

The Grace of a New Day . . .

PLENARY SESSION #4

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

SYNOD COUNCIL, Terms Ending 2021

Gateway:	The Rev. Ramon Collazo, Santa Isabel, Elizabeth
Northern	Haydee Colon Hernandez, St. Matthew, Union City
	Maurice Willoughby, Good Shepherd, Glen Rock
	Carla Hoenigmann, Christ, Woodcliff Lake
Western	Sandra Dean, Trinity, Dover

The Chair declared those elected by Mission Districts for Synod Council affirmed by the Synod Assembly to serve in that capacity.

2019 ELCA CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBERS

Bishop	The Rev. Tracie Bartholomew, St. Bartholomew, Trenton
Shore- Lay Female	Joy Serena, Cape May, Cape May
Northern- Clergy	The Rev. Jeffrey Miller, First, Clifton
Gateway- Lay Male	Kennedy Nyangacha, St. John, Jersey City
Western- Clergy	The Rev. Christa Compton, Gloria Dei, Chatham
Middle- Clergy	The Rev. Jill Collict, Nativity, East Brunswick
Delaware- Lay Male	Jack Bryant, St. Stephen, Woodbury

The Chair declared those elected by Mission Districts as 2019 Churchwide Voting Members affirmed by the Synod Assembly to serve in that capacity.

First Ballot for Committee on Discipline. Clergy. term ending 2024

Number Needed to be Elected	2
Number of Ballots Cast	328
Number Needed for Election	165
Number of Illegal Ballots	0
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0
Election Complete	Yes

Karen Bernhardt	327	Robert Mountenay	326
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The Chair declared Karen Bernhardt and Robert Mountenay elected to the Committee on Discipline.

First Ballot for Committee on Discipline. Lay. term ending 2024

Number Needed to be Elected	2
Number of Ballots Cast	328
Number Needed for Election	165
Number of Illegal Ballots	0
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0
Election Complete	Yes

Kim Norton	326	Willie Richardson	328
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The Chair declared Kim Norton and Willie Richardson elected to the Committee on Discipline.

First Ballot for Consultation Committee. Clergy. term ending 2024

Number Needed to be Elected	2
Number of Ballots Cast	329 (corrected to 330)
Number Needed for Election	166
Number of Illegal Ballots	0
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0
Election Complete	Yes

Matthew Cimorelli

327

Birgit Solano

329

The Chair declared Matthew Cimorelli and Birgit Solano elected to the Consultation Committee.

First Ballot for Consultation Committee, Lay, term ending 2024

Number Needed to be Elected	2
Number of Ballots Cast	329 (corrected to 330)
Number Needed for Election	166
Number of Illegal Ballots	0
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0
Election Complete	No

Deborah Goidel

326

Jose Sanchez

330

The Chair declared Deborah Goidel elected to the Consultation Committee and asked the Committee on Elections to review the ballot count for Jose Sanchez and report back to the Assembly in the next report.

First Ballot for Synod Council, Lay Female, Shore Mission District, term ending 2021

Number Needed to be Elected	1
Number of Ballots Cast	325
Number Needed for Election	164
Number of Illegal Ballots	0
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0
Election Complete	Yes

Carol Dorn

325

The Chair declared Carol Dorn elected as Synod Council, Lay Female, term ending 2021.

First Ballot for Synod Council, Clergy, term ending 2021

Number Needed to be Elected	1
Number of Ballots Cast	316
Number Needed for Election	159
Number of Illegal Ballots	0
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0
Election Complete	Yes

Dean Brown

316

The Chair declared Dean Brown elected as Synod Council clergy, term ending 2021.

First Ballot for 2019 Churchwide Voting Member, Clergy

Number Needed to be Elected	2
Number of Ballots Cast	336
Number Needed for Election	169
Number of Illegal Ballots	0
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0
Election Complete	Yes

Gladys Moore	214	Moacir Weirich	177
Susan Jones	151	Dean Brown	120

The Chair declared Gladys Moore and Moacir Weirich elected as 2019 Churchwide Voting Members, Clergy.

