

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD ASSEMBLY
MAY 15, 2021 – BUSINESS MEETING VIA ZOOM**

THEME: HOPE

**MONDAY –
FRIDAY,
MAY 10-14**

Various Workshops and Worship services were available online to voting members and visitors throughout the week.

**SATURDAY, MAY 15
10:00 AM**

PLENARY I

WELCOME

Bishop Finegan welcomed everyone to the 33rd Assembly in the 34th year of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She commented on the new format and acknowledged the communities of indigenous neighbors who first lived in the land we call the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

OPENING OF
THE ASSEMBLY

Bishop Finegan invited the Assembly to join her for the liturgy for Opening of the Assembly.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Finegan expressed special thanks to Rev. Andrew Plocher and Rev. Molly Eversoll and the congregation of Messiah, Marquette, for hosting the base of operations for this Assembly. She also expressed thanks to Dan Zini and Derrick Kleckner who are providing the technical expertise during the meeting. Also present at Messiah were Rev. Doug Johnson, Synod Parliamentarian, and Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission, Rev. Jim Duehring. Karen Kolstad in Marinette, Wisconsin, is serving as the Recording Secretary.

Following these introductions, Bishop Finegan presented comments on the Assembly theme, “Hope”.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 1
RULES AND
ORDER FOR
PROCEDURE

Bishop Finegan announced that it was time to move the adoption of the Rules and Order of Procedure for this Synod Assembly. The resolution is on page 61 of the Pre-Assembly Report. She also reminded the Assembly of Rule 6 on page 66 of the Pre-Assembly Report and read a portion of this rule.

Bishop Finegan introduced Synod Secretary Rev. Kay Richter who read the resolution and reported that the Synod Council has moved and seconded it and recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the Proposed Rules and Order of Procedure as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report, be adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the 2021 Assembly.

SA21.05.01

RESOLUTION NUMBER 1 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 2
AGENDA AND
PROGRAM

Bishop Finegan announced that it was now in order to move the adoption of the Assembly Agenda. Synod Secretary Rev. Kay Richter read Resolution Number 2 and reported that the Synod Council has moved and seconded it and recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the Agenda and Program as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report, be adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod for the 2021 Assembly.

SA21.05.02

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2 WAS ADOPTED.

EXCUSED
ABSENCES

Bishop Finegan read Synod Constitutional Provision S14.25 regarding required attendance at Synod Assemblies by rostered persons. The following rostered persons requested excused absences for the 2021 Assembly:

Pastors – Rev. John Shallow, Rev. Ingmar Levin, Rev. Christine Thomas-Echelbarger, Rev. David Echelbarger, Rev. Dean Marin.

Licensed Lay Ministers – Sharon Babbitt and Collaborative seminary student Katy Tomlanovich and new seminary graduate and pastor-elect Micah Cavaleri.

In addition, the following are excused from the afternoon plenary: Rev. Mark Laatsch and Licensed Lay Minister Bill Wendorf.

ON LEAVE
FROM CALL

Bishop Finegan also reported other rostered persons who are currently on Leave from Call: Rev. Greg Mileski, Rev. Corinne Johnson, Rev. Joe Daiker, Rev. Kayla Keilholtz, and Rev. Matthew Lamb.

NOMINATING
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Bishop Finegan announced that there are various positions to be elected at this assembly for the Synod Discipline Committee, Synod Consultation Committee and Synod Representatives to the Churchwide Assembly in August of 2022. Bishop Finegan called upon Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Jim Duehring to present the committee's report. The nominees are listed on page 53-60 of the Pre-Assembly Report. The nominees are as follows:

Synod Discipline Committee-Clergy – 6-year term (2027)

Rev. Mark Laatsch, Rev. Brahm Semmler Smith, Rev. Brenda Greenwald and Rev. Renee' MacLeod (two positions)

Synod Discipline Committee-Lay – 6-year term (2027)

Jerrildene Rose, Linda S. Davis, David R. Holmgren and Jim Norsen (two positions)

No additional nominations were received from the floor. It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Discipline Committee – all positions.

