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Our Logo

The Lutherans Concerned logo unifies visual symbols of our Christianity and our sexuality into a single image. It has two parts: the fish and the pink triangle. The IX-Thus, or fish symbol, originated as a secret recognition symbol for the early Christian community. The pink triangle was used by the Nazis to identify the European homosexuals who perished in the concentration camps of the Third Reich. Both symbols are now used by their respective communities as honored signs of recognition and support.

Statement of Sanctuary

The ministry of Lutherans Concerned, its meetings and its mailing lists are protected by our understanding of sanctuary. No participants need fear exposure or abuse in subscribing, joining or attending chapter functions. All information that individuals may reveal of themselves is to be honored by others with total confidentiality. Mutual trust and respect, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, is offered to all who may elsewhere experience alienation, distrust or rejection. For the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we welcome you.

Diversity and Anti-Racism

An equal-opportunity employer, LC/NA welcomes candidates for paid or volunteer positions who share our commitments to full participation for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and anti-racist accountability to communities of color.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Refrain... Restraint... and the ELCA meets 82 of its LGBT Ministers

Churchwide Assembly 2007, Chicago, what happened?

RESOLVED, that in an effort to continue as a church in moral deliberation without further strife and pain to its members, the Churchwide Assembly prays, urges, and encourages synods, synodical bishops, and the presiding bishop to refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining those congregations and persons who call into the rostered ministry otherwise-qualified candidates who are in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly prays, urges, and encourages synods, synodical bishops, and the presiding bishop to refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining those rostered leaders in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship who have been called and rostered in this church.

That's one thing that happened... Here's another, an amendment...

To direct the task force [for ELCA Studies on Sexuality] to specifically address and make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church.

And then there were the 82 courageous LGBT Lutheran ministers introducing themselves to the wider church. Some are ELCA ministers,

some Extraordinary Candidacy Project (ECP) ministers, and others seminarians and candidates for ordination, all LGBT, introducing themselves to the entire ELCA in two booklets offered to the voting members.

And, the more than 200 volunteers who came to help with efforts to remove this hideous, un-Lutheran and un-Christian policy against loving, committed relationships. And, the 350 people who came to hear and be inspired by the folks from St. John's in Atlanta who came to the Churchwide Assembly to let people meet them – to see that they are ordinary Lutherans, in

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The Editor

DALE TRUSCOTT



Praise the Lord!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for God is gracious; and a song of praise is fitting...
Yahweh builds up Jerusalem; Yahweh gathers the outcasts of Israel.
Yahweh heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

(from PSALM 147 NRSV emended)

I was not prepared to sing praises to God in this editorial as I envisioned it before the 2007 Churchwide Assembly was over. I have been, in my past, a bit like

Emily in that I was a church assembly junkie. And I became pretty good at sensing the mind of the church over the years. When I saw that the Memorials Committee had sidetracked the wishes of 22 synods of the church, I “smelled a rat.”

But the Lord builds up the church and gathers the outcasts and heals the brokenhearted. A motion asking those same bishops to refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining lesbian or gay rostered persons in faithful relationships passed by a substantial majority. And now a task force of the church is faced with the same challenge that has been before the church since 2005 – to delete the clauses in *Vision and Expectations* (and the appropriate parts of other disciplinary documents) having to do with lesbian and gay pastors and rostered leaders in faithful relationships. But now their recommendation will come after two years of the church practicing mercy and restraint from what was an unjust rule to begin with. There will be a faithful track record

for them to observe. [It won’t be perfect; I’m not a balmy optimist. But it will happen.] And I trust it will be impossible for them to reverse the tide of justice and mercy that has begun this summer in Chicago.

Here in this issue of *Concord* rushed through edit to the printer as fast as we can do it, is reflection on the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. There are a lot of color pictures. There are strategically accurate and heartfelt reflections on what happened in Chicago. There are hundreds of thank-you’s for the countless hours of work, for the faithfulness of so many, for the courage of leaders who announced themselves to the church and the world in witness to the gospel. With the danger in singling out any of the contributions here, I was moved by Gail Sieckman’s interviews with volunteers. It is a longer article than we usually publish, but I just could not bring myself to edit it more than I did. And the story of the scarves! Wow, what a witness! Thank you, Nancy. Then there is the faithful witness of a congregation in Atlanta,

St. John’s, that is a model of the life of faith. Thanks to John Ballew, St. John’s president.

I’ve been around Lutherans Concerned/North America long enough to remember taking minutes as Secretary in Board meetings where we didn’t have enough money to buy the donuts, and we all chipped in some more beyond paying for our own airfare to cover the expenses of a couple who just didn’t have it. And now Emily Eastwood writes of “Grants in Abundance,” and you will see a 4-page insert enumerating the donors that made the *ONE VOICE* Campaign an amazing success.

The Lord is building up the church (Jerusalem), even when parts of it don’t want to be built up. The Lord is gathering in the outcasts, even when some would wish them to remain outside. The Lord is healing some of the brokenheartedness and woundedness that has plagued LGBT people and their allies. The Lord is creating vibrant and effective ministries within the ELCA and the ELCIC and outside of them as well! And that’s just fine, because the Spirit moves when and where it will. I personally am not one to say that the only goal of LC/NA is to create full inclusive justice within the ELCA and the Lutheran Churches of North America. It is our primary goal. If it were our only goal, we, too, might thwart the work of the Spirit as some of our opponents so vigorously try to do.

Hundreds of people, some listed or enumerated in the final pages of the devotional booklet distributed to the assembly and the press, are doing ministry outside the denominational structure. Some of them long to be invited back in. Others rejoice in the health of their service in the name of Jesus where they

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Lutherans Concerned/ North America...

- Has the simultaneous goals of affirming the God-given nature of sexual orientation, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ through inclusive worship and promoting positive changes in all expressions of the Lutheran church.
- Is an independent, membership-supported organization which has ministered to thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and heterosexual people over 30+ years of service.
- Reaches out to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities across the U.S.A., Mexico and Canada. Its members also serve as resources to local Lutheran congregations, their pastors, and elected leaders.

We invite you to join us as we learn to better love ourselves and share that love with others.

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Co-Chair

LEN WEISER



In the last issue of the *Concord* I wrote about all of the work LC/NA is doing to continue to seek justice and to be part of a justice-minded church. Because of the intensity of that work, I reminded folks to take time for rest and renewal so that we have the energy to continue to do the work that God is calling us to be about.

A few weeks ago, I was picking up my son from summer day camp (his rest and renewal from a long school year). As we were driving through the suburbs of Philadelphia, I was commenting on how much I like the area and really would never want to move, even if it were across the river to New Jersey. Because I know this area, it's comfortable for me to live in the southeast corner of Pennsylvania. Well, out of the mouths of babes, he said to me, "Dad, you do want to get married, don't you?" I said, "Of

Leave it to a **ten year-old** to say it 'like it is.'

course!" He then said to me, "Well, you know you can't get married in Pennsylvania, so why not just move and get it over with?" Leave it to a ten year-old to say it "like it is." So clear it is to a child what is right and wrong, and what steps you need to take to do the right thing.

As I was reflecting upon my time at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, I realized that Joey's simple understanding about doing what is right and my hesitation about doing that right thing because it disrupts comfort or changes the familiar was very similar to how I interpreted the actions of the assembly.

I'm sure by now you have heard the wonderful news that voting members of the 10th Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA took a giant step towards becoming a justice-minded church by passing a resolution presented to the voting members by a bishop of the church. By it, all bishops are strongly urged to refrain from or demonstrate restraint if disciplining a congregation and/or partnered LGBT ministers. During the debate prior to the vote, we heard stories from people who are really struggling with the decision to becoming fully inclusive of LGBT ministers and their families.

For these people telling their stories, their fears,

like my fears of leaving the area I call home, are very real to them. As we continue our dialogue these next two years with these people, our brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to listen deeply. We need to be bold, tell our own stories, and share with others why the ELCA needs to continue to take steps to full inclusion of LGBT brothers and sisters.

Like my son, who sees moving as the most logical thing for his dad to do to be able to be married, to have equal, legal rights as my heterosexual brothers and sisters, we need to help those among us who are afraid of change, for whatever reason. When I read ISAIAH 12:2, "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid," I know that no matter what fears I have, if I'm in prayer with my God, God will allow me to have peace with my decisions, especially those clouded by fears. It is my fervent prayer that my brothers and sisters who are reacting out of fear (with many of whom I shared meals, worshiped, and walked to the Reconciling Table of Christ at the CWA) will begin to trust and not be afraid, because Christ is their and our salvation.

So, friends, while LC/NA continues to foster its relationships with members of our church, to train its leaders (in September, our second annual leadership retreat) and to raise money to be able to support its ministries, please continue to pray for all of us, those of us who know so clearly, like my son, what the church needs to do. Pray for those of us who are a little afraid, even as I am to move to a state where I can legally get married. Keep us all in your prayers! May God give us ears to hear and voices that speak with conviction and clarity, and may God's love for the cosmos shine through us in all we say and do so that fears that hold us back are overcome. ▼

From the Editor

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are. This is not a contest. We don't believe that the ELCA is the only "means of salvation." But we are committed to full inclusion in the denominations in North America of which we have been a part and which we love. On August 11, 2007, the tide shifted toward inclusion. Where 9/11 has become a day of infamy in the western world for what was torn down, may 8/11 become a day to be remembered in Christendom for what is beginning to be built up! ▼

Executive Director

EMILY EASTWOOD



I have a confession. My name is Emily Eastwood. I am a life-long Lutheran and a Churchwide Assembly (CWA) junkie. The late nights and early mornings framed in worship, the **goodsoil** events and receptions, the dedicated volunteers gathered and sent to gracefully engage, the intrigue of closed-door meetings with potential allies, the parliamentary chess game, working in dynamic teams, building relationships, eating little and sleeping less, the risk of hope, the analysis of defeat, the wonder of victory, all predicated on organizing people and money to create the change we seek... it's all a big, fat rush to me.

After CWA 2007, I know I am not the only one who feels that way. Yes, we are a strange lot, a called and gifted lot. Some might say a crazy lot. I'm sure there is treatment or a 12-step group we could join

*The dam of discrimination cracked and the **waters of justice** are now seeping and soon flowing through.*

for this affliction. Heaven knows we could use a good therapist along the way. Emotions run the gamut. The stakes are high. But, as long as we center ourselves in the Word of God and there is a need for graceful and tenacious advocacy for full inclusion, I, and I suspect a growing flock of you, will persist. Remember, the ultimate outcome is assured.

On the opening afternoon of CWA as volunteers gathered for training, I announced that I intended to be "Emily All Love," for the entire assembly. I had been praying for wisdom and a loving peaceful

spirit. By announcing my intention to the **goodsoil** world, I knew I would be held to that standard. Accountability is good. Fortunately for all of us, God answered my prayer and a welcome peace came. As my dear friend Pastor Jim Boline wrote frequently in the last few months, "All will be well." And it was.

