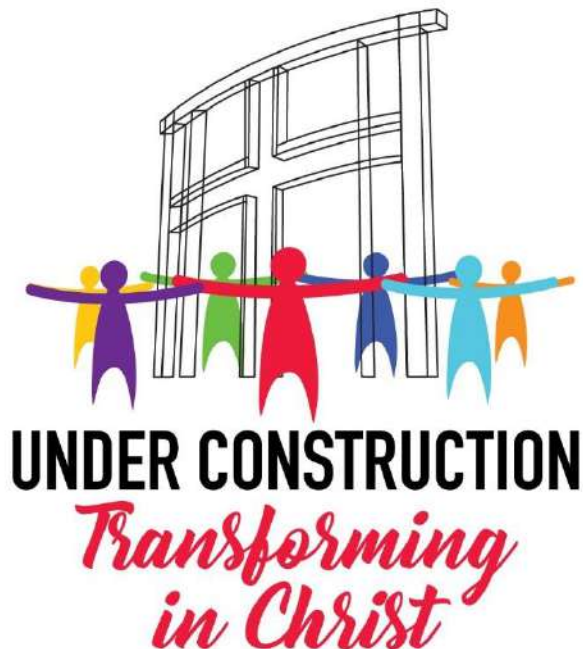


2018

**NORTHERN TEXAS - NORTHERN LOUISIANA SYNOD, ELCA
THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**



Part A
Book of Reports
Organization of the Synod Assembly
General Information
Agenda
Rules of Organization
Assembly Committee Descriptions
Parliamentary Procedure

April 27 – 28, 2018

**Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center
3303 N. 3rd St., Temple, TX 76501**

A note from the Bishop's Office: The Assembly's Book of Reports is being delivered electronically to each registered voting member and visitor by email. The sections of this Book of Report will be accessible on any electronic device from the Synod's website. Congregations are asked that a copy of this assembly Book of Reports be kept in the congregation's church office for information and review if so desired.

PART A

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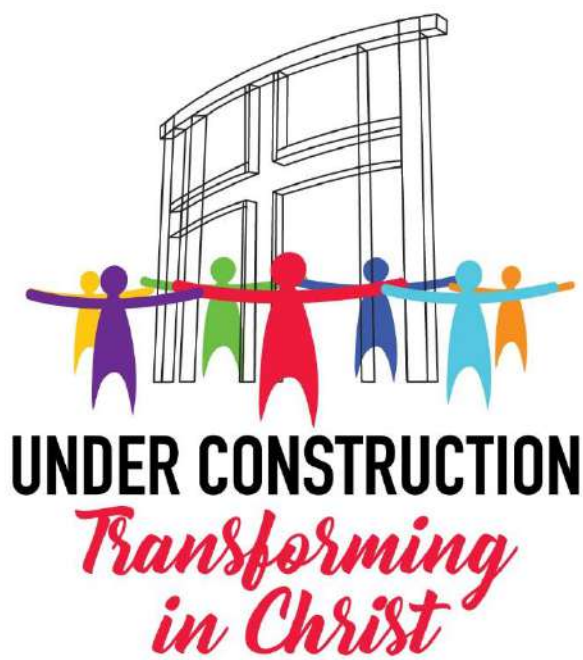
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 Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest (LSPS)
 Lutheran Sunset Ministries
 Mosaic Ministries
 Seafarers International House (NEW)
 Texas Lutheran University (TLU)
 Texas Impact
 Upbring (formerly Lutheran Social Services - LSS)