SA21.05.03

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

NOMINATING
COMMITTEE
REPORT
(continued)

Synod Consultation Committee-Lay – 6-year term (2027)
Naomi J. Kauppi, Curtis A. Poulos, Marcia Norsen and Walter Scanlon
(two positions)

No additional nominations were received from the floor. It was moved and seconded to close nominations for Synod Consultation Committee – Lay.

SA21.05.04

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Rostered Male
Rev. David Murphy and Rev. Soren Schmidt (one position)

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Rostered Female
Rev. Kelly J. Ylitalo and Rev. Nicole Hanson-Lynn (one position)

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Person of Color
Sandy Feleppa (one position)

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Male
Jeff Henquinet and Matthew Johnson (one position)

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Female
Barb Rice and Michelle Johnson (one position)

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Youth or Young Adult
Katie McEachern and Sean Korpela (one position)

No additional nominations were received from the floor. It was moved and seconded to close nominations for 2022 Churchwide Assembly – all positions.

SA21.05.05

THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.

ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE

Bishop Finegan commented that, due to voting being done electronically this year, the Elections Committee is a much smaller group than usual. Derrick Kleckner, who has served as tech support for the synod for a number of years, and Rev. Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop, were named as the Elections Committee for this year.

PAROCHIAL
REPORTS

Bishop Finegan reported that congregations are required, by their own constitutions, to submit an annual parochial report to the synod. She announced that all congregations have submitted their reports and gave a special thanks to Heather Oysti, Synod Office Administrator, for her extra efforts to receive all the reports. Immanuel, Rhineland was the first to submit this report so Rev. Tammy Barthels will receive a coffee mug as well as one to share with the person who assisted her the most with submitting the report.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Bishop Finegan also announced that every year, every pastor, rostered minister and licensed lay minister is expected to submit a pastor's report. Rev. David Murphy, Good Shepherd, Peshtigo and Rev. Scott Ehle, Bethel, Menominee, were the first and second, respectively, to submit their reports. They also received coffee mugs for their efforts.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bishop Finegan introduced Rev. Bill Jacobson, retired, Chair of the Resolutions Committee. She also introduced the other members of the committee. Bishop Finegan read bylaw S711.60 and asked Rev. Jacobson for his report. He reported that there was no additional business for this committee.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Bishop Finegan introduced the 2021 Synod Assembly Planning Team, who determined very early on that this Assembly would be online. The committee members were Jen Dodge (Messiah, Marquette), Lucas Wickstrom (Trinity, Ishpeming and Synod Worship team chair), Rev. Andrea Fluegel and Alex Fluegel (Prince of Peace, Eagle River), Rev. Melinda VanderSys (Our Redeemer and First Presbyterian, Newberry), Rev. Brenda Greenwald (Gethsemane, Wallace and St. Stephen's, Stephenson), Chuck Thomas (First, Gladstone and Synod Vice President), and Kyra Beck (Bethany, Escanaba). Synod Staff Heather Oysti, Betsy Koski, Rev. Jim Duehring and Bishop Katherine Finegan also participated with the committee.

A link to an evaluation form will be sent next week. Bishop Finegan encouraged everyone to complete the form. The Assembly participants expressed their thanks to the committee.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Bishop Finegan announced that her written report is on pages 6 to 10 of the Pre-Assembly Report. She presented slides with highlights of that report to the Assembly and concluded with a prayer.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bishop Finegan introduced Christine Harkness, Assembly Registrar and Chair of the Credentials Committee, who presented today's report:

Clergy (54 under call and 15 retired)	69
Lay Voting Members (39 male/67 female).....	106
Deacons.....	1
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTING MEMBERS	176

RESOLUTION NUMBER 8 AMENDING THE SYNOD CONSTITUTION

Bishop Finegan introduced Resolution Number 8, Amending the Synod Constitution, submitted by the Synod Council who moved and seconded it and recommends adoption. Synod Secretary Rev. Kay Richter read the resolution.