Stories of amazing conversations and rare close encounters of the spiritual kind abound from CWA. The courage

of our 200 volunteers and staff to engage voting members and visitors alike in grace and love-filled ways was a wonder to my heart and eyes. My gratitude overflows for the ways in which we became "**goodsoil** All Love," relentlessly honest, deeply listening, genuinely caring, risking rejection time and again, trusting that "God would make a way where there was no way." And God did and it was good.

To say that the CWA experience was all light and roses would ignore the plain truth of some of the church's less stellar moments. While two bishops rose to make **goodsoil** motions on policy change as well as refrain and restrain, two bishops from synods which had passed memorials on policy change spoke against that change in 2007. Disbelief and the pain of personal betrayal coursed through allied voting members and visitors alike. These bishops' desire to maintain the unity of the church through further delay overwhelmed their allegiance to the wishes of their synods. Fear reigned yet again.

When the vote on policy change came, the tally revealed and the loss apparent, I calmly wrote down the figures, but felt nothing. It was as if I was a detached observer. I quickly analyzed the results and noted that we had picked up 12% since our attempt at policy change in Orlando. We are on the right track. Tears flowed from the eyes of the rainbow-clad visitors behind me. Hope, that dangerous and essential friend, had failed. My heart wept with them. I wandered through the rows, consoling and promising "we're not done yet." And we weren't.

That night the legislative team, fueled by our private pain and a healthy dose of righteous indignation, worked quickly to plan the fallback strategy for Saturday. Refrain and restrain were always the failsafe in the overall scheme. Go in high and negotiate to come out with something we didn't have when we went in. Basic. Bittersweet, if it works.

Longtime friend and ally Bishop Paul Landahl made the substitute motion to put "refrain and restrain" on the floor for consideration. He spoke clearly and with passion. Legislative team floor leaders took the next three speeches in favor of refrain and restrain. The question was called by those opposed. The vote was taken.

In the heat of the moment, when time rockets by and breathing inadvertently stops, I never considered what my reaction might be if we won. After 20 years, I had learned how to lose. Nothing had prepared me for winning.

As the numbers appeared and I realized that we had actually overcome the wishes of the memorials committee and passed "refrain or restrain" by 54 percent, I was overwhelmed by the unfamiliar. There were three painful, large gasping intakes of precious life-giving breath. My head reeled to the left and

continued next page

RIC Settings

Added to the Roster since last issue

Bethany Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Bethany Lutheran Church, Star Prairie, Wisconsin

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Raleigh, North Carolina

Lamb of God Lutheran-Episcopal Church, Fort Myers, Florida

Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Davis, California

New Horizons Lutheran Church, Falcon, Colorado

United Lutheran Church, Eugene, Oregon

For the complete list of RIC congregations, synods, and organizations, go to our website at www.lcna.org

Grants in abundance from new and old friends!

By **Emily Eastwood**, Executive Director

In the last 6 months LC/NA has received notice of six grants for various components of our ministry in the aggregate amount of \$223,000. Our thanks are due to the foundations and LC chapters, which have found our

work worthy of their support. These grants have and will enable LC/NA to take the necessary next steps toward fulfilling our mission.

For the fourth consecutive year the **E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation**, based in Philadelphia, has provided programmatic support. This year Carpenter awarded \$35,000 to partially fund the salary and associated costs of both a Development Director and Region 3 Field Organizer. These two positions will be posted in September for a national search. We hope to have both filled by January 1, 2008.

LC/NA has received three notices of award in support of *Hearts on Fire*, the Biennial Assembly and North American RIC Conference to be held July 3-6, 2008, in San Francisco, California. **The Philip N. Knutson Endowment** has granted \$11,000 for the project. This is the fourth grant to LC/NA from the Knutson Endowment. LC/Los Angeles has generously awarded \$15,000 for *Hearts on Fire* from the bequest to the chapter from Clarence (Andy) Anderson. LC/LA also supported

Gather Us In 2004. **Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries (LLGM)** has given notice of a grant for *Hearts on Fire* in the amount of \$10,000. LLGM was also a sponsor of *Gather Us In 2004*. The generosity of these fine friends of LC/NA is appreciated indeed and will help keep registration costs low for participants at *Hearts on Fire*.

For the first time, LC/NA has received a grant from the **Gay and Lesbian Fund of the Arcus Foundation** based in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The award in the amount of \$50,000 was given to support the allied Lutheran effort under the *goodsoil* banner to create change at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly just completed. The grant helped make possible meeting rooms, our graceful engagement strategy for volunteers to meet with voting members over breakfasts and lunches, travel and housing for the LGBT pastors being introduced to the ELCA, the worship service, media, and the full display of the Shower of Stoles Project.

LC/Metro Washington, D.C. awarded \$2,000 to LC/NA to assist with funding for the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. This grant was used to defray expenses for the

goodsoil worship service including the rental of the grand piano, organ and sound system. With 650 people in attendance good sound was essential to the success of the event.

Finally, and also for the first time, LC/NA has received a generous grant from the **Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund** in the amount of \$100,000. This grant provides general support to be used to strengthen faith-based outreach and advocacy within the ELCA. Activities associated with this grant include increase in organizational capacity, expanding the RIC program by 10%, trainings toward regional leadership development, youth and young adult initiatives, and *goodsoil* organizing for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly just completed. ▼

Next **RIC Core Team** Leadership Trainings

October 18-21, 2007

Christ Lutheran Church,
Santa Fe, New Mexico

November 2-3, 2007

Advanced I-Wheel Training 1

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
St. Paul, Minnesota

November 15-18, 2007

Mt. Manresa Jesuit Retreat
House, New York, New York

January 17-20, 2008

St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Clearwater, Florida

February 21-24, 2008

St. Matthew Lutheran Church,
North Hollywood, California

March 6-8, 2008

Central Lutheran Church,
Portland, Oregon

April 3-6, 2008

St. John Methodist Church,
Lubbock, Texas

August 7-10, 2008

Lord of Life Lutheran Church,
Columbus, Ohio

To register contact:

Jerry Vagts, grassroots@lcna.org,
651-665-0861

Executive Director

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then right with unbelieving eyes seeking confirmation that a seemingly small, but oh so giant step, had indeed been taken. Pastor Jayne Thompson who has walked through several assemblies with me, nodded and smiled and squeezed my outstretched hand. I turned to the rainbow people behind me. My tears matched theirs. We did not applaud or raise our voices, or stand to leave the hall. We were, after all, "*goodsoil* All Love," and 46 percent of the house, who also voted their conscience, had lost.

The dam of discrimination cracked and the waters of justice are now seeping and soon flowing through. There is no going back now. No doubt some will throw up temporary diversions for the water, but it will find its way and soon. Calling CWA junkies and all of you who seek the life-giving waters of Gods' reconciling love and peacemaking justice: the time has come, our way is clear. We all have a role to play, a job to do. May God grant us "all love," courage, tenacity, understanding, wisdom, peace and might. Let the people say "Amen." ▼

Signs of God's Call:

The Shower of Stoles by Carol Dunn

“Look at the gifts of God that we have wasted!” “The stoles are beautiful – but what they say is so sad – so many people lost from the work of the churches.” Those

thoughtful comments typified many among those who observed more than 1100 items in the Shower of Stoles at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August.

Of course, not everyone reacted that way. One remark came from a voting member Thursday evening. She said “these people – at least these Lutheran people” would not be removed from rosters if they would comply with the rules. The man with her, also a voting member, pointed out that those rules were precisely the topic to be discussed at plenary sessions. He must have known

All express the **pain** of separation and **denial** —
None of them tells of **abandonment** of faith.

her well. He asked what she would do if her church had removed her for remarrying after the divorce from her first husband, “the one you always describe as a disaster.” Perhaps he brought home to her that the “rules” are not always the answer.

Three young seminarians signed one stole in the collection. Their 1999 statement was: “We are three gay students at a Lutheran seminary. Although our voices are silenced, we stand together in the faith that God has called us to ministry, and in the hope that one day soon our gifts will be honored by this church.” All are now ordained and serving. These pastors live dual lives, teaching and preaching the Good News of our Savior, but because of church policy they have been compelled to be secret about who they are.

One of the most distressing stoles was from two women whose toddler son had been denied baptism by the church in which they had been active for

several years, because, their minister said, the women could not provide a respectable Christian home.

All week except Wednesday and Thursday, stoles in the Lutheran collection hung in **goodsoil** Central at the Hyatt, where volunteers and voting members could read their stories. An

ELCA pastor paused before one red stole, reading the four names on the back. His ordination stole in another Lutheran denomination, he said, was one exactly like that. No longer wanted at all in that branch of the Lutheran Church, he is now serving an inner city ELCA church, knowing that he is loved in his parish. His moving story in the devotional booklet “A Place Within my Walls” expresses his longing for his denomination to welcome him home fully, without limitations or reservations.

Another even more colorful stole bore a poem, which read in part:

I walk in the labyrinth with stole in hand
a gift given by my ordination sponsor 13 years ago...
Little did I know how many times
my call would escort me to the center of the institution
only to be thrust outward to the edge
by virtue of my dual call
as pastor and lesbian...
The entire walk Spirit-led
On the fringe of the institution
At the center of the Sacred always.

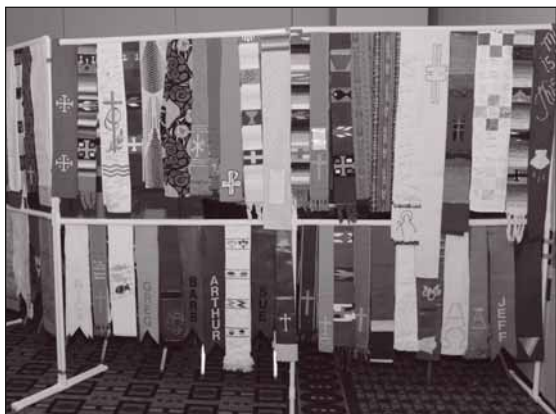
Among the Lutheran stoles are those from seminarians, from a seminary graduate who is now a public school teacher because he could not accept the demands of *Vision & Expectations*, and from college students who fear being outed and have come to feel distant from their church. All these stoles tell stories. All express the pain of separation and denial which official ELCA policy has forced on them. Amazingly, none of them tells of abandonment of faith. Surely God continues to work through these men and women, but what gifts the Lutheran Church has lost!

Goodsoil held a reception with the complete Shower of Stoles Wednesday evening immediately after a spectacular worship service. At least 650 people attended worship (close to double the number who attended in Orlando) and most stayed to stroll among the stoles and read their stories. Again Thursday evening the Stoles were on display for about three hours during the **goodsoil** hospitality reception, and many people visited.