First Ballot for 2019 Churchwide Voting Member, Youth

Number Needed to be Elected	1
Number of Ballots Cast	320
Number Needed for Election	161
Number of Illegal Ballots	1
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0
Election Complete	Yes

Felicity Wong	207	Leah Fulton	112
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The Chair declared Felicity Wong elected 2019 Churchwide Voting Member Youth.

First Ballot for 2019 Churchwide Voting Member, Young Adult

Number Needed to be Elected	1
Number of Ballots Cast	331
Number Needed for Election	166
Number of Illegal Ballots	1
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0
Election Complete	No

Alyssa Gautieri	150	Larry Henry	96
Liz Roderick	84		

The Chair declared the names Alyssa Gautieri and Larry Henry to appear on Ballot #2.

First Ballot for 2019 Churchwide Voting Member, Lay Person of Color

Number Needed to be Elected	1
Number of Ballots Cast	331
Number Needed for Election	166
Number of Illegal Ballots	0
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0
Election Complete	Yes

Arundel Clarke	169	Carla Ferreira	85
Renee Gordon	77		

The Chair declared Arundel Clarke elected 2019 Churchwide Voting Member Lay Person of Color.

First Ballot for 2019 Churchwide Voting Member, Lay Female

Number Needed to be Elected	1
Number of Ballots Cast	328
Number Needed for Election	165
Number of Illegal Ballots	0
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0

Election Complete

Yes

Haydée Colon-Hernandez 183

Jessica Clarke 145

The Chair declared Haydée Colon-Hernandez elected 2019 Churchwide Voting Member, Lay Female.

First Ballot for 2019 Churchwide Voting Member, Lay Male

Number Needed to be Elected 1

Number of Ballots Cast 327

Number Needed for Election 164

Number of Illegal Ballots 1

Number Still Needed to be Elected 0

Election Complete Yes

Wayne Olsen 168

Robert Bowden 158

The Chair declared Wayne Olsen elected 2019 Churchwide Voting Member, Lay Male.

ELECTIONS- BALLOT #2

Bishop Bartholomew instructed Assembly Voting Members to be seated at a Voting Member table to receive a ballot. The Committee on Elections distributed Ballot #2 for 2019 Churchwide Voting Member, Young Adult. Bishop Bartholomew gave instructions on the voting procedure, and votes were cast. The ballots were collected by the Committee on Elections and Bishop Bartholomew declared Ballot #2 closed.

MINISTRY PARTNER GREETINGS

UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY IN GETTYSBURG AND PHILADELPHIA

Bishop Bartholomew introduced The Rev. Jaykiran Sebastian to address the Assembly with a report and update of the first year of United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg and Philadelphia. Dean Sebastian, in a hope-filled address, expressed joy and thanksgiving for the first graduating class of ULS.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES OF NEW JERSEY

Bishop Bartholomew introduced Colleen Frankenfield, President and CEO of Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey. Ms. Frankenfield updated the Assembly on the mission-based work of the organization serving more than 8,000 people through senior, hospice and home care; adoption services; homeless day center; affordable housing, and immigration. An update was given on projects such as: The Villa at Florham Park; Lutheran Crossings, Moorestown; Project Home, Jersey City, and Journey Hospice, Egg Harbor Twp.

Colleen concluded her report giving thanks for the chaplains serving at LSMNJ as well as partnership with the New Jersey Synod.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL

Bishop Bartholomew called on Fiscal Management, Administration, and Property Chair The Rev. Dean Brown, Holy Trinity, Red Bank, to present the 2019 Financial Plan. Bishop Bartholomew opened the floor for discussion of the following proposed plan:

2019 Financial Plan

February 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020

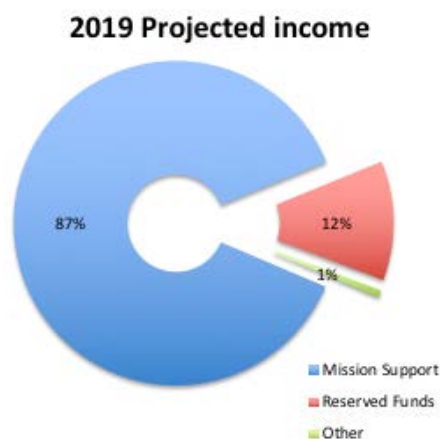
The proposed New Jersey Synod financial plan supports the synod's missions and projects. This plan was developed in collaboration with the Fiscal Management, Administration and Property Committee. The Fiscal Management, Property and Administration Committee recommends the approval of this plan by the Synod Council and the Synod Assembly.