WHEREAS, the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America regularly amends the *Model Constitution for Synods*, and

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 8
(continued)

WHEREAS, those amendments to the required portions of the *Model Constitution for Synods* are automatically incorporated into the constitution of the Northern Great Lakes Synod per †S18.11, and

WHEREAS, those amendments and amendments to the non-required portions of the *Model Constitution for Synods* create language discrepancies with other portions of the constitution of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, and

WHEREAS, changes in governance and practice have happened over time in the Northern Great Lakes Synod, and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and a Task Force appointed by the Synod Council have reviewed and proposed revisions to the constitution of the Synod,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod meeting in Assembly on this day, May 15, 2021, does hereby amend the current Synod constitution in its entirety by substituting in its entirety the revised constitution as found on the Resources section of the Synod Assembly website. The substituted constitution will become the constitution of the Northern Great Lakes Synod upon adoption of this resolution. (NOTE: Proposed changes to the constitution are highlighted in grey with additions noted by underline and deletions noted by ~~striketrough~~.)

Questions and discussion followed.

SA21.05.06

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 157 YES, 0 NO.

FIRST
BALLOT

Bishop Finegan thanked all those who have accepted nomination to various positions and offered themselves to serve. She offered a prayer and directed voting members to the poll on the synod website to cast their ballot. An Elections Committee Report will be given as soon as possible.

ELCA VIDEO
AND ELCA
REPORT

While voting was still continuing, the preliminary ELCA video was shown. Following the video, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton joined us via ZOOM and gave her report.

REPORT OF THE
SYNOD VICE
PRESIDENT

Bishop Finegan introduced Chuck Thomas who presented his report as Synod Vice President. Bishop Finegan thanked Vice President Thomas and all the members of the Synod Council for their work.

U.P. WILD

Bishop Finegan introduced a video featuring Mission Developer Lanni Lanto that explained U.P. Wild, a combined new start ministry with the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan, Marquette. This ministry focuses on outdoor worship services and is a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community.

PRAYER AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton closed the morning session with prayer. Bishop Finegan also gave a few announcements. Lunch break followed.

1:00 PM

PLENARY II

FLLC
VIDEO

Bishop Finegan shared a video “This Little Light of Mine” compiled for a Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp online service earlier this year.

ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE
REPORT

Bishop Finegan called upon Assistant to the Bishop Jim Duehring, Chair of the Elections Committee, who presented the following results of the first ballot for all positions.

Synod Discipline Committee – Clergy:

Number of Ballots.....	167
Needed to Elect.....	84
Rev. Mark Laatsch.....	84
Rev. Brahm Semmler Smith.....	66
Rev. Brenda Greenwald.....	104
Rev. Renee’ MacLeod.....	80

SA21.05.07

REV. MARK LAATSCH AND REV. BRENDA GREENWALD WERE DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – CLERGY.

Synod Discipline Committee – Lay:

Number of Ballots.....	167
Needed to Elect.....	84
Jerrildene Rose	48
Linda S. Davis	118
David R. Holmgren	82
Jim Norsen.....	86

SA21.05.08

LINDA S. DAVIS AND JIM NORSEN WERE DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – LAY.

Synod Consultation Committee – Lay:

Number of Ballots.....	167
Needed to Elect.....	84
Naomi J. Kauppi.....	122
Curtis A. Poulos	78
Marcia Norsen.....	59
Walter Scanlon.....	75

SA21.05.09

NAOMI J. KAUPPI WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – LAY.

ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE
REPORT
(continued)

The names of Curtis A. Poulos and Walter Scanlon will appear on the second ballot.

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Rostered Male:

Number of Ballots.....	167
Needed to Elect.....	84
Rev. David Murphy.....	49
Rev. Soren Schmidt.....	118

SA21.05.10

REV. SOREN SCHMIDT WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS
2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY– ROSTERED MALE.

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Rostered Female:

Number of Ballots.....	167
Needed to Elect.....	84
Rev. Kelly J. Ylitalo.....	84
Rev. Nicole Hanson-Lynn.....	83

SA21.05.11

REV. KELLY J. YLITALO WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS
2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY– ROSTERED FEMALE.

