

Minutes Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod Assembly
Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Meeting: April 25, 2021
Via Zoom, Facebook live, and Briarwood Retreat Center, Argyle, TX

Entrusted “Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.” 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Jason O’Neill and Bishop Gronberg welcomed attendees to Synod Assembly via zoom. Bishop Gronberg declared Assembly to be in session.

Opening Prayer

Bishop Gronberg thanked Jonathan Zitelman, and Jason O’Neill for their assistance with technology for this assembly. Bishop Gronberg highlighted the use of Zoom technology and specifically drew attention to the polling function that will be used to vote, and the raise your hand function.

Assembly Business Session 1

Agenda and Rules of Procedure

Bishop Gronberg spoke about the changes to Rules of Procedure during this online Assembly. He called attention to the reference materials found on the website.

<i>VOTED SA 04.25.01</i>	<i>To approve the Rules of Procedure for the 2021 Assembly.</i> <i>APPROVED</i>
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Kelsey Fitting-Snyder presented the minutes of the 2020 assembly.

<i>VOTED SA 04.25.02</i>	<i>To approve the Minutes of the 2020 Assembly and the Agenda of the 2021 Assembly.</i> <i>APPROVED</i>
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Report from Treasurer

Mark Bradley presented the audit report from 2020. The audit reported that financial records are in order.

Mark Bradley gave a financial overview

- \$98,000 congregational support, down ten percent from 2019
- PPP loan was secured at \$64,495

- Congregational support estimated to be three percent more than it was in 2020.

Bishop Gronberg gave thanks for Mark Bradley's service over the last several years.

Nominations

Bishop Gronberg opened the floor for nominations for synod council positions and church wide voting delegates.

There were no nominations from the floor, and Bishop Gronberg closed the floor.

Jonathan Lys was recognized as the nomination and election chair.

Sponsor Highlight 1: Cottonpatch Designs

Stoles and liturgical art were highlighted

Keynote Number 1

Bishop Gronberg introduced Bishop Gronberg Mike Girlinghouse, who will be presenting on grief and loss: *Embracing God's Future, without Forgetting the Past*.

A video was presented with breakout room conversation that followed.

Lutheran Refugee and Immigration Service

Video shared

Report of the Bishop

Bishop Gronberg highlighted that amid the challenges of this past year, new life has come. He emphasized the ways that we have been able to connect via technology such as online assembly, and conversations at Briarwood. The Heart of Texas conferences was highlighted for their weekly check-ins with one another.

Bishop Gronberg also expressed his discernment to run for re-election as Bishop of the NTNL synod. An elections committee will be established apart from the office of the bishop for the next assembly.

Sponsor Highlight 2: Lutheran Sunset Ministries

Highlighted the work of the staff and their dedicated work to residents in the midst of the pandemic.

Assembly Business Session 2

1st Credentials Report

Jonathan Lys gave the credential report

Voting Members 170

Total Rostered: 101 (59%)

Non-Rostered: 69 (41%)

The chair recognized that the credential report was in error

Revised Credential Report

Voting Members 164

Rostered Voting Members: 64 (39%)

Non-Rostered Voting Members: 99 (61%)

First Ballot for General Elections

1. Synod Council positions:

Ballot A – Dallas Area Metro North Conference Lay Female – Kristen Lorentzen

Ballot B – Metroplex West Conference Rostered Male – Willard McKiver

Affirmed

2. 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Members (two Lay young adults, two Lay adults, and two Clergy):

Ballot C – Lay Female (under 35) – Alma Cruz Medellin

Ballot D – Lay Male (under 35) – Jeremy Wallace

Ballot E – Lay Female (over 35) – Madge Elaine Welty

Affirmed

Ballot F – Lay Male (over 35):

F.1 – Sean Lynch

F.2 – Luis Reyes

Luis Reyes affirmed 61%

Ballot G – Rostered Female:

G.1 – Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

G.2 – Linda Anderson-Little

G.3 – Lesley Radius

Kelsey Fitting-Snyder affirmed 50%

Ballot H – Rostered Male:

H.1 – Austin Nickel

H.2 – Russell Vardell

H.3 – Benjamin Dueholm

Austin Nickel affirmed 51%

Recognition of Ordination Anniversaries

Video was presented

Recognition of Congregational Anniversaries

Video was presented

Keynote Session 2

Facing Grief

Break out conversation

Business Session 3

Bishop Gronberg recognized Tom Blaney as chair.