Income Supporting the Spending Plan

	2017 Actual		2018 Amended Spending Plan		2019 Proposed Spending Plan	
Mission Support	1,919,265	90%	1,855,858	87%	1,784,614	87%
Bequests and EMU	13,886	10%	11,100	12%	-	12%
ELCA and Designated support from funds	192,606		242,400		242,400	
Bank interest and other	12,243		13,000		14,000	
Expected Income	2,138,000		2,122,358		2,041,014	

Income includes Mission Support from synod congregations, distributions from endowed funds, support from the national church and income from other sources such as bank interest. The 2018 spending plan was approved at the 2017 Synod Assembly; the Synod Council approved amendments in April 2018.

Mission Support describes the gifts provided by congregations to the synod. Mission Support was 90% of the total synod income in 2017 and is forecast to be 87% of income in 2018.



Bequests and EMU describes bequest gifts and payment from the EMU program to compensate for synod resources supporting the EMU project in 2017 and 2018.

ELCA and Designated Support describes money given toward particular synod programs. For example, money is granted from the ELCA toward specific synod programs. The synod supports Cross Roads Camp using a fund restricted to outdoor ministry. These designated funds include support for Mission Development, Candidacy, and Stewardship programs.

Bank interest and other income bank interest, Thrivent Choice and Amazon Smile income.

Spending Plan

Section 1: ELCA Churchwide and Ministry Partners

	2017 Actual	2018 Amended Spending Plan	2019 Proposed Spending Plan
ELCA Share of Mission Support	959,633	927,929	892,307
United Lutheran Seminary	90,000	90,000	90,000
Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center	20,000	20,000	20,000
Protestant Campus Ministry	3,000	1,500	-
Lutheran Archives Center	2,500	2,500	2,500
New Jersey Council of Churches	1,000	1,000	-
New Jersey Interfaith Coalition	2,500	2,500	2,500
Region 7 Center for Mission	1,173	5,000	1,000
Upsala at Wagner Program	4,000	4,000	4,000
Seafarers and International House	2,000	2,000	2,000
diakonia	1,500	1,500	1,500
Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of	20,000	20,000	20,000
	1,107,306	1,077,929	1,035,807
Percentage of spending plan	52%	51%	51%

The New Jersey Synod supports our partners in ministry within New Jersey, throughout our region and across the churchwide organization. Half of the Mission Support gifts go automatically to the ELCA churchwide organization.

Other partners in ministry include the United Lutheran Seminary, Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center, and the Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey (LEAMNJ). Overall, 51% of the spending plan supports the ELCA Churchwide and our Ministry Partners.

Section 2. Strengthening Congregations

	2017 Actual	2018 Amended Spending Plan	2019 Proposed Spending Plan
People	332,395	267,530	275,571
Programs	24,716	33,500	29,500
	357,111	301,030	305,071
Percentage of spending plan	17%	14%	15%

Strengthening Congregations within the New Jersey Synod includes:

- Synod personnel supporting congregational needs
- Youth Ministry programs and grants
- The Discipleship and Witness Mission Team
- The Justice and Peace Mission Team
- Stewardship resources
- Synod-wide communications

A 5% increase in health insurance costs is included in the 2019 plan which is consistent with previous years. This added \$4,100 to the overall budget. A 3% staff salary increase is included. Resources devoted to strengthening our Synod congregations makes up 15% of our 2019 plan.

Section 3: Outreach Supporting Congregations

	2017 Actual		2018 Amended Spending Plan		2019 Proposed Spending Plan
Programs	124,993		170,000		170,000
Percentage of spending plan	6%		8%		8%

Outreach Supporting Congregations supports New Jersey missions, enables new expressions of ministry in the Synod, assists the start-up of new churches and revitalizes existing ministries. During 2018, this section supported St. Stephan's Grace, Newark; Santa Isabel, Elizabeth; Bridge of Peace, Camden; Elect Saints, Hamilton; Christus, Camden; St. Bartholomew, Trenton, and St. Thomas, Brick.