For the first time since 2003, the entire Stole collection was available. The number of stoles from seminarians, clergy and other full time church workers has grown in those four years from about 700 to over 1100 from three continents, six nations and twenty-seven denominations. Nearly all the stoles tell of LGBT people who are – or were – active in the life and leadership of the faith community in some way: clergy, elder, deacon, teacher, missionary, musician, administrator, or active layperson. A significant number of those represented by the stoles either chose not to continue to ordination or have been removed from rosters because of gender

continued next page

The Shower of Stoles on display



Election of Presiding Bishop and Secretary of the ELCA

By **Lori Ann Strang**

One of the most memorable experiences of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly will be the lack of silence during the entire gathering. From plenary sessions to worship services

to communal lunches or even lunch alone on the pier, there was no silence. Every space was filled with talking, exhorting, viewing video, singing, responsive reading except for two incidents. One during the election of the presiding bishop and the other (more frequent) practice adopted by the gathered voting members of having one full minute of silence every twenty minutes during the debate on full inclusion.

David will make an **excellent** secretary for the next chapter in the life of the **ELCA**.

The first silence came during the election of a presiding bishop. When Bishop Hanson passed over the duties of chair to him, Vice President Carlos Pena paused for a moment of silence before the first ecclesiastical ballot was cast. Hanson narrowly missed election on the first ballot falling two votes short of the 75 percent required for election. The second ballot was cast more swiftly and the

announcement of Hanson's re-election was met by his sincere words noting this strong support as an "affirmation of call".

The election for secretary, a role that has been filled by the Rev. Lowell Almen over the past 20 years of the ELCA's existence, brought a cast of well qualified candidates to the dais. The whole election process both for Presiding Bishop and Secretary of the ELCA uses an ecclesiastical ballot system which is basically a write-in campaign. Every voting member writes a name

on the first ballot. Subsequent ballots sort the candidates. Michael Cooper-White, president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, led in the first round of ecclesiastical balloting, followed by Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, the bishop of the South Dakota Synod. Ecclesiastical ballots provide for an extra measure of the working of the Holy Spirit, providing opportunity for long shots on the first ballots to win. After the question-and-answer round and the short-speech round, the will of the assembly shifted from the front runners to David Swartling, the parliamentarian of the ELCA from the Northwest Washington Synod.

In his final speech, Swartling asked the gathered assembly if it was time to consider a lay person for this position, and, indeed, the voting members answered with his election. Swartling brings a background as a successful attorney to the position of secretary. He is widely reported to be a faithful, genuine man with a strong devotional life and a willingness to serve the church, a man from whom both fairness and honesty can be expected.

Executive Director Emily Eastwood, who first met David Swartling when he was parliamentarian for the 2005 Oregon Synod Assembly, said, "David is scrupulously fair, with a willing smile, and an easy, but highly professional manner. His love of God, our church and its members are clear. David will make an excellent secretary for the next chapter in the life of the ELCA." ▼

Signs of God's Call

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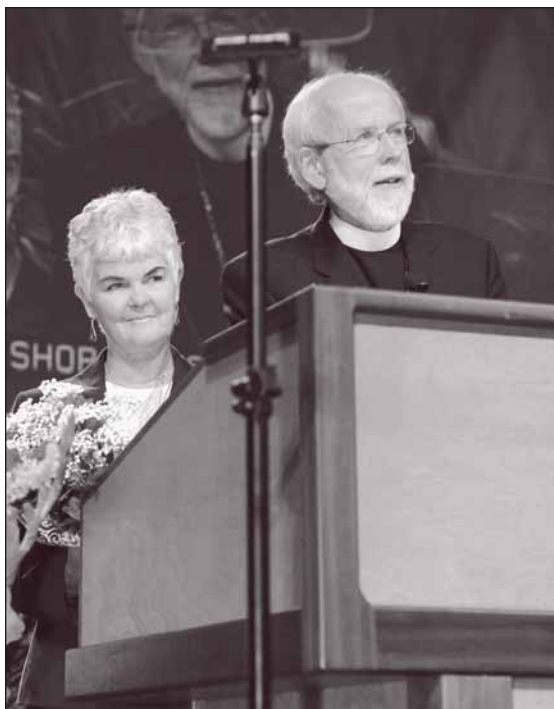
identity or sexual orientation. Some stoles have prayers, some have stories, some have thought provoking words.

Most stoles have been sent in by LGBT people themselves, although families and friends contributed stoles also. A telling indication of the climate in which LGBT clergy and church workers live is that a large number of the stoles donated by active clergy come anonymously. Some stoles have signatures from entire congregations or no signatures at all, a decision intended to protect the identity of those who cannot risk a label. Also in the collection are so-called "signature stoles," covered with names of straight allies in congregations, colleges, synods or other judicatories. Over 3000 signatures fill these stoles. The Institute for Welcoming Resources - a national, ecumenical collaboration of the Welcoming Church Movement - is the supervisory body for the Shower of Stoles Project. The mission of the ten year project is "to end religious discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people."

On-line viewing of the entire exhibition is

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Bishop Mark Hanson and his wife, Irene, at the podium after his re-election.



ELCA

Scarves Wrapped Around the Church

By **Nancy Lewis**

Many of us knitted or crocheted the scarves that were used at Churchwide Assembly to identify those volunteers who were there in support of the activities of **goodsoil** –

comprised of Lutherans Concerned/North America, the Network for Full Inclusion, Wingspan Ministry and the Extraordinary Candidacy Project. I wasn't at Churchwide Assembly, but I've been told that voting members and even ELCA staff members, as well as hotel employees, asked about the scarves, asked if

Volunteers and the unpacked 2000+ scarves



The Unitarians volunteered to make 500!

they could have one, wore them to sessions of the assembly, and took them home. Many of those who requested scarves had stories to share about gay children or about themselves.

The idea for the rainbow scarves originated with volunteers at an Ecumenical Welcoming Church training, which was held at a Unitarian Church in Evanston, Illinois. The Unitarian volunteers wore their rainbow-colored scarves so that the training staff and trainees would know who to ask for restroom locations, what rooms sessions were in, and so on. Emily Eastwood thought this was a great idea, and wished we could have some like them for Churchwide Assembly. The Unitarians volunteered to make 500! They wouldn't even accept payment for the yarn.

Jerry Vagts, at LC/NA headquarters, realized that

we Lutherans would want to make some, too. Just before the start of our Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, he sent out an e-mail, asking for help and giving instructions. I quickly started two scarves, one knitted and one crocheted, so I could alternate working on the scarves at Synod Assembly and tell others about them. A lot of people were interested. (Also, I'm proud to say that our synod passed all the resolutions asking for an end to the policy against gay clergy in committed relationships!)

That one e-mail was all it took. With only a few weeks in which to make the scarves – and during the summer, which is not the most pleasant time to be working with yarn – our people got busy. Single scarves came in. Huge boxes from congregations arrived at LC/NA headquarters. One Catholic friend made 48!

One church group told their knitters that they had to understand and accept the reasons for the project, so they held a two-hour Bible study and discussion about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the ELCA. All the knitters chose to participate. A retired lesbian pastor said that making this scarf was the first thing she had ever done to stand up for her own sexuality. A grandmother made a scarf for her gay grandson, and told her knitting group for the first time about him being gay. Many congregations blessed the scarves before shipping them. Some people wore the scarves in Gay Pride parades before sending them in.

LC/NA received as many as 2000 scarves – so many that no one could keep count. In the end, only eighteen of them were brought back from Churchwide Assembly to LC/NA's St. Paul headquarters. People wanted to take them home for a gay child, a parent, a friend, a pastor.

On Friday, August 17th, the *New York Times* ran a

They wouldn't even accept payment for the yarn.

large color picture of four women wearing the scarves at Churchwide Assembly, along with an article about Pastor Bradley Schmeling and the actions that were taken at the assembly with respect to pastors in committed relationships. I wonder how many of us who saw that picture felt, as I did, that one of those women might have been wearing a scarf I had made.

I want to offer a big "Thank You" to everyone who participated in the scarves project. If you made one (or 48!) or if you wore one, you made a difference. ▼

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY PHOTOS



The van arrives in Chicago; let the unloading and work begin



Goodsoil Central takes shape



Packets of information were prepared for the goodsoil volunteers



A small segment of the Shower of Stoles



Volunteers unpacking the 2000+ scarves



Jerry's (in)Famous Trail Mix – the weight does convey

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY PHOTOS



First meeting in **Goodsoil Central**



Opening ELCA Liturgy: ELCA Bp. Mark Hanson center right; Secretary Lowell Almen left, V.P. Carlos Pena, far left

ELCA



The assembly begins...



Some of the 350+ who came to hear St. John's speak out



Leafletting "**goodsoil – Ministry Rooted in Gospel**" to the voting members; **goodsoil** singers in the background



The Shower of Stoles forms the backdrop as people gather for the **goodsoil** worship service

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY PHOTOS



Some of the clergy gathered for the *goodsoil* Eucharistic worship

Below: *goodsoil* Worship Service



The candles are lit



Part of the 650 worshippers that included 20 ELCA bishops

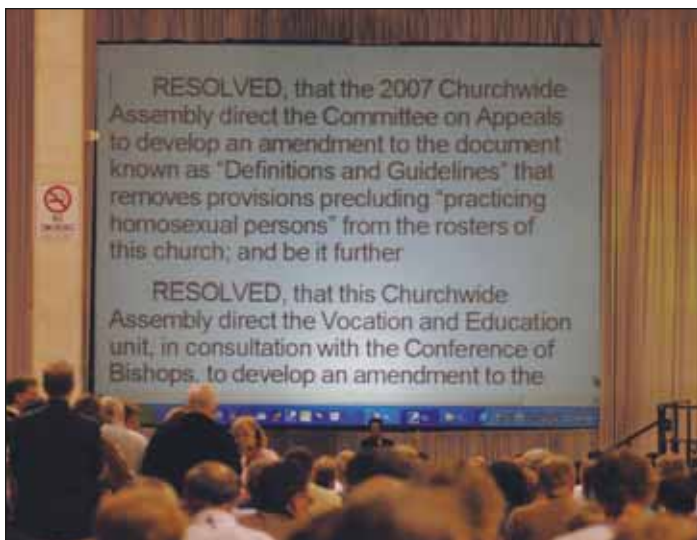


Bradley Schmeling preached



Bishop Margaret Payne celebrated the Eucharist

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY PHOTOS



The assembly debated the elimination of the policy



While many of us watched, listened and prayed...

ELCA



The future bodes well: many of the ELCA youth wore scarves during their presentation to the assembly

ELCA



Added to the powerful witness of current Lutherans...

ELCA



The assembly has asked bishops to refrain from discipline... Thanks be to God



And we will continue to minister and tell our stories...



