warn.

Pr. Kate Warn read Isaiah 25: 6-9 and asked people to work at their table to come up with a list of Bible passages that have to do with food and feasting. She asked people to share their favorites, which included Jonah being eaten, Exodus, the banquet for the prodigal son, the fish Jesus ate with the disciples after the resurrection, Psalm 23, and the fruit in the Garden of Eden. It is ironic that the Bible begins with food we are not supposed to eat and ends with the text in Revelation with plentiful fruit that is too be picked in every month. Also mentioned was feeding the 5,000, the Wedding at Cana, Abraham and his guests, Jacob and Esau, manna and quail, Last Supper, the story in Kings about eating with enemies and resolving conflict, and the Bread of Life. Pr. Warn asked us to consider what these stories tell us about God and his Kingdom and about our faith. Food matters: God cares about our basic human needs, and God's mercy and grace are presented to us in concrete, tangible, testable forms. Eating together is intimate and creates community. We can pray with confidence for God to give us our daily bread. When we are in mission, we eat together, we discover each other's fundamental values, and we are accompanying each other.

Pr. Warn has noticed that the public perception of Christianity, the ones that capture the media attention, represent a disembodied Christianity, a wordy rhetoric that divides and is disconnected from the very things that bind us together in community. Some of Christianity is de-sacramental, disembodied, and disconnected from the things that make us one. The rhetoric does not point beyond a human agenda but stops there. The Isaiah passage points us to an embodied faith. God's faith and mercy are expressed in a visible and concrete way. It is about God acting in a

particular time and location for a particular people, with God as the Host. Our role is to be the guests who come humbly to receive that which God offers. We, therefore, need to be in touch with our own needs, mortality, and hunger. At God's feast, all people are fed, healed, and redeemed.

At 9:07 a.m., Bishop Kanouse thanked Pr. Kate Warn for sharing the insights she has learned through her time in Sierra Leone.

Celebration Moment IV

Mosaic's Beth Sabella, Director of Community Relations, greeted the Assembly and played a video describing the Mosaic work for people with intellectual disabilities in the Dallas area. Mosaic has 38 sites, including 5 in NT-NL, Dallas, San Angelo, Corsicana, Waco, and Lubbock.

Pr. Kyle Rouze announced the winners of the Geo Cache Challenge.

Pr. Loudin-McCann expressed appreciation to Pr. Sunitha Mortha and Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla.

Representatives of the Lutheran Youth Organization described their gathering for the Convo and their service project in Dallas yesterday. They worked with children, fed homeless people, toured the community to see some of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Dallas and learned about the ministries in those areas. Dallas is not unusual: the kids in the neighborhoods in Dallas face the same problems as the kids in our congregations. The youth described what they learned through their service experience. Bishop Kanouse expressed that the youth are not just future leaders in our congregations, but are current leaders with energy and passion for mission.

The Men in Mission group held a drawing for a men's study Bible.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Myron Knudson presented the final credentials report on Assembly attendance.

Committee on Credentials Final Report
Day: Sunday, April 29, 2012
Time: 9 a.m.

Rostered ministers:	108
Lay persons:	178
Total	286
Visitors/Guests	116
GRAND TOTAL	402

General Election
Tammy Mast, chair of the Elections Committee, led the Assembly through the final ballot.

Ballot L, Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Lay Female

Parma Kersten	90
Ann Hafften	96

Bishop Kanouse announced that Ann Hafften is duly elected and concluded the elections.

Report of the Minutes Committee

Todd Weiss, chair of the Minutes Committee, reported that the minutes of the Assembly have so far been found to be in good order.

Report of the Mission Council

AIM Stephanie Varnum brought forward the remaining constitutional amendments, groups II and III and asked that the Assembly act to adopt these based on recommendation from the Mission Council.

She explained that the amendment in Part B, Section II, bring the constitution into alignment in the list of congregations that are part of NT-NL.

VOTED SA 12.04.07	*To approve the constitutional amendment in Part B, Section II, of the Book of Reports.* *APPROVED*

Ms. Varnum then brought forward the amendment in Part B, Section III, which makes corrections to the names of counties in the NT-NL.

VOTED SA 12.04.08	*To approve the constitutional amendment in Part B, Section III, of the Book of Reports.* *APPROVED*

Ms. Varnum then brought forward the Care and Compensation Recommendations for 2013 and explained that it has been reviewed by the Mission Council, adopted, and recommended to the Assembly for adoption. Ms. Varnum encouraged lay people to review the guidelines and use the information well and to support their pastors with car.