Section 4: Office of the Bishop

	2017 Actual		2018 Amended Spending Plan		2019 Proposed Spending Plan
People	224,555		230,134		227,686
Seminarian and Candidacy Support	26,183		15,400		15,400
Program Support	6,262		9,800		7,300
	257,000		255,334		250,386
Percentage of spending plan	12%		12%		12%

The Office of the Bishop supports and guides synod congregations and coordinates also synod church and legal processes. The Office of the Bishop enables:

- Congregational vacancy and call processes
- Seminarians and clergy candidates
- Interaction and dialogue with other church and ministry partner organizations
- Synod gatherings such as the Synod Assembly
- The synod Deans who coordinate our mission districts and support our pastors

12% of the New Jersey Synod budget supports the Office of the Bishop.

Section 5: Oversight and Planning for the Sake of the Mission

	2017 Actual		2018 Amended Spending Plan		2019 Proposed Spending Plan
People	122,103		94,120		89,750
Staff Travel Expenses	37,438		45,000		40,000
Volunteers Meeting & Travel	6,643		8,000		8,000
Audit, Legal and Insurance	45,247		40,500		40,500
Property Management	54,597		65,700		65,700
Supplies and Services	36,204		35,800		35,800
	302,232		289,120		279,750
Percentage of spending plan	14%		14%		14%

Section 5 supports the administrative aspects of running the synod organization including managing our resources and properties; fulfilling legal and regulatory requirements; and planning for our future. 14% of the New Jersey Synod budget supports oversight and planning.

Can we summarize all that detail?

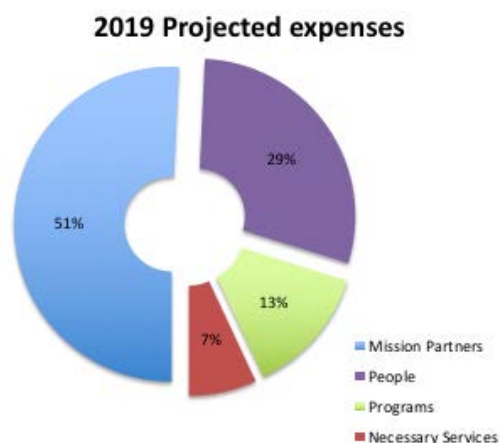
We looked at the ways in which the spending plan supports the mission of the New Jersey Synod. Another way to look at our financial plan is to examine where the money will go.

51% to support our Mission Partners.

29% for synod staff salary and benefits.

13% pays for synod programs.

7% pays for administrative things like the synod office, electricity, phone service, the photocopier, cleaning, and insurance.



Plan Summary

	2017 Actual	2018 Amended Spending Plan	2019 Proposed Spending Plan
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,148,642	2,093,413	2,041,014
TOTAL INCOME	2,138,000	2,122,358	2,041,014
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(10,642)	28,945	0

The proposed 2019 Financial Plan supports a continuation of key Synod missions and program. The proposed plan balances expenses with expected revenue.

Michael Hozik, St. James, Folsom, rose to amend the 2019 Financial Plan to restore funding of the Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministry line in Section 1 to \$3,000, by decreasing Section 5: Staff Travel Expense line by \$2,000 and Supplies and Services by \$1,000.

The Rev. Dean Brown, Holy Trinity, Red Bank, and Chair, Fiscal Management, Administration, and Property Committee, Wayne Olsen, St. Paul, Teaneck, and The Rev. Peter Beeson, St. Matthew Trinity, Hoboken, rose to speak against the amendment.

With no additional speakers to the amendment, Bishop Bartholomew called for a vote to amend the 2019 Financial Plan.

(The amendment to the 2019 Financial Plan was DEFEATED 05/12/2018)

The floor was again open for debate of the 2019 Financial Plan as presented. With no one rising to speak, Bishop Bartholomew called for a vote of the 2019 Financial Plan. Bishop Bartholomew reminded Voting Members that adopting the 2019 Financial Plan requires support through ongoing Congregation Mission Support sharing.

