

South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Synod Council
Haugo Room, Augustana University
Sioux Falls, SD
August 18, 2017

Members present: Vice President Carla Borchardt, Bishop David Zellmer, Erik Gilbertson, Ruby Hawks, Dawson Johnson, Rev. Ryan Gage, Kent Baumberger, Deacon Kris Wollman, Cynthia Wall, Rev. Lon Kvanli, Dennis Thompson, Rev. David Piper, Carie Knutson, Rev. Shelly Gehring, Charles Engelstad, Jan Haugen-Rogers, Rev. Jackie Braun, Tim Olson, Robert Nelson, Joyce Vasgaard, Rev. Greg Myrmoe

Staff present: Deacon Susanne Hansen, Rev. Bob Hansen, Lois Borchardt, Saywer Vanden Heuvel, Kathy McHenry, Rev. Charlie Bunk, Crystal McCormick

Vice President Carla Borchardt called the meeting to order.

Rev. Jackie Braun opened with a devotion.

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

MSC to seat the Rev. Ryan Gage as a representative from the Northern Plains Conference.

SC.17.08.01

Borchardt introduced Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, incoming president of Augustana University, who brought a greeting on behalf of the university.

MSC to approve the agenda.

SC.17.08.02

MSC to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2017 meeting.

SC.17.08.03

Board Orientation, Development and Education.

Bishop Zellmer reiterated the confidentiality required to serve on Synod Council given the many sensitive matters that come before the council.

Synod Council minutes will be sent via email in draft form to members of the Synod Council. Draft minutes are confidential until approved.

Synod Council members are asked to sign the Operational Ethics Policy annually.

Borchardt shared the South Dakota Synod's Vision & Core Values and Synod Constitution and led the council in activities that helped members to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the synod's governing documents.

Bishop Zellmer gave an overview of the Rosters of Word and Sacrament and Word and Service, and the different statuses in each.

Informed that: Rev. Anna Peck transferred to the Southeastern Iowa Synod effective 8/1/2017; Rev. Olaf Roynesdal transferred to the Nebraska Synod effective 9/1/2017; and Rev. Durk Thompson transferred to the Minneapolis Area Synod effective 7/21/2017.

MSC to grant request of Mary Sacco for Retirement status effective 7/1/2017.

SC.17.08.04

MSC to extend a call for specialized ministry to Wayne Gallipo to serve as Pastor of St. Dysmas, Sioux Falls, SD.

SC.17.08.05

Bishop's Report.

- a. Bishop Zellmer shared a new video produced by the SD Synod as a recruitment tool to help attract candidates to consider South Dakota for ministry.
- b. A restructuring at churchwide led to the elimination of Regional Coordinators. Regional Coordinators had primary focus on candidacy, assignment and campus ministry. The Region 3 bishops have hired a person for work with Candidacy in Region 3.
- c. The annual "Lutheran Day at the Legislature" will be transformed into an "Interfaith Day at the Legislature" for this year. This is being led by LSS and in response to anti-immigrate legislation from this year's legislative session.
- d. The Reformation Celebration will be on Nov. 1. Many of our ecumenical partners in South Dakota have been invited and will participate. There is a significant cost to the event, and sponsor are being sought.
- e. Bishop Zellmer reported on the health status of Abraham Gayetaye. He continues to serve as the pastor of First African Ministries. There is also a hope to bring his family over from Liberia. The churchwide organization has been extremely helpful in working through the Visas process for him and his family. As an R1 Visa holder, churchwide is the employer.

MSC to authorize Bishop Zellmer to raise funds for the family of Abraham Gayetaye to travel to the United States.

SC.17.08.06

- f. A new event, the "Bishop's Blast" is coming up and will raise funds to support the new seminary recruiter.

Erik Gilbertson presented the Synod Assembly Financial Report.

MSC to move \$25,000 from the Synod Assembly Fund to the Bishop Election/Transition Fund.

SC.17.08.07

The Rev. Robert Hansen reported on the Synod Appeal. To date \$ 3.6 million has been pledged towards the \$2.5 million goal/\$4 million challenge goal. A few congregations are still planning on running the appeal this fall. About 60% of congregations participated so far.

Old Business:

Financial Authority of Synod Council

When the loan for Seminary Debt Refinancing was taken, questions were raised about who had the authority to authorize such changes. Gilbertson shared some findings from the ELCA Internal Controls Best Practices, which don't offer must support. Borchardt will take the question to a gathering of Synod Vice-presidents to inquire of the practices of other synods.

A conversation ensued on constitutional provision S8.51 regarding term limits of the Office of Bishop, and other officers. It will be raised again at the next Synod Council meeting. Council members are encouraged to be in conversation with the leaders and congregations of their conference.

Jim Schade presented to the Synod Council the "Distinguished Faith Partner of the Year 2017" from Lutheran Social Services which was given in honor of Lutheran Planned Giving.

Schade reported on the Seminary Debt Refinance Program. This new program of the SD Synod is designed to refinance high interest seminary student loans at a lower rate allowing pastors to pay off the loan at a quicker pace. In addition, the synod has received commitments from donors to pay the interest so that all payments are applied to the loan principle.

Election of Executive Committee:

Nominations were opened for Synod Council Vice-chair.

MSC to elect Dennis Thompson as Synod Council Vice-chair.

SC.17.08.08

Nominations were opened for Executive committee members at large:

MSC to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Rev. Jackie Braun, Tim Olson, Jan Haugen-Rogers as members-at-large on the Executive Committee.

SC.17.08.09

Pine Ridge Job Corp: A Job Corp program is being developed with aim of offering a source of economic stability while also meeting some of the needs of the retreat center. Ministry at Pine Ridge continues to be a difficult place to do ministry, and prayers are requested for Pastor Kay and the relentless work she does.

St Dysmas After Care Program: A new program developed out of the leadership of St Dysmas is still raising support and putting in place the structure for a successful reentry program. The Rev. Shelly Gehring serves on the St Dysmas Associate Council on behalf of the Synod Council.

New Business:

Seminary Resource Recruiter: Crystal McCormick announced that the search committee recommended Jake Hanson for the position. The Executive Committee adopted the recommendation and Jake Hanson has subsequently accepted the position which is to begin September 1, 2017.

Social Message on Human Rights: A draft Social Message is now available to comment, open until August 31st.

Future Meetings

Executive Committee: Thursday, October 5, 2017, 6:30-9:00 PM; Sioux Falls

Synod Council Friday, October 6, 2017, 8:30 am-5:00pm; Sioux Falls

Devotions will be led by Deacon Kris Wollman

Synod Assembly: Friday, June 1-Saturday, June 2, 2018, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls.

Closing Prayer

Adjourned at 3:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Jonathan Vehar

SD Synod Secretary