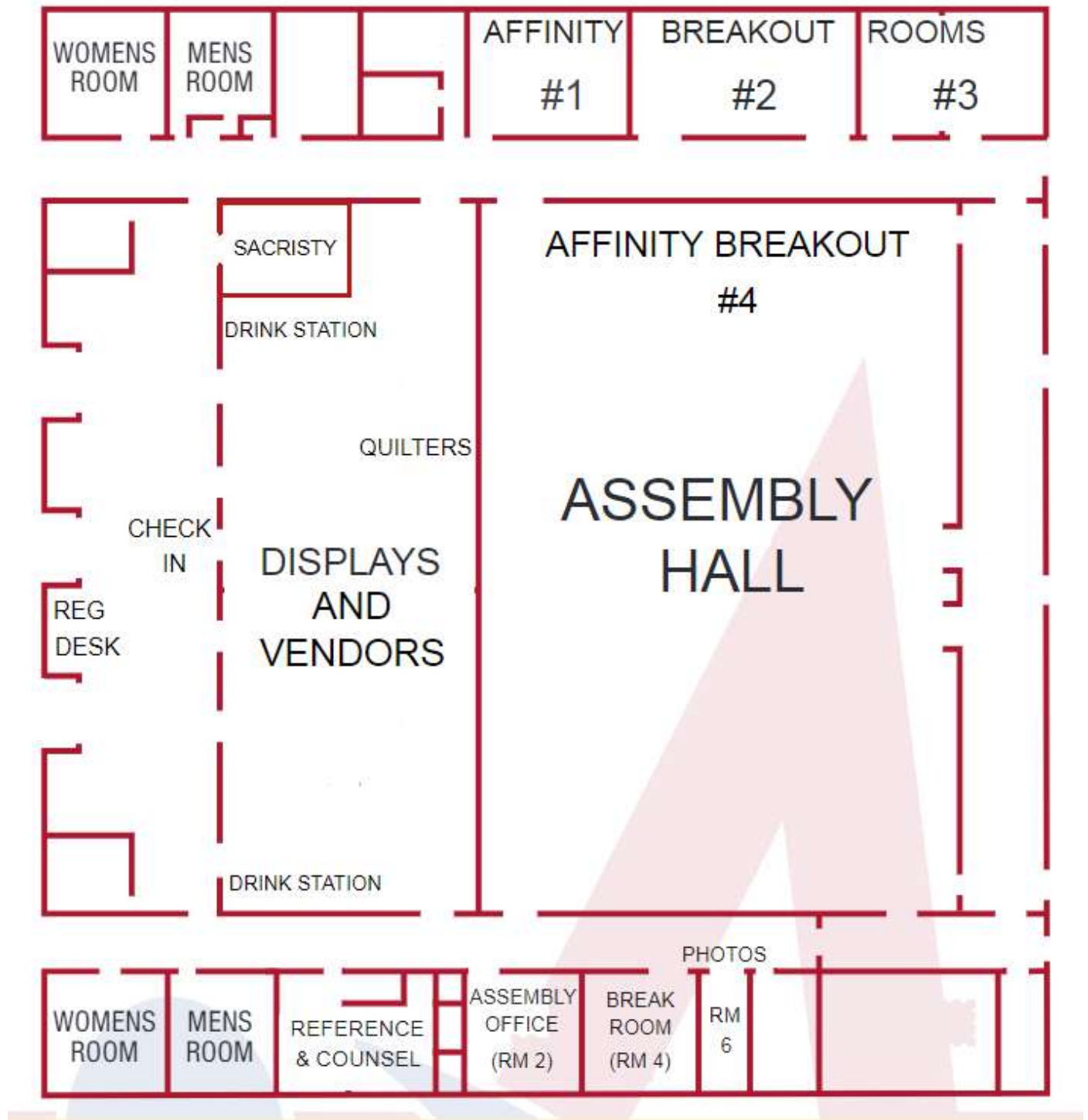
THE 2018 NT-NL ASSEMBLY
The Thirty-First Annual Assembly
of the
Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The Heart of Texas Conference welcomes you!!!

PART A

MEETING SPACE FLOOR PLAN



SPECIAL GUESTS

BIBLE STUDY LEADER



The Rev. Amanda Brobst-Ranaud, PhD

Pastor “Mandy”, as she prefers to be addressed, was born in Pella, Iowa, and was raised in the American Baptist Church, where she was active in Sunday school and music ministry, including teaching Sunday School, choir and hand bells. From an early age, her interests were very diverse: in the course of her childhood, she wanted to be everything from a hair stylist to a veterinarian. She attended Augsburg College, where she studied music therapy.

