

Central States Synod 2019 Synod Assembly

Overland Park, Kan. • June 6-8

Daily Summary

June 7, 2019

Day two of synod assembly began with the results of the first ballot in the Bishop's election. Forty names were submitted with Susan Candea receiving the highest (127) number of votes. No one received the necessary 270 votes to be elected. A series of reports followed, including; Nominations, Synod Vice President, and the Treasurer's report.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Melheim was introduced for the first of his keynote addresses. An enthusiastic and engaging presenter, he was well received. His core message is that the church needs to happen first and most importantly every day in the home, with an intergenerational family using his 5 Steps of sharing. Melheim encouraged everyone in attendance to participate in his mural project, "painted by many brushes."



In addition to facilitating the Bishop's Election process, William B. Horne, II, ELCA Vice President, provided a report from Churchwide to the assembly. In his presentation, "Be The Presence of Christ" Mr. Horne shared a video greeting from Presiding Bishop Eaton, a second video demonstrating the multitude of activities the church is engaged in, and shared his own highlights of what he enjoys about the ELCA and what he would like the voting members to reflect on after assembly. The ELCA churchwide videos are available at:

Bishop Eaton "For Such a Time" <https://youtu.be/TMVRrRKF2sg>

ELCA 2018 in Review <https://youtu.be/D8qlcFvLhR4>

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Bishop Gustafson returned to the stage to lead the process of Synod Council and committee elections. With no additional nominations, the following were elected by acclamation;

- Synod Council
 - Nancy Nagel, Vice President
 - Scott Schulte, Treasurer
 - Dallas Rakestraw, member-at-large, Lay male
 - Linda Lockhart, member-at-large, Lay female person of color
 - Theo Keesee, member-at-large, Lay male youth
- Consultation Committee
 - Rev. Donna Florio, Clergy male or female
- Discipline Committee
 - Rev. Kris Dietzen, Clergy female
 - Rev. Zac Sturm, Clergy male
 - Rev. Rick Raymer, Clergy male
 - Alesia Roccia, Lay female

Votes were taken and the following individuals elected;

- Synod Council
 - Rev. Chad Langdon, Secretary
- Consultation Committee
 - Rev. Christyn Koschmann

Bill Horne presented the second ballot in the Bishop's election. 24 of the individuals identified on the first ballot chose to withdraw from consideration. The second ballot included the remaining sixteen names. The vote concluded and the assembly broke for lunch while the election team counted the votes.



The lunch hour provided voting members to participate in hearings on the budget, compensation guidelines and the resolutions. The Youth had a lively conversation over lunch with Bishop Roger Gustafson and Bill Horne, ELCA Vice President and Churchwide Representative. They discussed their high experiences at this Assembly for each of them. The conversation progressed to the youths' experience of being heard and accepted in their local schools and churches.

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Returning from lunch, Bill Horne announced the results of the second ballot in the Bishop's Election. The top seven candidates gathered for private prayer while the voting membership reviewed their bios. Each of the following candidates was then introduced and spoke briefly to the assembly.

- Rev. Susan Candea
- Rev. Keith Hohly
- Rev. Jennifer Thomas
- Rev. Aimee Frye Appell
- Rev. Peter Rehwaltd
- Rev. David Strommen
- Rev. David Whetter

Following constitutional direction, a third ballot was called to determine the top three candidates.

- Rev. Susan Candea
- Rev. Keith Hohly
- Rev. David Whetter

Resolutions were presented with time for discussion from the floor, followed by a vote on each. Due to a number of amendments and debate the resolutions were tabled for further discussion to be held Saturday morning. Focus of the assembly returned to the election of a Bishop. Before the fourth ballot was called, the assembly was divided into three rooms. The candidates, one at a time, visited each room and answered four questions to help the voting membership get to know them more personally. After a short break, the fourth ballot was conducted. 243 votes were needed for a successful election.

- Rev. Susan Candea 173
- Rev. David Whetter 40
- Rev. Keith Hohly 36

Rev. Candea and Rev. Whetter advanced to a fifth ballot to be held first thing Saturday morning.

The day concluded with the traditional Anniversary Dinner at 6:30 pm. In addition to those celebrating anniversaries, Synod Vice President, Dennis Allerheiligen and Bishop Roger Gustafson were recognized for their service to the synod.