

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
Zoom Meeting
January 30, 2021**

Present: Bishop Constanze Hagmaier, Carla Borchardt, Rev Jonathan Vehar, Rev. Ramona Hayes, Michael Miller, Pam Seefeldt, Rev. Jackie Braun, Jim Iverson, Valerie Parsley, Bonnie Lange, Rev. Tera Kossow, Malcom Chapman, Jan Haugen-Rogers, Dave Poppens, Rev. Layne Nelson, Rev. Jim Fowler, Rhonda Hansen, Tom Stotz, Rev. Dave Lund, Deacon Kris Wollman, Rev. Lon Kvanli, Cynthia Wall, Erik Gilbertson

Staff: Lois Borchardt, Rev. Renee Splichal Larson, Rev. Jonathan Steiner, Kathy McHenry, Sawyer Vanden Heuvel

Absent: Stan Jung, Terry Zell, Truman Dick, and Caylee White Eagle

Guests: Chris Hintz and Jeff Meuzelaar

Borchardt called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM and led the opening prayer.

Adopting the Agenda

The agenda for this special meeting is in the Google Drive.

MSC to adopt the agenda.

SC.2021.01.30.01

Approving the Minutes

The minutes of the October 16, 2020 meeting are in Google Drive.

There were no corrections.

MSC to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2020 meeting of the Synod Council.

SC.2021.01.30.02

Synod Assembly

The Synod Assembly Planning Committee is recommending that the 2021 assembly be held only virtually. Planning needs to continue, and there are many unknowns about how the pandemic may limit participation come May. Given all the factors, the committee recommends that only staff, and other key personnel be present onsite.

The technology needs of a virtual assembly would be far different from an in-person assembly. Mr. Vanden Heuvel received an estimate from Pinnacle Productions to provide the necessary infrastructure.

Chris Hintz and Jeff Meuzelaar presented a proposal at the cost of \$13,015. Minor changes could be made without adjusting the cost, but changes in scope that necessitated more TV screens or extra equipment could add to the cost by a few thousand dollars. The proposal covers equipment and services needed to stream the assembly with Zoom or other platforms but would not include voting systems. It also does not include sales tax.

Following the presentation, the council first discussed the merits of a virtual-only assembly. Given safety concerns, the distance traveled by many members, and difficulties in trying to offer a hybrid model, the planning team's recommendation was moved and seconded.

MSC to affirm the recommendation of the Synod Assembly Planning Team and hold the 2021 Synod Assembly virtually.
SC.2021.01.30.03

The proposal from Pinnacle was discussed in greater detail. After several changes by unanimous consent, the action of the council was to accept the proposal and to trust the Synod Assembly Planning Team to make necessary adjustments within the assembly budget.

MSC to accept the proposal from Pinnacle for the production of the 2021 Synod Assembly.
SC.2021.01.30.04

Each year the Synod Council reviews the registration fees for the assembly. Some income will already be lost with the absence of vendors, and we can expect a lower attendance than the last assembly as it is not a bishop election year. Cost savings from meals and other fees associated with an in-person event will be offset by extra technology expenses.

MSC to set the registration fees for the 2021 Synod Assembly at the same levels as the 2019 Synod Assembly (\$150 per voting member).
SC.2021.01.30.05

Several options for registration dates were offered. Lois Borchardt requested a hard close for registrations because late or day of registrations cause problems under normal circumstances, and the virtual experience limits the ability to prepare and respond to technical challenges. Registration will not be considered complete until paid in full.

MSC to set the registration dates for the 2021 Synod Assembly from April 1 to May 10, with no late registrations.
SC.2021.10.30.06

There being no other business for the special meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Secretary