

# The Daily Assembly

## Special points of interest:

- > Looking at our Icebergs with Rev. Eric Law.
- > "Sex" in the Halls
- > Update on "Can You Dig It?"

## Who I am is just the Tip of the Iceberg

After leading us in an opening song and reciting the Oregon Synod mission statement, Eric Law showed us a video, as he stated, "with me in it" on YouTube. Eric Law's video challenges the YouTube medium by creating a dialogue; inviting us to have a conversation.

During the video presentation, he asked the viewers what they know about him. Be honest. If you think you shouldn't think that. It's too late. You are already thinking it." He began to tell about himself, showing that we know very little about a

person just by looking at them.

Eric Law was born in Hong Kong. His parents ran a music school with 400 students. He lived in Georgia and then in New York. His experiences as a Chinese-American and a Christian led him to his life work on leadership and community. "The point is not to make judgments about what you think of me," he said, "the point is you can't tell by looking."

The assembly guests gathered in small groups to tell three things about themselves. "Listening is as important as

speaking in respectful communities.

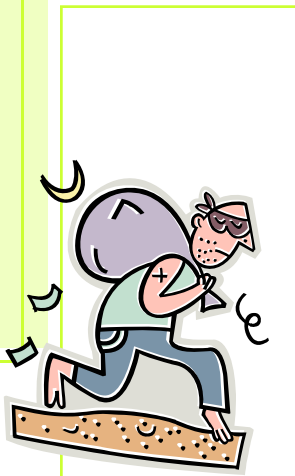
When a newcomer enters your church, instead of thinking, 'What do I know about you just by looking at you?' ask 'What don't I know about you?'

Each person is made up of many cultural components. It is not just race and ethnicity that impact the way we relate to ourselves, others, and the world. For example, if you are tall, short, or using a wheelchair you will experience the world differently than others.

Eric asked, "who are you culturally today?"

## Today's Brief Agenda

Breakfast	7:30 AM
Presentation	8:30 AM
Plenary 5	9:30 AM
Closing Worship	10:45 AM



## Biggest Winners

Congregations were invited to bring to synod assembly a hand-made quilt for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal silent auction. These works of art raised \$5350 this year to alleviate hunger throughout the world. This in part was also thanks to Brandon Richey, of hotel security, who prevented a midnight theft of six of the

loveliest donations.

Three assembly participants also won curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. Recipients were: Carol Dougall, Calvary, Hillsboro; Frank Davis, Grace, Corvallis; and Paul Amundson, Newport, Atonement. The vacation bible school set and Lutheran Study Bible may be reviewed at synod office.

## Who I am is just the Tip of the Iceberg

By Pastor Matthew Eagan, Calvary, Hillsboro

In anticipation of the upcoming discussion and vote on resolutions about sexuality issues that would come to the floor at synod assembly on Saturday, I wandered through the halls and asked people how they felt about the issues. I asked, "What are your hopes and fears for the church as you engage in the discussion on sexuality issues today?"

Peggy Jefferies: I hope that the conversation will be open, to acceptance rather than judgment and condemnation. I hope that people will be open rather than seeing scripture as black and white. As far as I know, God is not on one side of judgment and attitudes. I like the idea of RIC, but isn't that who we are anyway? That welcome is what Christ taught us in the first place. That's the gos-

pel. That's Jesus. Fear: The opposite – too judgmental.

Stan Berntson: I hope that no one is shunted off to the side no matter where the conversation goes; so that there's no one who isn't seen as loved unconditionally and that everyone knows the love of God is for them. Fear: Entrenchment and severe division which is the playing field of the demonic.

Pastor Jeff Kallevig: My hope is that we can get through the conversation already and move in a direction that is helpful. I wouldn't say that this isn't helpful, but we have more important things to do in the world: collaboration and outreach ministries, feeding programs, homelessness, etc. Fear: That this is going to prevent others from seeing what we are doing [in the world].

Jana Deiss: My hope is that we don't use this idea of a broad consensus as an excuse to continue in fear and legality. That indeed we can agree to disagree and still live, work, and serve together.

John Stoops: My hope is that blessing of same sex marriage and ordination of practicing same sex clergy will be defeated. My fear is that it won't.