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Person of Color:

Number of Ballots.....	167
Needed to Elect.....	84
Sandy Feleppa.....	167

SA21.05.12

SANDY FELEPPA WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS
2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY– PERSON OF COLOR.

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Male

Number of Ballots.....	167
Needed to Elect.....	84
Jeff Henquinet.....	72
Matthew Johnson.....	95

SA21.05.13

MATTHEW JOHNSON WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS
2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY– LAY MALE.

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Female:

Number of Ballots.....	167
Needed to Elect.....	84
Barb Rice.....	92
Michelle Johnson.....	75

SA21.05.14

BARB RICE WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS
2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY- LAY FEMALE.

2022 Churchwide Assembly – Youth or Young Adult:

Number of Ballots.....	167
Needed to Elect.....	84
 Katie McEachern.....	 82
Sean Korpela.....	85

SA21.05.15

SEAN KORPELA WAS DECLARED ELECTED AS
2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY- YOUTH OR YOUNG ADULT.

SECOND
BALLOT

Bishop Finegan announced that the second ballot for Synod Consultation Committee – Lay was ready and opened the voting poll on the synod website after offering a prayer.

REPORT OF
THE ASSISTANT
TO THE BISHOP

Bishop Finegan introduced Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Jim Duehring and invited him to give his report. His written report was on pages 11-14 of the Pre-Assembly Report. Rev. Duehring provided some highlights and also showed a video from the Companion Synod Committee.

TREASURER'S
REPORT

Bishop Finegan introduced Dr. Larry Pagel, Synod Treasurer, who presented his report. The Assembly thanked him, Betsy Koski, Synod Bookkeeper and Kay Johnson, Assistant Treasurer, for their work.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 3
AMENDED
FISCAL YEAR
2021 BUDGET

Bishop Finegan announced that it was time to deal with the budget resolutions. Bishop Finegan presented Resolution Number 3 and Synod Secretary Rev. Kay Richter read it. The Synod Council moved and seconded it and recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the amended Fiscal Year 2021 budget in the amount of \$1,322,138 as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report be hereby adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

SA21.05.16

RESOLUTION NUMBER 3 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 4
PROPOSED
FISCAL YEAR
2022 BUDGET

Bishop Finegan presented Resolution Number 4, Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget and Synod Secretary Rev. Kay Richter read it. The Synod Council moved and seconded it and recommends adoption.

RESOLVED, that the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget in the amount of \$1,343,430 as printed in the Pre-Assembly Report be hereby adopted by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

SA21.05.17

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4 WAS ADOPTED.

WORLD
HUNGER
COMMITTEE

Bishop Finegan thanked the chair of the World Hunger Committee, Cory Dellenbach of Immanuel, Rhinelander for the wonderful video produced challenging each congregation to be generous in their World Hunger offering taken each year at Synod Assembly.

Bishop Finegan announced it was time to present the Hunger Awards, for both the years 2020 and 2021. The two winners of the Big Bear Award (for congregations) were Faith, Three Lakes and Calvary, Minocqua. The two winners of the Bread Basket Award (for individuals) were Ron Schickowski of Pioneer Lake, Conover and Elizabeth Beyne of Messiah, Marquette. Congratulations to these congregations and individuals!

WORLD HUNGER
OFFERING TOTAL

Bishop Finegan announced that we have received \$9,757.48 so far for the World Hunger offering. Contributions can still be sent in to the Synod Office to be included in this offering.