During her sophomore year, her biblical studies professor asked if she had ever thought about being a pastor (which she had not). Over the course of the next seven years, however, this persistent voice shaped her discernment of a call to ministry. In the interim, Mandy and her spouse, Ben, spent a year volunteering at Holden Village, where she served as lead cook and began intentional discernment toward ministry. After Holden, Mandy and Ben finally became Lutheran, and moved to Stockholm, WI, and moved from there to Madison, WI, for Ben to complete his MFA. After Madison, they moved to St. Paul, MN, for Mandy to attend seminary. Her second year of seminary, she realized she had fallen in love with teaching. This led her to apply for her PhD in New Testament at Baylor University. After arriving in Waco, Mandy began supply preaching and was later called to St. Peter Lutheran Church in Malone, where she works part-time, which enabled her to both serve as pastor and complete her studies. Recently, she completed and defended her dissertation “The Elder Brother’s Remedy and the Rich Man’s Fate: Ancient Rhetoric, Characterization, and Moral Formation in Luke’s Parables” under Dr. Mikeal Parsons. This fall, Mandy looks forward to joining the theology faculty at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN. Rev. Brobst-Renaud is passionate about preaching, teaching, and helping people to fall in love with the biblical narrative over and over again.

ELCA CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE



Ms. Kathryn Mary Lohre is an assistant to the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations and Theological Discernment. From 2012-2013 she served as president of the National Council of Churches USA, the first Lutheran and youngest woman, and edited the book *For Such a Time as This: Young Adults on the Future of the Church* (2013). Prior, she

served as assistant director of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University, a premier research project on religious diversity in the United States. She was a Consulting Editor for *Engaging Others, Knowing Ourselves: A Lutheran Calling in a Multi-Religious World* (2016). She is currently on the executive committee of the *Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign: Standing with American Muslims, Upholding American Values*, a US-based, an inter-religious coalition to end anti-Muslim bigotry.

WORSHIP LEADERS



The Rev. Erik K. J. Gronberg, PhD - Bishop of the NT-NL Synod

Bishop Erik K. J. Gronberg was elected by the Northern-Texas Northern Louisiana Synod/Mission Area in April of 2016. Prior to his election, he had served as Lead Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Worth since 2010.

Bishop Gronberg was born in Austin, Texas, to the Rev. Karl Gronberg and Dr. Sharon Gronberg. He graduated from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 2005 with a Master of Divinity and was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He earned a PhD in Leadership Studies at Dallas Baptist University in 2017. His area of academic interest is adaptive leadership in crisis. You may access his full bio here: <https://www.ntnl.org/people/erik-gronberg/>



The Rev. Kristine Totzke, NT-NL Bishop's Associate for Leadership Formation and Congregational Care

Pastor Kris Totzke came to NT-NL in 2013 as Pastor of [St. Luke's, Richardson](#). In 25+ years of ordained ministry, she has served congregations in Ohio, Wisconsin, and Texas. During this time, she has served as a called pastor to four congregations (two as Associate and two as Solo) and two others as a trained intentional interim.

Her primary responsibilities on synod staff are candidacy (leadership formation) and mobility along with whatever else is needed for congregational care.

Pastor Totzke graduated from Luther Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, MN in 1992. Prior to seminary, she was an elementary school teacher so a love of children is second nature for her. She was raised on a dairy farm in central Wisconsin, and is a lifelong Lutheran. In her down time, she loves to travel and explore new places. One of her best adventures was driving Route 66 from Chicago to the Santa Monica Pier. She also spent a three month sabbatical traveling the east coast in an old RV with her original two cats. Currently her family includes two newer cats, Milo and Max. You may access her full bio here: <https://www.ntnl.org/people/kris-totzke/>



The Rev. Irma Bañales, NT-NL's ELCA Director of Evangelical Mission

Pastora Irma Bañales began as the Director for Evangelical Mission on February 6, 2017. She served as the pastor / developer of First Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church, Garland, TX, from 2013 to 2017. While developing that congregation, she was also the Dean for the NT-NL Synod's Latin@ Conference. Prior to this call, she served as the Hispanic/Latin@

Ministries Coordinator of the synod (2004-2013). She began working for the synod as the Receptionist / Administrative Assistant to the Mission Director (1999-2003).