(The 2019 Financial Plan was ADOPTED 05/12/2018)

REPORT OF THE BOSNIA INTERNATIONAL SERVANT TRIP

Bishop Bartholomew called on Jason Reed, Youth Ministry Specialist, and members of the Bosnia Leadership Team including: Cindy Henry, St. Paul, Hainesport, Team Leader; Carlos Cuevas, Christus, Camden, and Nicole Krenz, St. Stephen's Grace, Newark, to address the Assembly about the peace-building ministry. Over the last eighteen years, the ministry has raised up leaders both in our Synod and in the country of Bosnia Herzegovina as well as encouraged congregation home team involvement and prayer.

POINT OF PERSONEL PRIVILEGE

The Rev. James McKinley, Retired and Interim Pastor, Immanuel, Lakewood, rose for a point of personal privilege related to the separation of children at the border. Since it was not a question but a request it was ruled out of order by the parliamentarian.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL (Cont'd.)

Bishop Bartholomew called on Vicar Serena Rice, Abiding Peace, Budd Lake, for the Report of the Committee of Reference and Counsel. Vicar Rice directed the Assembly to Resolution #2 *On Fair and Sustainable Policies for Non-Rostered Lay Personnel*.

ON FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE POLICIES FOR NON-ROSTERED LAY PERSONNEL

Whereas one of our baptismal promises is to strive for justice and peace in all the earth;

Whereas part-time workers in the United States today are far less likely to have access to employer-sponsored benefits, retirement benefits and paid sick leave, and far more likely to be female and earn low wages;

Whereas non-rostered lay staff are often part time positions;

Whereas non-rostered lay staff as part time employees are likely to be female;

Whereas thesis 35 of the ELCA Draft of the Social Statement on Women and Justice states that "The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commits to promote changes that are economically just, including equal pay, for women in all ELCA institutions and organizations, with special attention to the situations of people affected by intersecting forms of discrimination;"

Whereas we affirm the priesthood of all believers and we believe each employee contributes to the church's ministry and mission;

Whereas when we create a culture of generosity and gratitude, we grow stronger, healthier and better equipped to carry out God's work in the world;

Whereas the Church should lead by example of how employees in the United States should be treated;

Therefore Be It Resolved:

- individual congregations will review their benefits plans for their non-rostered lay staff to make sure they include, but are not limited to, paid vacation, sick leave, personal days, paid holidays, paid maternity/paternity/adoptive leave, compassion leave, training and development opportunities, and service recognition;
- individual congregations will review their compensation plans to make sure they are paying a sustainable wage;

- the NJ Synod office will annually provide its congregations with benefits guidelines that are similar to those given to rostered leaders and the ELCA Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies.

The Committee of Reference and Counsel in providing a rationale, affirms the New Jersey Synod advocating for lay non-rostered employees related to compensation and benefits and also realizes that the Synod does not have direct oversight of lay non-rostered employees. The Committee of Reference and Counsel did not recommend approval of this resolution, but encourages congregational personnel and mutual ministry committees to communicate with local congregations of similar size and context as the most effective means for discerning fair and just wages for all workers.

Bishop Bartholomew opened the floor for debate of Resolution #2.

The Rev. Bruce Davidson, Living Waters, Ringoes, rose to refer the resolution to the New Jersey Synod Council and report back to the 2019 Assembly.

With no other speakers to the motion to refer to the NJ Synod Council, Bishop Bartholomew called for a vote.

The motion to refer Resolution #2 *On Fair and Sustainable Policies for Non-Rostered Lay Personnel* to the New Jersey Synod Council was ADOPTED 05/12/2018.

The Report of Reference and Counsel continued with Resolution #3 *A Resolution Concerning Undocumented Immigrants*.

