RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the Allegheny Synod has met in Assembly and fulfilled its business;

WHEREAS, the Holy Spirit has enabled the Assembly in its action to fulfill its theme to be “The Household of God...ever New” in our Allegheny Synod and in all of the world;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Allegheny Synod Assembly convening in Altoona June 5, 6, and 7 expresses its gratitude:

- to Pastor Folmar and the members of First Lutheran Church for their hospitality. We celebrate the talents of the wonderful musicians, the Assembly Choir, and for introducing liturgical dance to the Allegheny Synod;
- to the Assembly Planning Committee for once again fulfilling the responsibility for the details of the assembly at the “cool (and sometimes hot)” Blair County Convention Center and accomplishing its task of organizing an agenda of business, education, worship, and meals;
- to Deanne Armagost for her many years of leadership of the Assembly Planning Committee in addition to her responsibilities in her own congregation, Christ, Dubois;
- to Bishop Pile for reminding us that we are a household of citizens and saints grounded in grace and hope;
- to Spence Garvin for challenging us to increase our mission support dollars;
- to the Assembly worship team who prepared a well-organized and well-rounded program of worship experiences;
- to Todd Hammaker for his financial expertise;
- to our synod partners for their ministries among us;
- to David Finney, our synod secretary, for keeping our records organized;
- to the technology crew for their attentiveness to detail and making sure the microphones were in working order;
- to Presiding Bishop Eaton for reminding us that the power of spirit is not accomplished by preaching fire and brimstone and that we belong to God;
- to Bishop Pile, the prognosticator, for sharing his top ten dreams for the newly elected bishop and proclaiming to us all that because we are disciples of Christ, the best years are yet to come;
- to the “pages” who distributed all the papers needed to conduct business;
- to the ballot counters for their timeliness and diligence in counting votes and reporting results;
- to Dr. Rich Melheim, our Bible Study leader, who taught us that those over 40 years of age are losing 10,000 brain cells each night and for reminding us to get a good night’s sleep. Thanks also for reminding us that as parents we...
should remember the Golden Rule is that he/she who has the gold makes the rules. May we remember that “home” is the first church and that the optimal time for the human brain to learn anything is when we lie down and when we rise;

■ to Pastor Way for serving as our resident photographer;
■ to Pastor Eli for sharing her new pet camel with the assembly;
■ to the new ordinands for their commitment to pastoral ministry;
■ to the new pastors in the synod who have begun their pastoral ministry journey with us in the Allegheny Synod;
■ to the missionaries for their good work in our companion synod, Kenya;
■ to Jim Beener for reminding Bishop Pile that he cannot do what he just did, but remember, Jim, Bishop Pile says he learned bishops can do anything, even break the rules;
■ to the rostered persons who celebrated anniversaries of ordination and especially to Pastor Warren Karshin who did not talk for 30 minutes;
■ to the retired rostered persons for their many years of ministry among us;
■ to the congregations who celebrated anniversaries; may your ministry continue for at least 225 more years;
■ to Bishop Ralph Jones of the Northwestern Synod who was with us to be sure all went well because of the age limitations related to being 65 years of age and for his willingness to mentor the newly elected Bishop;
■ to Presiding Bishop Eaton for mentioning that she and Bishop Pile are not technologically savvy and while she recognizes the value of social media, that it may well be the Circle of Hell about which Dante never wrote. Thank you for also highlighting the importance of the work of the ELCA in the world;
■ to the 2014 Sequanota summer staff for leading us in worship and in sharing their gifts and talents this summer to impact the youth and families in our synod (and for not leaving Pastor Nathan Pile behind this morning);
■ to Bishop Pile, who is good looking and who challenged us to remember that we should trust the Almighty and the promise of our baptism and stop the "stinkin’ thinkin’." We praise God for the 21 years of service among us as our bishop. We pray that the next phase of your ministry be equally blessed as we have been with your synodical leadership. We look forward to celebrating your service at your gathering at Friedens Lutheran (the place you began your pastoral journey) on August 17th;
■ to Bishop-elect for your willingness to serve as our synodical leader. We pledge to work with you to be the Church together and the Church for the sake of the world; and
■ to some behind-the-scenes assistants among us (to name a few)….Michelle Bossler for her clerical expertise; to the enlister of lectors, Miss Ima Readen; to Mr. Hammaker’s assistant, Dr. Seymour Mulla; to the assistant liturgist, Mrs. Carrie D’Book; to the Audio Visual Expert, Kent C. Nuttin; to the Prayer
Service Leader, Pastor Denise R. Sore; to the Choir Director, Duey Whistle; to the Timekeeper, Bea Dunn Sooner; to the Roster Keeper, C. Moore Kollars; to the Hymn Selector, Ewell B. Sorry; to the Teller, All N. Favor; to the Social Issue Facilitator, Eileen Wright; to the Adjournment Mover, Frieda Goh; to the Eucharistic Assistants, ManeyShevits and Lotza Crumbs; and to the Bishop’s Self-Esteem Guru, Hugh D’Mann; and to all those persons who once again enabled us to conduct a successful and prayerful assembly filled with good fellowship and discussion.

This Assembly called upon us to remember that we are In Christ, Always Being Made New. May we share the promise of Christ with all believers as we continue to fulfill our mission to serve in a dynamic and generative household now and forever.