

DRAFT

5-12-10

**20th Annual ELCMA Assembly
Riverside Inn, Cambridge Springs PA
“Share the Oil of Gladness”**

Call to order by Vice-Chair Bill Connelly at 2:06 p.m. The Chair was not available due to pastoral care issues in her congregation. Bill welcomed the members of the Assembly and expressed the regrets and best wishes of several regular assembly attendees who are not able to be present this year.

The Agenda was adopted as presented.

Minutes of the 2009 Assembly in Morristown TN were approved as distributed.

The registrar, Chief of Staff Pauline Rottman, announced that there are 52 delegates and 16 visitors present so far. (The final total of delegates was 59 with 24 visitors attending.)

Welcome from Bp. Ralph Jones and the Local Committee

Bp. Ralph Jones welcomed the Assembly participants to the Northwestern PA Synod and commented on the population and ecclesiastical diversity within Pennsylvania. He called attention to the displays and what they reflect about some of the ministries of the synod. By way of example, he described how the synod has inspired wellness emphases that the Board of Pension has picked up and expanded for use across the ELCA. The Bishop also talked about the networking and cooperative ministry being done by the Erie Cluster.

Orientation to ELCMA by Dory Campbell

The Coordinator distributed a worksheet that will enable people to meet and network with each other. She then talked about the resources contained in a packet which includes the ELCMA mission statement that is available for each synod. She reviewed the organizational structure of ELCMA and the membership of the Coalition Council. She also reflected on the nomination process for synods in recruiting delegates for the Assembly and the responsibilities of effective delegates.

Dory then introduced the Long Range Ministry Plan 2010, encouraging folks to be sure to pick up copies of it. There will be an opportunities to learn more about it during a forum. The Assembly will take action on the ministry plan on Wednesday.

Introduction of ballot and nominees by Paul Poerschke

Paul reviewed the present membership of the Coalition Council. The terms of Bill Connelly and Ed Redmon are expiring. Ed is eligible to run again. Additional nominees from the Nominating Committee were introduced: Sharon Connelly, Shirley Heasley, Steve Lynn, and Richard Mowery. The floor was opened for nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming and **the Assembly voted to close nominations.**

Tim Spence introduced the Local Committee members present who then introduced the field trip planners and the field trips. Tim also introduced the proposed 2011 Budget, noting that it is a balanced budget. He also reported that the 2009 shortfall is due to the late arrival of a check from a grantor. The check did not arrive until fiscal year 2010 had begun. We had already expended some of the funds, hence the shortfall.

Development Committee Commercial

Wayne Kaufman, Chair of the Development Committee, reviewed the Appalseed program with its giving options. As part of the “commercial,” Pr. MinChan Park, pastor of Messiah Korean Lutheran Church at Norcross GA, shared some of the details of the Korean congregation he is developing. In addition, Pr. Park showed a video highlighting various aspects of the ministry.

The Assembly was treated to a special conversation via Skype with Helen Harms (the first ELCMA Coordinator) who was at the Evangelical Outreach & Congregational Mission (EOCM) staff meeting at the ELCA office in Chicago. She extended greetings from other EOCM Directors for Evangelical Mission who can only be with us in spirit because they needed to attend the staff meeting. She reflected on the early days of ELMCA and its precursor, the annual LCA Appalachian Consultation, convened by Carol Wessinger. Merle Boos then compiled the reports from synod to form a Desired Conditions document. In addition there was an annual LCA & ALC gathering. Those were some of the streams that came together to form ELCMA. Margaret Messick was very active and Lowell Buss gave ELCMA its name. One of the major challenges was finding a way to develop the funding to support the coalition—a challenge that continues today. Her dream for the future would be for ELCMA to have a solid enough financial foundation that it could launch some programming of its own. It has developed a strong network among Appalachian leaders. She suggested the idea of ELCMA developing a team of lay folks who could go into a community following a mine or other natural disaster to offer support and comfort.

ELCMA website by Bethany Campbell

Bethany Campbell reminded folks about using the Good Search engine on the Internet. Every time someone uses Good Search and lists ELCMA as the designated charity, ELCMA gets a penny. She then reviewed the ELCMA website and encouraged delegates to call her if they have any questions.