St. John's goes to Chicago

By Council President **John R. Ballew**

For several months, members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Atlanta planned to participate in the Chicago Churchwide Assembly. But when the ELCA removed Pastor Bradley

Schmeling from the clergy roster five weeks before the CWA, traveling to Chicago took on added importance for St. John's members.

Twenty-two of us traveled to the Windy City. We came as singles, couples and even a family with three kids – some new to the Lutheran Church and others having spent many years engaged in the struggle for

*We heard person after person express their **gratitude** for our **witness** and support for **justice**.*

justice. Among our tribe were a voting member, Jeremy Posadas, and two Presbyterian pastors (one of them Pastor Brad's attorney during the trial). While the primary purpose of the travel was to provide a panel during the CWA to help voting members become more familiar with a congregation and its gay pastor, others not formally on the panel felt they had to be there to share what they've experienced in this congregation.

I think we each imagined the panel discussion would be a small thing of marginal interest. I naively expected we'd be speaking to maybe a few dozen people. When the panelists walked into the event room an hour or so ahead of the start time and found seating for 350 or so, some of us were very surprised! The evening found us addressing a

standing-room only crowd, each of us telling a little about how St. John's (and our pastor) nourished our faith. Barbara Arne told her story about chairing the call committee that brought Bradley to St. John's. Doug Robinson spoke about being a Libertarian-leaning entrepreneur (and heterosexual) who hadn't really thought much about LGBT issues before being confronted by the injustice of the church's action against Pastor Brad.

We had worried we might face hostile questions from conservative voices during the question and answer part of the evening. Instead, we heard person after person express their gratitude for our witness and support for justice.

It wasn't the last time many of us would be moved to tears during the week. Worship on Wednesday evening found us clustered together in a crowd of more than 650 participating in a moving liturgy that included our pastor preaching – and dozens of LGBT clergy speaking out and standing alongside him. It was joyous and inspiring.

Wearing our St. John's t-shirts, we separated and fanned out to start conversations with voting members on shuttle busses, at breakfast or lunch, or simply riding the elevator at the hotel.

Bits and piece

- Susanne Cooper, Jeanette Burgess and others reported several conversations with voting members from rural areas and elsewhere, brainstorming how to bring the experiences they'd had to members of conservative congregations.
- After the vote to change *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* failed, Barbara Arne noted: "When it was announced, I sat shocked for a moment and then began looking around me – I saw tears streaming down faces of parents, pastors, allies, LGBT friends that were once again rejected by the church – by my church... heads bowed, distant stares... shortly, we were told to turn to a page in the worship book and sing 'I Love to Tell the Story...'"

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Associate Editor Appointed for RIC News

Carol Dunn has joined the *Concord* team as the immediate contact for RIC News and Corner. Carol has an extensive background in teaching and has been to RIC Core Team Leadership Training. She will work closely with Dale Truscott, the overall editor, in her position as Associate Editor. Start sending her your RIC news articles, your RIC lessons-learned articles, and your RIC great-ideas articles. The easiest way to reach Carol is concordRIC@lcna.org.

Above, some of the St. John's contingent that came to the Assembly. Bradley's stepdad, mother and sister seated with him (l-r)

A Place Within My Walls

By Dale Truscott

Devotions and Stories for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly is what we called it. Contained within its covers are devotions, stories from the Book of Acts that speak of the experiences and decisions of the early church when it was confronted with diversity and conflict. And leafed between scripture and thoughtful reflections on the words of Christian scripture by Pastor Bradley Schmeling are 13 stories from the present church as it is also confronted with diversity and conflict. Mine is one of those stories. The booklet also contains the names and current assignments/calls of 81 of my LGBT colleagues, many of whom I call my friends.

Patrick McGuire told me that his presence in the booklet was reported by the Chicago Tribune along

Stories from the **Book of Acts**... stories from the **present church**... both **confronted by diversity** and conflict.

with comments by him. At a dinner the following Monday, an Episcopal priest expressed his appreciation for Patrick and the others who had the courage to be named.

David Peters said it was good for him to be counted among those named. He told me, "it is

really important constantly to talk about a Christ-life that is centered on the gospel as opposed to a Christ-life that is centered on the law."

Dale Poland shared a well-written article from *The Rocky Mountain News*, which quite fairly characterized the devotional and the issues before the ELCA.

Another mentioned that there was no response at all in the local community, but that was OK because being in the booklet was affirmation enough.

And me? Well, I fussed and worried before I lent my name, as has been my wont for so many years. Using singular pronouns in one part of my life and plural in another part has become such an ingrained habit that it is hard to shed. And, I wondered what the folks at Holy Faith, Saline, would think of me, now 1,200 miles away and retired, that I was "revealed" on the front page of the *Ann Arbor News* with reference to my ministry with them and how I had kept my secret. Actually, I'm not sure how well the secret was ever kept!

How terribly and wonderfully important was this great witness for the church. The stories were simple, real and moving. The pictures were smiling, engaging, friendly and often depicting sacramental acts by God's called ministers. To a person misled by stereotypes and caricatures, the "ordinary-ness" of the folks was probably revelation enough to move them, let alone the impact of the devotional document.

Martin Luther nailed ninety-five intricately worded theses *in Latin* to the door of the Wittenberg church in 1517. There were no pictures and the common folk couldn't read them. Yet they changed Christendom. We published inspiration from the Book of Acts and stories and names. I don't know

Volunteers: the Heart of Our Work at Churchwide Assembly

By Gail Sieckman

From every corner and region of this country they came, by plane, train, bus, and car. The volunteer corps showed up at goodsoil Central, energized and ready to contribute. Throughout the week of Churchwide Assembly, they sprang to the task: setting up and staffing goodsoil Central, distributing devotional booklets to voting members boarding busses for Navy Pier, constructing and filling display racks for eleven hundred stoles in the Shower of Stoles exhibition, welcoming Wednesday's worshipers with hand-knit rainbow scarves, assisting in worship, dining with strangers in order to make connections via Graceful Engagement, keeping prayerful vigil during the plenary sessions.

Here you can meet a few of the more than 200 volunteers whose participation expanded

goodsoil's presence and impact at the Assembly.

Vicky Nytes

Chicago, Ill.

Vicky Nytes is a single, 28-year-old, high school French teacher, currently living in Chicago. She attends Resurrection Lutheran Church, which has been RIC since the mid-'70s.

Vicky ended up working with goodsoil after finding that volunteering with ELCA was closed. Goodsoil was a good alternative for her, because "it's something I definitely believe in." She reflects on using the strategic lunch tickets to join tables of strangers, and engage in conversation that might create positive in-roads with people who were uncertain about their position on full inclusion for gay partnered clergy. She says people she met were mostly pleasant and polite. (She wore her rainbow scarf on public transit going home and people asked her why



she was wearing a scarf on a hot day. It gave her another opportunity to talk about what is happening on Navy Pier.)

I asked Vicky if she ever found herself to be a lesbian, would it be a problem for her within her church? She says, "I have grown up in a generation where it is not a big deal to be LGBT... But being involved in a church that discriminates would be more of a struggle if I were gay. My congregation is so welcoming, I think I'd stay. But if I were in small town America, I can see where that struggle comes for so many."

Wayne Morris

Clearwater, Fla.

Wayne Morris is a 47-year-old Medical Technician from Clearwater, Florida.

He has attended St. Paul's Lutheran for the last five years, following a 20-year hiatus from church. He was forced out of the Missouri Synod, but felt called back to church for two decades





Picture taken at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly: **First row**, (left to right): Seminarian Connie Monson, Pastoral Minister Jen Nagel, Pastor Robyn Hartwig. **Second row**: Pastor Erik Christensen, Pastor Richard Andersen, Pastor Martin Hauser, Pastor Phil Trzynka. **Third row**: Candidate Jen Rude, Pastor Megan Rohrer, Pastoral Minister Brenda Froisland. **Fourth row**: Seminarian Margaret Kelly, Pastor Anita Hill. **Fifth row**: Pastor Dawn Roginski, Pastor Barbara Lundblad. **Sixth row**: Pastor Greg Schaefer, Pastor Gladys Moore, Pastor Bradley Schmeling. **Seventh row**: Pastor Mary Albings, Pastor Bob Goldstein, Seminarian Lauren Wendt. **Eighth row**: Pastor Gary LeCroy, Pastor Nathan Phipps. **Ninth row**: Pastor Dan Hooper, Pastor Richard Foster. **Tenth row**: Pastor Vicki Pederson, Pastor Phyllis Zilhart, Seminarian Tim Feiertag. **Eleventh row**: Pastor Katrina Foster, Candidate Lionel Ketola. **Last row**: Pastor Jeff Ziegler, Pastor Jay Wiesner, Pastor Brad Froslee. **Not available at the time of the photo**: Pastor Jonathan Abernethy-Deppe, Candidate Jodi Barry, Pastor Jim Bischoff, Pastor Jim Boline, Pastor Dick Bouton, Pastor Daphne Burt, Pastor Cindy Crane, Pastor Bruce Davidson, Pastor Darin Easler, Candidate Greg Egertson, Pastor Ruth Frost, Pastor Phillip Gaines, Pastor Dawn Gregg, Candidate Lura Groen, Pastor Nate Gruel, Pastor Terry Hagensen, Pastor Susan Halvor, Candidate Jean Hay, Pastor William Heisley, Seminarian Matthew James, Pastor Jeff Johnson, Pastor John Kauffman, Candidate Steve Keiser, Pastor Wayne Knockel, Pastor William Knott, Pastor Robert Kriesat, Pastor Betsy Lee, Pastor Jim Lokken, Pastor Jennifer Mason, Pastor Patrick McGuire, Pastor Ross Merkel, Pastor Gary Mills, Pastor Pieter Oberholzer, Pastor Ned O'Donnell, Pastor David Peters, Pastor Arlo Peterson, Pastor Dale Poland, Pastor Jane Ralph, Steven Rosebrock, Pastor Donn Rosenauer, Pastor Steve Sabin, Associate in Ministry Mark Sedio, Pastor Kelli Shepard, Pastor Donna Simon, Pastor Ruth Snyder, Pastor Sharon Stalkfleet, Candidate Lisa Stenmark, Pastor Dale Truscott, Candidate Jay Wilson, Pastor Paul Winters, Pastor Cindy Witt

Lutheran Church in America.

You see, there is no return from the honest stance taken by those of us who decided to be included in this devotional. If a bishop were to decide to discipline any of us who are faithfully partnered, he or she could still do so now. Or, that bishop could heed the advice of the highest legislative body of the church and refrain from or demonstrate restraint if disciplining. Or, that bishop could affirm and support us as many are now doing.

One of the developments in the movement for full inclusion lately, encouraged, I think, by both "A Place Within My Walls"

and the companion booklet on ministries served by LGBT rostered persons, has been

the break with that old myth of Lutheran unity. And I say "Alleluia" because unity of outward speech that hides division is not healthy.