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

WHEREAS, the Core Values of the New Jersey Synod are Faithfulness, Respect, Diversity, Generosity, Change, and Interdependence; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has a strong history of welcoming the stranger and in refugee and immigrants issues; and

WHEREAS, since 1939 the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) has served as a national organization to serve uprooted people; and

WHEREAS, many biblical injunctions teach not to wrong or oppress the alien in our midst; and

WHEREAS, Jesus' own mandate included extending care to the stranger; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants are members of our families, congregations, and communities; and

WHEREAS, our sisters and brothers of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, a full communion partner, passed a resolution in 2017 to become a Sanctuary Diocese; therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the New Jersey Synod continue and increase connections with the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, ELCA sister synods, and local and national sanctuary communities and institutions, immigrants' rights groups and coalitions; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That the New Jersey Synod continue and increase engagement in education, organization, advocacy, and direct action to ensure the safety and security of the undocumented community; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That the Immigration Task Force of the New Jersey Synod maintain a contact list of congregations that are willing to provide a safe space for undocumented immigrants, both within and outside of the New Jersey Synod; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That in the event a pastor or congregation encounters undocumented immigrants in need of safe space, which the aforementioned pastor or congregation is unable to provide, that the New Jersey Synod strongly urge the pastor or congregation to quickly contact the Immigration Task Force of the New Jersey Synod to receive the list of congregations that are willing to assist in providing safe space.

FURTHER RESOLVED That the New Jersey Synod support congregations in this synod which identify as, or seek to become, Sanctuary Congregations, serving as places of welcome, refuge, healing, and other forms of material and pastoral support for those targeted for deportation due to immigrant status or some other perceived status of difference, and that we work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That this Synod assist in equipping congregations, clergy and lay leaders to engage in such work, appropriate to local contexts, capacity, and discernment.

Vicar Rice reported the Committee of Reference and Counsel affirms the intention of the resolution and the call for synodical action in responding to the needs of immigrants in our midst and provided a rationale for the recommendation of a substitute resolution. The Committee of Reference and Counsel recommended the following *Substitute Resolution A Resolution Concerning Undocumented Immigrants*:

Resolved That the New Jersey Synod continue and increase connections with our Ecumenical partners, ELCA sister synods, and other organizations who are working on behalf of all persons living in fear because of their immigration status.

Further resolved that the New Jersey Synod continue and increase engagement in education, organization, advocacy, and direct action to ensure the safety and security of the undocumented community;

And be it Further Resolved that the Immigration Task Team of the New Jersey Synod develop and maintain a confidential contact list of congregations that are willing and able to provide safe space for immigrants if such need arise. And that this information be available to pastors and congregations when there is a need in their respective community for safety and hospitality of immigrants.

Further Resolved That the New Jersey Synod support congregations to serve as places of welcome, refuge, healing, and to provide other forms of material and pastoral support for those targeted for deportation due to immigrant status, affirming our call to work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.

Further Resolved That the NJ Synod assist in equipping congregations to engage in this ministry with the resources available through the AMMPARO campaign, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), and the further support of the Immigration Task Team of this synod.

Bishop Bartholomew opened the floor for debate of consideration of Substitute Resolution #2.

The Rev. Brett Ballenger, Prince of Peace, Marlton; Dennis Brink, Holy Trinity, Brant Beach, Krista White, Holy Counselor, Sussex; The Rev. Kathryn Irwin, Holy Trinity, Nutley, and The Rev. Carmine Pernini, Zion Rahway, rose to speak in favor of the substitute resolution.

The Rev. Ramon Collazo, Santa Isabel, Elizabeth, rose to question the procedure for a “confidential list of congregations” in the third resolve. Vicar Rice responded the list of congregations will be maintained confidential so that is it only provided to those who need it in order to provide services.

The Rev. Mona Fitch-Elliott, St. John, Jersey City, rose to request that the acronym AMMPARO be defined for clarity. The substitute resolution received the friendly edit.

Zane Helsel, Abiding Presence, Ewing, rose for points of clarification and a definition of the word “undocumented” used in the title. He also asked if the New Jersey Synod has sought legal counsel, related to compliance with Federal code 18USC section1324.

Bishop Bartholomew called on a representative of Reference and Counsel, LEAM NJ, or the Immigration Task Team to address this question. The Rev. Sara Lilja, Director, LEAMNJ, responded. The language is intentionally open to be inclusive of all those struggling to find refuge and safety. There has been legal consultation and it is not clear where the issue lies in federal or state statutes. The Committee of Reference and Counsel believes the resolution defines behaviors of welcome and actions congregations can rightfully take to support persons who are suffering.

