

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA  
Synod Council  
Zoom Meeting  
December 12, 2020**

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

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

Absent: Truman Dick, Valarie Parsley, Cynthia Wall, and Caylee White Eagle

Borchardt called the meeting to order at 11:00 am and led in an opening prayer.

Approve the Agenda

The agenda for the special meeting is in Google Drive.

**MSC to adopt the agenda.**

**SC.2020.12.12.01**

**Roster Matters**

The Synod Council has a role in issuing Letters of Call to rostered leaders who serve in specialized ministries. The following organizations have hired the respective leaders and request the Synod Council to issue Letters of Call.

The Good Samaritan Society has hired Rev. Christy Hallenbeck Ask to serve as Director, Mission Integration and Senior Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society.

**MSC to issue a Specialized Letter of Call to Rev. Christy Hallenbeck Ask as Director, Mission Integration and Senior Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society effective 01/18/2021.**

**SC.2020.12.12.02**

The board of Church on the Street, a synod authorized ministry, has requested that a Letter of Call be issued to Rebel Hurd to serve Church on the Street.

**MSC to issue a Synodical Letter of Call to Rebel Hurd as pastor of Church on the Street effective 01/01/2021.**

**SC.2020.12.12.03**

The board of the University Lutheran Center at the South Dakota State University, Brookings has hired the Rev. Cassandra Lamb as campus pastor for SDSU.

**MSC to issue a Specialized Letter of Call to Rev. Cassandra Lamb as campus pastor at the South Dakota State University effective 01/01/2021.**

## SC.2020.12.12.04

Inform only

Rev. Bryan Taffe – Transferred to Southwestern MN Synod effective 11/15/2020.

Rev. Max Miller – Transferred to North-West Lower MI Synod effective 11/29/2020.

Deacon Cassandra (Sandy) Olson (Retired) – Transferred to Rocky Mountain Synod effective 12/02/2020.

### **Congregation Matters**

St John's Lutheran, Bradley closed effected 11/22/2020. The synod is working with the remaining families to find other faith communities that can offer spiritual care.

### **Churchwide Reorganization**

The churchwide organization released the “Future Directions” plan for restructuring the national office. The plan calls for the organization of the churchwide ministries into three divisions, Christian Community and Leadership, Innovation, and Service and Justice. While staff cuts were not as drastic as first thought, it did include a 5% reduction in churchwide staff. The Director of Evangelical Outreach positions will continue, but changes will be coming to clarify responsibilities. The long-term plan may be to move DEMs to synod staff, with grants from churchwide supporting the positions.

### **Fall Synod Council Follow-up**

There were mixed results in the ability to contact congregation leaders. Themes that came up: COVID and how councils responded, learning to have hard conversations; praise for the support of the synod staff; concern over actions of the churchwide organization, especially in social concerns.

### **Future Meetings**

A. Executive Committee: Thursday, February 11, 2021 2:00 pm central

B. Executive Committee: Thursday, March 18, 2021 6:30 pm central

C. Synod Council: Friday, March 19, 2021 8:30 am central

D. Synod Assembly: June 4-5, 2021

E. Synod Council: Saturday, June 5, 2021 following assembly

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rev. Jonathan Vehar, Secretary