Partner Reports

Bp. Elizabeth Eaton from the Northeastern OH Synod, talked about the impact of the economy on her synod. She celebrated the ministry of Pr. Eric Edwards from E. Liverpool who is working to help a congregation be transformed as well as Pr. Kari Lankford who received 26 new members at her Easter Vigil. There are also two congregations under development in the synod.

Dr. Mary Hughes, Prof. of Christian Education at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus OH, brought greetings from Trinity and talked about an Appalachia immersion experience she will be leading this year with the assistance of ELCMA.

Sherri Schafer, Deputy Director of Community Lutheran Partners, also talked about mission trip possibilities in West Virginia, inviting participation.

Pr. Bob Kasting, mission developer at Faith Lutheran Chapel in Pickens SC, talked about the congregation he is developing. They have completed their first stewardship campaign and moved into a new facility.

Bp. Kurt Kusserow from the Southwestern PA Synod noted that the economy has also been hard on the synod but “we do not lose heart.” He reminds newly called pastors that what they may be experiencing in Appalachia is survivable and encourages non-geographical collaborative ministries.

DRAFT

5-12-10

Following a delicious buffet dinner at the Riverside Inn, the Assembly gathered to hear retired Congressional Representative John Peterson reflect on his life and his many years in the Pennsylvania Legislature as a representative and a senator and then his 12 years serving in the House of Representatives in the federal government. His district was one of the most rural in the country and his priorities included rural hospitals, transportation, and energy. He encouraged the Assembly to stay involved in government. "Elect people you know and trust," he encouraged.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Chair Joyce Dix-Weiers called the Assembly to order at 8:35 a.m. and called upon Rev. Jim Judy to lead the opening devotions.

Joyce thanked Bill for filling in for her and for the prayers and concern of the Assembly.

Bp. Sam Zeiser from the Northeastern PA Synod, Mary Golnitz, mission developer in the Southeastern Synod in Blairsville GA, Allyn Giuffre, Spiritual Director, and her mother, Betty Itterly, were all introduced to the Assembly.

Introduction of Displayers

- Grace Lutheran pre-school in Reynoldsville-one of 14 on the synod territory
- Grace Lutheran Counseling Center, Reynoldsville
- North Jefferson Cluster of Parish Nurses
- Lutheran Social Services of NW PA
- Knitters & quilters ministry
- Karen Allgeier spoke about the ELCA's World Hunger Appeal
- Theological Education for Emerging Ministries
- The Lutheran Home at Kane
- Bethesda Children's Home with Dave Johnson offers a youth resident program
- Thiel College with Vicki Pope
- Heifer International Project, represented by Roger Nicholson
- Village program for the elderly represented by Vicki Trochy
- Habitat for Humanity represented by Pr. Andy Edwards
- Phil Hartzock, an Appalachian storyteller

2nd Development Committee Commercial

Wayne Kaufman offered an Appalseed commercial urging folks to become Appalseeds. Barbara Carl also spoke about planned giving opportunities available to participants.

First ballot for election of Coalition Council

Paul Poerschke led the Assembly through the election process.

Konnarock report by Monroe Herring

Monroe Herring reported on the Konnarock Retreat House project. He encouraged people to check out the website at konnarockretreathouse.org. The campus contains three buildings: schoolhouse, a caretaker's cottage, and the chapel. Kari Lankford's congregation did a mission project to work on the chapel. Other

mission work groups are welcome! Monroe is serving as the Property Chairperson and the contact person. His cell number is 423-341-2817.

Partner Report

Bp. Samuel Zeiser was invited to reflect on his ministry in the Northeastern PA Synod. He talked about the dramatic economic transition happening in that 14-county area. Many are experiencing a transition in terms of personal identity as people need to find new meaning in their lives due to economic realities. He also talked about a skateboard ministry and bible study that an Easton pastor is doing which draws about 60 youth. The bishop talked about the annual Farm Family Appreciation Dinner which the NEPS co-sponsors with other judicatories and which draws 900 people.

Coordinator's oral report by Dory Campbell

Dory invited individuals to volunteer to represent ELCMA at our respective synod assemblies. She encouraged people to make entries on the two face book sites that ELCMA maintains—one is for ELCMA and one is for Rural Evangelism. ELCMA is trying to develop a vehicle for monitoring and celebrating connections between ELCMA partners.