The Rev. Moacir Weirich, St. Stephan’s Grace, Newark, and member of the Immigration Task Team, rose to provide clarity that immigration ministry is giving opportunity for legal representation that affected persons can explore.

Deborah Goidel, St. John, Jersey City, rose to call the question.

Bishop Bartholomew called for a vote to end debate.

The vote to end debate was ADOPTED 05/12/2018.

Bishop Bartholomew called for a vote to consider *Substitute Resolution: A Resolution Concerning Undocumented Immigrants* as the pending motion.

The vote to consider the Substitute Resolution as the pending motion was ADOPTED 05/12/2018.

With no other speakers to the Substitute Resolution *A Resolution Concerning Undocumented Immigrants*, Bishop Bartholomew called for a vote. The resolution follows:

Resolution Concerning Undocumented Immigrants

Resolved That the New Jersey Synod continue and increase connections with our Ecumenical partners, ELCA sister synods, and other organizations who are working on behalf of all persons living in fear because of their immigration status.

Further resolved that the New Jersey Synod continue and increase engagement in education, organization, advocacy, and direct action to ensure the safety and security of the undocumented community;

And be it Further Resolved that the Immigration Task Team of the New Jersey Synod develop and maintain a confidential contact list of congregations that are willing and able to provide safe space for immigrants if such need arise. And that this information be available to pastors and congregations when there is a need in their respective community for safety and hospitality of immigrants.

Further Resolved That the New Jersey Synod support congregations to serve as places of welcome, refuge, healing, and to provide other forms of material and pastoral support for those targeted for deportation due to immigrant status, affirming our call to work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.

Further Resolved That the NJ Synod assist in equipping congregations to engage in this ministry with the resources available through the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) campaign, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), and the further support of the Immigration Task Team of this synod.

Substitute Resolution Concerning Undocumented Immigrants was ADOPTED 05/12/2018

Zane Helsel, Abiding Presence, Ewing, and Joni Elliott, Abiding Presence, Ewing, notified the Secretary to register their abstentions and be duly noted in the official Minutes.

POINT OF PERSONEL PRIVILEGE

The Rev. David Stoner, Temple, Pennsauken, rose for a point of personal privilege to inquire how to communicate with the Synod Council related to the resolution, *Resolution #2 On Fair and Sustainable Policies for Non-Rostered Lay Personnel*, referred to the Synod Council. Bishop Bartholomew explained the process of the formation of an Ad Hoc committee of Synod Council, which will include other varied resource people to work on the resolution and report back to the Assembly. Pastor Stone is welcome to be part of that conversation.

With the work of the Committee of Reference and Counsel complete, Bishop Bartholomew expressed her thanks to Vicar Rice and the Committee of Reference and Counsel for their work during and prior to the Assembly.

REPORT OF THE CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

Bishop Bartholomew welcomed The Rev. Christa Compton, Gloria Dei, Chatham, and chair of the Candidacy Committee to address the Assembly. Pastor Compton began her report with thanksgiving for all who faithfully serve on the Candidacy Committee, and in particular for The Rev. Carol Petersen who serves as the candidacy coordinator. The Report of the Candidacy Committee is found on pages 68-71 in the Bulletin Reports. Pastor Compton asked the Assembly to remember in their prayers the twelve candidates for rostered ministry currently in our process. The Assembly was urged to raise up leaders in their own congregations who have gifts for ministry, and together be in conversation with members of the Candidacy Committee in the discernment process – tethered by God's grace.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Bishop Bartholomew called on Deacon Abby Ferjak, Chaplain, Valley Hospital, to report. In review of the First Ballot for Consultation Committee, the number of ballots cast was indeed 330. The report was corrected and will be reflected in the Minutes.

The Chair declared Jose Sanchez elected to the Consultation Committee.

The Report of the Committee on Elections continued with Second Ballot for 2019 Churchwide Voting Member, Young Adult.

Second Ballot for 2019 Churchwide Voting Member, Young Adult

Number Needed to be Elected	1
Number of Ballots Cast	251
Number Needed for Election	126
Number of Illegal Ballots	1
Number Still Needed to be Elected	0
Election Complete	Yes

Alyssa Gautieri	159	Larry Henry	91
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The Chair declared Alyssa Gautieri elected 2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Young Adult.

