

South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
Conference Room, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Sioux Falls, SD
June 3, 2017

Members present: Vice President Carla Borchardt, Bishop David Zellmer, Erik Gilbertson, Deacon Kris Wollman, Kent Baumberger, Rev. Daniel Ofstehage, Doug Olawsky, Rev. Chris Strohm, Ruby Hawks, Marilyn Green, Rev. Jackie Braun, Jan Haugen-Rogers, Robert Nelson, Rev. Greg Myrmoe, Joyce Vasgaard, Rev. Lon Kvanli, Cynthia Wall, Rev. Shelly Gehring, Carie Knutson, Charles Engelstad, Jody Johnson, Rev. David Piper, Dennis Thompson, Susan Leddy, Rev. Jonathan Vehar

Staff present: Deacon Susanne Hansen, Deacon Susan Marone, Rev. Bob Hansen, Lois Borchardt

Guests: Jim Schade, Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger (Secretary of the ELCA), Annette Shoemaker, Rev. Paul Hansen, Tom & Mary Tveit

Vice President Carla Borchardt called the meeting to order.

Doug Olawsky opened with prayer.

**MSC to approve the agenda as amended.
SC.17.06.01**

**MSC to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2017 and May 2, 2017 meetings.
SC.17.06.02**

Introductions of the Synod Council, staff, and guests were made.

Borchardt called upon Bishop Zellmer who presented Jim Schade with a gift on behalf of the Synod and Synod Council in gratitude for his ministry with Lutheran Planned Giving.

Synod Assembly

Evaluations

1. Can the prayer breakfast be at another time to help increase participation?
2. Lower number of resolutions made for more time in the assembly.
3. Bishop concerned about the lack of pastors at the assembly.
4. Dakota Road did a wonderful job again this year.

Resolutions Follow-up

No Follow up is needed on resolutions passed by the assembly.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report

Erik Gilbertson gave a brief overview on understanding the treasurer's report for new members. A full financial report will be given at the August meeting of the Synod Council.

MSC to receive the Financial Report
SC.17.06.03

Endowment Committee Report

Gilbertson presented the endowment report and gave an overview for new members.

MSC to receive the Endowment Report
SC.17.06.04

Audit Committee Report

Gilbertson presented the findings of the Audit Committee. No recommendations were made by the Audit Committee. Gilbertson gave credit for another good report to the detailed work of Lois Borchardt. No action was needed.

Bishop's Report:

Bishop Zellmer spoke about his work for the past few months highlighting the staff transitions over the past few months. Rev. Bill Tesch is currently on deployment with the Air Force as a chaplain and will return in December of 2017. Rev. Bob Hansen will serve as interim Director of Evangelical Mission until Tesch's return. Hansen also officially concluded his role as Director of the Listen! God is Calling Appeal. Deacon Susan Marone will be on sabbatical starting June 3, 2017 into September.

A number of leadership changes in ministries relating to the synod are also coming. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin will officially begin as President of Augustana University with the 2017-18 academic year. Bishop Zellmer will be representing the Synod at Herseth Sandlin's inauguration in September. A new director for Lutheran Planned Giving of SD has also been named and will begin this summer.

Old Business

Endowment Committee Appointee.

Jim Shade brought forward Martin Oyos from First Lutheran in Sioux Falls to serve on the Endowment Committee.

MSC to appoint Martin Oyos to a 6 year term on the Endowment Committee.
SC.17.06.05

Roster Matters:

Bishop Zellmer gave a brief recap of the Rostering process for ministers of word and sacrament (pastors) and ministers of word and service (deacons). One significant change in the management of the roster for retired pastors and deacons. The Synod Council will authorize a process for pastors and deacons on the roster with a Retired status to be reviewed every three years. Unless a recommendation to remove a pastor or deacon is brought to and acted upon by the Synod Council, a retired rostered leader will be renewed automatically.

Informed that Leonard Hummel transferred to the SD Synod from the Delaware-Maryland Synod.

MSC to extend a call for specialized ministry to Chris Anderson to serve as a Chaplain at Avera St Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen, SD.
SC.17.06.06

MSC to grant request of Bob Chell for Retirement status effective 8/1/2017.
SC.17.06.07

MSC to grand request of Dwayne Hunzeker for Retirement status effective 7/1/2017.
SC.17.06.08

MSC to grant request of Velma Larson for On-Leave-From-Call status effective 5/16/2017.
SC.17.06.09

MSC to grant request of Peter Strommen for Retirement status effective 4/1/2017.
SC.17.06.10

Congregational Matters:

The Lyman County Parish has requested to be transferred to the Prairie Rivers Conference, as they are geographically closer to the center of this conference.

MSC to transfer the Lyman County Parish from the Northern Plains Conference to the Prairie Rivers Conference.
SC.17.06.11

Vice President Borchartt thanked retiring members of the Synod Council and presented those present with a gift. New Synod Council Members were also welcomed at this time.

New member Orientation:

Dates were given for next meetings, which will include a longer orientation for new member. Bishop Zellmer gave a recap of the responsibilities of Synod Council members. He also reiterated the importance of confidentiality in the work that the Synod Council does. Minutes will be sent out electronically for approval.

Vice President Borchartt distributed the Operational Ethic Policy and Disclosure form.

New Business:

MSC to appoint Dawson Johnson as youth representative of the Synod Council to fulfill the unexpired position vacated by Jonah Nelson.
SC.17.06.12

The Synod Council maintains a relationship with the St. Dymas prison ministry through the St. Dymas Associate (Outside) Council.

MSC to appoint Rev. Shelly Gehring as Synod Council member to the St. Dymas Associate Council.
SC.17.06.13

Rev. Bob Hansen gave an overview of the role of a staff position to recruit candidates for rostered ministry. This is one of the key proposals of the Listen! God is Calling Appeal.

MSC to approve the Seminary Resource Recruiter job description and authorized a candidate search.

SC.17.06.14

Bishop Zellmer distributed an application process for funds from the Listen! God is Calling Appeal designed for revitalization and retention of rostered and non-rostered leaders. Applications for Rostered Ministers and lay leaders shall be approved by the Executive Committee. Applications for the Creation of a New Revitalization and Retention program will be taken to the Synod Council.

MSC to approve the application forms for Revitalization and Retention Applications.

SC.17.06.15

Synod Assembly

The 2018 Synod Assembly will take place at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls.

MSC that the offering from the 2018 Synod Assembly benefit the following ministries: The Pine Ridge Retreat Center (80%) and Church on the Street (20%).

SC.17.06.16

It was proposed that the 2019 Synod Assembly take place at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. Our Saviors will move their Saturday evening worship in order to allow for extra time for the assembly given it is a Bishop election year.

MSC to hold the 2019 Synod Assembly May 30 through June 1 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD.

SC.17.06.17

Next Meeting:

August 17 & 18 at the AU President's House (Thursday night) and Haugo Room (Friday). Devotions by Julie Braun.

Closing Prayer.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Jonathan Vehar
Secretary