



Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Connections



Connecting the Congregational, Synodical, and Churchwide Expressions of the ELCA

Recent Synod Assembly acts on social statement resolutions

ELCA Churchwide Assembly to Meet in Minneapolis, Aug. 17-23

Twenty representatives from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod will be among more than 1,000 voting members of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly August 17-23 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Delegates will act on a proposed social statement on human sexuality, a recommendation on ministry policies, a proposal for full communion, and funding proposals. They will also conduct elections, and consider memorials and resolutions.

The assembly theme is "God's work. Our hands." Bible studies will be based on the Book of Faith Initiative, endorsed by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. The initiative is intended to help ELCA members increase their biblical literacy. The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, in his eighth year as ELCA presiding bishop, will chair the assembly.

Each of the ELCA's 10,448 congregations may send one representative to the assembly as an official "congregational observer." More information about this can be found on the Churchwide Assembly website: www.ELCA.org/assembly.

The assembly will act on:

- a proposal for full communion between the ELCA and the United Methodist Church, adopted by the UMC General Conference in 2008
- a proposed social statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," requested by the 2001 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

"Hand in Hand" blog offers stories of faith, inspiration

Find spirited stories on the "Hand in Hand" blog digest (<http://blogs.elca.org/handinhand>), including:

- The Pentecost spirit renews the faith
- An unfolding Pentecost story

Take a moment right now and sign up to have new "Hand in Hand" blog posts e-mailed to you.

Visit www.elca.org/handinhand to find the Summer 2009 issue of the Hand in Hand newsletter. The two "Side A" stories are available in reproducible formats for use in bulletins and newsletters.

- a "Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies" requested by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
- a fundraising proposal for a churchwide HIV and AIDS strategy
- A proposal for further development of a "Lutheran Malaria Initiative" (LMI) with Lutheran World Relief, the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod, and the United Nations Foundation (UNF).

At the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly in mid-May, delegates considered three resolutions dealing with the "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" document as a possible social statement of the ELCA.

A "Resolution Rejecting Proposed Social Statement and Affirming Current Teaching Documents on Sexuality" was amended and defeated by ballot: Yes, 202; No, 256; Abstain 16.

A "Resolution Rejecting Recommendations on Ministry Policy and Affirming Current ELCA Policy" was amended and passed by a narrow margin: Yes, 225; No, 223; Abstain 13.

A "Resolution in Support of Two-Thirds Majority Vote" at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly was amended and passed by show of hands.

"The Lutheran" to feature NW Minn. Synod

Watch for the July issue of "The Lutheran," which will include the second of four quarterly inserts produced by and for the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.

The Northwestern Minnesota Synod

310 14th Ave. S., Riverside Ctr.-Concordia College,
Moorhead, MN 56562

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