Dory lamented that this year ELCMA received no nominations for either the Glenn Heasley or the Don Roth Awards. The Heasley award offers a sabbatical for someone who best exemplifies the traits and love of ministry in Appalachia that are the legacy of Glenn Heasley. The Don Roth award is for congregations or individuals who are doing significant ministry in the Appalachian region.

She also reflected briefly on her beginnings in ELCMA. She started in January, 1996. One of her dreams is to make Appalachian continuing education resources available on You-Tube. She also would like to develop an Appalachian Disaster Response Team who could go to communities and support them as they work through disaster recovery.

Dory also talked about working with a congregation in Glenview, Illinois (on behalf of the ELCA) and in the course of talking to the ladies who had taken her out to lunch about her ministry. Among other things Dory talked about the ministry of Mary Golnitz and her husband in Blairsville GA. The ladies wrote a check for \$1,000 which Dory presented to Mary Golnitz.

Jonesboro TN is a mission development where Ed Wolfe is working. Dory described two recent baptisms he had done

Report of the first ballot

There were 56 ballots, all were valid, 29 needed for election. **Ed Redmon received 31 votes and was declared elected.** The remaining four candidates were placed on the second ballot which was then conducted.

Bethany Campbell reported on the Bonding Garden Project and Immersion experiences coordinated by ELCMA.

Report on the second ballot

Since there was no majority on the second ballot, the Nominating Committee recommended that the top two vote-getters on the second ballot be carried over to the third ballot. **The Assembly approved that recommendation** and the third ballot was conducted.

The chart below records the votes received by candidates on each ballot

Candidate	Ballot No. 1	Ballot No. 2	Ballot No. 3
Votes needed to elect	29	27	27
Sharon Connelly	22	20	26
Shirley Heasley	27	19	28, Declared elected
Steve Lynn	20	8	--
Richard Mowery	12	6	--
Ed Redmon	31, Declared elected.	--	--

The Assembly recessed to view the displays, attend one of six forums, and go on field trips. Forums were offered for 6 items:

- Budget and Resolutions
- Music in Small & Growing Congregations on a Budget
- Innovative and Reinvented Ideas for the Small and Growing Church
- ELCMA's Bonding Gardens
- ELCMA's New Long Range Ministry Plan
- Grant-writing

The field trips included:

- Bethesda Children's Home and Campbell Pottery
- Riverside Inn and Walking Tour of Cambridge Springs
- Tom Ridge Environmental Center and Presque Isle
- Thiel College & the Pymatuning Spillway

Remembering Mr. David Sanders, the STaR Team Weaver

Following the field trips and before the dinner at the Bethesda Children's Home, Glenn Simmons, Michele Kaufman, and other delegates talked about the gift that Dave Sanders had been to ELCMA, the ELCA, and Rural Ministry.

Worship and Installation of ELCMA Coalition Council

Following dinner at the Bethesda Children's Home, the Assembly gathered to celebrate the Lord's Supper with Chaplain Julia Fraser preaching. Bp. Ralph Jones installed the Coalition Council members.

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Chair Joyce Dix-Weiers called the Assembly to order at 8:42 a.m. and asked Pr. Jim Judy to lead the devotions.

Slate of Coalition Council officers

Dory presented the following slate of officers for 2010-11 who will serve as the Executive Committee

- Chair—Joyce Dix-Weiers

- Vice-Chair—Wayne Kaufman
- Secretary—Shirley Heasley
- Treasurer—Tim Spence
- Past Chair—David Preisinger

Development Minute by Wayne Kaufman.

Wayne called upon Wanda Valtzy to share what her congregation does to promote the Appalseeds program. She is a member of First Lutheran, Beach City, OH, a small congregation worshipping on average about 25 and not actually in Appalachia. They divide their loose offering between several special benevolences, one of which is ELCMA. Each quarter they send a check to ELCMA. ELCMA needs to be supported by congregations outside Appalachia as well as in those within Appalachia.

Long Range Plan Discussion and vote

Copies of the proposed plan were distributed at the beginning of the Assembly. Three proposed amendments to the plan which came out of the forum discussion the previous day, were distributed for the Assembly to consider.

The first was an amendment to Strategy I: Care for Creation, item C, Disaster Response, at the bottom of page 5. The proposed amendment was properly moved and seconded and proposed the addition of a fourth action step.

ACTION STEP 4. Develop a team of volunteers equipped, in times of disaster/tragedies, to care for spiritual needs of victims and caregivers in a culturally sensitive way.

