

THE TWENTY-THIRD ASSEMBLY OF THE SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD
VITAL CONGREGATIONS, JUST COMMUNITIES

May 6-8, 2010
Silver Legacy, Reno, Nevada

HIGHLIGHTS

The Sierra Pacific Synod met in Assembly with five hundred fifty-five in attendance (465 voting members).

The Keynote addresses were presented by ***Dr Victor M Rodriguez*** on the topic "Cultural Racism, the Multicultural Church and the Anti-racist Church." ***Dr Barbara Rossing***, LSTC, offered two Bible Studies on the books of Acts and Revelations and the ***Rev Susan Eng*** brought the ELCA Churchwide Report. Rev Eng also discussed LIFT (Living Into the Future Together) which asks the questions: *What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future?* and *What changes are in order to accomplish these tasks more faithfully?*

The **Racial and Ethnic Ministries Working Group** made presentations lifting up the work of each of its the three teams: *Cultural Competency*, *Anti-Racism* and *Mission/Strategy*.

The **Transition Team** presented its report about the relocation of the Synod Offices to Calvary, Rio Linda (temporary site), St Mark's, San Francisco, and the Campus Ministry center, Fresno. These moves are underway and should be fully completed by mid July at the latest. Hopes for calling future Assistants to the Bishop to serve in San Francisco and Sacramento were also discussed.

Resolutions passed

Resolution 2010-01(s) *Regarding Advance Health Care Directives* (which encourages both study on the topic of and completion of Health Care Directives by all ELCA members)

Resolution 2010-02 *Regarding Energy Stewardship* (which authorizes the establishment of a Synod Green team to encourage congregations to offer a public witness of energy stewardship)

Resolution 2010-03 *Regarding Biennial Assemblies* (which urged asks the Synod Council to study costs and alternative gathering options to annual assemblies)

Resolution 2010-04 *Regarding St Francis Lutheran Church and First United Lutheran Church* (which affirms the full participation of these congregations in the ministry of the synod and urges their reception as congregations of the ELCA should they so desire and apply.)

The full text of these resolutions will appear on the website in final form shortly

Elections

Discipling Team members elected in District Caucuses were *Sue Hertless*, Word & Sacrament, District A; *Gloria Baker*, Witness & Service, District B; *Carol Starr*, Leadership, District C; *Collette Koski*, Word & Sacrament, District C; *Pr Clark Brown*, Word & Sacrament, District D; *Pr Eric Yochheim*, Word & Sacrament, District E.

Elected as **Synod Council** officers were *Douglas Miller*, Vice-President and *Lou Smith*, Treasurer. Other Council members elected include *Perry Gray-Reneberg*, District A; *Kay Valler*, District B; *Rev. Jeff Johnson*,* District C; *Mark Nelson*, District D; *Kristina Garabedian*, District E; *Rev. Jose Luis La Torre*, at-large. (*Provisional on receipt onto the roster of ordained ministers of the ELCA)

Fifteen **Voting Members** for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly in Orlando were elected and because the Synod is allotted only 13 voting members plus the Bishop, lots were drawn to determine the two alternates. The thirteen voting members from this synod are *Molly Calhoun*, *Peter Quam*, *Rev Stephanie Lord*, *Kathryn Beck*, *Paul Larsen*, *Pam Danenberg*, *Rev Guta Yadeta*, *Christina Beauchemin*, *Douglas Daetz*, *Rev Khadar Khalilia*, *Margie Back*, *Terry Roberts*, and *Rev Mary Sanders*. Alternates are *Steve Krefting* (1st) and *Rev Scot Sorensen* (2nd).

The Synod Assembly also adopted a 2011-12 **Budget** as proposed which showed anticipated income of \$2,457,000. A portion of that income was from a challenge to congregational members. The challenge is that an additional \$5 each month per confirmed members be gathered and each congregation tithe the amount received. The Synod would have that 10% to use for mission and the congregations would have the remaining 90% for ministry in their location.

Bishop Mark Holmerud, in the course of his report, read a letter to the assembly lifting the censure on University Chapel in Berkeley. See the text of that letter following.

Numerous workshops were held and well attended. Worship was joyful, the messages inspiring, and the music (led by Tom and Carole Parmeter-Dyer of *Woven Image*) uplifting.