LOVESTRUCK

For the last number of Synod Assemblies, the New Jersey Synod has intentionally built time into our Assembly agenda for work eradicating racism and celebrating diversity. A team of youth, young adults and their pastors led the Assembly in a time called LoveStruck, a time focused on safe conversations about race, racism and God.

In 2014, a team of twenty-three young leaders of color and their pastors from five inner-city congregations led two activities at the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. This project taught us much about developing young leaders of color with a 4-point partnership of synod, pastor (or other key adult leader), congregation, and young leaders. The team now consists of twenty-one young leaders of color and their pastors from 7 inner-city congregations and they will again lead activities at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston.

After introductions, the Assembly participated in LoveStruck, a discussion of posed questions in small groups. The Assembly was reminded that all stories matter and it is a time for be kind to each other and listen with open minds and hearts. In closing, chaplain for the LoveStruck team, The Rev. Moacir Weirich, St. Stephan's Grace, Newark, led the Assembly in prayer.

POINT OF PERSONEL PRIVILEGE

The Rev. Bruce Davidson, Retired, Living Waters, Ringoes, rose for a point of personal privilege to inquire if Bishop Bartholomew would be reminding participants to pick up the congregational resources related to the Bishop's Challenge at the Hunger Task Group display table.

REPORT OF REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE

Bishop Bartholomew called on Assembly Registrar Dawn Roberts for the report of registration.

VOTING MEMBERS

Clergy and Lay embers Attending Assembly	374
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NON-VOTING PARTICIPANTS

Visitors, Lay Staff and Guests

58

TOTAL ATTENDANCE**432****CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE**

Bishop Bartholomew invited Churchwide Representative Mikka McCracken to come forward to express our thanks to her for her presence and participation at our Assembly. A gift of \$500.00 will be given to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal Bishop's Challenge in honor of her work and commitment to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

POINT OF PERSONEL PRIVILEGE

The Rev. Brett Ballenger, Prince of Peace, Marlton, rose for a point of personal privilege to inquire about collection of the ecumenical surveys. Participants were instructed to return them to the Ecumenical Team display.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bishop Bartholomew recognized and thanked the following outgoing members of the Synod Council for their service:

Shirley Blankenship, Janet Kuebler, and The Rev. Christopher Halverson

INSTALLATION OF 2018-2019 NEW JERSEY SYNOD COUNCIL

Bishop Bartholomew asked the 2018 – 2019 Synod Council members to come forward to be installed. Bishop Bartholomew commented that the work of the Assembly is now given over to the hands of the Synod Council, elected by the Assembly, who will assume responsibility for the work of the Synod in the coming year. Synod Council members for 2018 – 2019 are:

Synod Council Officers

The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew, Bishop
Arundel Clarke, Vice President
Cassandra Mack, Secretary
James Harris, Treasurer

Synod Council – Clergy

The Rev. Dean Brown
The Rev. Ramon Collazo
The Rev. Annemarie Cook
The Rev. Giselle Coutinho

The Rev. Susan Jones
The Rev. Raymond Kolson
The Rev. Ingrid Wengert
The Rev. Rachel Zarnke
The Rev. William Zimmermann

Synod Council-Lay

Ralph Avar
Marilyn Burgin
Haydée Colon Hernandez

Susan Gerrard, AIM
Carla Hoenigmann
John Kollie

Sandra Dean
Carol Dorn
William Emerson

Nicole Krenz
James Nelson
Randolph Thumhart
Maurice Willoughby

SENDING RITES

Bishop Bartholomew invited members of the Bosnia International Servant Trip; Junior High Domestic Servant Trip to Washington, D.C., 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston, as well as those present from congregations who will participate in summer servant trips, to stand for recognition and a sending prayer.

GRACE NOTES

The Grace Revealed through the Sweet Sound of Amazing Grace . . .

The Grace Notes were led by Pastor Kimberly Vaughn and the Assembly singing *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*.

ORDER FOR CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Vice President Arundel Clarke and Bishop Bartholomew led the Assembly in the Order for the Closing of the Assembly. The Thirty-first Annual New Jersey Synod Assembly was declared closed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The Assembly rose and sang *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*.