NEW TO
SYNOD AND
NEW CALLS

Bishop Finegan recognized those pastors who are new to the Northern Great Lakes Synod or are in new calls. They are: Rev. Bre Kinnunen, Lutheran Campus Minister at Northern Michigan University; Rev. Sarah Semmler Smith, Finlandia University Chaplain; Rev. Molly Eversoll, Messiah, Marquette; Rev. Brahm Semmler Smith, Gloria Dei, Hancock; Rev. Brenda Greenwald, Gethsemane, Wallace and St. Stephen's, Stephenson; Rev. Nicole Hanson-Lynn, Zion and Salem, Ironwood; Rev. Doug Norquist, St. Paul, Ironwood; Rev. Rita Chirala, Faith, Sault Ste. Marie; Rev. Alex Ross, Bethany, Republic; Rev. Tommy Richter, Zion, Manistique; Rev. Renee MacLeod, Bethel, Cedarville and Zion, Allenville; Rev. Kelly Ylitalo, Mission United, Pelkie; Rev. Terry Frankenstein, Bethany, Escanaba; Rev. Sherry Van Lishout, Ascension, Minocqua; Rev. Grant Van Lishout, Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center; Rev. DJ Rasner, Bethany, Amasa and United, Crystal Falls; and Deacon Lori Ward, Synod Missioner. Bishop Finegan also welcomed the newly appointed Licensed Lay Ministers Larry Molloy, Bethany and United Methodist, Mohawk; Virginia Paulson, interim at Community, Palmer/Suomi; and Andy Hill, Trinity, Stambaugh. Bishop Finegan also mentioned that Rev. Kay Richter accepted a reconfigured call to the New Evangelical Parish, Ewen and Paynesville, Rev. Bill Jacobson is under contract to serve St. John, Ironwood and Rev. Michael Laakko is doing the same for Trinity, Trout Creek. Bishop Finegan also expressed thanks to the intentional interims and administrative interims serving in the Northern Great Lakes Synod. The Assembly thanked all of these with their applause.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 5
CLERGY
COMPENSATION
GUIDELINES

Bishop Finegan presented Resolution Number 5, submitted by the Synod Council. It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council who recommends adoption. Synod Secretary Rev. Kay Richter read the resolved.

RESOLVED, that the Clergy Compensation Guidelines for 2022 as approved by the Synod Council hereby be adopted and recommended to this Synod's congregations.

SA21.05.18

RESOLUTION NUMBER 5 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 6
SYNOD
COUNCIL

Resolution Number 6, Synod Council, submitted by the Conferences, was presented by Bishop Finegan. She explained the process for this resolution. It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council who recommends adoption. Synod Secretary Rev. Kay Richter read the resolved portion of the resolution.

RESOLVED, that the following persons nominated by the Conferences be hereby elected to the Synod Council with terms expiring at the conclusion of the Synod Assembly in the year indicated herein.

Copper Country Conference (Two)	Lay male open position (2024)
Headwaters Conference (Three)	Nancy Heykes (2023)
Headwaters Conference (Three)	Matthew Johnson (2024)
Four Rivers Conference (Four)	Don Peterson (2024)
Delta Conference (Six)	Rev. Diane Srutowski (2024)
Three Lakes Conference (Seven)	Rev. David Tielbar (2024)
Youth Representative	Katie McEachern (2023)

**Conference Three nominated one of their representatives for a two-year term in order to break the co-terminus nature of their Synod Council positions.*

SA21.05.19

RESOLUTION NUMBER 6 WAS ADOPTED.

YOUTH
GATHERING
2022

Bishop Finegan announced that the National Youth Gathering of the ELCA was postponed due to the pandemic. A promotional video about the gathering was shown to the Assembly. The Synod Gathering Coordinator, Rev. Stacy Pethke, shared some information about our synod's participation in the gathering set for next summer.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 7
NAME CHANGE
OF DELTA
CONFERENCE
(SIX)

Resolution Number 7, Name Change for Conference Six, Delta Conference was introduced by Bishop Finegan. Synod Secretary Rev. Kay Richter read the resolution. It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council who recommends adoption.

WHEREAS, the Delta Conference of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, ELCA, met on September 27, 2020 in an official Conference Business Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Conference discerned that their conference is comprised of congregations in Delta, Alger, and Schoolcraft Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Conference as part of their official Business Meeting of September 27, 2020 voted to request permission from the

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 7
(continued)

Synod Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod to change the name of their conference,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the name of the Delta Conference be changed to Tri-County Conference and so noted as such in all official documents including the Synod Constitution of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the “Resolved” section of Resolution Number 7 as follows:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the name of the Delta Conference be changed to Tri-County Conference and so noted as such in all official documents and bylaw S.12.01.11 ~~including the Synod Constitution~~ of the Northern Great Lakes Synod Constitution be amended to reflect this change.