Rosemary Amato: The direction the ELCA is leading us is hurting the church. How it's going to end up I don't know. A lot of lay people that feel unhappy with the decisions of the ELCA may not speak out and may leave and are leaving the church and will go silently out the back door.

Mary Beth Weaver: Hope for full inclusion eventually and that this is a good step toward that. I

don't have a fear right now, I don't.

Barbara Punch: I'm the pastor of a very diverse congregation. Lots of fear there that has made me check my thinking in ways I was not prepared for. But my hope is that we as a church can tell the story of why inclusion of a group that has long been excluded is important and needs to be made. I think we have a lot to say. Fear is we won't be able to say it well enough.

After much discussion about substitutions of the resolved statements within resolution numbers four and five, the assembly members passed resolution number #3: [To Memorialize the Churchwide Assembly Concerning Human Sexuality](#) as written.

## A Long Table

During the assembly Hanne Tommelstad, an intern of United Eugene from Norway shared a prayer in her native Norwegian tongue. This prayer is offered here for you: *Herre, din jord bearer mat nok for*

*alle. Takk for den delendv vil vi skal ha. Laer oss aa dekke et langbord I verden, som alle kau reise seg mette fra. Amen. Amen.*

Lord, your earth bears food enough for every-

one. Thank you for the share you want us to have. Teach us to prepare a long table in the world, from which everyone can be fed. Amen.



Hanne Tommelstad, an intern of United Eugene from Norway



Rev. Susan Engh is the ELCA Director for Congregation-based Organizing.

## Greetings from Churchwide

By The Rev. Paul Berthelot

Rev. Engh is the ELCA Director for Congregation-based Organizing. In this position she works to promote “Community Organizing.” She works with seminaries, first call pastors, and the various synods. In addition, she has been promoting the benefits of community organizing ecumenically and even internationally.

Her goal is to develop

leaders in the ELCA and to help these leaders take their leadership skills and faith values into the public arena. She has been working with the Oregon Synod to develop such a core group of leaders.

She shared with the assembly a video from Presiding Bishop Hansen in which he stated his belief that it is the church’s duty to proclaim

the Gospel where our fears and hopes come together. She challenged the assembly to ponder our hopes and fears.

The upcoming Churchwide Assembly [Aug. 17-23 in Minneapolis MN] will be grounded in worship, and prayer, and careful consideration will be given to many issues of importance. As ELCA Lutherans we will vote on a **(1) full com-**

## Election Results

### SYNOD COUNCIL POSITIONS

**Synod Council Member, Blue Mountain Cluster** (lay male, 3-year term) Bruce Anderson, Zion, La Grande

**Synod Council Member, Mt. Hood Cluster** (lay female, 3-year term) Monika Deitchman, Trinity, Gresham

**Synod Council Member, PLUM Cluster** (clergy, 3-year term) The Rev. Glenn Chase, Bethel, Portland

**Synod Council Member, Sunset Cluster** (lay male, 3-year term) Joel Overlund, Mission of the Atonement, Beaverton

**Synod Council Member-at-Large** (lay male, 3-year term) Marc Kane, Klamath, Klamath Falls

**Synod Council Member-at-Large** (lay person of color, 3-year term) Cherry Chi, Taiwan Lutheran, Beaverton

### SYNOD COMMITTEE POSITIONS

**Consultation Committee Member** (lay female, 6-year term) Andrea Scofield, Prince of Life, Oregon City  
**Consultation Committee Member** (clergy, 6-year term) The Rev. Aimee Bruno, King of Kings, Milwaukie

**Discipline Committee Member** (lay female, 6-year term) Bonny Groshong, First Immanuel, Portland

**Discipline Committee Member** (lay male, 6-year term) Peter Jessen, St. Luke, Portland

**Endowment Fund Committee Member** (clergy, 3-year term—**2 positions open**) The Rev. John Maas, Christ the Good Shepherd, Salem