Pastora Bañales has also been involved significantly with ELCA Churchwide, serving on the following ELCA teams: Mission Developers Training Planning Team, Future Directions Table Team, Latin@ Strategy Table, New Mission Developers Interviewers Team, and Latin@ Coaching Team. You may access her full bio here: <https://www.ntnl.org/people/irma-banales/>

AFFINITY GROUP CONVERSATIONS & LEADERS

Leadership Formation – Bishop Erik K.J. Gronberg, PhD (Assembly Hall)

ELCA Churchwide – Ms. Kathryn Lohre, ELCA Churchwide Rep. (Room 1)

Youth – Ms. Janelle Miller (Room 3)

Ethnic- Specific Ministry - the Rev. Irma Bañales (Room 5/7)



Portrait taking will be offered again this year for all Rostered Ministers, SAWLs, Synod Council Members, and all elected nominees. Photographers are located in Room 6 at the end of the hallway on the South side.



We wish to thank the ELCA Mission Investment Fund for helping to support this assembly through a generous donation.

PART A

PROPOSED AGENDA

(MCCC – Mayborn Civic and Convention Center)

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

10:00 AM	Registration and Displays Open Photographers available for Portraits	Foyer and Hall A & B Meeting Room 6
11:00 AM	Reference and Counsel	MCCC Board Room
12:30 PM	Minutes Committee Elections Committee Credentials Committee	Side of Stage with Secretary Weise Assembly Office – Room 4 with Tyna Oslie Next to Registration with VP Stephanie Varnum
1:00 PM	Voting Member Orientation	Assembly Hall with Bp. Gronberg
1:15 PM	Service of the Word and Order for the Opening of an Assembly	
1:30 PM	Assembly Begins Business Session I <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction and Welcome	Bishop Gronberg and Pastor Tom Beers
1:45 PM	1 st Credentials Report	Credentials Chair, Tonda Freitag
1:50 PM	Starting Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda• Rules of Procedure• Minutes of 2017 Assembly: Secretary Todd Weiss• Parliamentarian – Rick Bidne• Introduce Specific Guests	VP Stephanie Varnum, Deacon
2:00 PM	Nominating Committee Report for General Elections Floor Open for Nominations First Ballot for NT-NL General Elections	Nominating Chair, Ann Hafften Elections Chair, Pr. Paul Krupicka
	<i>Uncontested and Ballots with no additional nominees from the floor (vitas for floor-nominated candidates will be due by 4pm electronically via the synod website https://www.ntnl.org/resources/vita-form/ and you must have the individual's permission to nominate them)</i>	
2:20 PM	Bible Study Session One	Dr. Mandy Brobst-Renaud
2:50 PM	BREAK	
3:00 PM	HOT Conference Mission Moment One	

3:05 PM	Audit Report & Introduction of 2019 Mission Strategy	Treasurer Mark Bradley
3:20 PM	Communications Update, NT-NL Website	Jason O’Neill
3:30 PM	Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest Video	Daniel Cazac
3:37 PM	Portico Video	Barb Debski
3:45 PM	HOT Conference Mission Moment Two	
3:50 PM	Reference and Council -Resolutions Considered	Chair, Mr. Leon Thane
4:10 PM	Break and Move to Auditorium (Please clear all tables upon leaving)	
4:30 PM	Report of the Bishop (Auditorium)	Bishop Erik K.J. Gronberg
5:30 PM	Break for room transition – please visit the Displays and Vendors Beverages and Hymns (North side Breakout Rooms), Cash Bar Available	
7:00 PM	Dinner and Program, with special recognitions – Rostered Ministers/Congregation Anniversaries / Fund for Leaders Recipients	
9:00 PM	End of Day	

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

8:00 AM	Registration and Displays Re-Open	
8:15 AM	Morning Prayer and Song	Assembly Hall
8:30 AM	Welcome	Bishop Gronberg
8:35 AM	HOT Conference Mission Moment Three	
8:40 AM	Business Session II <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Credentials Report• Minutes Report	Credentials Chair, Tonda Freitag Minutes Chair, Pr. Eric Petty
8:45AM	Election Committee Report and Ballot #2 (if needed)	Elections Chair, Pr. Bill Metting
9:00 AM	Bible Study Session Two	Dr. Amanda Brobst-Renaud
9:30 AM	BREAK	
9:40 AM	ELCA Churchwide Report	Ms. Kathryn Lohre