Report of the first ballot was shared.

ELCA Churchwide Representative

The Rev. Christopher Ottmann

The Rev. Ottmann Highlighted the following from ELCA Churchwide

- World Hunger efforts
- COVID-19 grants
- Lutheran Disaster Response – Raised \$900,000 for natural disasters
- 30 new ministries have begun across ELCA (including NTNL's Kin-dom)
- Importance of military chaplains
- Federal Scholarship for chaplaincy doubled during this pandemic (four scholarships given to seminarians who plan to go into Federal chaplaincy)

Presentation of NT-NL Gift to Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplain Scholarship

Tom Blaney Presented a gift of \$1000 for Fund for Leaders' chaplain scholarship program.

Sponsor Highlight: Mission Investment Fund

Highlighted PPP partnerships

Suspension of Assembly to convene as Briarwood Advisory Board

Briarwood Report, The Rev. Dr. Robert Smith

- We are emerging together.
- Briarwood open to on-site activities.
- Large groups coming later in the summer
- Copper Canyon partnership, hosting jury trials, promoting good citizenship
- Remaining steady in balancing finances
- Online and on-site programming continuing into the future

Reconvene as NT-NL Synod Assembly

Credentials report

Ballot #2 Not needed

NT-NL Stewardship Team

The Rev. Irma Banales, DEM

- Introduced Tom Schwolert who reflected on his journey with stewardship and introduced the team.
- Newsletter
- Generosity Project
- Invited people to join their team
- Video highlight shared

Sponsor Highlight 4: Lutheran Via De Cristo

- **Public Witness Team**
Video presented
- Briarwood in connection with the Public Witness team will form study group “White Supremacy & Racism: Facing Reality, Taking Responsibility...”
- Emma Rogers & Rev. Dr. Robert Smith to lead group over zoom the hope is to form action plans that will be presented to the synod.
- Begins May 11, link is now live

Devotion and Remembrances

ELCA Highlight Videos

Young Adults

Mission Endowment Fund Update

Linda Ness expressed appreciation of the participation in this ministry. Linda thanked the donors for their generosity, those who applied for grants, and the board of directors.

Bishop Gronberg highlighted the loans given by the Mission Endowment Fund and forgiven loans to keep some underserved congregations going during this time.

Texas Lutheran University

Highlighted their strategic plans and the hope for the fall semester

LWR Update

Sponsor Highlight 5: Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest

Keynote Session 3

The Change formula

Breakout sessions

Welcome Kin.Dom Mission Start & The Rev. Pepa Paniagua & DEM Irma Banales

- United Methodist, and PCUSA
- Full inclusion ministry
- Pepa Paniagua (PCUSA) – grateful to be starting this new ministry together
- Kin.dom
- Video Shared

ELCA Coaching Highlights

- Conversation with Jill Beverlin
- Served over 5,000 leaders since weekly meetings online
- Training Online being offered.
- Four special curriculums online for those that want training coming in 2021

Keynote Session 4

Embracing the future, without forgetting the past

Portico Update

Business Session 4

Credentials Report

Jason O'Neill reported the following credentials.

Voting Members 152

Rostered

Total Rostered: 60 (40%)

Non-Rostered Members

Total Non-Rostered Members: 92 (60%)

Minutes Report

The Rev. Kelsey Fitting-Snyder presented that the minutes are in order.

The Rev. Kelsey Fitting-Snyder introduced the 2022 Care and Compensation package to the assembly.

VOTED SA 04.25.03

To approve the 2022 Care and Compensation for the Synod.

APPROVED

Mark Bradley presented the 2022 Mission Strategy for approval.

VOTED SA 04.25.04

To approve the 2022 Mission Strategy.

APPROVED

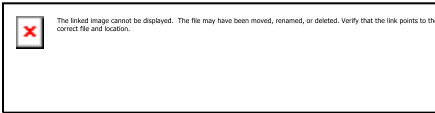
April 2022 at Paul Quinn College

April 29th and 30th in Paul Quinn College Election

Renewal of Baptismal Vows, Order for the Closing of an Assembly

Assembly Closed at 2:43pm

Respectfully Submitted,



The Rev. Kelsey Fitting-Snyder