We have called our beloved denomination out of its northern European shadows into the light of a reality of the present. Will this issue be divisive in the next two years leading to 2009 and the report of the Sexuality Task Force? Of course, it will. What else is new? But these booklets and the graceful and respectful engagement by **goodsoil** people puts our divisions in a new light, a light that, at least from our side, is affirming of the fact that all in the church who disagree or who agree are still children of God, loved and saved by God through Jesus of Nazareth.

My big "coming out" is an entry measuring 2 5/8 inches by 3/8 inch. But it is

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whether it will change Christendom, but it surely helped to change the Evangelical

before he returned, this time to the ELCA; but not without sitting frightened in his car that first Sunday – and not going in. Wayne says, smiling, "Our God is a nagging God." His new ELCA pastor initiated discussion about RIC after learning Wayne's status as a gay man.

Wayne met Pastor Bradley Schmeling in Atlanta last fall, and "it galvanized things for me. I supported Bradley, and was very upset about the trial. Then, for some reason, Jerry Vagts pulled my name out of a hat to ask me to be LC/NA RC (Regional Coordinator), because he thought I would be good. I cried when he asked me. I didn't want anybody to be forced out or thrown out. We're not garbage!"

Since LC/NA Regional Coordinators are expected to attend Churchwide Assembly, Wayne is here. And he weeps once more as he reflects on participating in this process. Seeing the church do its work is "frustrating, in one way... They are so lethargic; they don't want change!" But it is exciting for him also. He says, "You would expect LGBT to be here, but it's

very exciting to see all the allies! It wouldn't be near as exciting if it were all gay people."

Asked how he is coping with the possibility of disappointment in the process, Wayne is trying to keep expectations low as of mid-week. "I don't expect very much, but if you can push them one inch today, maybe you can get two inches tomorrow. I don't pray for specific action any more, but for God's will to be done."

June Kjomy

La Crosse, Wis.

June Kjomy (pron: Cho-mee) is an 86-year-old, semi-retired, former nurse from La Crosse, Wisconsin. She attends St. Paul's Lutheran in La Crosse, which is not yet RIC, but is the oldest Norwegian congregation in its area at 137 years old.

She says, "My great epiphany about LGBT issues came in 1988, one year after the ELCA was formed. A group of gay and lesbian people spoke at our Social Ministry Conference in



Miami, and declared they were in the church but were not feeling accepted, and not given voice. You could have picked me off the floor to hear people calling themselves lesbian and gay. I didn't know they were there! I didn't know there was discrimination going on in my church! I was just back from 19 years in South Africa, in the land of Apartheid, and I am sensitive to discrimination.

"Within a year I got an invitation to a conference called Being Gay in the Church. I learned so much from the PFLAG displays – now, that's a great idea! I learned we had no PFLAG in La Crosse. A friend had a daughter coming out, but could find no resources. I decided maybe I should start a group. Sixteen people came to the first meeting.

"I was in Orlando in 1991. Jeff Johnson, Ruth Frost, and Phyllis Zilhart were there. We got no space in the hotel, so we had to stand in the lobby with our group, passing out literature."

June wears a canvas hat covered in buttons

continued next page

Refrain...

continued from page 1

extraordinary circumstances. And, the 650 people who came to worship with **goodsoil** on Wednesday night, including 20 bishops. And, the 2000 scarves (of which there are but 18 left), knitted and crocheted by people all over North America, worn during the assembly to mark those who favored full inclusion and the elimination of discriminatory policies. And, the people who, one by one, rose to microphones to speak in our favor, to speak on the side of

move enough voting members that the policy would be eliminated.

On Tuesday, "A Place Within My Walls" was offered to the voting members, the booklet containing daily devotions for the assembly by Pastor Bradley Schmeling, the names and current assignments/calls of 82 LGBT Lutheran ministers introducing themselves to the entire ELCA, and detailed stories of 13 of these ministers. This courageous act of opening up their lives and the lives of those they love was made in full realization of the potential for negative consequences for these ministers

The scale of the **support** was nothing short of **amazing**.

full inclusion without delay. And, the number of bishops who spoke in our favor. The scale of the support was nothing short of amazing.

We went to the assembly full of anticipation about potential outcomes. Memorials had been sent in from 21 synods asking the assembly to direct the elimination of the policy that prohibits LGBT clergy from living in loving familial relationships, committed for life. One other memorial was deemed by the Memorials Committee to be sufficiently the same to raise the total to 22 synods. There were also memorials that asked for refraining from or exercising restraint in disciplining LGBT ministers where the sole offense is violating that policy. We prayed that the Spirit would

and their congregations or organizations. Some are partnered, some are not. For some, Pastor Barbara Lundblad probably best expressed the reason they decided to act when she said there comes a time "when silence is no longer faithful." For others, this act continued their vocal and public stance in opposition to the ELCA's special rules and prohibitions.

On Wednesday, "**goodsoil** - Ministry Rooted in Gospel" was offered to the voting members, containing stories of specialized and congregational ministries being served by LGBT Lutheran ministers. These are Spirit-filled ministries, some of them with and for people in the direst circumstances found in our society, the very people Christ sought out and directed his followers to

seek out. Both booklets formed the backdrop, established some of the environment, for the events, debates, and votes later in the week. The booklets can be seen on www.lcna.org in the news section.

The Memorials Committee, meeting ahead of the assembly, decided to recommend that all the memorials to eliminate the policy be referred as information to the Task Force on ELCA Studies of Sexuality (Task Force), which is working on the social statement on sexuality for presentation to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. And, it recommended referring the memorials on discipline to the Conference of Bishops as information. Their recommendations to refer became the main motions when the matters were brought to the assembly: the assembly was asked to refer or not; and if not, the memorials would go away. The solution for those favoring full inclusion: submit the memorial itself as a substitute motion in each case.

The substitute motion was made by Bishop Paul Stumme-Diers, Greater Milwaukee Synod. Hence, this and the original motion to refer were both on the floor for debate. The first vote was whether the substitute should take the place of the motion to refer. Then would come a vote on the surviving motion. The substitute motion was amended by Rev. Gladys Moore to state that LGBT ministers are "expected to uphold the same standard as

telling her position on the issues discussed here at Churchwide Assembly: *Full Inclusion; God Loves Us All; Understanding-Support-Respect*. She is animated, lively, and robust; but she says, "Now I am in the slow lane" after 40 years of activism, with vision problems and requiring a walker. Still, she is optimistic about the increments the church is making toward full inclusion. "Seeing the church now, it's encouraging, we have moved forward a lot."

Nick Gordon

North Hollywood, Calif.

Nick Gordon is a 25-year-old single man from North Hollywood, California, who commutes over an hour to attend St. Matthew's Lutheran. He says, "I'm still seeking my vocation, but I am reconstructing a house with my family in the meantime."

Nick has been a voting member at his Synod Assembly and "really enjoyed organizing." His congregation asked if there



were individuals interested in attending Churchwide Assembly, and with its financial support, he was able to come to Chicago. He says, "It is something I am very passionate about because I am gay. Even though I am not called to ministry, I have many friends who are gay and called to ministry, including one of my close college friends who is in seminary. I think that he will face trouble when he finds someone he wants to spend his life with, given the way the policies of the church are right now... Maybe that's why I am here now, to make it better for my friends, people who are gay and called." (His pastor has been encouraging Nick to consider ministry, so Nick's work this week may not be entirely about advocating for others, ultimately.)

Nick has tried various ways to engage gracefully with fellow Lutherans. He recalls a woman who looked enthusiastically at his rainbow heart pin, and asked where she could get one for herself. Upon hearing that it would require walking to **goodsoil** Central, she became crestfallen. "What, more walking?"

she exclaimed. He quickly took off his pin and handed it to her, and then made the walk himself for more. Nick describes being surprised at the brusque way a bishop declined the offered devotional booklet.

But seeing the church in action booklet here inspires him. "I have heard about the scale of these things. It's amazing to think what had to go into it to make it happen. There are so many people who share core beliefs, that's the reason people are here together."

Irene Bartlett

Huntsville, Ala.

Irene Bartlett is a 58-year-old former social worker who identifies her home church as St. Mark's Lutheran, in Huntsville, Alabama.

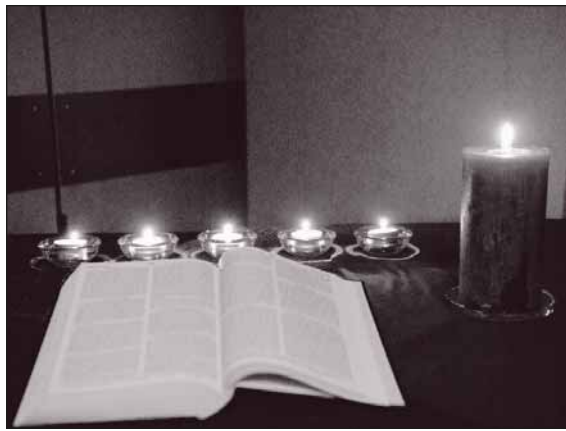
Irene is here with mixed feelings. "I feel revitalized by meeting others of like mind who have struggled for years against great obstacles to create a more accepting church. I



all ministers, namely, to live in fidelity to their partner within a relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful.” The amendment passed by 74%. The motion to refer was amended to require the Task Force to specifically make recommendations on changes to the prohibiting policy.

During the debate on these motions, compelling arguments were made about damage that was being done to the mission and outreach of the church, to justice and equality, and to the Body of Christ by the enforcement of a bad policy, the starkest example being the de-rostering of a stellar pastor, Bradley Schmeling, solely because he was living in a faithful and mutually supportive Christian relationship with Darin Easler. The most frequent argument coming from those opposed to eliminating the policy was to delay any action on this policy until after the social statement on sexuality is approved.

In the end, the Stumme-Diers-made motion to eliminate the policy failed by a vote of 480-531 to substitute itself for the motion to refer. Immediately, Bishop Craig Johnson, Minneapolis Area Synod, made a motion to substitute a new motion that allowed bishops and synods councils to exercise a kind of local option regarding whether they would allow LGBT ministers to continue serving if they were in a committed same-gender relationship. This motion failed eventually to substitute itself



Our ministry and advocacy continue rooted in the Gospel

for the motion to refer. The motion to refer to the Task Force the memorials asking for elimination of the policy passed. The policy remains in place – for the time being.

In the case of the memorials regarding the imposition of discipline for living in a lifelong, loving relationship, slated by the Memorials Committee for referral to the Conference of Bishops, Bishop Paul Landahl, Metro Chicago Synod, made the substitute motion to encourage refraining solely because of a violation of the policy. This motion succeeded (536-467) in substituting itself for the referral motion, and then passed (584-431).