SA21.05.20

THE MOTION TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

The resolved section of Resolution Number 7 now reads:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the name of the Delta Conference be changed to Tri-County Conference and so noted as such in all official documents and bylaw S.12.01.11 of the Northern Great Lakes Synod Constitution be amended to reflect this change.

SA21.05.21

THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 151 YES, 0 NO.

PORTICO
STRETCH
BREAK

Bishop Finegan introduced Jennifer Prinz, Regional Representative with Portico Benefit Services. A video stretch break, led by Jennifer, was played for all those in attendance.

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 9
REPUDIATION
OF THE
DOCTRINE OF
DISCOVERY

Bishop Finegan introduced Resolution Number 9 and gave a brief introduction. It was moved and seconded by the Synod Council who recommends adoption. Synod Secretary Rev. Kay Richter read the resolution.

WHEREAS, we confess with our Native siblings that the whole of creation is God’s work, that God declares it all as good, and that God’s spirit dwells within it; and we as the church confess that Jesus Christ became incarnate in human form to show God’s love and mercy to all humanity, in all its variety, and to every race and people on every continent of the earth; and in the service of Affirmation of Baptism in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, we commit to “serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth;” and

WHEREAS, when European explorers came to the Americas, it is estimated that somewhere between 50 and 100 million native peoples

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 9
(continued)

inhabited North and South America, and that within several hundred years, those numbers declined by approximately 80%, due to warfare, massacre, disease and other factors; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge with pain and regret that native peoples were removed from lands they had occupied for hundreds of years, often forcibly, and their children were placed in boarding schools, resulting in the division of families, the loss of language, culture, and religion in an attempt to colonize them, resulting in profound social, emotional, and spiritual crisis in native communities; and

WHEREAS these practices were undergirded by the Papal bull issued by Alexander VI in 1493, called the “Doctrine of Discovery,” that any land not inhabited by Christians was available to be discovered and claimed by Christian rulers, so that the Christian religion could be spread throughout the new world, and was incorporated into U.S. federal law in the 1823 case of *Johnson v. McIntosh*, establishing that the United States inherited all rights to lands conquered by the English and this law was further strengthened by the belief that God had ordained all American land be claimed as the “manifest destiny” of the United States to grow and expand across the continent; and

WHEREAS the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted the social policy resolution to repudiate explicitly and clearly the European-derived Doctrine of Discovery as an example of the “improper mixing of the power of the church and the power of the sword” (Augsburg Confession, Article XXVIII, Latin text), and to acknowledge and repent from this church’s complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas, which continue to harm tribal governments and individual tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Great Lakes Synod occupies land originally inhabited by Native American peoples, ceded to the U.S. in the 1842 treaty, and has yet to join seventeen other ELCA synods* in acknowledging the church’s part in this conquest and express support for the sovereignty of Native American tribes**, by joining them in speaking out for just treatment, promoting harmony, reconciliation and mutual understanding within and among our communities,

**ELCA Synods that have renounced the Doctrine of Discovery are Alaska, Northwest Washington, Montana, Southwest California, Rocky Mountain, Eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, Minneapolis Area, St. Paul Area, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northwest Wisconsin, East-Central Wisconsin, Indiana-Kentucky, Upstate New York, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., North Carolina and Southeastern Synods.*

***These are the tribes with whom we are walking together within the borders of the Northern Great Lakes Synod: Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe of Indians, Lac Vieux Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Hannahville Indian Community, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Lac Du Flambeau, and Sokaogon Mole Lake.*