PART A

-NT-NL Synod VP Stephanie Varnum Introduce

10:20 AM	Election Committee Report and Ballot #3 (if needed)	Elections Chair, Pr. Paul Krupicka
10:30 AM	Break to Prepare for Worship	
10:45 AM	Assembly Worship/Eucharist Preacher: The Rev. Irma Bañales Presider: Bishop Erik K.J. Gronberg Offering designated to NT-NL Account in ELCA Fund for Leaders	
12:00 PM	Lunch – Affinity Groups in the North side break out rooms - Leadership Formation: Bishop Gronberg (Assembly Hall) - ELCA Churchwide: Ms. Kathryn Lohre (Room 1) - Youth: Janelle Miller/Christian Marbach (Room 3) - Ethnic Specific Ministry: DEM Irma Banales (Room 5/7)	
1:30 PM	Welcome Back to Assembly	Bishop Gronberg
1:35 PM	HOT Conference Mission Moment Four	
1:40 PM	Briarwood Report	Acting Director, Mr. Matthew Baumhardt
1:50 PM	PLMA Update	Rev. Phil Heinze
2:00 PM	Bible Study Session Three	Dr. Mandy Brobst-Renaud
2:30 PM	Election Committee Report and Ballot #4 and #5 (if needed)	Elections Chair, Pr. Paul Krupicka
2:40 PM	Recognition of San Mateo and SAWL Rocio Alarcon	
2:50 PM	National Youth Gathering Update	Ms. Janelle Miller
3:00 PM	Break	
3:15 PM	WELCA Update	Ms. Sarah Stubbs-Gohlke
3:30 PM	MEF Recognition and Report-Honoring Mrs. Hattie Hammer	
3:45 PM	Business Session III <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Credentials Report• Minutes Report Action on Items of Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VP Stephanie Varnum<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Synod Constitution Changes• Secretary Todd Weiss<ul style="list-style-type: none">-2019 Care and Compensation• Treasurer Mark Bradley<ul style="list-style-type: none">-2019 Mission Strategy	Credentials Chair, Tonda Freitag Minutes Chair, Pr. Eric Petty

- Chair Reference and Council – Mr. Leon Thane
-Resolutions Considered
- Announce 2019 Assembly Location-Calvary, Richland Hills
- Co-Chairs: The Rev. Phil Heinze and The Rev. Kyle Rouze
- Final Memorials of Thanks
-Thank Planning Team, Staff, Host Congregations

5:00 PM Order for the Closing of Assembly and Adjourn

5:30-8PM Celebration at Oscar's Store for Heart of Texas Hospitality - 8133 Oscar Spur, Temple, TX
(Dinner/Beverages on your own, maps to Oscar's on the registration tables. Hope you will join Bishop and Synod Staff for some good food and fun)

SUNDAY APRIL 29

Worship at various HOT Conference Worshipping Communities:

- Bishop Erik Gronberg will be with St. Matthew / Waco
- Pr. Kris Totzke will be with Zion Lutheran Church / McGregor
- Pra. Irma Bañales will be with First Lutheran Church / Waco

HOT Conference Congregations and approximant distance from Temple

City	Church	Miles from Temple	Address	Worship Time
Temple	Covenant	local	4202 Hickory Road	8.15/10.45
Temple	First	local	1515 W Adams Avenue	9.30 a.m.
Bartlett	St. John	24 miles	30650 State Highway 9	10.30 a.m.
Rosebud	Salem	24 miles	418 FM 1772	10.30 a.m.
Killeen	Immanuel	28 miles	3801 Cunningham Road	8.00/10.30
McGregor	Zion	28 miles	503 S. Tyler Street	9.30 a.m.
Crawford	St. Paul	35 miles	Prairie Chapel Rd. & FM 185	10.30 a.m.
Waco	First	36 miles	4400 W. Waco Drive	10.45 a.m.
Waco	St. Matthew	36 miles	800 N New Road	8.15/10.45
Waco	San Mateo Mission	36 miles	Same as St. Matthew/Waco	w/ St. Matt-Waco
Coryell City	St. John	38 miles	10801 FM 929	9.00 a.m.
Clifton (Norse)	Our Savior	55 miles	152 CR 4145	10.45 a.m.
Clifton	Trinity	55 miles	803 W 3rd	10.30 a.m.
Meridian	Faith	67 miles	FM 1991 and Highway 22	11.15 a.m.
Cranfills Gap	St. Olaf	70 miles	402 Meridian Street	9.30 a.m.
Pottsville	Trinity	79 miles	1 mile east of 218 & 221	10.30 a.m.
Comanche	Hope	100 miles	300 E. Cedar Avenue	10.15 a.m.