Make no mistake about the significance of what happened at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. Though the policy is still in effect, prohibiting serving LGBT Lutheran ministers from living in loving, committed

Christian family relationships, the damaging and deleterious consequences of that policy on the Body of Christ and the mission of the church are in broad daylight. The injustice and inequality of refusing to recognize lives lived in mutual, faithful support is now where none can miss. The incongruity with the message of Christ and the Gospels of a policy that does not allow Christian familial relationships is in the open for all to see.

Though the policy is still in effect, the assembly has said to the ELCA that no further discipline should be inflicted solely for the reason of living in a same-gender, committed relationship, while we are in the midst of this continuing discussion. Bishops who choose to run counter to that encouragement run the risk of being exposed as divisive.

Also now in the full light of day are the broad range of ministries served and being performed by LGBT ministers throughout the church – teaching, preaching, administering the sacraments, caring for the spiritual lives of congregations, caring for the outcast and downtrodden, living the life of faithful witness to the redemption of Christ.

More to be done, you bet. Lots accomplished, you bet. It is a different day. ▼

am deeply dismayed and discouraged by the roadblocks that continue to keep us from equal participation in our church and society. Often I feel invisible and nameless and as one who is looked through and not seen.”

She has low expectations for change, and is concerned that “many great people are ending up in other denominations” as a result of the ELCA’s slow pace. Having traveled and lived in many places, Irene has seen LGBT friends throughout the world hurt by systems hostile to them. But Irene has much passion about making change in oppressive systems.

“Being here helps me realize I’m not in it alone. I want to be part of the positive image of the gay community, and I encourage other nameless people to do the same.”

Paul & Ingrid Feiertag

Santa Rosa, Calif.

Paul and Ingrid Feiertag, are a married couple whose gay son, Tim, is in seminary. Paul is 70, and a retired Lutheran Hospice Chaplain. Ingrid is 66, and works in home-care. They live

in Santa Rosa, California, and attend Thanksgiving Lutheran Church, which takes pride in being “the only RIC church north of the Golden Gate Bridge in California.”

“It is our responsibility as parents,” Paul says, “to move the church to full inclusion before Tim gets ordained.”

When they learned that Tim was gay, Paul and Ingrid found no help within the Lutheran church. “We didn’t get fed (here) in our search to come to terms with Tim’s being gay, so we attended MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) for four and a half years. We learned the whole Bible is gay-friendly!”

Broaching the possibility of disappointments this week in Chicago, Paul reflects, “There have been so many all along the way. So we will cope with one more. We’re not going anyplace else.” Ingrid says, “This is just a hiccup. We’re not going to give up.”

“When we get home, we’ll probably be more proactive,” Paul declares, “telling our



ELCA friends, ‘Isn’t it about time you consider transferring to an RIC congregation?’”

The highlight of the week for both Ingrid and Paul was Wednesday night’s **goodsoil** service. It was the first time for Ingrid to hear Pastor Bradley Schmeling preach. “It was a glorious, glorious service. Heaven couldn’t be much better!” Both Paul and son Tim processed in together, a joy for them; but Ingrid says she felt lonely without her man by her side.

An editorial comment: This family’s values sing of closeness and connection. Ingrid’s maternal embraces and their smiling presence cast blessings all week. ▼

The Anticipation of the Spirit's Movement

Goodsoil Eucharist service fills the hall

Goodsoil's worship on Wednesday, August 8, during the 2007 Churchwide Assembly was, indeed, in anticipation of the outpouring of the Spirit, celebrating our baptism into the

Body of Christ and having been sent to be servants of the church in the world, Christians, part of the wondrous diversity of God's creation.

The worship reflected the anticipation present in the vigil of Pentecost, the expectation of the change in us and the church that happens when the Spirit blows through minds, hearts and souls – igniting them with the fervor of discipleship, sending all forward and out to spread the good news of the Gospel, the redemption of all by Christ.

The setting for the worship service was a ballroom in the Hyatt Regency, the hotel where

The 650 worshippers (Yes, we had that many, including **20 bishops!**) rose and sang **“O Day Full of Grace”**

those at the Churchwide Assembly were largely housed. That setting was transformed throughout the course of the day into a worship space suitable for the Eucharistic service.

The Shower of Stoles, all 1100+ of them, and one prayer shawl from a rabbi, were displayed around the edges of the massive space, filling that space with their color and variety, bringing all those they represent, ‘the disappeared,’ into the space – and into

the thoughts and prayers of those present.

A large, clear vessel for water and an altar were positioned down the center of the space. Seating was provided for 600 worshippers. A large organ and piano were provided to enhance the music program. Banners were hung; bulletins printed. A choir was formed from volunteers and rehearsed by music program coordinator, Daniel Schwandt, Director of Music Ministries, Augustana Lutheran Church, Chicago, and staff musician at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. And all other provisions were made to support a Eucharistic service of this magnitude: ushers, communion assistants, assisting minister, soloists, musicians, audio equipment and collection plates. The color of the day was red.

The service was rooted in the historic liturgy of the church. In keeping with the global nature of the church and the Body of Christ, the music, as well as the text of the prayers and the service, came from sources reflecting the diversity of the followers of Christ.

As the more than 80 vested ministers entered the worship space, the worshippers joined in a Taize “Veni Sancte Spiritus” (Come, Holy Spirit). The ministers brought with them pitchers of life-giving water, which was poured in the large vessel as the worshippers called upon God to disperse the shadows, to renew the strength of God's people, to be the light of our lives and our comforter, and to kindle the flame of God's love that filled the darkness with its glow for all, forever.

The 650 worshippers (Yes, we had that many, including 20 bishops!) rose and sang “O Day Full of Grace” from the 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, as Presiding Minister Margaret Payne, Bishop of the ELCA New England Synod; Assisting Minister Patrick McGuire, interim pastor of Christ Lutheran in Vernon Hills, Illinois; and Preacher Bradley Schmeling, pastor of St. John's Lutheran in Atlanta, moved into the worship space, flanked on both sides by tall, vertical panels of red cloth.

Readings were from Exodus 19:1–9, God's promise to the keepers of the covenant; Romans 8:12–17, 22–27, the Spirit acts within us bearing witness to us as children of God and heirs, and John 7:37–44, Jesus: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink.”

Bradley preached. The text was Exodus 19: from liberation to covenant, from salvation to the structuring of life as God's chosen people, as Bradley reminded us. The Israelites were borne out of Egypt under Moses' leadership, through the gauntlet walls of sea water held back for their passage: let my people go. On the other side, Miriam danced, twirling till her robes ballooned away from her, slaves now free.

Bradley told us that he heard Walter Wangerin preach at one of the early morning services during the Constituting Convention that formed the ELCA.

Ministers preparing to enter the worship space.



Walter spoke of Emily Dichter, a woman of the 19th century, who finally had a book accepted for publication in a time when the wife of a school principal was expected to engage in ladylike pursuits, a writer not being among them. When she got the acceptance letter, she danced around in her house, her skirts ballooned away from the twirling – after she had shut the curtains so as not to scandalize the neighbors with the vanity of her dancing. “Emily Dichter, writer, splendor, God’s bright eye – danced alone in the dark. Alone.” She told Walter, Walter told the ELCA, and Bradley told us: “Never! You should never, never sentence anyone to dance in the dark. No one should. Not ever!”

Bradley spoke of his wish that God would descend on the assembly as a great cloud, erasing the mountains of pain and the fear of the future, His Divine presence erasing the contours between “us” and “them,” making us all a little fuzzy about who won and who lost, causing us to lose track of our need for power and our fear of the lack thereof.

In keeping with the global nature of Christianity, our Christian faith was affirmed using the words from “Banquet of Praise” (Bread for the World): “I believe in God, maker of an unfinished world, who calls us to participate in bringing about the fullness of Creation...” We prayed as Christ taught us to pray using the Lord’s Prayer from “A New Zealand Prayer Book – He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa” of the Anglican Church in New Zealand and Polynesia: “Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all...”

In the end, we were reminded of our baptism by

being sprinkled with the water brought into the worship space. We were renewed by the Spirit of God and the spirit of the place. And, true to the early church practice of the agape meal, we remained in the worship space for fellowship.

A \$4,500 offering was gathered for the mission of

the church. A tithe from this offering went to The Night Ministry program in Chicago. The Night Ministry builds relationships through the provision of housing, health,



Bradley preached. Bishop Margaret Payne celebrated the Eucharist.

outreach, spiritual, and social services. Night Ministry workers report that about 43 percent of youth who experience homelessness in Chicago identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer.

A second tithe went to the Greater Chicago Food Depository, which distributes food through qualified agencies to feed hungry people in Chicago.

The balance of the offering is designated for goodsoil’s ongoing work, including a clergy defense fund and activities at the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Bradley’s sermon, all of the worship texts and the music used in the service, as well as their sources, are contained in the bulletin, which can be seen on www.lcna.org by scrolling down in the News and Events section to the entries for August 8, 2007. ▼

“In Honor of...”

In Honor of...		Honored by...
Rev. Daryl D. Koenig	Donation in Honor of Rev. Daryl D. Koenig	Virginia Balter
Rev. Daryl D. Koenig	Donation in Honor of Rev. Daryl D. Koenig	Rev. Dawn Silvius
Rev. Daryl D. Koenig	Donation in Honor of Rev. Daryl D. Koenig	Kathryn Yandell
Wayne Morris		Doyle & Luciene Morris
Rev. David Parsons	In honor and appreciation	The Lindley-Geiger & Quinn-Gacioch families
David Ranheim	In honor of the 65th Birthday of David Ranheim	Karmi Anna Mattson
Jeff Ramm & Neal Hauschild	In honor of the Blessing Service for Jeff Ramm & Neal Hauschild	41 family members and friends
Dale Truscott & Kin Xuxa	In recognition of the work of Dale Truscott and Kin Xuxa	The Jennifer M. Lee and Jeffrey S. Chapski Family Fund of the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

St. John's goes to Chicago

continued from page 13



Pr Bradley and St. John's spoke of St. John's ministry.

- Later, Barbara would engage the bishop of the North Carolina Synod (who had once been pastor of her in-law's church), engaging him in conversation about Pastor Bradley, his call and our congregation.
- Steve DeWeerth commented, "I was humbled to meet so many who had suffered under anti-LGBT oppression this past week, and was awed to hear *their* stories. I came to realize that my experiences as a member at St. John's pale in comparison."

The most telling moment for me came Friday evening at the lengthy reception recognizing the dozens of people who had made a difference during

the effort to change the church's policy. At one point, Emily Eastwood asked the movement "allies" to stand and be recognized, and St. John's members applauded along with everyone else.

Later, Paul Arne mentioned that he was a bit puzzled by the term, but guessed he was an "ally." I was taken aback. I've been engaged in the justice movement within the church for almost 30 years, and I have great respect for the allies who've stood alongside us in difficult times. But it never occurred to me to consider members of St. John's to be *allies*. I think of them as *stakeholders* who are every bit as affected by the decisions of the church as I am as a gay man.

