

Synod Summary 3

Montana Synod, ELCA

6/4/2017

Plenary IV

Sunday Morning

Plenary IV started with prayer offered by ELCA Vice President Bill Horne. Vice President Horne then moved into his report as our Churchwide Representative. A video greeting from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was presented. In this greeting, Bishop Eaton covered a number of ministries of the Churchwide expression including the Called Forward Together in Christ listening campaign, Lutheran Disaster Response, the Ammparo Initiative, and many others.

Vice President Horne then moved into a presentation expanding on the work of the Churchwide expression and the Montana **Synod's** role in that ministry. In 2016 the Montana Synod gave \$412,801 in mission support to the Churchwide Expression, representing 40% of our synod budget. We have committed to maintaining this level of support in 2017. As a result of the Called Forward Together in Christ listening Campaign, the ELCA is focused on Congregational Vitality and Leadership, for more information visit elca.org/future.

We also learned about some of the exciting things happening around the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. One of the resources that has been produced to aid congregations in celebrating the anniversary is a study guide on Declaration on the Way Study Guide published by 1517 media. For more

information on the Reformation Anniversary visit elca500.org.

In 2016 the ELCA Foundation distributed \$56 million dollars in planned gifts comprised of \$10 million to congregations and \$3 million to synods. ELCA World Hunger was also included in the presentation, in 2016 ELCA World Hunger received \$21.9 million in gifts which make it possible for World Hunger to be present in 60 countries.

The assembly also received greetings from Concordia College where they are expecting over 500 new students this coming fall. This marks another year of increased enrollment at Concordia. We learned of ways that Concordia is celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We also received greetings from Pacific Lutheran University and learned of new leadership transitions and heard about their Theological Conference with a focus on Leadership which takes place in June of 2018.

After receiving greetings from Concordia and PLU the Assembly voted to approve the 2018 Synod Budget as well as proposed changes to the Synod Constitution. These acts brought the final plenary of the assembly to a close. The Assembly then moved into a short break before closing worship.

Rev. Tony Rhodes

Thank you



Thanks to all of you who helped in the many ways needed to make these assemblies come together. We couldn't do it without you. Until next year, the Montana Synod Staff.