COMMITTEES OF THE ASSEMBLY

Five committees composed of voting members of the assembly are appointed by Synod Staff and approved by the Synod Council to serve the assembly in conducting its business.

The Committee on Credentials certifies the credentials of voting members, acts on questions of credentials on behalf of the assembly, reports on the presence of a quorum, and controls distribution of materials to voting members by anyone except the secretary.

The Committee on Elections oversees balloting under the direction of the presiding officer and reports to the assembly results of all ballots in detail.

The Committee on Minutes assists the secretary in writing, reviewing and distributing minutes of assembly proceedings.

The Committee for Reference and Counsel gives careful review to all business referred to it (resolutions that are not the direct result of the assembly's deliberations, resolutions affecting the Mission Strategy [budget], and other items referred to it). It counsels the assembly by offering its recommendations. The deadline for all New Business is two weeks prior to the assembly.

The Nominating Committee places in nomination the names of persons qualified to fill positions by assembly vote, except for positions whose nomination is directed in another way by the constitution. The Assembly Nominating Committee is comprised of the same members as the Nominating Committee of the Synod Council.

TIPS ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

TO DO THIS	YOU SAY THIS:	MAY YOU INTERRUPT	IS YOUR MOTION DEBATABLE	IS YOUR MOTION AMENDABLE	VOTE REQUIRED TO PASS
Make a motion (called a "main motion")	"I move that . . ." (Not "I would like to move that . . .")	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move to amend by . . ." (Adding, inserting, striking)	No	Yes	Yes	Majority, unless otherwise indicated
Postpone further debate, consideration, or vote	"I move that this matter be postponed until . . ."	No	No	No	Majority
End debate and bring to a vote	"I move the previous question"	No	No	No	2/3
Refer a matter to another person or group	"I move that this matter be referred to . . ."	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Reconsider a previous action at this Assembly	"I move to reconsider the vote on . . ." (only if you voted on the winning side)	No	Yes, if original motion was debatable	No	Majority
Object to procedures	"Point of Order"	Yes	No	No	Chair decides
Challenge ruling of the chair	"I appeal the chair's decision"	No	Yes	No	Majority
Find out when a motion you wish to make can be made	"When would it be in order for me to move that . . ."	No	—	—	—
Request information	"I wish to request (information, clarification, etc.)"	No	—	—	—
Get an exact count after a close vote	"I call for a division"	Yes	No	No	—

RULES OF ORGANIZATION & PROCEDURE

Order and procedure of this assembly shall be governed by the constitution, by-laws, and continuing resolutions of the Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod, these rules of organization and procedure, and, unless otherwise ordered, parliamentary procedures in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition.

Members – Voting members, by constitution (S7.21ff), are persons designated by their congregation to be a voting member according to the representative formula of this Synod. Voting members also include (1) persons designated by a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community or Mission Congregation under Development to be a voting member according to the representative formula of this Synod, (2) all ordained and lay rostered ministers on the roster of this Synod, (3) ordained ministers of a church body with which the ELCA is in full communion who are serving as pastors under contract with a congregation or Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community of this Synod, (4) lay Synodically Authorized Worship Leaders who are serving under contract with a congregation of this Synod by the Bishop's authorization, and (5) members of the Synod Council who are registered for the assembly. A voting member must be seated in the assembly hall to vote. Proxy and absentee voting are not allowed.

Advisory Members are the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or the presiding bishop's representative, chairpersons of Synod Teams, Youth Convo members, and seminary interns currently serving within a congregation of this Synod. Advisory members have voice but no vote.

Resource Members are the chief executives of church agencies and institutions related to this Synod, the executive directors and chairpersons of the boards of the NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund and Briarwood Lutheran Ministries, the meeting planner for the assembly, and others as granted permission by this assembly, who because of their position or expertise can contribute to the work of the assembly. Resource members have voice only with respect to matters within their expertise, but no vote, unless otherwise granted by their roster or appointed status.

Quorum - One half of the registered voting members must be present to constitute a quorum.