Ultimately that is what is most true about St. John's. After our long journey the past year and a half, this is a place where there is no division into "us" or "them" and where our relationship as sisters and brothers in Christ is beyond doubt. Let us pray for the day when the same can be said about the entire church. ▼

Signs of God's Call

continued from page 7

possible at the WelcomingResources.org website. According to the site, "a primary goal of [the] on-line exhibition is to make the dramatic stories of exclusion and perseverance embodied in the Shower of Stoles more accessible." Congregations and other groups can host displays of smaller numbers of the stoles, and can use the website as a source for posters and other materials. ▼

Save the Dates

Lutherans Concerned/North America Biennial Assembly & North American RIC Conference

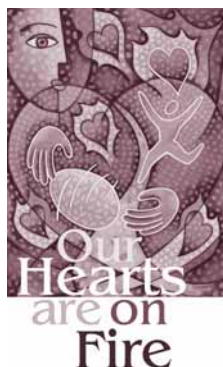
San Francisco State University
July 3-6, 2008

Keynote Speaker: Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson

Come For Pride the week before,
Stay For Hearts on Fire

www.lcna.org/assembly

For questions about assembly, e-mail
assembly@lcna.org



A Place Within My Walls

continued from page 15

as big as the Disney billboards on I-4 to me. Last night Kin and I celebrated his 45th birthday with dear friends in the restaurant in Cinderella's castle accompanied by violent cracks of lightning and thunder and torrential rains. That place is said to be the "place where dreams come true." Maybe it is and maybe it isn't. But Navy Pier in August 2007, is for certain the place where the dream of full inclusion in the ELCA began to become true for me. Let the heavens clap their hands again!

Heartfelt thanks go out again to everyone whose courage made "A Place Within My Walls" happen. ▼



ONE VOICE Campaign Raises Nearly \$1,600,000.00!

Jeannine Janson, LC/NA Co-Chair and ONE VOICE Campaign Director

Over 300 donors, including seven Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregations, have given or pledged \$1,582,893.00 to ONE VOICE, the joint fundraising campaign that benefits Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA), Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries (LLGM) and Wingspan Ministry of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church (Wingspan). LC/NA, LLGM and Wingspan have a common vision of the Lutheran Communion that embraces and actualizes the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Of the \$1,582,893.00 raised, \$1,409,361.00 is from gifts and pledges ranging from \$5,000.00 to \$100,000.00. In addition, \$173,532.00 is from gifts ranging from \$5.00 to \$4,999.00.

Most of the gifts and pledges were secured by volunteers who served on ONE VOICE Gifts Committees in San Francisco, the Twin Cities, Seattle, New York, Pennsylvania, and Atlanta. Organization staff, particularly LC/NA's Emily Eastwood, LLGM's Amalia Vagts, and Wingspan's Anita Hill and Richard Andersen, raised a significant percentage as well. Many thanks to all of these volunteers and staff who dedicated their time to meeting with donors and who made ONE VOICE an important priority.

As significant as the amount raised is the fact that the ONE VOICE Campaign has changed forever the way LC/NA, LLGM and Wingspan view and do fundraising. We've learned that our base of support is much broader and deeper than we imagined. And, now that LC/NA, LLGM and Wingspan have ongoing confidence that there will be financial support for their aspirations, future campaigns will be planned as needs arise.

The ONE VOICE Table of Gifts and Campaign Leadership, including the Co-Chairs, Honorary Cabinet and Committee Members, are set forth at pages 22 and 24, respectively.

Comments from ONE VOICE Campaign Leadership

The Rev. James DeLange, ONE VOICE Co-Chair and Member of the San Francisco Gifts Committee (also former LLGM board member and retired Senior Pastor of St. Francis Lutheran Church of San Francisco): "While our organizations over the years had accomplished amazing things for LGBT Lutherans on shoestring budgets, I welcomed the opportunity to be part of an ambitious capital campaign to take our cause to the next level. ONE VOICE has enabled us to do just that. It gives me great satisfaction to write my ONE VOICE check every month and to lay claim to a leadership role in the campaign's success. Our movement owes a great deal of thanks to all who planned, made calls, and gave. You have made a huge difference!"

The Rev. Arnold B. Tiemeyer, Chair, Pennsylvania Steering and Planning Committees: Reason for contributing: "It is simple, we

believe in the cause." Reason for accepting appointment to Chair the Pennsylvania effort: "It presented an opportunity to raise money for a cause that we believe in, and it kept the conversation going in this part of the church."

The Rev. Richard A. Miller, Chair, Metro New York Gifts Committee: "During the time I was a convener for the Metro NY Chapter of Lutherans Concerned, I had often felt satisfied that we had come a long way and maybe now could relax a bit. But any time I began to feel that way there came another story of someone being harassed, beaten, defrocked, or even killed because of sexual identity. When I thought about my church, the ELCA, I couldn't help thinking that by our policy we may well be contributing to bad attitudes and bad behavior. When ONE VOICE came our way, presenting with great enthusiasm the theme that we are at a "tipping point" in the church, I couldn't help but think I might be able to help provide enough weight to make things tip in the right direction. I became part of the Metro New York Gifts Committee for ONE VOICE readily, and chair a bit more hesitantly. Carolyn and I made a pledge early in the campaign, and after hearing Emily Eastwood's presentation a fourth time at a house party, I felt compelled to double the pledge. I appreciate having had the opportunity to serve in this way, and thank the others on the committee for their dedication as well."

RIC Congregations and ONE VOICE

Among the donors to ONE VOICE are seven RIC congregations that have given or pledged nearly \$65,000.00 from their regular congregational budgets or special funds. These congregations and their lead pastors are:

- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota
The Rev. M. Susan Peterson
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New York, New York
The Rev. Robert Rimbo
- Lutheran Church of the Master, Los Angeles, California
The Rev. John Rollefson
- Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Washington, D.C.
The Rev. Conrad A. Braaten
- St. Francis Lutheran Church of San Francisco, California
The Rev. Dr. Robert Goldstein
- Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania
The Rev. Eric Shafer
- University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis, Minnesota
The Rev. Craig Shirley

Asked why the congregation of Lutheran Church of the Master voted to contribute \$25,000.00 to the ONE VOICE Campaign, long-time member and former congregation president Tom Jacobson said, "As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, Lutheran Church of the Master welcomed the opportunity to have a

significant impact on the *ONE VOICE* Campaign with a matching gift. Our \$25,000.00 matched \$17,000.00 in pledges from members of our congregation. We think of ourselves as a big church in a small sanctuary, so extending our benevolence beyond our own walls is important to us. We hope other Reconciling in Christ congregations will join us in supporting the *ONE VOICE* partners--the campaign is over, but we can all still make a difference with our gifts."

ONE VOICE and the Siefkes Endowment Fund

Another RIC Congregation, Edina Community Lutheran Church (ECLC), Edina, MN, raised over \$100,000.00 among its members and a few others for the Siefkes Endowment Fund as part of the *ONE VOICE* Campaign. ECLC established the Siefkes Endowment Fund, which benefits LC/NA, to honor long-time ECLC members Jim and Sally Siefkes. The establishment of the Siefkes Endowment Fund by ECLC to permanently benefit LC/NA is particularly meaningful. Jim Siefkes facilitated the founding of Lutherans Concerned in 1974; ECLC has been an RIC congregation since 1985, when Bishop Mark Hanson was the pastor; and Jim, Sally and ECLC are committed to the full inclusion and participation of LGBT people in the Lutheran Church. This *ONE VOICE* effort at ECLC was led by Pastor Erik Strand and member Cheryl Persigehl.

Asked why she and her husband, Jonathan Flak, gave their time, talent and treasure to *ONE VOICE*, Cheryl said, "We were honored and excited to be asked to contribute our time and dollars to the *ONE VOICE* Campaign. We believe we're all called to 'do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.' The mission and vision of the *ONE VOICE* partners calls each of us and the entire church more deeply into justice, kindness and humility. It is a blessing to serve."

Seminary Students Support ONE VOICE

Donors to the *ONE VOICE* Campaign include a group of Union Theological Seminary students and members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manhattan (organized by Jeremy Posadas) who contributed \$330 in honor of the 25th anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad.

ONE VOICE Partners Are Already Reaping the Benefits of this Historic Joint Effort

Of the \$1,582,893.00 pledged, over \$1,000,000.00 has been paid! Thus, LC/NA, LLGM and Wingspan are already reaping the benefits of the generosity and commitment to their missions and ministries.

LC/NA continues to implement its overall strategic plan to foster systemic change within the Lutheran communion toward the full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Thanks to the *ONE VOICE* Campaign, LC/NA has been able to create and fill three new staff positions: Grassroots Organizing Coordinator (Jerry Vagts); Operations Manager (Brett Bowman); and Administrative Assistant (Tim Fisher). These new positions and the gifted people LC/NA has hired to fill them have made more robust LC/NA's grassroots work throughout the United States and Canada, including more RIC Core Team Trainings, participation in the 2007 ELCA synod



assemblies and preparation for and participation in the 2007 ELCA Convention and ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

LC/NA's next hire will be a full time Development Director who will travel extensively, meeting with major donors, foundations and congregations. As the *ONE VOICE* pledge redemption period concludes over the next two years, the LC/NA Development Director will develop short and long range funding strategies to ensure that LC/NA is able to work continuously to create the change it seeks.



LLGM has realized its goal of hiring a Development Director. Last fall, the LLGM Board of Directors announced the hire of Amalia J. Vagts as LLGM's first full-time staff member. Then LLGM Co-Chair, Greg Egertson, said, "Hiring a Development Director was one of LLGM's motivations for becoming a partner in the *ONE VOICE* Campaign. Amalia Vagts has the skills, enthusiasm and passion we need to expand LLGM's mission and create new ministries in the future. We would not have been able to hire Amalia without the gifts and pledges to *ONE VOICE*. We are delighted to thank all of the *ONE VOICE* donors for helping us achieve this landmark."

Increased fund development allows LLGM to devote more resources to empowering ministry for sexual minority people called to God's ministry of mission and witness. As a result, LLGM's mission development programs are blossoming. Since October of 2006, three Extraordinary Candidacy Project (ECP) pastors have been called to ministry of Word and Sacrament: the Rev. Erik Christensen (Chicago); the Rev. Megan Rohrer (San Francisco); and the Rev. Dawn Roginski (San Francisco).

For *Wingspan*, the *ONE VOICE* Campaign has created energy and movement. *ONE VOICE* funds are supporting the salary of Wingspan's interim pastor, the Rev. Richard Andersen (ECP). Most members of the Wingspan Steering Committee have participated in an LC/NA RIC Core Team Training and are engaged in RIC development in the Twin Cities area. Thanks to *ONE VOICE*, Wingspan was readily able to prepare *This Obedience* for American Public Television. Participation in the *ONE VOICE* Campaign has raised the bar for Wingspan's fundraising effort and has provided a base from which future goals will be met.