Responsibility: Coordinator and staff, ELCMA's Finance and Development Committees

Timeline: Begin planning in September 2010, with target for a prepared team in place with funding for expenses by December, 2013

Resources: PTSD team, Lutheran Disaster Response, synod disaster response teams, ELCMA network

It was moved/seconded to amend the first sentence of the action step to read, "ELCMA will identify and train two volunteers from each synod who will be equipped, in times of disaster/tragedies, to care for spiritual needs of victims and caregivers in a culturally sensitive way." **This amendment to the proposed amendment was defeated.** Following lengthy discussion a motion to call the question was moved. **The Assembly voted and the proposed amendment was NOT adopted.**

The second amendment related to Strategy II: Care for God's People, item A. Assembly, on page 6. The proposed amendment called for adding a second action step and was properly moved and seconded. .

ACTION STEP 2. Synods of the ELCMA will actively seek 18-35 year old leaders to include in their delegations to the ELCMA Assembly each year with a goal of a minimum of 15% of each year's delegation being in that age group. ELCMA delegates will assist the Bishops and synod staff by identifying these leaders.

Responsibility: Appalachian Bishops, synodical staff, ELCMA delegates

Timeline: Immediate and ongoing

Resources: Synodical and congregational events and leadership opportunities

Measurement: At least four delegates in this age bracket at the 2011 Assembly; with a goal of reaching the 15% mark by the 2013 Assembly

Following discussion the Assembly voted to approve the proposed amendment.

The third proposed amendment related to Strategy IV: Care for God's Ministry in the Appalachian Coalition, item B. Development, on page 11 and proposed the addition of a third action step. It was properly moved and seconded.

ACTION STEP 3. Develop items that communicate to the world what Appalachia is, what makes Appalachians special. Use multiple forms of communications including but not limited to the ELCMA website, Facebook, YouTube and Elcmanews

Responsibility: ELCMA Coordinator and Staff, Council, Delegates

Timeline: Begin May 2010 and ongoing

Resources: Computers, internet sites, current publications

Measurement: First items on website by May 31, 2010; first items on YouTube by July 31, 2010; first items on Facebook by May31, 2010; adding in an ongoing basis

A motion to substitute the word “contextually” for the phrase “to the world” in the first sentence of the action step was adopted. A motion to amend the last sentence of the action step by adding “one-on-ones” between the words, “YouTube” and the phrase “and Elcmanews” was defeated. A motion to add “seminaries” to the list of resources was also defeated.

The amended action step then read, “Develop items that communicate contextually what Appalachia is, what makes Appalachians special. Use multiple forms of communications including but not limited to the ELCMA website, Facebook, YouTube and Elcmanews.”

The Assembly voted to adopt the amended amendment.

It was noted that Dory cannot implement this plan by herself. It needs to be OUR plan. It was also noted that Dory knows how to delegate. Each synod is asked to maintain an Appalachian Concerns Committee.

The Plan was unanimously adopted as amended.

Action on the Budget

Tim Spence noted that since the Plan calls for adding staff which are not funded under the proposed budget, the process will call for the development of position descriptions, identifying skill sets and salary packages. The Development Committee will be responsible for identifying how the necessary income will be generated. **The Assembly voted unanimously to adopt the budget.**

Michele Kaufman expressed appreciation to Bernadette and Wilma and all the Riverside staff for all they had done to make our stay so enjoyable. The Assembly recognized them with a standing ovation.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder report by Shelby Lemmon

Shelby briefly described the “Emotional and Spiritual Care in Communities” program. A bulletin insert was distributed. Each participant will receive a training manual.

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5-12-10

The 21st Annual ELCMA Assembly will be May 9-11 at Charleston WV with the theme “Appalachia, not what you expect.” Members of the WV/WMD Synod formally invited the Assembly to attend.

Following a break, synod and partner delegations presented their partnership commitments to ELCMA for 2011.

The local planning committee was called forward to receive the appreciation of the Assembly for all their preparations and hard work.

Special appreciation gifts were presented to Bill Connelly, Tim Spence, Allyn Giuffre, and Bishop Ralph and Sandra Jones.

The Assembly voted to adjourn at 11:38. Pr. Sandra Jones led the closing devotions which included anointing and blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn L. Simmons
Acting Secretary

ELCMA/Assembly minutes 2010
5-12-10