Agenda - The proposed agenda may be amended by a majority vote prior to its adoption. Thereafter a two-thirds vote shall be required for amending the adopted agenda. With the consent of the assembly, the chair may call items of business in whatever order the chair considers most expedient for the conduct of the assembly's business.

Resolutions – Only items of business which have been submitted by voting members or the Synod Council may be considered by the assembly. Resolutions must be submitted to the Committee for Reference and Counsel by April 13, 2018 in order to be considered at this year's assembly. Text of proposed resolutions, which are received at the mission office by this date, will be posted online in the pre-assembly Book of Reports. Resolutions not germane to the pending business, question or report, and all amendments to the constitution or bylaws are due by April 13, 2018 and are immediately referred to the Committee for Reference and Counsel. A voting member who makes a resolution which is referred to the Committee for Reference and Counsel shall be available to that committee for conversation about the proposed resolution. The Committee for Reference and Counsel shall make a recommendation on every item of business referred to it (S7.13.04.). Among the recommendations the committee may make are that the resolution be adopted, not adopted, not considered, referred to an appropriate council, committee or board, deferred to another time on the agenda, or received as information only; the committee may also offer a substitute motion. Resolutions recommended by the Synod Council and resolutions that arise from assembly deliberations may be acted upon without reference to the Committee for Reference and Counsel.

Moving the Previous Question

A member who has spoken on the pending question(s) may not move the previous question(s).
 A motion to end debate by moving the previous question shall apply only to the immediately preceding motion.
 A motion to end debate on all matters on the floor or more than the immediately pending question is not in order.

Substitute Motions

When a substitute motion is made, secondary amendments may be offered first to the original motion. After all secondary amendments to the original motion have been disposed of, secondary amendments to the substitute motion may be offered. When all amendments to the substitute motion have been disposed of, the vote shall be taken on whether the substitute motion is to be substituted as the original motion or be rejected.

Nominations - Following nominations by the Nominating Committee, voting members may make additional nominations from the floor, with the nominee's consent. With each nomination an information sheet about that person shall be filed immediately with the secretary for use by the Committee on Elections. All persons nominated as an officer of this Synod (Bishop, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) shall have appropriate background checks conducted prior to the election, or, in the instance of someone nominated from the floor and subsequently elected, conducted immediately after the assembly in accordance with Continuing Resolution S9.01.A08 of the NT-NL Constitution. A majority vote of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

Elections - Each category for which an election is held is considered a separate ballot even though several categories for election may appear on the same sheet of paper or electronic screen. If the ballot is a paper ballot and more than the number to be elected is marked, that ballot is an illegal ballot. A paper ballot with fewer marked than the number to be elected is a legal ballot. In all elections, except for the Bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled (S9.08.). In cases where there is only one nominee after nominations have been closed, the chair may take a voice vote on electing that person and, if it is a majority, declare the election of that nomination.

Debate - Speakers shall limit their speeches to two minutes. No one is entitled to recognition a second time on the same question as long as another who has not spoken on the motion desires the floor. A person who has spoken twice on a particular question on the same day has exhausted the right to debate further that question that day. Insofar as is possible during discussion, a speaker on one side of the question shall be followed by a speaker on the other side. In the give and take of debate on issues, members and visitors shall refrain from applause.

Distribution of materials - Only material originating from the Office of the Secretary, the Bishop Election Committee (when constituted) and the official assembly newspaper may be distributed to voting members' places. With the approval of the Credentials Committee other material may be distributed at the doors to the assembly hall. Official reports from NT-NL related church agencies and institutions are posted online on the assembly's web page as they arrive and assembly app.

Proposed Mission Strategy - The proposed Mission Strategy (budget) along with the rationale shall be presented to the assembly during a business session. Debate and adoption of the Mission Strategy shall take place in a subsequent business session. Any motion for expenditure of funds or proposed amendment to the Mission Strategy as presented by the Synod Council shall be submitted in writing to the secretary by the time designated in the agenda as the deadline for submissions for review and recommendation by the Committee for Reference and Counsel. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the Mission Strategy or otherwise, which is presented to the assembly without the approval of the Synod Council shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

Approved for Recommendation by NT-NL Synod Council - February 3, 2018

PART A