Table of Gifts

August 2007

Gift Category	Gifts Needed	Category Total	Gifts to Date	Pledged to Date
\$150,000+	1	\$150,000		
\$100,000+	3	\$300,000	3	\$300,000
\$75,000+	4	\$300,000	1	75,000
\$50,000+	6	\$300,000	2	\$100,000
\$25,000+	12	\$300,000	7	\$190,000
\$15,000+	16	\$240,000	13	\$236,000
\$10,000+	20	\$200,000	17	\$178,197
\$5,000+	42	\$210,000	62	\$330,164
Subtotal	104	\$2,000,000	105	\$1,409,361
less than \$5,000			219	\$173,532
Grand Total				\$1,582,893

ONE VOICE Donors

Except for a few individuals who wish to remain anonymous, following are all of the *ONE VOICE* donors (as they asked to be listed) to whom we say, “Thank you, thank you, thank you. Your commitment to this historic joint effort is greatly appreciated, and your continuing support advances the full participation of LGBT people in the Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God for you!”

Dick and Sharon Aadalen
Norma and Sharla Aaseng
Timothy and Dorothy Abrahamson
Pastor Al and Joan Ahlstrom
Lisa Amman and Philip Steger
Judy Andersen and Kay Larsen
Rev. Richard Andersen
Mary H. Anderson
Rev. Michael Anderson
Roger and Nita Anderson
Richard Arndt
Rev. A. Elisabeth Aurand
Marianne Avery
Jan Bailey and Emily Eastwood
David and Gloria Baker
Rev. Kathleen Baker and
Joel Petruschke
John R. Ballew
Janet Barrett
John and Ann Beane
Bernie and Patricia Beaver
Darold H. and Marlene J. Beekmann
Janice Benson and Britta Olsen
Lorraine E. Berger
Rev. and Mrs. Christopher D. Berry
Rev. Bill and Sandy Bixby
Pastor James Boline and
Christopher Ma
Lynn and Lois Bollman
Mary Bonine and Colleen Kahn
Douglas Bonsall and Craig Staller
Gayle Gordon Bouzard
Brett E. Bowman
Mary C. Boys
Sandy Brandt
Peg Brenden and Deb Wilson
Joseph Brown and Michael Crandall
Barbara Browning, President,
Lutheran Church of the Master
Ann and Pastor Tom Bruner
Revs. Susan and Brian Burchfield
Rev. Dr. Daphne Burt
Janelle Bussert and Rev. Anita Hill
John Byom and Eileen Supple
Herman and Mary Cage
Eric and Bridget Carlson
E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter
Foundation
J. Brian Cave
Joanne Chadwick
Steven Chapman and David Copley
Vicky Charlston
Glenn Choquette
Larry and Linda Christensen
Rev. Erik Christensen
Eugene H. Clark
Alan and Lee Clemens
Commission for Gay and Lesbian
People, Metro New York Synod
Rev. Dr. Pamela Cooper-White

Rev. Janet Corpus and
Rev. John Hoffmeyer
Debbie Cote and Nancy Burns
Christine Myers Crist
Robert Crumb
Jerry Dahlke
Cecilia De Wolf Stein
Rev. James and Diane DeLange
John Dellis and Johnnie Jordon
Mark Demich and Kevin Hengst
Pastor Amandus J. and
Carole E. Derr
David and Karen Deruyter
Dr. Judith Diers, Rev. David Parsons
and Liv Diers Parsons
Carol and Warren Ditzler
Rev. Joseph Donnelly II and Rev.
Beverly D. Lange Donnelly
Rev. Tom Dorsey
Rev. Dr. Richard Dowhower and
Dr. Kay Dowhower
Ken Duckmann
Joan Duke and Ron Sundberg
Robert and Martha Wahlbeg
Eastwood
Gregory Allen Egertson
Rev. Dr. Paul and Shirley Egertson
Deanna Eichler
Heow and Jennifer Eide-Goodman
Mark Engel
Lowell and Carol Erdahl
Alycia Erickson
Rick Erickson
Brian Farmer
Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Feinour, Jr.
Robin Fero
Rev. Carol L. Ficken
Rev. Pam Fickenscher and
Will Schroer
Jonathan Flak and Cheryl Persigehl
Rev. and Mrs. Frederick Foltz
Loren V. Forrester
Leslee Froehlich
Rene Garcia
Joyce Grady
Daryl and Laura Gaumer
Kristine M. Gebbie
Kenneth E. Geister
William E. Gloff
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul
Eric Gombert and Matthew Chegezy
Norma L. and Gary D. Graham
Pat Graham
Jennifer and Michael Graves
Donald Green
Deaconess Diane Greve
Mr. and Mrs. David H. Gross
Lyle Guttu
Laurie Hamre and Lisa Mueller
Miriam Handley

Erik and Kathryn Hanson
William Hauge and T. J. Danielson
Bob and Gerri Haynes
Pauline and Dick Hendrickson
Lynn and Helen Henninger
Dr. and Mrs. Kevin M. Hepler
Mary Dee Hicks
Rev. Dr. Sherman G. Hicks
Sally and Steve Himlin
Norma J. Hirsch
Yvonne Ho
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
New York
Charlie Horn
James Hovland and
LaRae Ellingson-Hovland
Bradford Hubert
Jean and George Huffey
Rev. David L. Hurty and
Dr. Kathleen S. Hurty
Rev. William E. T. Hutchison and
Dr. Cristina Traina
Doris M. Ikier
Mari Irvin and Jeannine Janson
Tom Jacobson and Ramone Munoz
Gregory Jahnke and Brian Richards
Lois J. Jelnick
Bruce S. Jervis and James E. Kowalski
Dale and Betty Johnson
Eric and Tamara Johnson
Nicole Johnson and Barbara Lundblad
Robert and Jennifer Johnson
Steve G. Johnson and
Marjorie G. Jang
Paul and Karen Jolly
Rev. Megan J. Jones
Karen Jorstad and Bob Peterson
Stephen Keiser and Dennis Bower
Elisabeth Anne Kellogg
Desiree M. Kempcke and
Karen E. Duke
Jon Keune
Julie Kinzel and Amy Smith
Max C. Kirkeberg and Gabriel Proo
Michele Kisinger and Ann Fruechte
Barbara Klaiber
Dorothy Klefstadt
Rev. G. Lee and Pam Kluth
Brian Knittel
David Kummer
Amy and Robert Lamborn
Rev. Gordon W. Lathrop
Jim Laufenberg and Kean Brewer
Charles Leib and Frank De Louise
Dale Leininger and Mitchell Barnow
Irma Levesque
Roger LeVine and Marc Yeager
Rev. Charles Lewis
David Lillehaug and Winifred Smith
Ann E. Lillya and Ian A. McFarland

Molly Lloyd-Wilson and
Corine Schmidt
Leo Longan and Richard Schwarz
Rev. Lynne and Robert Lorenzen
Frank Loulan and
Richard Pearce-Moses
Lutheran Church of the Master,
Los Angeles
Lutheran Church of the Reformation,
D.C.
Lutherans Concerned,
Metro Washington
Rev. Dayle A. Malloy
Rev. Catherine Malotky and Rev.
David Engelstad
Kenneth and Sue Marks
Norma H. Martin
John and Janice Martinson
Dan and Caroline Mason
Art and Eda Mathews
Leland McCormick
John and Frances McCune
Joseph McMahon
Judy McNew
Adele Mehta
Marvin and Dawn Menzel
Lynn Mickelson and Sherry Kilburn
Glenn Miller and Allan Mulford
Dave and Deb Miller
Ken and Ruth Miller
Rev. Richard and Carolyn Miller
Philip W. Moeller, Ph.D.
Judith Moldenhauer
Connie Monson
Margaret Moreland and
Bennett K. Falk
Wayne Morris
Markus P. Mueller
Russ and Nancy Mueller
Christine Mummert
Ross Murray and Richard Garnett
Daniel and Patricia Nelson
Rick and Mary Ann Nelson
Diane and Jack Neubert
Kurt Neumann
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Gregorio Orellano
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Rev. Dr. Eldon L. Olson
Revs. Grace and Royal Olson
Mr. and Mrs. John Olson
Karen and Dave Olson
Nels and Mary Olson
Timothy Palmer
Rev. Bill Paulsen
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The following individuals served in the following capacities at various times during the *ONE VOICE* Campaign.

<p>Co-Chairs The Rev. Anita Hill, Minnesota The Rev. James DeLange, California David Kummer, Georgia</p> <p>Honorary Cabinet Jan Bailey, Minnesota John Ballew, Georgia The Rev. James and Diane DeLange, California The Rev. Dr. Paul and Shirley Egertson, California The Rev. Dr. Lowell and Carol Erdahl, Minnesota The Rev. Anita Hill and Janelle Bussert, Minnesota The Rev. Jeff Johnson Mary and Nels Olson, Michigan The Rev. Stanley and Mary Lou Olson, California The Revs. Paul and Janet Tidemann, Minnesota</p> <p>Regional Major Gifts Committees</p> <p>San Francisco Jim Kowalski, Chair The Rev. James DeLange Greg Egertson Gregory Jahnke Jeannine Janson Brian Knittel Brian Richards</p> <p>Minneapolis/St. Paul Emily Eastwood, Chair The Rev. Richard Andersen Jan Bailey The Rev. Dr. Lowell Erdahl The Rev. Anita Hill Cheryl Persigehl</p>	<p>Eastern and Central Pennsylvania Steering Committee The Rev. Arnold Tiemeyer, Chair Mary Anderson Douglas Bonsall The Rev. Ken Feinour Eric Gombert Lura Groen The Rev. Vicki Hall Miriam Handley The Rev. Wolfgang Herz-Lane The Rev. John Hoffmeyer Charles Horn III The Rev. Gordon Lathrop The Rev. Grace Olson Sue Pursch Thomas Sauerman Craig Staller Betsy Tiemeyer Len Weiser Fred Wolfe</p> <p>Harrisburg Planning Committee Douglas Bonsall Sandy Brandt Ann Bruner Robin Fero Helen Henninger Chris Mummert Craig Staller Ken Umbenhauer Molly Wirick</p>	<p>Atlanta The Rev. Erik Christensen, Chair Mark Engel Connie Monson David Ritter The Rev. Bradley Schmeling</p> <p>New York City The Rev. Richard Miller, Chair Rick Erickson The Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad The Rev. James Sudbrock The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer The Rev. Phil Trzynka</p> <p>Seattle The Rev. Dr. Eldon Olson, Chair Dr. Janice Benson David and Irma Gross The Rev. Lee Kluth The Rev. Dan and Judy Selmann Erik Stevens</p>
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