VOTED SA 12.04.09	*To adopt the Care and Compensation guidelines for 2013.* *APPROVED*

Ms. Varnum thanked Mission Council members for completing their terms: Pr. Ernie Barr, Pr. Pat Dietrich, Timothe Mast, Joyce O'Connell, and Jeremiah Jackson.

Report of the Secretary
Ann Kirch, Mission Area Secretary, presented two copies of the minutes of the 2011 Assembly.

Report of the Treasurer
Mr. Weir explained that no amendments for the Mission Strategy were presented and asked the Assembly to vote on the Mission Strategy.

VOTED SA 12.04.10	*To approve the Mission Strategy for 2013.* *APPROVED*

Mr. Weir also announced that Disciplelife Alive! received about $17,000 additional donations and commitments this weekend. Bishop Kanouse provided an update on the gifts to DiscipleLife Alive! from each congregation and said that current commitments equal $1,530,375.

The Bishop also explained that the ELCA is trying to raise $15,000,000 in the next few years in order to eradicate and treat malaria. Malaria is the second highest cause of death after AIDS. In Africa, a bite from a mosquito can be life threatening, especially for children and pregnant women. Malaria is preventable and treatable. The global movement to eradicate malaria can end the suffering, and the ELCA is joining forces with them.

New Business
Vice President Varnum presented items of new business, beginning with the malaria initiative.

Resolution In Support of the ELCA Malaria Initiative

WHEREAS malaria is a disesase of poverty that kills over 800,000 people a year and is a leading cause of death for children under the age of 5 in Africa; and

WHEREAS our Lutheran tradition has been to reach out and respond to God's graciousness by working for positive change through helping to bring health, justice and hope to people who are in need; and

WHEREAS the 2011 ELCA churchwide assembly overwhelmingly approved the ELCA Malaria Campaign, an effort to raise $15 million by 2015 and to work directly with our companion churches in Africa to prevent and treat malaria and to contain the number of deaths in Africa related to malaria through prayer, advocacy, education and fundraising. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED that we commit ourselves as individuals and congregations in the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Mission Area to continue as partners in the healing ministry of Jesus by preventing and treating malaria through prayer, advocacy, education and fundraising.

A speaker pointed out that we should rise to the challenge set by our neighboring synods and set a target. Another speaker proposed the following amendment to the resolution:

Amendment adding: "joining our sister Synods in Texas and Louisiana to raise $160,000 from the NT-NL Mission Area for the Malaria Initiative." The motion to amend the resolution was seconded.

VOTED SA 12.04.11	*To approve the amendment: "joining our sister synods in Texas and Louisiana to raise $160,000 from the NT-NL Mission Area for the Malaria Initiative."* *APPROVED*

Another speaker suggested adding a date to the amendment "by 2015," but Bishop Kanouse suggested that the Assembly act in the spirit of the proposal and allow congregations within the mission area to set timeline goals.

A speaker calling malaria an insidious disease that needs to be eradicated called for the vote on the amended resolution.

VOTED SA 12.04.12	*To approve the amended resolution in Support of the ELCA Malaria Initiative.* *APPROVED*

The Assembly then viewed the ELCA Hay Lift video, which told the story of the work the larger ELCA body can do to help those in need in our area.

Ms. Linda Ness, Chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, thanked the Assembly for the opportunity to serve at an Assembly where we spent time celebrating. She read a resolution of thanks for the Assembly workers and planning team.

WHEREAS we have clapped, knelt, watched, listened, discussed, sung, prayed, learned and laughed these three days as we experienced the church in assembly; and

WHEREAS this assembly could only have happened because of the selfless work of many people who planned, prepared, performed, presented, and proclaimed; and

WHEREAS we wish to show our great gratitude and tremendous thanks for all their faithful labors on our behalf; therefore be it

RESOLVED that we ask all those who served on our mission assembly planning team --especially our co-chairs Pr. Debra Loudin-McCann and David Timmons, and Our meeting planner, Becky Brakke—and all the volunteers who have served this assembly as workers of any kind and every sort to stand now as we greet them with our shouts of thanksgiving and our heartfelt applause.

Pr. Loudin-McCann acknowledged the people who helped bring the Assembly together.

Ms. Becky Brakke announced that the 2013 Assembly will be held at the Mayborn Center in Temple, TX. The city has laid out the welcome mat for April 26-28, 2013. Pr. Pat Dietrich will lead the planning team, which will involve the Waco and Central Texas conferences.

The business session ended at 10:35 a.m. with the Bishop reminding everyone to put their voting pads back in their name tags and to return them to the registration area on the way out.

Worship

The closing worship service included Bishop Kanouse preaching, an installation ceremony for those newly elected, a Remembrance for the Departed, and the Order for Closing an Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kirch
NT-NL Mission Area Secretary