RESOLUTION
NUMBER 9
(continued)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Great Lakes Synod repudiate explicitly and clearly the European-derived Doctrine of Discovery as an example of the “improper mixing of the power of the church and the power of the sword” (Augsburg Confession Article XXVIII, Latin text), and acknowledge and repent from this church’s complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas, which continue to harm tribal governments and individual tribal members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northern Great Lakes Synod will offer a statement of repentance and conciliation to the native nations present within Upper Michigan and northern Wisconsin for damage done to them in the name of Christianity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, together with Doctrine of Discovery Committee and representatives of the native community, plan a ceremony of repentance and conciliation, providing worship resources for congregational observances at such times and places as may be appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northern Great Lakes Synod establish a committee or team including both members of synod congregations and tribal members, to promote advocacy for treaty and other rights of Indigenous Peoples within the synod territory and foster relationships between our communities; and work to further understand and appreciate the history, heritage, culture and spirituality of our Indigenous neighbors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northern Great Lakes Synod affirm with the ELCA that this church will eliminate the Doctrine of Discovery from its contemporary rhetoric and programs, electing to practice accompaniment with native peoples instead of a missionary endeavor to them, allowing these partnerships to mutually enrich Indigenous communities and the ministries of the church.

Discussion followed.

SA21.05.22

RESOLUTION NUMBER 9 WAS ADOPTED.

THANKS TO
TASK FORCE

Bishop Finegan thanked the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force: Jeff Henquinet of Good Shepherd, Houghton; Rev. Melinda VanderSys of Our Redeemer and First Presbyterian, Newberry; Rev. Julie Belew of Holy Cross, Baraga; Rev. Bucky Beach of Good Shepherd, Houghton and Lutheran Campus Ministry of MTU; Rev. Scott Ehle of Bethel, Menominee; and Staff Liaison Rev. Jim Duehring. The Assembly gave them a round of applause.

ELECTIONS
REPORT

Bishop Finegan introduced Assistant to the Bishop Jim Duehring, Chair of the Elections Committee, who presented the following results of the second ballot.

Synod Consultation Committee – Lay:

Number of Ballots.....	146
Needed to Elect.....	74
 Curtis A. Poulos	 68
Walter Scanlon.....	78

SA21.05.23

WALTER SCANLON WAS DECLARED ELECTED
AS SYNOD DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE – LAY.

CONGREGATIONAL
ANNIVERSARIES

Bishop Finegan announced the following milestone anniversaries of congregations celebrated in 2020: Bethany, Ishpeming 150 years; Bethany, Perkins 125 years; and St. Stephen’s, Stephenson 75 years.

The following milestone anniversaries were or will be celebrated in 2021: Trinity, Ishpeming 150 years; Zion, Ironwood 125 years and Bethany, Amasa 125 years.

Congratulations to all of these congregations!

ELCA
GRANTS
RECEIVED

Bishop Finegan announced that she applied for and received \$17,500 from ELCA grants for Covid Relief for 35 congregations and Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Grants were used to upgrade technology, replace financial support for local ministries, provide for backpack programs and food pantries and provide the resources to stay in touch.

In an unexpected eighth round of grants, NGLS received another \$7,000 dedicated to hunger and poverty ministries. The deadline is June 1 for congregations to apply for this grant.

WALKING
TOGETHER
EVENTS

Bishop Finegan announced there are four Walking Together events scheduled for Fall 2021. They are:

Conference Three – Headwaters	9/19 at Immanuel, Rhinelander
Conference Five – Menominee Valley	9/18 at Porterfield/Beaver
Conference Seven – Three Lakes	9/26 at Faith, Sault Ste. Marie
Conference Eight – Superior Central	9/16 at Messiah, Marquette

FINAL
COMMENTS
AND THANKS

Bishop Finegan encouraged everyone to stay connected and read E-Notes, newsletters, watch on YouTube and follow NGLS on Facebook! She thanked all those who played a part of putting the week of Synod Assembly events together – Synod Assembly Worship Planning Team,

the Tech Team, Committee chairs and members, conference presidents, Synod Council and Synod Staff.

2022
ASSEMBLY

Bishop Finegan then announced that the 34th Assembly in the 35th year of the Northern Great Lakes Synod will be May 12-14, 2022 at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan.

ORDER FOR
CLOSING OF
THE ASSEMBLY

Assembly participated in the Order for Closing of the Assembly. The 33rd Assembly in the 34th year of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was declared adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Date

Rev. Kay Richter, Secretary

Karen Kolstad, Recording Secretary

Chuck Thomas, Vice President

Approved by the Synod Executive Committee per S11.01.11.f