### PLU BOARD POSITIONS

**PLU Board, Blue Mountain Cluster** (lay, 3-year term) Matt Radel, Good Shepherd, Boardman

**PLU Board, Columbia Coast Cluster** (lay, 3-year term) *No nominations received*

**PLU Board, Crater Lake Cluster** (clergy, 3-year term) The Rev. Jana Deiss, Klamath, Klamath Falls

**PLU Board, Emerald Cluster** (lay, 3-year term) Monica Hample, United, Eugene

**PLU Board, Emerald Cluster** (clergy, 3-year term) *No nominations received*

**PLU Board, Oregon Trail Cluster** (lay, 3-year term) Mary Swanson, Prince of Life, Oregon City

**PLU Board, PLUM** (lay, 3-year term) Edward Running, Augustana, Portland

**PLU Board, Rose** (lay, 3-year term) Kelly Doyle, Mt. Carmel, Portland

**PLU Board, Vineyard** (lay, 3-year term) Donald Dalziel, Holy Cross, Salem

### Quotes Over the Weekend

Bishop Dave informed Pastor Dave Nagler, Bend that discussing the Lakers during business was out of order. Nagler responded—“It won’t be the last time, Bishop.”

From Bruce Anderson, La Grande “A no-yes is better than a yes-yes, since we won’t get a no-no.”

From Pastor Dayle Askey admitting she was confused on a piece of business. Bishop Dave’s response, “Your confusion is out of order.”

## Greetings from Churchwide

### union agreement with the United Methodist Church.

We will consider a far-reaching **(2) strategy to address the HIV and AIDS pandemic, both domestically and internationally.**

We will hear about plans to **(3) collaborate with the United Nations Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and our Lutheran family around the world to help eradicate malaria.** As the assembly approaches, you can read all about it at [www.elca.org/assembly](http://www.elca.org/assembly), and in August you can watch it streamed live.

As many of you know, at this Churchwide Assembly **we**

**will consider a social statement on human sexuality** - the 10th social statement in the history of the ELCA. Social statements are theological and teaching documents for both individual and communal moral deliberation and action. The social statement called Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust, was called for by voting members of the 2001 Churchwide Assembly, and has been in process since then. The development of this social statement has been highly participatory. It will be presented to the assembly following more than 100 hearings and thousands of written responses. You are encouraged to read the full text of the social

statement and its implementing resolutions.

There is an executive summary and frequently asked questions on the Web site [www.elca.org/faithfuljourney](http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney). The document places considerable emphasis on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreement.

Rev. Engh closed by thanking the synod for its faithful support to Church-wide and for the vision to do church in non-traditional ways. She asked us each to pray for the upcoming Churchwide Assembly and for the delegates who will be addressing many difficult issues.

**We are on the web at [www.oregonsynod.org](http://www.oregonsynod.org)**

## Who I am Is Just the Tip of the Iceberg

He said that you can choose to reveal who you are. You could go to church and say, "Hi, today, culturally I am..." As congregational members, we can invite people to reveal who they are every day. Who we are keeps changing. We keep finding out anew how God is shaping this person. Do not box people in by thinking because you were this person yesterday, you are that forever. "No!" Law said, "You are a new person every day!"

Eric Law introduced the "Iceberg Analogy of Culture." Like the tip of an iceberg, the external culture shows above the water. Under the water, the large part of the iceberg, our internal culture, may col-

lide with another iceberg.

Internal culture includes beliefs and values implicitly learned—unconscious to us. We don't know they are there. For example, one person sees the police and feels comfort because help is near. Another person sees the police and thinks, "They're after me." These varied reactions are related to personal experience and values.

It is very difficult to change your internal iceberg. How do you change something that you don't even know you have? We all have many myths inside of us—stories, experiences from youth or from the last generations that become unconscious and affect everything we do.

The first step in becoming

more culturally sensitive is not to know the other, but to know yourself. When you meet someone it is like icebergs colliding. Your reaction might be, "I don't like this. It must be your fault." When trained to work on what's below the surface of your own iceberg, you say, "I am going to look into this." When we do this, we can bump gently.

Eric invited us to be aware of our cultural differences and take responsibility for our own reactions, pondering and examining our internal culture. Taking responsibility for ourselves, and patiently getting to know each other, we can have respectful and meaningful conversations. We can bump gently.